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# College Heights Herald

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 93, ISSUE 40



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE • HERALD

The WKU Floral Shop will close on May 6, following an outcry from local flower shop owners. The local shop owners claim that the WKU Floral Shop represents unfair market competition because it's subsidized by a public university.

## PTS announces zone changes, price increases, new services

BY OLIVIA EILER

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

WKU Parking and Transportation announced changes to the campus parking plan for the 2018-2019 year that include zone changes, price increases and new services on April 20.

Parking and Transportation Director Jennifer Tougas said the decision to change parking zones was made with student interests in mind.

"With the zone system we have for commuters today, the C1 permit works in all commuter lots, but parking availability is first come, first served," Tougas said. "We heard many complaints from commuters who couldn't find parking where they wanted it. We're introducing the same tiered system we have for faculty, staff and residents for commuters. In the tiered system, premium parking is located closer to the center of campus, and permit sales are limited to increase the chances of finding a parking space."



Jennifer Tougas

Parking and Transportation director

For residents, Parking Structure 1 levels 4-7 are changing from non-premium housing permits to premium housing permits. Premium permits, which include zones H1 to H4, will cost \$240 per year.

Parking Structure 3 is now zoned as non-premium housing H5. Non-premium housing permits, which include zones H5 to H9, will cost \$120 per year.

Finally, South Campus is available for storage parking at \$50 per year. The White Line services Campbell Lane and South Campus every six minutes.

Parking in Alumni Square Garage will cost \$265 per year.

For commuters, premium commuter parking will be available in Parking Structure 2. These permit sales will be limited to make it easier to find parking in PS2, according to Parking and Transportation Services' website. These permits will cost \$240 per year. Non-premium commuter parking

SEE PARKING • PAGE A3

## FUNDS & ROSES

### Local florists lobby to close Floral Shop

BY MONICA KAST & ANDREW HENDERSON

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

The WKU Floral Shop will close on May 6 after local florists have complained the shop was unfairly subsidized competition.

According to the statement released by Bob Skipper, director of media relations, "a group of floral business owners" from Bowling Green and Simpson County approached WKU last September, "claiming that the WKU Floral Shop represented unfair market competition because it is partially subsidized by a public university."

In a public Facebook post by Christal Smith McKinney, who according to her LinkedIn profile information, is an alumna of WKU, said the charge to close the Floral Shop was led by Warren County Judge-Executive Michael Buchanan.

Buchanan, according to business

registration information filed with the Kentucky secretary of state's office, is the president of Deemer Floral Co., a local floral shop on Lehman Avenue in Bowling Green.

Buchanan publicly commented on McKinney's status and said all the privately owned florists in the region have opposed WKU and "their publicly funded Flower Shop competing against privately funded taxpaying businesses."

He said this feud has been ongoing and dates back to former President Gary Ransdell who, he said, often dismissed the objections of local flower shop owners.

"WKU's Flower Shop has had the use of publicly owned building facilities, floral products, equipment and supplies paid for with mine and your tax dollars, and delivered in University official delivery vans with Official State license tags. - all paid for with taxes you paid," Buchanan said in his comment.

The Floral Shop is a revenue dependent program, and these programs generate funds independently from the university.

For the 2017-18 fiscal year, the shop was budgeted to generate and spend \$275,000, according to the university budget.

Buchanan also pushed back on the assertion made by McKinney that the shop's closure came as a result of Buchanan asking a favor of Gov. Matt Bevin to pressure the university to close the shop.

Buchanan said Bevin had nothing to do with the situation.

The Herald has filed an open records request for email correspondence between Buchanan and the governor, as well as those in the governor's office, and reached out to his office for comment.

"If you want to know if I'm against the university publicly funding a retail

SEE FLORAL SHOP • PAGE A3

## Kentucky Mesonet releases new weather app

BY CAMRYN SMITH

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

A weather and climate monitoring system at WKU has created a new weather app to provide weather updates in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Mesonet is a statewide weather monitoring system with offices located in the Environmental Sciences and Technology Building. The mobile app is available for Android and ISO to

monitor the weather in Kentucky.

"We've been interested in creating an app for years, and many people have been asking for one," said Megan Schargorodski, manager of Kentucky Mesonet.

In total it took about two months to create the app, one month for Android and one month for IOS, according to Schargorodski. The Android app was released in February, and the IOS app was released in April.

Schargorodski said they plan on advertising their app across the whole state

through social media, the primary form of advertising. She said they have also considered other forms of advertising such as print ads but have not decided if they will advertise that way.

The free app updates weather data every five minutes, and it includes data about air temperature, rainfall, solar radiation, humidity, dewpoint and wind speed and direction, according to its description on the Google App store. It uses the phone's location services to find the closest Kentucky Mesonet station.

The Kentucky Mesonet has 70 stations in 68 counties, including Warren County.

Kentucky Mesonet consists of meteorologists, managers and students from WKU. They all help run the website or make sure the app is running and up-to-date.

Kentucky Mesonet receives updates about the weather from the Kentucky Climate Center at WKU and is a member of the National Climate Services Part-

SEE MESONET APP • PAGE A3

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# College Heights Herald

## What I've **LEARNED**

// Working at the Herald has been amazing for me. It's given me experience writing professionally, working in a newsroom setting and interacting positively with my peers. Working with social media has improved my knowledge of how news runs in the digital age, and how to best tailor content to fit an audience. It is truly great for learning how to operate in the 21st century newsroom while preserving the importance of print journalism. Additionally, I enjoy the people I work with and have made great connections for my professional career in the future. I've learned many skills that will go on to help me throughout my life. Everyone is fairly kind and accepting, and I feel welcomed at the Herald.

Engagement Editor  
**MASON DAVIS**



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# Caboni, SGA president respond to harassment

BY NICOLE ZIEGE  
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

President Timothy Caboni issued a statement Tuesday, April 24, following a story in the Herald detailing harassment Student Government President Andi Dahmer said she's received this semester.

In a statement published by WKU Public Radio, Caboni said he will be assembling a group of faculty, staff and a student to review the "structure, processes and procedures" surrounding the office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Title IX and the Office of Student Conduct.

Dahmer filed a complaint with WKU's Title IX office but was told her case did not qualify as harassment under Title IX. The university chose to process her case through the Office of Student Conduct, but Dahmer believes it should have gone through Title IX.

Caboni said Lauren McClain, assistant

professor of sociology, and Karl Laves, assistant director of Counseling & Testing, will co-chair the group.

Laves said in an email he did not have much information about the group.

"The details are pending; Lauren and I

McClain said in the email that the committee is about the Title IX process generally and not about Dahmer's case in particular.

"When Dr. Caboni and I spoke, he seemed very committed to making sure

there are improvements that need to be made, the committee will make them.

"While we cannot discuss specific Title IX, student conduct or EEO cases, we will be transparent and open about all of our processes," he said in the statement.

The next Student Government Association president Stephen Mayer expressed his thoughts on harassment that SGA Dahmer said she experienced while serving as student body president.

"I think Andi is a super strong woman for maintaining everything well as all of this was happening to her," Mayer said. "I do not stand for any kind of harassment or sexual assault ... and hope that this brings senators and students to write legislation to help fix the issues that are at hand. I will always support and encourage everyone to share their stories."

**"I think Andi is a super strong woman for maintaining everything well as all of this was happening to her."**

*Incoming Student Government Association president*  
**STEPHEN MAYER**

were asked to serve as co-chairs," he said in the email. "That is all I have for now."

McClain said in an email that Caboni is still finalizing the members of the committee. McClain said that the members of the committee should hear back within the next week about getting a more detailed charge.

that students at WKU are safe and that when situations do arise, that they are handled carefully, in a timely manner, and with compassion. I'm sure we will meet soon after the rest of the committee is populated but I don't have a specific date yet," McClain said in the email.

Caboni said in his statement that if

News reporter Nicole Ziege can be reached at 270-745-6011 and nicole.ziege825@topper.wku.edu. Follow Nicole Ziege on Twitter at @NicoleZiege.

## PARKING CONTINUED FROM FRONT

will be available in five perimeter lots: Kentucky Street, Chestnut Street North, Chestnut Street South, University Boulevard and Parking Structure 3. These will cost \$120 a year.

The changes to on-campus parking will allow most commuters to be able to park on main campus, according to the Parking and Transportation Services' website.

The Russellville Road West Lot is available for park and ride permits for \$50 a year. The Red Line bus system serves the lot every nine minutes.

Bowling Green senior and commuter student Leroy Kleimola said he disagrees with the decision to change commuter zones.

"So pay more to get an 'assured' parking space in PS2," Kleimola said. "So we're taking away even more parking? Got it. If they want us to park in the new parking structure, they need to improve commuting buses and add more."

