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ADULTING 101

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

Are you ready for life?



SPORTS • B6

What questions does new head coach Helton have to answer?

College Heights Herald

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 94, ISSUE 13



Tennessee quarterbacks coach Tyson Helton calls from the sidelines during a game between Tennessee and Auburn at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn, Alabama on Saturday, October 13, 2018.

CALVIN MATTHEIS • NEWS SENTINEL NF

Mold plagues universities across state

BY NATASHA BREU

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

WKU is not the only Kentucky university experiencing mold outbreaks in campus buildings, and a WKU geoscience professor said changes in summer climate may be the cause.

Leslie North, an associate professor of environmental geoscience at WKU, addressed climate change as having an indirect role in mold growth. North said homes and businesses are being affected by water from floods or extreme weather from climate change, causing moisture to be left behind and promoting mold growth, that isn't the exact case for Kentucky residence halls. She said energy savings programs resulting in WKU residence halls being shut down during the summer are a big factor.

"We are experiencing warmer and wetter summers, two factors which mold loves," North said in an email. "Couple those items with stagnant, humid air in the buildings (we know that climate change is resulting in indoor environmental quality changes such as dampness increase in buildings) and you have a perfect recipe for mold growth."

Following multiple reports of mold in Minton Hall, WKU announced all 348 Minton residents would be relocated for the remainder of the semester in mid-November. WKU said it would provide \$1,000 in credit to all residents impacted for their spring 2019 housing bill. Additionally any resident assistants, community assistants and senior administrative resident assistants who received a roommate from the move-out were offered \$250 in credit.

In total, Housing and Residential Life is anticipated to spend \$634,000 on the mold removal and credit, according to a statement from WKU director of media relations Bob Skipper.

In an analysis of all maintenance request forms found on InSite, a public database, the Herald found 524 reports of mold across campus as of Nov. 12.

HELLO, HELTON

WKU hires former OC to replace Sanford

BY MATT STAHL

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

It didn't take long for Todd Stewart to find Mike Sanford's replacement.

Less than 24 hours after the firing of Sanford, Tennessee offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Tyson Helton has agreed to become head coach of WKU football, a source confirmed with the Herald Monday. Helton held the position of offensive coordinator

and quarterbacks coach at WKU during the 2014 and 2015 seasons under Jeff Brohm.

Stewart mentioned during his press conference he had a short list of possible coaches.

"You have to," Stewart said. "Because you never know when something may happen, so that's something we're always prepared for."

Helton helped run the WKU offense during the first of the Hilltopper's back-to-back Conference USA champion-

ships.

He then left to take the job as passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Southern California under his brother and Trojans' head coach Clay Helton.

During Helton's time at WKU, offense ranked highly nationally in both points per game and yards per play. The Hilltoppers averaged 372 passing yards and 155 rushing yards per game during that span.

SEE HELTON • PAGE A3

SEE MOLD • PAGE A3

College Graffiti closing at end of the semester

BY ELEANOR TOLBERT

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Covered wall-to-wall with Greek-lettered shirts, WKU towels and personalized bags, College Graffiti has been a landmark in Bowling Green for the past 30 years.

The local WKU apparel store will be closing its doors at the end of this semester. Owner Diane Signorello and her daughter Patty Gay, the manager, said they find this time bittersweet but necessary.

"We're just ready to retire," Signorello said.

The store opened in August of 1988 while Gay was at WKU and couldn't find stores with merchandise for Greek organizations. Gay was a member of Alpha Omega Pi, and she and her mother could not find any apparel featuring the sorority's mascot. To solve the problem,



TYGER WILLIAMS • HERALD

Patty Gay, heat presses letters for Omega Phi Alpha's new members jersey's at College Graffiti. The store has been in business for 30 years and owned by her mom Diane Signorello. Gay helped her mother at first when they opened up and has been working for 21 years. Three generations of her family have been working at College Graffiti.

Signorello decided to open her own store.

"We were established because of Alpha Omega Pi," Signorello said. "We have since evolved to other chapters and eventually went storefront."

The storefront is closing, but students will still be able to make purchases online. Gay and Signorello said business is okay during the school year, but because of breaks and the fact their primary customers are college students, it's not enough to stay open.

"The traffic of college students is not the best," Gay said. "They don't shop brick-and-mortar."