WKU Parking and Transportation is introducing a new option for the upcoming year, the Daily Commuter Permit. Tougas said this Red Dollar. Individuals can load a balance to a daily parking account and use an app to purchase parking for the day in available lots.

"This will be good for students who come to campus once a week," Tougas said. "In our survey, roughly 20 percent of commuters wanted an alternative to an annual parking pass, and this fills that need."

Parking and Transportation is also introducing bike and ride share programs.

"In a survey conducted last fall, over 70 percent of campus residents are interested in a bike share service," Tougas said. "Ride share services can help commuting students find carpools and can help campus residents find rides home for the weekend. It's a great way to reduce parking demand, which saves everyone money, and still provide transportation services students need."



Cars sit in the Pearce Ford Tower lot. Freshman Lauren Hamner said her permit helped her this semester and plans on getting one again despite the price change. "I need one because I have night classes," Hamner said.

ISABEL BRINEGAR • HERALD

New incentives have been added to the Carless program. In addition to receiving discounted transportation services, students who choose to leave their cars at home for the fall semester will receive a 50 percent discount on available Spring 2019 permits.

Although students like Kleimola are frustrated at permit price increases, Tougas said the additional revenue will be used to provide new services, like the Daily Commuter Permit, and to make necessary capital improvements.

"Our parking facilities and transit fleet have reached an age where we need to invest in them to keep them well maintained," Tougas said. "We conducted studies on Parking Structures 1 and 2 and Alumni Square Garage and created a five-year maintenance plan we're following. This summer, we'll spend

over \$100,000 on PS2 and have another \$110,000 planned for [Alumni Square Garage]. We have also identified bus refurbishments, bus stop repairs, general parking lot maintenance and technology upgrades that we need to cover."

Tougas said students who want to be more informed of the services offered by Parking and Transportation can visit the #WKUknowParking tab on the Parking and Transportation Services' website.

"Since the majority of our permit sales happen online, we rarely have a chance to tell students how parking works on campus," Tougas said. "We developed these #WKUknowParking videos to try to bridge that gap."

Faculty and staff parking will also see changes, according to the Parking and Transportation Services' website. Colonnade Drive from College Heights Bou-

levard to the Wetherby Administration Building will close this summer to allow construction to begin on the College Heights Foundation building. The FS2 parking spaces on Avenue of Champions will be converted to parallel parking spaces. FS3 parking in Adams Street Lot will only be available near the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex.

Other changes for parking and transportation include the conversion of Bus No. 13 to a 100 percent biodiesel fuel bus. With the opening of Parking Structure 3, the Red Line will no longer stop at the Downtown Parking Garage.

News reporter Olivia Eiler can be reached at 270-745-6011 and olivia.eiler789@topper.wku.edu. Follow Olivia on Twitter at @oliviaeiler16.

## MESONET APP CONTINUED FROM FRONT

nership as well as the National Climatic Data Center, the Midwestern Regional Climate Center and the National Weather Service, according to its website. The

Kentucky Mesonet is working with WKU to help build a cyberinfrastructure for environmental monitoring and decision making, according to its website.

This is the second WKU-related weather app available for download. White Squirrel Weather, a weather monitoring service for the WKU community,

also created an app. The app provides weather updates for main campus, South Campus and the three regional campuses.

Neither of the apps are able to be accessed through the iWKU app. Both weather services update Twitter daily with weather information. The apps are

available for download on the Android and iOS app stores.

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## FLORAL SHOP CONTINUED FROM FRONT

business to compete against privately owned businesses in the same market region. Yes I am," Buchanon said in his comment.

According to the statement Skipper released, WKU officials made a good faith effort to address the questions and concerns of the local florists, and sought to find a solution that would have allowed the shop to continue operating under a public-private partnership.

"Unfortunately, this was not acceptable to the group, and the University was unable to resolve their concerns," the statement reads.

The shop also doubles as a Design Training Center for students. Courses that use the shop's space include Introduction to Floral Design, Advanced Floral Design and Wedding Floral Design, according to their website.

The Herald reached out to Roger

Dennis, director of the Floral Design and Training Center, but he declined to comment at this time. According to his WKU bio, Dennis is the instructor for the three courses that use the training center.

In a statement provided to the Daily News, Paul Woosley, director of the Agriculture & Research Education Center, said the floral design center has been applauded as a student-centric program with applied learning opportunities.

"It has supplied numerous students with hands-on learning experiences that relate to managing a small business. It has been the showcase of the program and a source of outreach for the university," Woosley said in his statement. "Its closing would be a detriment to WKU students."

Other florist shop owners also publicly commented on McKinney's Facebook post.

David Houk, the president and director of The Cedar Flowers & Gifts Inc. ac-

cording to business registration information filed with the secretary of state's office and confirmed by his Facebook profile, said he was one of the nine regional florists who has also been working to shut down the Floral Shop.

"You can blame anyone you want, truth is we all nine of us worked for the same goal. I have supported WKU since I went to school there in the early 70's, I will still support WKU, but a state fun[d] ed flower shop is just not right, however you cut it," Houk said in his comment.

Roainn Ridley, the owner of Mackenzie's Flowers in Bowling Green according to her Facebook profile, also confirmed she was one of the nine local florists who has been working to close the Floral Shop.

"Those in leadership at WKU who are responsible for the difficult task of making budget cuts have the information needed to accomplish their goals," Ridley said in her comment.

Because of WKU's current budget deficit, "the University determined that

it is in the institution's best interest not to engage in a dispute with community business owners," and the WKU Floral Shop will close on May 6, the statement said.

Skipper said in an email that there will not be a Request for Proposal released regarding entering into a "public-private partnership that would allow us to maintain the operation of the WKU Floral Shop."

The WKU Floral Shop will complete any orders and services that have already been arranged with the shop, according to the statement.

Follow her on Twitter @emilydeletter. Print managing editor Monica Kast can be reached at 270-745-6011 or monica.kast187@topper.wku.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @monicakast\_kast. Editor-in-chief Andrew Henderson can be reached at 270-745-5044 or andrew.henderson@wku.edu. Reporter Emily DeLetter contributed to this story.

# OPINION

EDITORIAL

## MARSUPIAL AWARDS

Recognizing the best and brightest in Bowling Green

BY HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

Quite a lot has happened across this great Commonwealth we call home, too much for any sane person to handle, honestly. That's why at the end of every spring semester, we here at the College Heights Herald have a tradition to give out awards recognizing some of the best and brightest this state, but more importantly this campus, has to offer:

To the live bat that made its home here in the Student Publications Center for a couple of weeks, we give the **Housing and Residence Life Cohabitation** award. Bat, if you're reading this, you don't have to go home but you can't stay here.

We give the **Workplace Sensitivity** award to our football field's brand new scoreboard. Now everyone can see all 120 of the positions that were just eliminated in brilliant HD!

To our outgoing editor-in-chief Andrew Henderson, we present the **On-going Ridicule** award, because ridicule every now and then just doesn't get the job done anymore. Like every editor-in-chief who has graduated in the past, we will lay him to rest in the Herald basement following the publication of this issue. May his soul R.I.P. (Rest In Papercuts).

Our not-so-family-friendly Gov. Matt Bevin is the proud recipient of the **School's Out** award. While Kentucky's teachers may hate him, he can rest easy knowing the rest of the

state does too.

To our friends at the Talisman, we present the **Calves of Steel** award. Though you may have bested us in the first Student Pubs kickball game, we take pride in the fact that everyone's forgotten about it by now. Also, we know you all let the bat in the office.

To lifelong WKU fan Roger Osborne and his family, we give the **WKU Basketball Most Valuable Fan** award. Thank you for allowing us to share Roger's story.

We give **The Greatest Showman** award to the Student Government Association for acting like a circus all semester. We haven't seen this many people talking about an old toad since President Donald Trump got elected.

To U.S. Senator Rand Paul we award the **WWE Smackdown** award. If you ever get tired of running for President of the United States, feel free to give your neighbor a call so we can watch you two fight it out in Diddle Arena. We'll look into making it a swi-peable event.

We give RAW, the latest local business to make its way to the Bowling Green community, the **Free Publicity** award. After a news story, a feature and a positive restaurant review, we're running out of ways to cover you all that aren't stale.

To Deborah Wilkins, we award \$125 for every single records request we've made this semester that you're now charging us to print. Deborah, it seems we may have gotten off on the wrong foot and for that we'd like to offer our sincerest apology.

WHAT'S A KANGAROO'S FAVORITE TYPE OF CLOTHING?



A JUMPSUIT

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY VOGLER • HERALD

Here it is:

We give the coveted **S.S. Bankruptcy** award to none other than former university President Gary Ransdell. We hope you'll remember us fondly as you explore the seven seas while the university budget struggles to remain afloat.

To current university President Timothy Caboni, we give the **Law and Disorder** award for continuing the lawsuit against the Herald. We know

it's been a tough first year, but our lawyers would like to see their families again.

To Sherry and Tracy, we give the **Guardians of the Herald Galaxy** award. You two are the only people stopping an entire army of bats from gaining control of the media and for that we thank you.

To our loyal readers, thanks for following us on this journey filled with lawsuits, powerful stories and popcorn Mondays. We'll see you next time.

EMMA ABROAD

## Exploring the beauty of Las Catararatas del Iguazú

BY EMMA AUSTIN

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

There are only a few things on my official bucket list, and up next to riding in a hot air balloon, seeing Las Catararatas del Iguazú was there at the top.

I remember looking at photos of the waterfalls for the first time in a National Geographic Travel special issue, but they felt as out-of-reach as views from satellites in outer space. When I started planning to study abroad in Argentina a few years later, though, I began to hope I might actually see them in person.

So, thanks to a little help from my generous parents (I promise I'll pay you back), I got to spend the last weekend of my semester in Argentina in Iguazú. Here are five thoughts that went through my head when I finally saw those waterfalls:

Wow.

Okay, so at first, I really had no words. I was just in awe. When you're looking down from the top

of the waterfalls, you can't even see the bottom because of how far down it goes and how high up the mist sprays. I heard someone describe the visit as a spiritual experience, and it really was. You just can't look at something that naturally beautiful without feeling transcendental or thinking about something philosophical.

There's no way Pocahontas would have survived that jump.

I couldn't stop thinking about Pocahontas the whole time I was at the falls and that iconic scene where she sings about the river bend and wonders what her future holds. About halfway through the song while she's paddling down the river, she really takes on that big waterfall in her little canoe like it's nothing. I kept picturing her going down one of the waterfalls at Iguazú, and I just can't see her making it to the bottom in one piece, let alone making a seamless transition back to paddling her canoe over the rapids like she does in the movie. Maybe that's why they haven't made a live action Pocahontas yet—no stunt double can live up to that white-water talent.

Why do we so often name natural wonders after the devil?

I feel like there are a lot of big, im-

pressive natural wonders named after the devil, like every rock formation ever. The border between Brazil and Argentina runs through the middle of La Garganta del Diablo, or The Devil's Throat in English, which is a narrow chasm with falls plunging more than 300 feet.

I guess it makes the places seem

"So at first, I really had no words. I was just in awe."

Herald Reporter  
EMMA AUSTIN

more dramatic when you name them after a powerful evil, like "The Devil's Throat" sounds more impressive than "Cherub Falls." If these waterfalls were in Narnia, though, they would definitely be named after Aslan, not the White Witch.

I'm the worst.

There are several species of butterflies attracted to the small ponds surrounding the Iguazú River, and this is what I thought when I accidentally stepped on one of them. It was so sad.

Actually, maybe Pocahontas had the right idea.

I went on a study away trip a couple of summers ago to San Francisco with Alex Olson's Honors 251 class, and while there, a few of us went out one foggy morning to ride bikes across the Golden Gate Bridge. Before we left, Dr. Olson warned us against some sort of urban legend he had heard that apparently people who walk across the bridge report having a sudden, inexplicable urge to jump off if they look over the edge.

I never felt the desire to jump into San Francisco Bay on that bike ride, but, as I was standing at the top of The Devil's Throat, I really wanted to know what it looked like from the bottom. Every so often the mist would clear enough to see the water at the base of the falls, and it really looked magical down there. Pretty good water pressure too, I bet, compared to what I've been getting from the hostel shower heads.

No Disney princess had quite the natural oasis for a home as did Pocahontas. Canoeing and swimming under waterfalls and rainbows and singing about painting the wind seems like a good life to me. At least, before the white men came and ruined everything.

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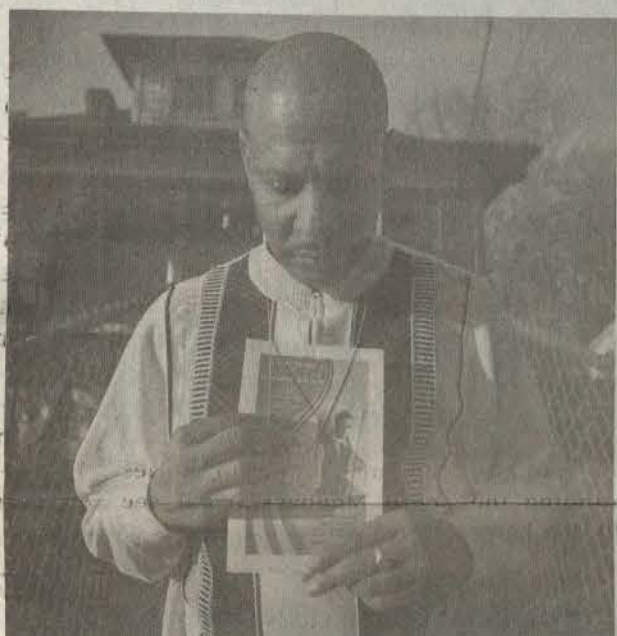
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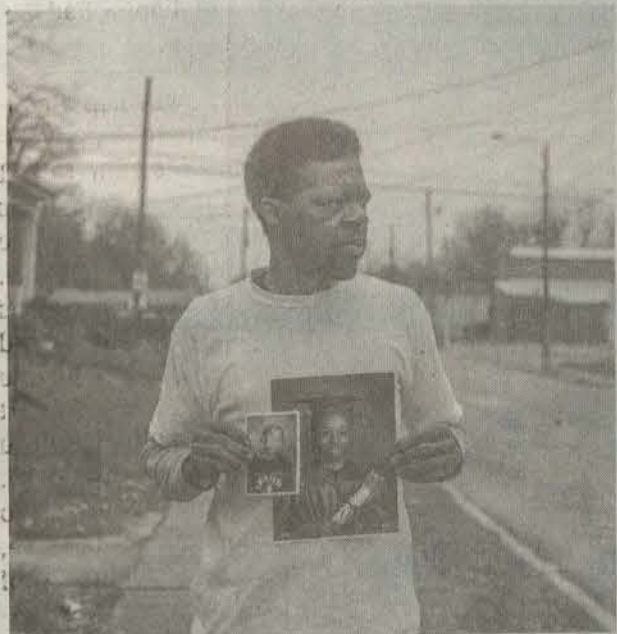
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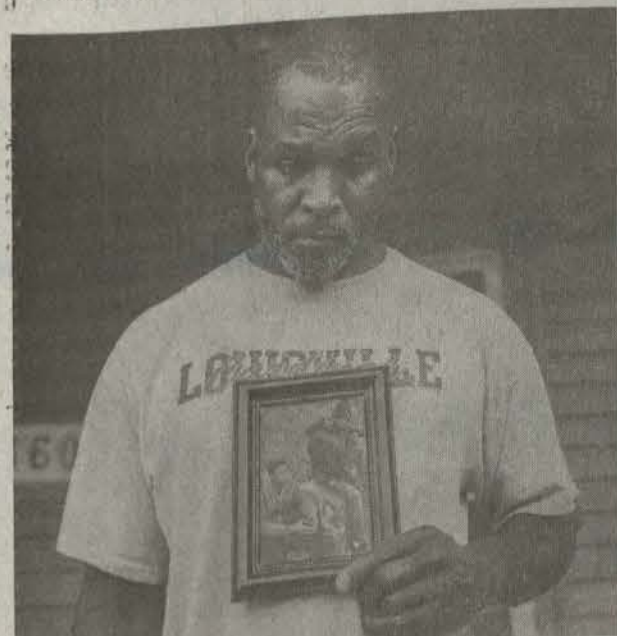
Rochelle Turner wraps her only son's high school jacket around her body. Ricky Jones was murdered in April 2017 at the age of 29. "At first I would look at other mothers who lost their sons and think their sons were into something and mine wasn't," Smith said. "I would think that maybe if my son was doing something wrong or died from a disease or committed suicide I would be able to find closure, but in any way I can't bring my son back."



Deacon Tyrone Booker Sr. holds the obituary of his son, Tyrone Booker Jr., who was murdered on March 27, 2016. "I was mad. I was furious. I asked, 'God, why did you do this? Why did you let this happen?' Then he gave me my answer: because your son was involved in the wrong things, so I had to get him out of it," Booker said. "You keep doing what you doing you will end up in someone's grave site and now he's in someone's grave site."



Craig Bland holds photos of his sons, Craig Bland Jr., who was murdered in 2012, and Toreze Bland, who was murdered in 2015. "The streets killed my sons," Bland said. "I watched my wife Diana die from cancer in front of my eyes, my brother was murdered, my two nephews were murdered and now I have no more sons, no more children. There used to be a lot of love in this house. That love is gone now."