Throughout the years, College Graffiti has been very active in WKU's Greek community. They have donated to every philanthropy, judged pageants for sorority and fraternity fundraisers, and attended Greek Week in the Spring almost every year.

SEE COLLEGE GRAFFITI • PAGE A3

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HELTON
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Helton headed to UT after the 2017 season under current Volunteers head coach Jeremy Pruitt. Helton has recently come under fire by UT fans after the Volunteers failed to make a bowl game, dropping the game that would have made them eligible to in-state rival Vanderbilt, 38-13.

It isn't clear what Helton will be paid at WKU, but Sanford made \$800,000 per season during his time on the Hill. Helton made \$1.205 million as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at UT.

Under Helton, the Volunteers' offense averaged 22.75 points per game along with 196.42 yards per game passing and 129.1 yards per game rushing. Tennessee finished the season 5-7 with its signature win coming over 15th-ranked Kentucky.

The Hilltoppers announced Sanford's firing on Sunday and followed the announcement with a press conference.

"We have lost fans," Stewart said at the press conference. "We have to get them back, and the best way to get them

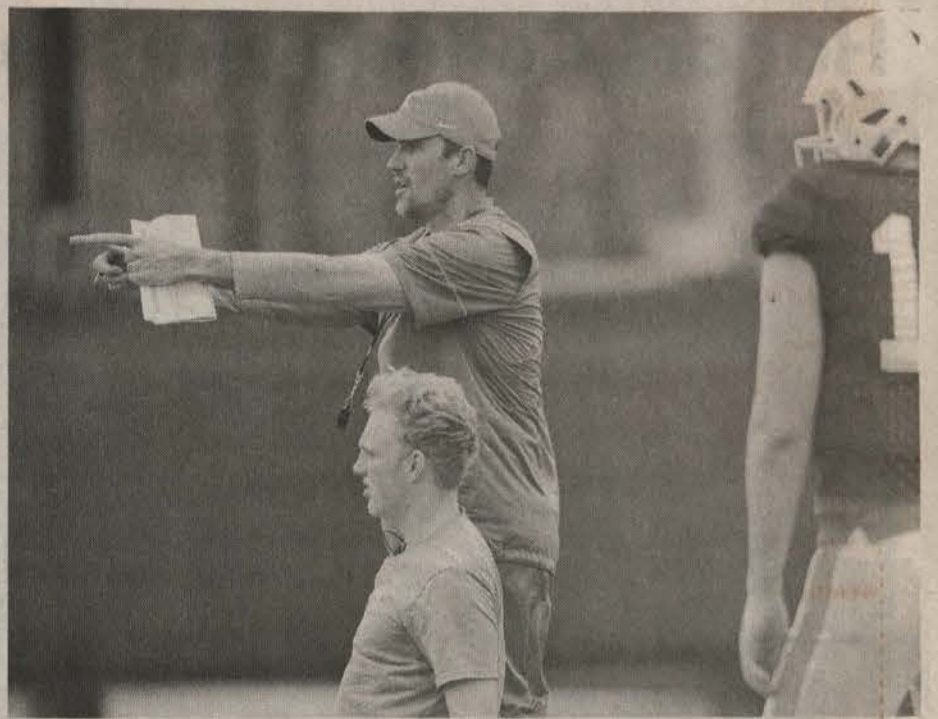
back is to play an exciting brand of football and win games, and that's what our objective is. We did that before."

WKU's football attendance has plummeted over the last two seasons under Sanford. For the final home game against Texas-El Paso, announced attendance was just 6,221, which brought the season average to 14,321.

"It really hurt for [the players] because of the complete lack of energy we had in the stadium that night from a crowd standpoint," Stewart said of the team's seniors. "Their final Topper Walk—it might have had a hundred people there—and that just, that can't be. And unfortunately, that's what we've come to."

The peak attendance for WKU football came in 2016 when the Hilltoppers played Vanderbilt at home. Attendance for the game was announced as 23,674 people, which exceeded capacity of Houchens-Smith Stadium, which is 22,113.

Sanford went 9-16 in two seasons on the Hill, including a 3-9 record for the 2019 season. While there had been speculation he would keep his job if he won the final two games of the season, Stewart said the two wins didn't over-



CAITIE MCMEKIN • NEWS SENTINEL NF

Quarterbacks coach Tyson Helton coaches during a University of Tennessee football practice Thursday, March 29, 2018.

shadow Standord's full body of work.