Autour Love's son Javon Saadig Jackson was murdered in a drive-by shooting on Dec. 1, 2016. He was 19. "All of the anger I let go when I was younger grew back inside me. The coroner didn't even lay a sheet over my son's dead body," Love said. "I left the streets for my son to learn from my past life lessons. All I can do now is lay back, ask God for answers, because the streets won't give me answers."

# LOST TO THE STREETS

## Families share gun violence impact

PHOTOS & STORY BY MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE  
HERALD.PHOTO@WKU.EDU



Phyllis Murphy lost her son, DeJuan Porter, 15 years ago. "I only had one child. I didn't have grandchildren, he was murdered at 18. He was all I had," Murphy said. "The day that young man took my son's life is the day I lost my life as well."

In cities like Chicago, Baltimore and Louisville, African-American men have become casualties of gun violence at an alarming rate. This portrait series tells the story of 12 of the hundreds of African American males murdered in Louisville over the past three decades. All of them had families and many other loved ones who they left behind. In a family tree, when a branch falls, that tree is never the same again.

Phyllis Murphy lost her son for being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Her son DeJuan Porter was murdered a few days prior to him catching a bus to take classes at Job Corps. The year DeJuan Porter was murdered, there were 42 homicides in Louisville. In 2017, there were 107 homicides in Louisville, according to the Louisville Metro Police Department.



Judy Wilkins, Jasmine Wilkins and Sherry Simmons hold the graduation picture of Gregory Wilkins, who was murdered on Nov. 26, 1996. "I visit his grave once a week. I have been once a week for 21 years," Judy Wilkins said. "The last thing I heard him say is take care of Jasmine, and let Sherry know that I love her, and that I love you, my brother and my dad. Then he was gone."

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**Shop Campus is the New Buy Local**

Sponsored content from The WKU Store



BY MAX ZAMBRANO

The jingle of change dropping into donation jars is the embodiment of shopping local in action, and it is a sound often heard around The WKU Store.

This semester, The WKU Store has partnered with Aramark and the WKU Food Pantry, operated by the Office of Sustainability, to further enhance their "Shop Campus" ini-

tiative. The shop campus movement means that money earned by The WKU Store is not just a profit for the university to support students, faculty and staff, but they also give back to the entire Bowling Green community.

Sarah Sears, the marketing coordinator at The WKU Store, said, "Just the old fashioned loose change in a jar collection has allowed The WKU Store to give significant donations to a variety of charities and causes for at least the last 10 years."

Since its founding in 1923, The WKU Store has strived to invest back in the university and in the community. Purchases, including donations, are an investment into making WKU a better campus and Bowling Green a better city.

Sears said in years past, The WKU Store has given donations to a variety of charities including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Kelly Autism, Toys for Tots and Bowling Green Parks and Recreation's Special Olympics.

The new partnership with Aramark and the WKU Food Pantry Program has created the Feed a Friend Campaign, which is designed to help students eat at Fresh Food Company who otherwise couldn't afford the cost. A table is set up in front of Fresh on Fridays during lunch hours, and people are encour-

aged "feed it forward" and donate money toward the purchase of a meal ticket for another student.

Sears said the Food Pantry is a great resource for students, but sometimes those students may feel isolated or embarrassed.

"The WKU Food Pantry is constantly being stocked with canned food drives, and that is wonderful," Sears said. "However, we wanted to offer the students who come into the WKU Food Pantry an alternative to just leaving with a can of soup."

The idea is that the students will not just have a can of soup they can eat in their residence hall, but also be able to eat with their friends at Fresh.

"While we are a retail entity that seeks to bring a significant profit back to the university every year, we also understand that being a part of the student experience on campus allows us to offer helpful and unique support services — and more than that, we are able to build and strengthen relationships all over campus and Bowling Green in a way that humanizes the business with familiar faces and a sense of heart," Sears said.

Students are encouraged to donate while selling and returning used books at the end of the semester. Jars can be found at the registers in the store, where students can shop campus and feed it forward.



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# SPORTS



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

Former quarterback Mike White (14) talks to members of the media after the NFL Pro Day in L.T. Smith Stadium. "I think it went really well. I told the guys beforehand, 'Lets have fun,'" White said. "When you have fun it takes your mind off the high pressure of these kind of situations."

## Board of Regents approves Collins' new contract

BY TYLER EATON  
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU



Following an approval from the WKU Board of Regents, new WKU women's basketball coach Greg Collins is set to receive a \$200,000 salary in his new contract.

Collins' contract is four years with a \$200,000 annual salary, which was the same amount that former head coach Michelle Clark-Heard was making prior to her departure to Cincinnati. The contract, which was signed by Collins on April 12, includes other benefits and bonuses, all of which were also included in Clark-Heard's contract.

"It was a very seamless transition where our program is right now, having been to four NCAA tournaments in the past five years," athletics director Todd Stewart said. "That is what that position warrants, and the role that Greg had on Michelle's staff during that entire time frame, I just felt that he was deserving of the exact same arrangement that she had."

Clark-Heard's original salary at WKU was \$150,000. She received a \$50,000 raise in 2013 to increase her salary 33 percent. Stewart said that if Collins has early success as Clark-Heard did, WKU will have to try to do what's necessary to continue that success.

"If you're only maintaining, you're falling behind, so we're going to have to continue to grow in every area of athletics, and certainly reward the people that are successful in growing those areas," Stewart said. "As time goes on, I would hope that that's an area we can grow it."

As part of his benefits, Collins will receive four VIP football season tickets, six Red Towel women's basketball season tickets, six reserved seat women's basketball tickets and four tickets to NCAA Tournament games that the team participates in, per his contract. Collins will also receive one automobile for use "on a loan basis"

SEE NFL DRAFT • PAGE B2

SEE COLLINS CONTRACT • PAGE B3

# NEXT LEVEL

## Former Hilltoppers reach NFL dreams

BY ALEC JESSIE  
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU



A smile crept across Jerry Jones' face as he paused to pick up the phone.

The Dallas Cowboys owner was 171 picks into the 2018 NFL Draft, but he seemed no less enthusiastic to call former WKU quarterback Mike White.

"We've been going over you here, but we're fixing to put your card in and make you a Dallas Cowboy," Jones said to White in a video posted on the Cowboys' website. "It is a compliment, and I can't imagine what it must feel like to be drafted in the NFL. But you've got some great things being said about you here."

Jones' smile was mirrored by Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett as he took the phone to speak to White.

"We're awfully excited to bring you in here," Garrett said. "South Florida's a nice place, but so is Dallas, Texas."

White was one of two former Hilltoppers to hear their names called during the third and final day of the NFL Draft, as linebacker Joel Iyiegbuniwe was also picked 115th by the Chicago Bears.

Seen by experts as a long shot to get drafted, Iyiegbuniwe was selected earlier than expected Saturday afternoon and became the sixth-highest draft pick in program history.

As a four-year player and two-year starter, Iyiegbuniwe racked up 200 tackles and 22.5 tackles for loss. He also registered 6.5 sacks and forced three fumbles. He led the Hilltoppers in tackles last season.

ESPN projected Iyiegbuniwe to contribute to special teams early on and had him ranked as the 27th-best linebacker in the draft.

Iyiegbuniwe will have plenty of competition at the linebacker position for the Bears. With its first pick of the draft, Chicago snagged the top linebacker prospect in Georgia's Roquan Smith with

the eighth overall pick. The former First Team All-American figures to start from day one. Seasoned veteran and former Super Bowl winner Danny Trevathan started 12 games for the Bears last year and also figures to have a firm grip on another linebacker spot.

With the Bears running a 3-4 defensive scheme and Iyiegbuniwe slated to play inside linebacker, he will likely backup Smith. Trevathan and potentially other veterans during his rookie season. Special teams and possibly playing rotational snaps seem to be Iyiegbuniwe's best chance at getting on the field in 2018.

As for White, NFL.com projected that he would go in the third or fourth round, potentially coming off the board on day two. But he had to wait deep into the third day to hear his name called. Despite that, he has now become the highest-drafted Hilltopper quarterback in

## Athletics receives position, audit approvals from Board of Regents

BY JEREMY CHISENHALL  
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

WKU athletics had the appointment of seven new employees, as well as the raise of a current assistant coach and the approval of new women's basketball head coach Greg Collins' contract, approved at the last Board of Regents meeting.

The seven positions included five assistant coaches, a new football strength and conditioning coach and a new assistant strength and conditioning coach. The total amount of approved salary proposals and raises is \$553,016.

New strength and conditioning coach Jason Veltkamp's \$100,000 salary coupled with Collins' \$200,000 makes up 54 percent of the total.

"I feel really good about it," athletics director Todd Stewart said of the staff additions. "In the strength and conditioning area, we really like Jason Veltkamp. I mean for us to be able to have somebody with experience at the Power 5 level, and also the National Football League I think will be a huge asset to our program."

Veltkamp and Collins' salaries were the only two six-figure salaries approved. Football assistant coach Maurice Crum had his raise of \$25,000 approved, which brings his yearly salary to \$75,000. The raise comes after Crum added co-special teams coordinator to his title during the spring practice season. The reasoning for his raise in the regents' agenda stated that he turned down a



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU Athletics Director Todd Stewart stands before the Board of Regents on Jan. 26. The Board approved seven hirings and one raise for athletics on April 27.

SEE ATHLETIC HIRINGS • PAGE B3

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**NFL DRAFT**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

program history.

White began his college career at South Florida before transferring to WKU for his final two seasons of college football. In his two seasons at WKU, he amassed 8,540 passing yards and threw 63 touchdowns while averaging 316 passing yards per game. He went 17-10 as a starter at WKU.

White garnered many honors during his time on the Hill, including being the 2016 C-USA Newcomer of the Year and being named to the Davey O'Brien watch list and the Maxwell Award watch list.

ESPN ranked White as the ninth-best quarterback in the class and projected him as a likely NFL backup with upside due to his prototypical size and big arm.

Currently, Dak Prescott has a stranglehold on the starting job and is seen as the Cowboys' franchise quarterback. In his rookie season, he led Dallas to a 13-3 record after the Cowboys previously went 4-12. The young star quarterback isn't giving up his snaps anytime soon. White could certainly end up the backup quarterback going into Week 1. He will battle



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

Former WKU linebacker Joel Iyiegbuniwe (4) celebrates after sacking the Louisiana Tech quarterback during the Hilltoppers' 22-23 loss to Louisiana Tech University Sept. 16 at L.T. Smith Stadium. Iyiegbuniwe was drafted by the Chicago Bears in the fourth round.

with Cooper Rush, who went undrafted in 2017, for the backup spot. White figures to get plenty of snaps in the preseason while head coach Jason Garrett evaluates the position.

While they did go undrafted, both tight end Deon Yelder and wide receiver Cameron Echols-Luper found their NFL homes on Saturday as well.

The break-out star tight end will be

signing a mini-camp deal with the New Orleans Saints. Yelder came into 2017 having not caught a pass in game action, but broke out with 52 catches, 688 yards and seven touchdowns. Yelder looks to continue his momentum from his Senior Bowl performance with the Saints. The former walk-on will once again have to fight to keep his professional football dreams alive. After the departure of former starting tight end Coby Fleener, the starting spot is wide open with just Josh Hill, John Phillips and Michael Hoomanawanui on the roster.

Echols-Luper will head up north after agreeing to a mini-camp deal with the Indianapolis Colts. Prior to transferring to WKU this past fall, Echols-Luper attended Texas Christian and Arkansas State. In his only season as a Hilltopper, he caught 42 passes for 473 yards and four touchdowns. Echols-Luper will fight for snaps with a bunch of receivers in Indianapolis, most notably Pro Bowler T.Y. Hilton, Ryan Grant and Chester Rogers.

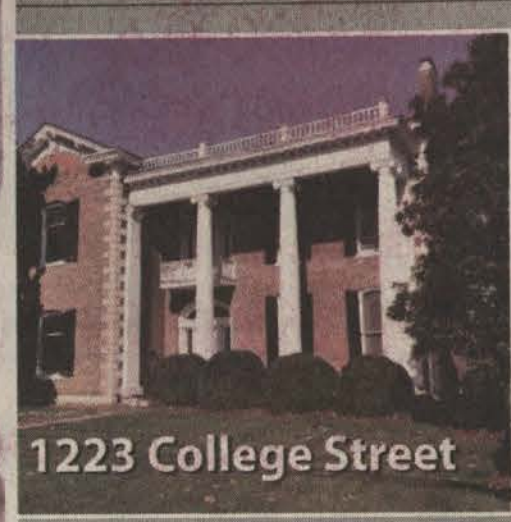
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# Hilltoppers finish regular season at Louisville

BY TORY BOWLING  
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

WKU track and field wrapped up its regular season this weekend at the Lenny Lyles/Clark Wood Invitational hosted by Louisville, where WKU brought home 16 top-five finishes.

Hilltopper seniors Jonathan Hayden and Julius Morris each earned two first place finishes for WKU. Hayden ran a 14.11 in the 110-meter hurdles to take first place, while Morris ran a 20.45 in the 200 dash for first place.

WKU succeeded in the relay events by finishing in the top three in four different events. In the 4x100 relay, a team composed of juniors Austin Hayes and Kymari Gates along with seniors Morris and Eli Minor earned first place with a time of 39.99 seconds. The second team, made up of freshmen Alec Tanksley and David Saruni, along with juniors Will Bush and Maor Seged, finished third with a time of 41.32 seconds.

In the 4x400 relay, junior Oliver Alexandre competed with Tanksley, Gates and Hayes to place second with a time of 3:13.16. Sophomore Denzel Villaman teamed up with Hayden,

Bush and Morris to finish third with a time of 3:14.77.

Bush, Hayes and Gates finished second, third, and fourth in the 100 dash. Bush clocked a time of 10.52 seconds, just shy of his personal record of 10.51 seconds. Alexandre finished third in the 400, running a 47.98-second time. Bush finished fourth in the 200 dash with a time of 21.44 seconds.

WKU continued its strong showing as Tanksley placed fifth in the long jump with a personal record of 7.21 meters. Senior Desmond Mobley earned fourth in the triple jump with a mark of 14.4 meters.

Sophomore Taylor Scarbrough and freshman Alex Schell both recorded personal records in the 1,500 meter run with times of 4:02.30 and 4:08.05, respectively.

The Lady Toppers earned three top-four finishes for the weekend, led by senior Morgan McIntyre's tie for first place in the pole vault. After a jump-off, McIntyre tied for second with a mark of 3.87 meters. Freshman Nicole Ogorek placed third in the open pole vault with a jump of 3.57 meters.

Junior Juannae Lewis placed fourth in the 200 dash with a time of 24.30 seconds. Senior Savannah



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

Senior Morgan McIntyre eyes the bar during the Hilltopper Relays Friday, April 6 at the Rueter Track and Field Complex. WKU is preparing for the Conference USA championships on May 10-12.

Ames notched a personal record and season best for WKU in the 1,500 with a time of 4:34.70.

With the regular season coming to an end, WKU will now get two weeks of rest before heading to the Conference USA Outdoor Championships in Houston, Texas. The WKU men finished eighth in the indoor championships in February, where the women placed

11th. McIntyre won the women's pole vault, as WKU took home five All-Conference honors in total. The C-USA Championships will take place May 10-13.

Reporter Tory Bowling can be reached at 270-745-6291 and tory.bowling437@topper.wku.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @Tory\_Bowling24.

## ATHLETIC HIRINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

competing job to take the raise, and that the raise didn't cost WKU any additional money when compared to replacing Crum.

"[Crum] received an offer from another institution, he agreed to stay with a salary increase," the agenda stated. "The staff are being conscientious and backfilling another staff position for significantly less than the prior person was paid. There is no net increase in total spending on salaries."

Other athletics hires included

Christopher Aninye as the new assistant strength and conditioning coach, and Tredell Dorsey, William Thomas, Matthew Mitchell, James Woods and Nigel Bigbee as assistant coaches. WKU President Timothy Caboni recommended the approval of all the staff appointments and raises, according to the regents' agenda.

The athletics department had to eliminate six jobs in March as a result of the university's \$15 million in budget cuts. Athletics' budget was cut by \$1.3 million, which made up 8 percent of the university's cuts.

The board also approved WKU's third-party audit in compliance with NCAA bylaw 3.2.4.16, which

requires Division I universities to "submit financial data detailing operating revenues, expenses and capital related to its intercollegiate athletics program to the NCAA on an annual basis in accordance with the financial reporting policies and procedures," according to the NCAA's website. The audit was carried out by Crowe Horwath, LLP. Caboni also recommended the approval of the audit. The audit reported that WKU athletics maintained a balanced budget, both bringing in and spending \$30.4 million during the year ended June 30, 2017.

In addition, it was reported to the regents' finance and budget

committee that WKU was in compliance with NCAA bylaw 20.9.9.3, which requires an average paid or actual attendance of 15,000 spectators for football games over a rolling two-year period, according to the NCAA's website. WKU averaged 15,706 spectators per game over its six true home games in 2017.

Sports Editor Jeremy Chisenhall can be reached at 270-745-6291 and jeremy.chisenhall921@topper.wku.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @JSChisenhall.

## COLLINS CONTRACT CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

from the university.

For each year, a team academic progress rate of +940 will net Collins an additional 5 percent of his base contract, which would currently be \$10,000. An additional bonus of the same amount can be earned if the APR reaches +970.