Helton's first game as head coach will come against Central Arkansas, as the Hilltoppers open the 2019 season against the Bears on Aug. 31 in Houchens-Smith Stadium.

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

COLLEGE GRAFFITI
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"We have so much personal contact with our customers," Signorello said. "It's hard to give it up."

Sophomore Hannah Hoerlein, 19, a member of Kappa Delta said she is sad to see College Graffiti go.

"We get our shirts from them every year," Hoerlein said. "It is such a nice, family-friendly environment."

Hoerlein said she has purchased many items from College Graffiti, including shirts, sweaters, keychains and stickers. She said her experiences with the store have always been good.

"They are such generous and helpful people," Hoerlein said. "Patty sat with me one day for about four hours until the store closed and helped me pick out the right print for our shirts."

Jacob Hayslip, 22, a senior and member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, only had good things to say about the store. He said he has purchased shirts and flags from them and said services are quick and affordable.

"They've always been courteous, polite and helpful with what my needs were," Hayslip said. "They will be missed."

Signorello and Gay said they want WKU students to know how much they love and appreciate their business.

"Our shoppers are our family," Signo-

rello said. "We have a College Graffiti family with WKU."

College Graffiti will be available for group orders when a chapter wants to buy a product. The organization just needs to notify the store and they will receive a link.

College Graffiti can be contacted by phone, (270) 796-8528, or by email, collegegraffiti@aol.com. They also have a website, collegegraffiti.com, and can be reached on social media, through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Features reporter Eleanor Tolbert can be reached at 250-386-4608 and eleanor.tolbert@topper.wku.edu. Follow on her on social media at [@ellieltolbert](https://twitter.com/ellieltolbert).



WHITNEY HARDIN • HERALD

WKU apparel store College Graffiti will close at the end of the semester after 30 years of business. Owner Diane Signorello said purchases may still be made online after the storefront closes.

MOLD
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The University of Louisville received complaints from freshman Bethany Morgan on Oct. 31 about mold growing in Threlkeld Hall. Her Facebook post showed pictures of mold growing on furniture and clothes, cockroaches in her hall bathroom and her swollen eyes from an apparent allergic reaction.

Campus housing officials held a meeting to address students' concerns and took notes about complaints, according to WHAS11. Campus housing told Morgan that staff would try to use a cleaning solution to combat the mold and work over winter break to do renovations in different parts of the building.

U of L also has a section on its website dedicated to preventing and reporting mold and mildew in residence halls. It stated residents should follow three C's: cleaning, climate and communication.

The Eastern Progress, ECU's student newspaper, reported faculty and staff complaints on Sept. 19 over water leaks causing mold in offices. The Dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences had to move 13 staff members from their original building to a different one only to find out it was also affected by mold. The staff moved one last time into a third building, which also had several mold problems because of

HVAC units and the carpeting. The solution to fix the mold problem in the first building came from the Asset Preservation Fee, which applies a \$10

"We are experiencing warmer and wetter summers, two factors which mold loves."

Associate WKU professor
LESLIE NORTH

per credit hour fee capped off at \$150 in order to "preserve and maintain older buildings on campus." The fee was implemented this fall by the Board of Regents and the estimated revenue is \$1.5 million per semester. The fee is scheduled to end in 2043.

Morehead State University President Jay Morgan had his on-campus home affected by mold in September, according to the Morehead News, causing the university to amend his employment contract, allowing him and his family to move off-campus. The mold was discovered throughout his home in the heating and air conditioning units.

The Trail Blazer, Morehead State's stu-

dent and are the result of an air sample test but won't show if mold is growing. Additionally, the attorneys said the air filters installed in affected halls may improve air quality but fail to solve the problem.

If the restraining order is approved, the university will not be able to discuss mold score with students in the future. The students are also asking for the university to be restrained from destroying evidence of mold and to preserve evidence using tape lift samples and photographs, according to the article.

Attorneys representing the university argue there is no health emergency, and air quality inside the dorms are at acceptable levels. They said the university is working to address the mold issue in 1,200 rooms and the majority of the cleaning is done. Additionally, the attorneys said students can check the status of individual rooms on the university website and documentation can be provided when available.