Collins will also receive a 5 percent bonus for each increase of 500 tickets in women's basketball public season ticket sales over the previous year. Another five percent bonus can be earned each year if at least 1,500 public season tickets are sold.

Collins also has a chance to receive as many as five bonuses of \$16,667 each in performance incentives, which equals one month of his current salary. He will get that bonus for each of these accomplishments:

- Conference Coach of the Year
- Regular season conference championship or NCAA Tournament

appearance

- NCAA Sweet 16 appearance
- NCAA Final Four appearance
- National Championship

If Collins and the Lady Toppers were to reach all of these achievements, Collins' maximum payout would be \$303,335.

Collins' contract dictates that if he wants to pursue another coaching or sports-related job opportunity, he must notify and obtain permission from the athletics director.

Collins' buyout is \$250,000. If WKU terminates the contract without cause, the university will be required to pay Collins his buyout, or "an amount equal to the coach's base salary as of the date of termination, whichever amount is greater," per his contract. Collins would have to pay the same amount to WKU if he terminated the contract early.

Reporter Tyler Eaton can be reached at 270-776-6797 and tylereaton1022@yahoo.com. Follow him on Twitter at @at\_eaton



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# Hilltoppers drop crucial series against LA Tech

BY MATT STAHL

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU



WKU baseball dropped its weekend series against Louisiana Tech at Nick Denes Field, despite several players finding their way offensively and having every chance to win on Sunday.

The series, which could prove to be crucial in the Hilltoppers' quest to reach the Conference USA Tournament, featured big offense in the first two games of the series and a close rubber game to wrap it up Sunday.

"I really think it's important for them to keep the big picture in place," WKU head coach John Pawlowski said after the series. "We don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves, we've got a lot of work yet to do."

In the first game of the series, senior starting pitcher Ryan Thurston played a great game, going eight innings and only allowing one run while accumulating nine strikeouts. Thurston now has 287 strikeouts for his career, second in program history to Matt Ridings, who had 354.

The Hilltoppers got their offense rolling Friday, getting started in the bottom of the second when sophomore Ray Zuberer III hit a solo home run. WKU then put four more runs on the board in the third, three of which came off a home run by junior catcher Colin Butkiewicz.

The 5-0 score stayed the same until the sixth, when LA Tech got on the board with a solo home run by sophomore center fielder Parker Bates. The Bulldogs were unable to muster any more offense and the Hilltoppers added another run in the eighth to make the final score 6-1.

Saturday's game was a different story for the Hilltoppers. LA Tech scored early and often, getting two runs in the first inning, three in the second and three in the third to open up an 8-0 lead. WKU put one run on the board in the bottom of the third as sophomore shortstop Kevin Lambert singled in junior third baseman Nick Brunson.

The score remained 8-1 until LA Tech added one in the seventh and three in the eighth. WKU got three runs off a home run by senior infielder Steven Kraft, the tenth of his career. The Bulldogs added one more in the ninth to walk away with the 13-4 victory.

"We had a great win last night, a big

win for us Friday night," Pawlowski said in a press release after Saturday's game. "Great to see what Steven Kraft did late in the game, but today, obviously we didn't play well enough to win."

For Sunday's game, Pawlowski changed the top of the batting order, moving Kraft, who had been leading off for the Hilltoppers to second in the order and making freshman right fielder Luke Brown the leadoff position.

"We hadn't been swinging the bats real well and Luke Brown's been doing some great things down there," Pawlowski said. "We slid him up and put Krafty in the two-hole and just trying to create something, a little more flow in that line up."

Kraft ended the day perfect at the plate, going 4 for 4 with two RBIs and two walks.

"I was feeling pretty good," Kraft said. "I've been seeing the ball pretty good all year and I'm just not trying to do too much, just put good swings on the ball and let my bat do whatever it needs to do."

**"I really think it's important for them to keep the big picture in place, we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves, we've got a lot of work yet to do"**

Head Coach  
**JOHN PAWLOWSKI**

The game went 11 innings before LA Tech senior shortstop Dalton Skelton hit a solo home run off of WKU's senior closer Ben Morrison. The Bulldogs also added another run on a throwing error and the Hilltoppers were unable to score, dropping the game 4-2.

The loss moves the Hilltoppers to 20-23 on the year and 10-11 in the C-USA. WKU will play at Austin Peay on Tuesday before a weekend series at Charlotte.

Reporter Matt Stahl can be reached at 270-745-6291 and [matthew.stahl551@topper.wku.edu](mailto:matthew.stahl551@topper.wku.edu) Follow him on Twitter at @mattstahl97.



CHRIS KOHLEY • HERALD

Freshman outfielder Luke Brown (22) runs to first base against the LA Tech Bulldogs on Friday, April 27. Brown scored a run in the Hilltoppers' 6-1 victory at Nick Denes field.



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# LIFE



KATHRYN ZIESIG • HERALD

Sophomore Darinda Reddick, 20, has taken her hobby of creating art and turned it into a way to advocate for issues that matter to her. The focuses of Reddick's art are feminism, political and social issues and supporting black women. "I always try to represent black art, because most black art doesn't get represented a lot in the media especially black women and who we are... beautiful, smart and independent," Reddick said.

## SPEAKING VOLUMES

### Student uses art to illustrate past, present and future

BY JULIE SISLER

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Sophomore Darinda Reddick's goal is for her art to "speak volumes," and her most recent piece, "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" did just that.

"Darinda's art realism piece puts wounded black bodies on full display to publically call out the social injustices and disregard shown for African across the long history of slavery, Jim Crow segregation and police brutality in our own time," associate professor

of African-American studies Andrew Rosa said.

Reddick said she usually does paintings that reflect themes of black feminism and black beauty.

"The way the media portrays black women is that they're ugly or weak," Reddick said. "I try to portray black women as kind, calming, generous, humble and as beautiful as they are."

Reddick said she transfers those ideas to her representation of Africa. She illustrates the idea that Africa is the motherland and tries to convey the connection between the beauty of Africa and the beauty in every black

woman.

For her latest piece, however, Reddick drew inspiration she said isn't as beautiful: the abuse of black men's bodies.

"Black people's bodies are being targeted in society," Reddick said. "This still happens. This isn't anything new." Reddick said she has lately been moving toward more political art, which she said she believes is the best way for her to be passionate about her art and allow her voice to be heard.

Reddick decided to bring a painting entitled "Black Body" to life through the use of makeup and latex in the

form of "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised," a realism piece featuring three black men, each shirtless, with a different form of brutality shown on their back: gunshots, whip marks and branding using makeup and latex.

The title comes from the 1970 song by Gil Scott-Heron, which Reddick said resonates with her beliefs that the world is changing now and needs to be more than just on TV: it needs to be live and present in everyone's life.

"While the seemingly endless stories of men like Trayvon Martin, Alton Ster-

SEE REDDICK • PAGE A2

## Local campaign aims to show uniqueness of BG

BY LAUREL DEPPEN

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU



Keep BG Weird, a campaign that has now become a brand, is gaining attention in the Bowling Green community.

"I'm weird," Sydney Doose wrote in a direct message to Keep BG Weird. "You're weird. Let's be weird together."

The campaign was inspired by similar "weird" campaigns in Louisville and Austin, Texas. The mission of Keep BG Weird is to celebrate local artisans, restaurants and eclectic shops - everything that makes Bowling Green unique.

Brad Anthony, originally from Mississippi, is one of the founders of the campaign. He recalled what he referred to as a "coffee shop meet and greet" with several other men, including Bowling local Derek Sabiston. Anthony said Sabiston brought up the idea of starting the campaign.

"Just to kind of embrace where our city was going," Anthony said. "He felt like there was a lot more artists popping up, that the downtown area was starting to be more stimulated than before."

Anthony said they wanted to celebrate a "new energy" that local business and artists represented. He said they wanted to provide these artisans with a club for them to be a part of. Later, the idea became a brand.

Anthony said Sabiston drew a version of the fountain in Fountain Square Park and made the design into stickers. After that, Anthony said he decided to order the design on pint glasses. The brand now sells stickers, lapel pins, shirts, mugs and glasses.

Doose is studying corporate communications and marketing. She works for Keep BG Weird as a WKU represen-



LYDIA SCHWEICKART • HERALD

The local based campaign, Keep BG Weird, aims to celebrate the unique nature and diversity of Bowling Green. "We love that this city is a weird small melting pot and that you can take a bike ride down the street and see some crazy stuff," Brad Anthony, co-founder of Keep BG Weird, said.

tative. She said she spends her time promoting the brand on social media and in person by engaging with students and asking them what they think

about the brand.

Though she was born in New Mexico, Doose said she moved to Bowling Green when she was five and considers

it her hometown.