A judge issued a temporary restraining order on Wednesday, which prevents the university from destroying evidence of mold, according to the Indiana Daily Student.

News reporter Natasha Breu can be reached at 270-745-6011 and natasha.breu597@topper.wku.edu. Follow Natasha on Twitter [@nnbreu](https://twitter.com/nnbreu).

At Indiana University, there were 420 requests for mold inspections in two dorms as of Oct. 15, according to WTHR. The university inspected and tested each room and provided free laundry to affected students.

IU students are now asking for a temporary restraining order against the university after the discovery of mold, according to Indiana Public Media. The class-action lawsuit alleges university communications regarding the mold were misleading and not transparent.

The university encouraged students to look at a "mold score" to find out if their dorm is safe, according to the article. At-

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Honors College aims to increase applicant pool



IVY CEBALLO • HERALD

WKU freshman honors students participate in class, discussing news articles on police brutality. The Mahurin Honors College removed its academic requirements for new applicants starting this semester.

BY NICOLE ZIEGE

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

Freshman Manzar Rzayeva moved to Bowling Green from Azerbaijan in July 2015 and began her time at Greenwood High School as a junior. Despite earning a 4.0 GPA in high school, she said she had difficulties with English as her second language.

WKU was a close-to-home option for college, and Rzayeva said the University's Mahurin Honors College was also appealing. However, she said she was initially uncertain about applying because of her struggles in high school with English during standardized testing.

"I knew I wanted to be a part of the Honors College, but I almost did not apply because I was so scared that I would not get in," Rzayeva said. "I talked to a few of my friends from my high school who were applying, and I finally thought, 'You know what, let's give it a try.'"

Rzayeva applied and got accepted to the Honors College as a freshman.

Since its start in 2004, Honors College admission included minimum application requirements, including at least a 27 ACT composite score, a 3.8 unweighted GPA or placement in at least the top 15 percent in the student's high school class.

Beginning this semester, WKU's Honors College removed its minimum academic requirements in a new measure to improve its diversity enrollment. Interested students still must fill out an application, which includes essay questions.

As Honors College student enrollment increased from 2015 to 2018, the number of underrepresented minority students, including black and Hispanic students, remained stagnant.

The number of enrolled first-time freshmen who identified as "underrepresented minority students" was 22 in 2015, 18 in 2016, 25 in 2017 and 18 in 2018. First-time freshmen are the largest population of students who join the Honors College.

Meanwhile, the number of overall enrolled first-time freshman was 325 in 2015, 307 in 2016, 334 in 2017 and 326 in 2018, according to information provided by the Honors College.



Allison Campbell

Honors College assistant director of admissions and external relations

Allison Campbell, assistant director of admissions and external relations for the Honors College, said it was common for honors programs around the country to have similar parameters. She said the requirements could be considered benchmarks for where students would most likely be at when they applied, and the Honors College was always flexible for any student who did not meet those requirements.

Campbell said the academic requirements could have stopped underrepre-

sented minority students from applying and enrolling into the Honors College at WKU.

"One of the big challenges we face in Kentucky, and on a national level as well, is that oftentimes, underrepresented minority students are not achieving the same average test scores [and] the same average GPAs coming out of high school as majority students are," Campbell said.

In 2017, the average ACT composite score for black students who were in schools that focused on core curriculum, including English, math, reading and science, was 17.7. The average score for Hispanic students who attended core-curriculum schools was 19.8.

Those scores were less than the average composite score for white students who attended core-curriculum schools, which was 21.7, according to the ACT Profile Re-

ported for Kentucky.

However, Campbell said the main issue was not whether the Honors College chose to admit underrepresented minority students. She said the issue was with the number of underrepresented minority students who applied to the program compared to the number who enrolled to WKU.

In 2018, 12 black first-time freshmen applied to the Honors College, 10 were admitted, and three chose to enroll at WKU. There were 12 Hispanic first-time freshmen who applied to the Honors College, all 12 were admitted, and seven of those students enrolled.

Meanwhile, in 2018, there were 679 white first-time freshmen who applied to the Honors College, 459 were admitted, and 296 chose to enroll at WKU, according to information provided by the Honors College.

Maysville freshman Brisean Corde was an honors student at Mason County High School before he chose to attend WKU, receiving a 3.8 unweighted high school GPA and a 23 ACT composite score. He wanted to apply to the Honors College because of the advanced placement classes in high school.