Doose said even though she's lived in Bowling Green for most of her life, she still sees things she's never seen before. She emphasized that not everyone can say that about where they live.

"If you dig deep enough, you can find some really crazy and amazing things," she said.

Anthony said that one of his main goals for the campaign is to encourage people to stay in Bowling Green. Anthony included himself in that group. He said he lived in Louisville for five years before returning to Bowling Green.

Now in his thirties, he said he wants to stay here.

"I was part of it," Anthony said. "Something about this city, nobody sticks around ... they would do their three or four years here and contribute and stimulate, and right when it seemed like there was hope, they would just take off. I've never been able to figure out what that is."

Anthony also emphasized that he wanted the campaign to teach people what was cool. He said that several members of the original group that started the campaign were fathers.

"We wanted to teach dads how to be cool," Anthony said. "We wanted to tell guys that just because you're 35, you don't have to be corny, you can still be super cool."

Anthony emphasized that to him, Bowling Green is cool. He said he had no idea the city would be so special to him.

"I like Bowling Green," he said. "It's cool. It's weird. I want to see where it goes. I want to be a part of it."

Features reporter Laurel Deppen can be reached at 270-745-6291 and laurel.deppen774@topper.wku.edu.

# Bowling Green resident builds set of leather armor

BY LAUREL DEPPEN

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Bryce Booher, a student at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College, has a passion for working with leather.

Booher connected his interest in leatherworking to his great uncle who currently has a private shop where he builds supplies for horses such as saddles and harnesses. Booher said he learned a lot of his skills from his great uncle.

Booher described his craft as making useful stuff. He said he enjoys leatherworking so much because he is able to make functional and useful items. He made his first piece, a belt, at a scouting camp when he was 13. He has made several other types of items including key fobs, bookmarks, cellphone cases and wallets. Booher's largest work is a full set of armor.

During a trip to Utah, Booher said he stopped by a leather store where he met a man who owned a business that sold armor. He said that after talking with the owner, he took leather armor crafting lessons with him.

Making armor wasn't a new concept for Booher. He said he'd made a metal set of armor in the past.

Booher's leather armor set includes

about 10 parts, including a helmet, which he said he was the proudest of. He called the helmet an afterthought, but he said the piece felt "weird" or incomplete without it.

"That was the thing that I thought turned out to be the coolest of everything," Booher said. "It's the one that I enjoy looking at most."

Booher said the armor was not made to represent a style from any particu-

**"It's specialized enough that you're not going to find it walking down the street so much, but the amount of people who have had an amount of experience in it makes it feel general in a way that you're not alone."**

Student at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College  
**BRYCE BOOHER**

lar time in history, but it was based off of pieces of fantasy fiction including "Lord of the Rings," a series Booher said he was a fan of.

Booher said the piece took about 70 hours to make, not including the time it took him to make the patterns for the leather.

Booher is a member of the South

Central Leathercrafters Guild. According to its website, the organization's goal is to promote leathercraft while promoting its members and encouraging people to try it.

Booher said he found a sense of comradery with people who work with leather. He said he's able to identify people who share his dedication to the craft.

"It's specialized enough that you're

leatherworking, Williamson and Booher have a common interest in armor, as Williamson works with metal.

Williamson was a member of a group that Booher said helped him get started practicing his craft.

"It was a little group for guys who had trouble getting up and doing things that they've always wanted to do, but they always sit on the couch instead," Booher said.

Williamson said he offered Booher encouragement to pursue what he wanted. Williamson described him as motivated but he just needed that "little push" to get it done.

Booher has plans of making a second set of armor that he intends to sell if it's successful.

"[Leatherworking is] one of the few areas of my life where I can take something that I imagine up and bring it into existence," he said. "With leather, that's where I found my greatest capacity to take what I design and think up and create it. That's one of the draws for me and why I continue to keep up with it and learn more. It's one of the things that brings me satisfaction whenever I look at what I've made or can make and have it be useful."

Features reporter Laurel Deppen can be reached at 270-745-6291 and laurel.deppen774@topper.wku.edu.

# Kentucky Museum hosts statewide art program

BY JULIE SISLER

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Though art is primarily seen as an individual activity, the Kentucky Museum's exhibit, Side By Side, shows how art can come out of a partnership.

The Side by Side exhibit features artwork created by young artists with disabilities and local artists. It will be on display until June 30, according to the Kentucky Museum's website.

Kentucky Museum artist-in-residence Lynne Ferguson has been working with Side By Side for 16 years and said the exhibit is a great experience in community building.

"The museum opens their door to an underserved population of youth who find acceptance and community at the museum, WKU and with the community of local artists," Ferguson said.

Ferguson said this year's featured artists include WKU student Jensine Robinson, who served along with nine other professional artists in mentoring 18 young artists.

"The SBS exhibit is a collection of works created in a workshop as collaboration with local artists and a selection of special needs kids who have a passion for art," Robinson said. "These kids were chosen because they attended an art camp hosted at WKU over the summer."

The selected students then embark on a mentorship oriented experience to help them grow as artists.

Ferguson said students take multiple classes that take place at the museum. After those classes, they have

one-on-one sessions with local artists. During these sessions, the students can collaborate on individual and separate pieces. This gives students the opportunity to learn more about collaborative art, as well as gain exposure to local artists and learn from having a professional artist as a mentor.

At the exhibit, student artwork is presented alongside the artist's work and the collaborative pieces that they did together. Featuring the art in this way gives students a unique opportunity to not only work with professional artists, but also be presented with them.

Side By Side is a statewide program through VSA Kentucky, which has a partnership with the Kentucky Museum.

"It is designed to offer a creative outlet for students, reinforce inclusiveness and positive self-image and highlight the importance of arts education in the development of our young people," Ferguson said. "Additionally students have the opportunity to work alongside a community of professional artist[s] and see their work exhibited at the Kentucky Museum."

As one of the mentoring local artists, Robinson said she worked with two kids, each for about an hour and a half.

"I thought it would be important for them to have as much freedom as possible to express themselves," Robinson said. "So we started with a blank canvas and fingerpainted any colors they wanted, then we grabbed anything else in the room we could find like ribbon, plastic wrap, tape, sponges, etc."

Robinson says that she hopes students she mentored learned that everything and anything can be consid-



TYGER WILLIAMS • HERALD

The Side by Side exhibit at the Kentucky Museum features artwork created through the partnership of young artists with disabilities and local Bowling Green artists.

ered art.

"The most important thing is probably that art can be just as much about playing around as it can be about serious contemplation," Robinson said.

Robinson also has two solo pieces on display, a fingerpainting and a monotype print composed of dirt and plant material.

Ferguson and Robinson both see major reasons to attend the exhibit. For Ferguson, she says that students should attend the exhibit in order to be inspired. Robinson hopes attendees will learn about the artists from their work.

"See the variety of styles and artworks

displayed," Robinson said. "There's so much personality in each piece."

Ferguson also believes that attendees can take away a major lesson both in and outside of art.

"I hope people will recognize that a person's creative spirit is not limited by ability but by opportunity and access," Ferguson said. "With Side by Side we try to get rid of those limitations and show the beauty in the work created."

Features reporter Julie Sisler can be reached at 270-745-6291 and julie.sisler389@topper.wku.edu. Follow Julie on social media at @julie\_sisler.

REDDICK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

-ling and Philando Castile planted the seeds for this display, Darinda's work digs deep into the nation's past to remind us of the persistent vulnerability of black life and, by extension, the unfinished project of democracy's reconstruction in America," Rosa said.

Freshman Austin Brown bore whip marks, which Reddick said is representative of the days of slavery and how black bodies were abused then.

Brown said he sees the lash marks as a sign of brutality from the past, whereas the gunshot marks show the brutality that takes place in today's society.

Reddick agreed, saying that the abuse is not over but has evolved from whips and brands into guns and insti-

tutionalized oppression.

"I was trying to grasp the concept that history repeats itself," Reddick said.

She said that people will argue that racism is over or that black people aren't abused or in danger anymore, but that's not true.

"For me, seeing it as just a scar is disempowering, so I look at it more like a birthmark for all of us," Brown said. "We were born with and made with the struggles of our past. As ugly as it is, it's part of what makes us who we are."

Brown said the production of the piece was extremely important and he was honored to be a part of the piece.

"We are the voice of the future," Reddick said. "It's our job to speak up, whether that's through a speech or art or writing. But you have to say some-

thing. Don't stay silent."

Reddick said he finds that though it can be difficult to speak up, it's what's necessary in order to spark progress, which all begins with a discussion.

"It's okay to start a discussion, and it's okay to be uncomfortable," She said. "Being uncomfortable is how we get comfortable."

She said that though the piece's response was overwhelmingly positive, she knows that it made some people uncomfortable, acknowledging that some people wouldn't like it or would even hate it. Her goal was to get everyone who saw it to form their own opinion of the piece and really just think about it.

Reddick said he also wanted to present a piece that supported the black community, something that Brown

said she achieved.

"I think really highly of Darinda for creating something that strengthened the black community and bridged the gap between us and the other racial groups on campus," Brown said.


Rosa echoed the statement.

"The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" announces the arrival of an incredibly talented and versatile artist who is committed to transforming the world through sparking thought and action around images that evoke suffering, struggle, and hope in a better day coming, he said."

Features reporter Julie Sisler can be reached at 270-745-6291 and julie.sisler389@topper.wku.edu. Follow Julie on social media at @julie\_sisler.

  
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# Professional wrestling course to return to WKU

BY DRAKE KIZER

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Next fall, WKU will offer a special topics class in the popular culture studies program. The subject matter of the course, POP 399: Professional Wrestling and Popular Culture, will allow students to grapple with American pop culture in ways they haven't before.

The class will be taught by Sam Ford, a 2005 WKU graduate and adjunct instructor in the Popular Culture Studies program. During his time at WKU, Ford was an Honors student and did his thesis on professional wrestling. Ford has been a fan since he was a kid in the early 1990s, but said his interest in the sport's scholarly potential began later on.

"When I came to WKU, it was a time where we talked about the changes in the media industry," Ford said. "I was a journalism major, and while a lot of journalism students were trying to figure out their futures, I was fascinated by pro wrestling. I was watching it build new business models and really adapt well to a digital age, so I became interested in studying it further."

Ford has taught courses on professional wrestling twice before at WKU, in the spring 2005 and fall 2014 semesters. In spring 2007, he also taught a version of the class at MIT while he was finishing his master's degree. Ford said he is excited to teach the class, which will be very similar to its previous incarnations, for the first time in four years.

"The class will be looking at the recent history of American popular culture through the lens of pro wrestling," Ford said. "We will have a set of readings every week that will be looking at wrestling from a variety of academic disciplines to help us better understand the industry. The goal is to use wrestling as a semester-long case study to understand how pop culture works."

Ford's class will meet once a week on Monday evenings in Jody Richards Hall. Each session will begin with a lecture that lasts from 3 to 5 p.m. After a 30-minute dinner break, the course's

built-in viewing lab will last from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. Ford said that similar classes in film studies inspired him to have a weekly viewing lab packaged with this course.

"It's hard to study and talk about pro wrestling without watching pro wrestling performances," Ford said. "Our time in the viewing lab will mostly be spent watching wrestling matches and discussing how the performance has changed over time. In that way, it will be very much like studying any type of performance art."

Many students who have taken Ford's classes in the past had no prior experience with pro wrestling, which was fine with him. Ford said that having a diverse group of students is one of the things he enjoys most about teaching the professional wrestling class in particular. His main hope is that this upcoming offering will attract students from many different majors around WKU.

"If you are studying popular culture, it might be something that fits into your major course of study," Ford said. "It could also just be an interesting elective for people who come from a major that's far field from wrestling. In the past, students have brought their own areas of expertise to bear on this common thing, which has made the class very interesting."

White House, Tennessee, sophomore Rachel Tidwell said she would not be interested in taking this course next semester because her major, corporate and organizational communication, does not allow her much flexibility for extra electives. However, she had positive things to say about WKU offering a course on professional wrestling.

"I think it is great that WKU would branch out and have a class on professional wrestling," Tidwell said. "College should be about studying fun and cool things students are interested in besides just purely academic subjects. Pop culture is a huge part of people's lives, and I believe it would be entertaining to learn about the depth of this brutish form of entertainment."

Connor Frederick, a sophomore social media marketing major from Barbourville, has had Ford as a teacher in the past. He took Introduction to



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE • HERALD

Sam Ford is a graduate of WKU and professor teaching the new pop culture class Professional Wrestling and Popular Culture. Ford said he draws on his experience both working in and studying the media industries in his classes. "This class will focus on what the evolution of performance, storytelling, and media production in pro-wrestling tells us about our culture and ourselves," Ford said.

Popular Culture with Ford his freshman year. Frederick said he is very interested in taking this course not only because he is a life-long professional wrestling fan, but because he enjoyed Ford's teaching style.

"I really enjoyed my time in his class because his classroom is open to ideas and opinions," Frederick said. "I always looked forward to our open discussions and the interesting examples he used. As a previous student, I would recommend this course to anyone because you can implement knowledge of how pop culture works into whatever field you may be going into."

Ford has been writing and speaking about what can be learned from studying professional wrestling for years, and he said that he has faced some criticism along the way. On his personal blog, one man called MIT offering a class on professional wrestling "the undisputed end of higher education."

Despite some negativity, Ford's professional wrestling classes have also been mentioned in lists from BuzzFeed and Mental Floss about intriguing college courses. The class' crown-

ing achievement came on July 9, 2014, when it was the answer to a question on "Jeopardy."

To Ford, the attention his classes have gotten in the past shows that pro wrestling is often hard for people to wrap their heads around, which means it should be thought about and critically examined rather than marginalized. Ford said he hopes to show students how they can utilize something they likely do not take very seriously to further their knowledge of pop culture.

"If a lot of people spend their very fleeting spare time watching men and women oil their bodies up and pretend to hurt each other, that's fascinating and worth studying," Ford said. "Our culture is facing questions that go far beyond the ring, but pro wrestling can be used to help understand very serious topics, such as racial stereotypes and representation of women in the media."

Features reporter Drake Kizer can be reached at 270-745-2653 and clinton.kizer287@topper.wku.edu. Follow Drake on Twitter at @drakekizer.

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## REDUCE YOUR FINANCIAL STRESS

4 SMALL THINGS YOU CAN DO THIS SUMMER TO SET YOURSELF UP FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS

BY: AUGUST HEMMERICH

Financial Wellness Counselor, WKU Center for Financial Success  
AUGUST.SNELBAKER-HEMMERICH189@TOPPER.WKU.EDU



Finals are over and soon you'll be heading off for a summer of adventure. Many of us revolve our summer around earning money and trying to stockpile money to pay for fall expenses.

Here are four simple things that you can do to reduce your financial stress for the fall semester and manage your hard-earned summer cash effectively.

### 1. Write down your goals

Your financial success starts by defining what you want to achieve.

Start by listing your financial obligations. This includes your rent, utilities, monthly food needs, monthly transportation needs, and other expenses. These expenses may differ between summer and fall, so you may need to list these out separately. Also include non-monthly expenses in the list, such as car insurance that you may only pay semi-annually, and break these into manageable monthly expenses.

Next, write out your other financial goals. These goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely. You may want to pay for your Fall 2018 WKU Tuition in cash, or you may want to take a spring break trip in Spring 2019. You may also set a goal, such as to commit \$50 per month toward old student loan debt. These goals are personal, so you should take a moment to reflect on where you want your money to take you in the next academic year. You can then use this information to set up a working budget. The word "budget" can sound intimidating, but it is a



key to helping you to prioritize your money, stop overspending, and save for the future. If this overwhelms you, the Peer Financial Counselors at the WKU Center for Financial Success (CFS) are here to help.

### 2. Calculate how much you need to work

Now that you know how much money you need to make your goals a reality, calculate how that translates to your work schedule. You can simply take the amount of money you need and subtract any money you already possess to put toward that balance. Then, take this new amount and divide it by your estimated after-tax wage.

This will give you how many hours total you need to work to achieve your goal and then you can see how you can work those hours! Knowing your goals can increase your motivation to work, and budgeting helps you to retain that hard-earned money. Our Peer Financial Counselors at the WKU CFS are trained to help you make these calculations.

### 3. Attack your student loan debt

The first step is to find your loan servicer. You can use the National Student Loan Data

System through the Federal Student Aid website to find that information. Once you know your loan servicer, you can view your balances and see any interest that has accrued. If you have extra money, or extra time to earn money, you could put that toward your debt! Our counselors can help you locate this information.

### 4. Check your credit score

Your credit is an important part of your financial health. It only takes a few minutes to set up an account with CreditKarma.com, and you can monitor your credit score and see recommendations for improvement online or using their mobile app. Credit Karma shows you two of the three credit bureaus score, whereas other services typically show only one.

You also can take the opportunity to run your credit report. You get one free report per year from each credit bureau. You can do that at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com), and use it to ensure that there is no fraudulent or inaccurate activity on your credit report.

This post was brought to you by a founding sponsor, Service One Credit Union in partnership with the WKU Center for Financial Success. WKU CFS Financial Counselors offer peer-to-peer financial guidance to students and can be booked for speaking engagements on financial literacy topics. Service One Credit Union offers private student loans, savings/online banking to track spending, and free ACH account to account transfers, among other things.

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