In the two honors classes he took this semester, Corde, an African-American student, said he was one of only two or three minority students in the class. He said one of the reasons fewer underrepresented minority students apply and enroll in the Honors College could be the lack of AP courses available at high schools where the students attend.

In May 2018, the number of overall high school students who took AP exams

totalled about 32,000, while the number of low-income high school students who took the exams totalled less than 10,000, according to the Kentucky Department of Education.

"A lot of high schools don't set the minority students up for taking AP classes," Corde said. "I feel like I could have taken them sooner if they had been available to me. I don't feel like it's an Honors College problem. I think it has to do with the high schools."

Martha Sales, executive director of WKU TRIO Programs and WKU's Intercultural Student Engagement Center, said the smaller number of enrolling minority students in the Honors College could have been due to an overall lack of resources for the students as they entered college or if they came from low-income families.

Sales said low-income students and

minority students could have come from high schools where rigorous academic courses were not offered or where they had outdated textbooks. However, she said she didn't want to overgeneralize all minority students, and she said there wasn't a single reason for the stagnant number of minority students in the program.

"So many students of color and low-income students don't have the opportunity," Sales said, referring to receiving resources for college preparedness. "If they had the opportunity and if they had access to resources for them to be college ready, I think you would see a diverse Honors College pool of students."

Sales said the academic requirements the Honors College had in place could have dissuaded minority students from applying and enrolling in the program.

"It's all about perception," Sales said. "It could be the perception that they're not welcomed. Anyone can invite me into their home, but it's about, 'Do you make me feel welcome in your home?'"

Although Rzayeva said there were many reasons for why minority students were not applying for or enrolling into the Honors College, she emphasized the importance of improving diversity.

"My opinion is that differences are what bring us together," Rzayeva said. "People from opposite cultures and opposite beliefs, they are the ones that build stronger foundations for either a country, a community, a school or a university."

"A lot of high schools don't set the minority students up for taking AP classes. I feel like I could have taken them sooner if they had been available for me."

WKU Freshman
BRISEAN CORDE

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



TWEETS FROM THE HILL

@mid_madness

Ladies, if he:
- never responds to your texts
- doesn't watch your insta stories
- is a red, furry blob
- has a giant, unhinged jaw
- has WKU stitched across his belly
He's not your boyfriend. He's Big Red.

1:40 PM • 24 Nov 2018

@Ob_LIVI_ous

don't know how WKU is so in debt when ya know Parking & Transportation is over here making billions smh

8:53 PM • 18 Nov 2018

@WKUweather

We are in full-scale holiday mode right now! The tree is up and Windy has a new nest above the presents. #WKU

7:35 PM • 23 Nov 2018

@bskipper59

And so the 2018-19 winter weather season @WKU officially begins. Stay tuned, Toppers. And remember, I don't make the weather, just the announcements.

1:40 PM • 14 Nov 2018

@scottie_bobby

Wku done brought me some good friends

3:22 PM • 12 Nov 2018

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If you don't thank the wku bus driver when you get off the bus you're rude and that's facts

8:37 AM • 2 Nov 2018

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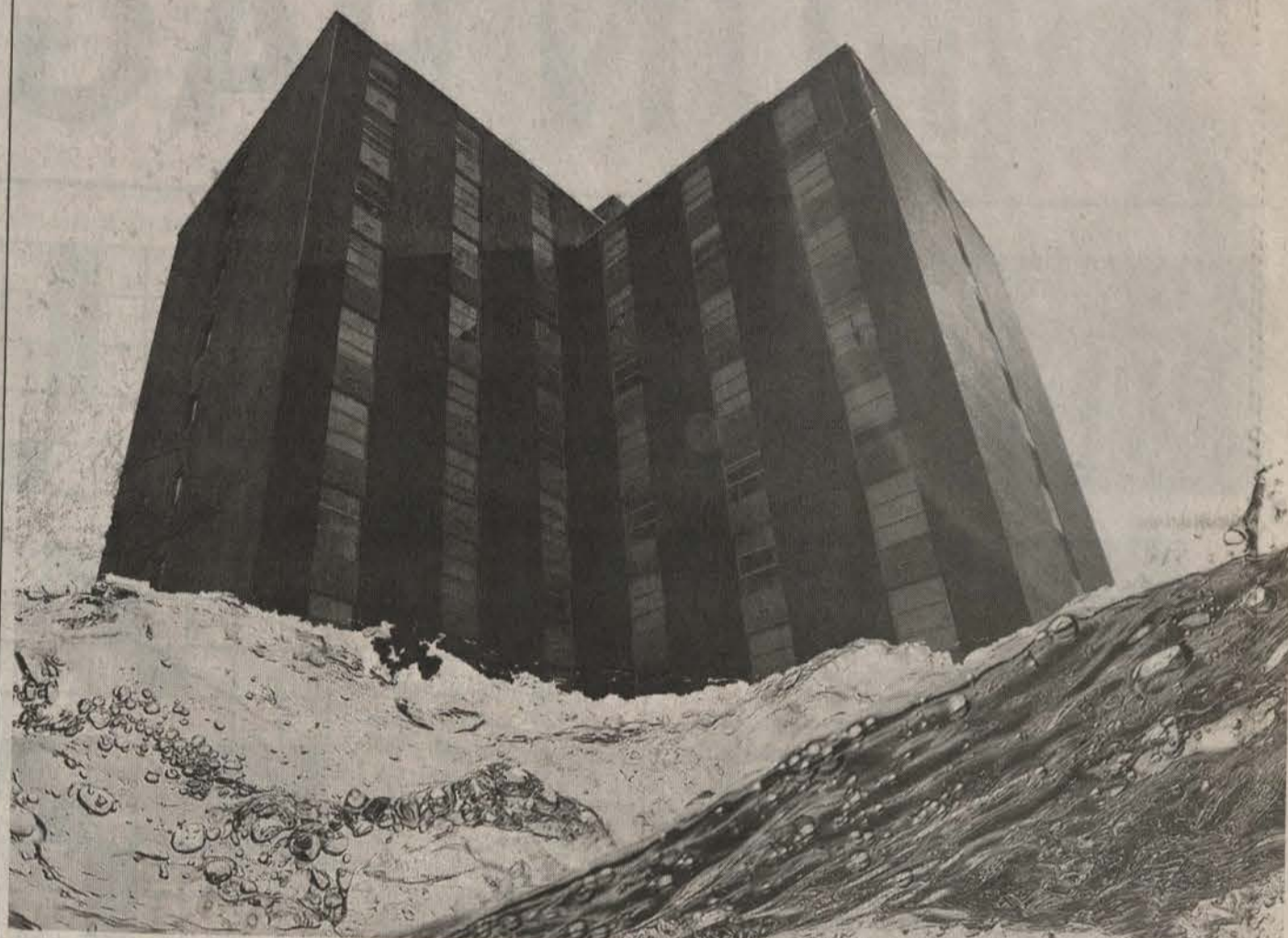


PHOTO COMPOSITE BY MHARI SHAW

FLOODED MEMORIES

Alumnus reminisces on a residence hall flood

We are coming up on the 10-year anniversary of the Minton Hall flood of Nov. 30-Dec 1, 2008, and I wanted to share the impact that night has had on me.

It was a night almost every resident of Minton Hall at WKU in 2008 will remember.

I went with a friend, Nate Hovee, to get some late dinner. We all had just come back from Thanksgiving break, and I was dreading my calculus class at 8 a.m. the next morning. Nate and I went to Subway; it was in what is now known as Downing Student Union. We might have been gone 15 minutes. I was going to bring my sub to my room and work on some homework that I procrastinated on, for calculus, of course. But I could possibly get it done by 1 or 2 a.m., and sleep a little bit before my 8 a.m. class.

Plans change, right? Nate and I came back in the lobby of the residence hall. Water was leaking, nay, gushing out of the ceiling, and the scene in the stairwell was reminiscent of that of a sinking Titanic. I still don't know how, but on the fifth floor of Minton Hall, a pipe had busted right between the two bathrooms. And when it busted ... it busted. Fifth floor had about an inch of standing water throughout most of the hall. The floors beneath were suffering from things as well. People were losing personal items due to water damage. Water continued to gush out of the stairwell onto the sidewalk outdoors. People were throwing water out the windows. I would say 85-90 percent of residents in Minton Hall were pitching in to help the cleanup. People pitched in their towels, garbage cans and who knows what else to ensure the fastest cleanup possible.

Eventually, the water was shut off, the cleanup was as good as it was going to get, and it was time to finally settle down, eat that sub and do some calculus homework. Thanks to these events which went on for hours, it was going to be an all-nighter. I was tired. A tired mind does not want to do calculus.

Then, it was 4 a.m. I was really feeling the effects of my physical and mental exhaustion. So, I had a couple of Monster energy drinks stashed for moments like these ... I went into my dark room, and quietly reached into my

fridge, grabbed the drink, and shut the fridge. I got to the middle of the room.

BEEEEEEEEEP. I screamed, "ARE YOU SERIOUS?!" My poor roommate, Clint Waters, was probably more startled by my shouting than the fire alarm. I've never been shot, but I think I knew what it felt like that night. I have never been more startled, more afraid, more scared out of my skin, than what I was at this exact moment the fire alarm went off.

I went to class. Apparently, the fire alarm went off again while I was away at classes. I don't remember much about the rest of that semester other than I slept very, very little for the next two weeks because I was afraid the fire alarm was going to go off again. I snapped at my best friend, who later accepted my apology. I was an absolute mess, and I knew I needed to do something. I went to our student counseling service on campus.

I talked with the counselor. I remember telling him this: I told him what happened with the flood, and my history with fire alarms. I had been trying to watch fire alarm videos because I knew I needed to desensitize myself to them. I knew I had a phobia going on along with maybe a tinge of PTSD. He was impressed. He said the only other thing to suggest would be to pull a pull station, but that wasn't a legal solution. He was wondering if I was a psychology student, and I said I was considering it. I don't remember his name, but I remember that conversation catalyzing something in my brain. Through busted pipes and fire alarms, I knew I wanted to study psychology.

I didn't know what I wanted to do as a career. I liked psychology, but I didn't know if I wanted to go into counseling. All the sacrifices my mom and my late dad made seemed to be for nothing, because I pretty much chose to not further pursue psychology. I went back home and got involved with my church.

I knew I needed a job, and the little money I was receiving from my church as well as my friends in the church who had a band that traveled some was not sustaining me. I needed a job, and a newer man who was coming to the church, Ray, was very helpful and open to hear-

ing me out. I told him I wanted a job in office administration. Looking back, that was kind of random, but, that's what I wanted. Next thing I knew, he interviewed me, I butchered it, and he wanted me to work for his company! He said, "Wear a tie."

What was the job? Human resources associate. What did that mean? Heck if I knew. I'll be honest, I didn't really know what human resources was at the time because I had never had a job, because I was so focused on studying, and didn't really study business. I had a lot to learn.

What did I do? Write policies and procedures. I didn't know what I was doing! But everyone seemed impressed by my work. Ray saw potential in me. That was the best job, and the most fun job, of any that I have had since. I guess your first time leaves an impression? That job was far from perfect, considering the owner of the company (NOT Ray) is now in jail because of tax evasion (yikes!), but it was still a very fun job. I was able to travel. I sat in on interviews (Ray conducted them, because it was a small company), and I learned the ins and outs of business. Not everything, but the general practice. After I left that company and had to take on less prestigious jobs, I still miss what I used to do.

It is time to use that degree I had. I used it to get into graduate school, and I will be studying industrial organizational psychology at Eastern Kentucky University's online program. I missed my human resources job so much, I decided I wanted to pursue it as a career. And after my years of debating and soul-searching, I decided I needed to pick something and go all-out. That is what I plan to do. I know I have barely skimmed the surface of what it means to be in HR, and I hope to be able to learn the job soon enough, get my degree, and get PHR Certified.

All of this was made possible because of a busted pipe and a fire alarm. Thanks, Minton Hall 2008. Go Tops!

Story submitted by WKU alum Kevin Harper of Science Hill, KY.

Holiday pro tips: Surviving the holidays at home

BY NICOLE LEONARD
HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU



Thanksgiving has come and gone, but the holiday season is not nearly over. To the contrary, it has only just begun.

Sometimes the holiday season means decorating the living room or cooking your favorite dishes. For some people, it means you're finally going to get to see those people you've been missing since last year. Maybe it means practicing your

family's time-honored traditions.

It means it's cold outside, but inside is warm and cozy. There is a level of comfort to surrounding yourself with the people who raised you and who watched you grow up. It's exciting to sit around and open gifts or play games or sing songs with the people you love most, and it's a reminder of home.

But not everyone is the Rihanna of the family, and not every family wants to keep the holiday conversation at a happy medium. Sometimes it's hard to go home after being away for so long, but we have some helpful tips to keep in mind before you

blow your cool and wind up crying into a pitcher of eggnog.

Prepare answers to the dreaded and redundant questions you know you'll be asked. You know the ones I'm talking about: "What are you doing after graduation?" "Why don't you bring what's-her-name home for the holidays?" "Did you buy those pants with holes already in them? I sure hope you didn't pay full price."

If you're proactive, the rehearsed answers will come much more easily to you.

Try to be a kid again—that's probably how half of your relatives remember you

anyways. Really get into it when you're playing games with the family. Lick the spoon after you pour brownie batter into the pan. Give yourself a break from stress by pretending for a day or two it doesn't actually exist.

Avoid politics. I mean it. At all costs. I imagine no one enjoys a family where every person shares the same viewpoint. And after grandpa's fourth Scotch or grandma's 85th birthday, constructive conversation about policy and social issues is a lost cause.

Practice love. And, in turn, accept the love your family has to offer.

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FUN PAGE

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BUY-SELL-TRADE: Video Games, Records, Comics, DVDs, Toys, CDs, Magic, more.
2945 Scottsville Rd. 270-782-8092. 10% off Thursdays w/student I.D. (Restrictions apply) (Open 7 days.)

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Bowling Green's Caveman Barbershop Chorus seeks an energetic new director, learn more at <http://cavemanchorus.org>

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Night At The Museum

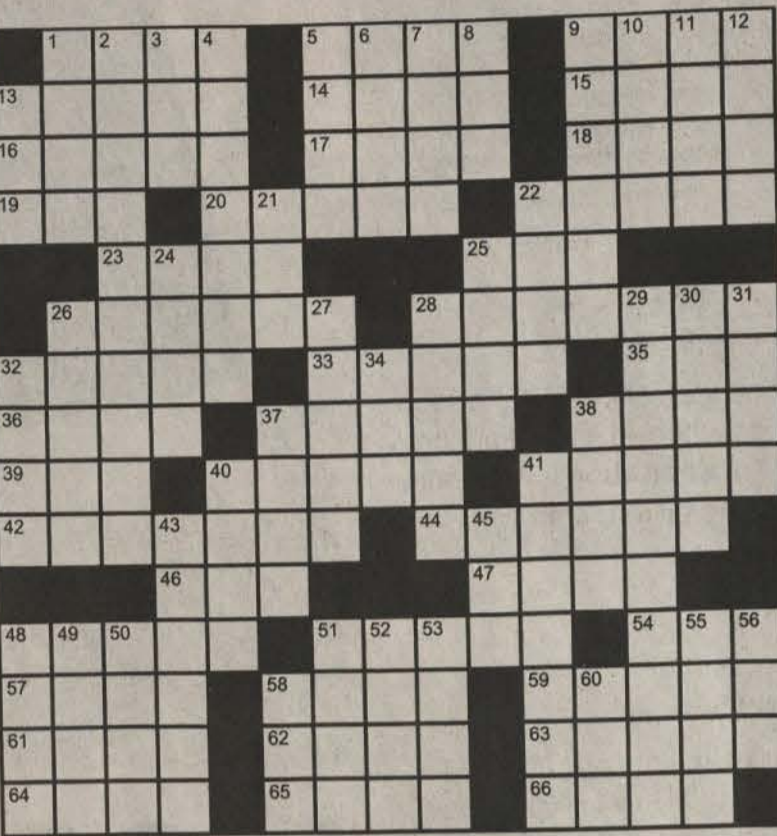
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- Who told Larry why the characters came to life at night?
(a) Sacajawea (b) Theodore Roosevelt (c) Attila the Hun
- The characters Cecil, Gus and Reginald played what in the movie?
(a) Cowboys (b) Neanderthals (c) Night Watchmen
- What was Larry's last name?
(a) Daley (b) Murphy (c) Brody
- What did the monkey steal from Larry?
(a) Wallet (b) Glasses (c) Keys
- What was the word stagecoach horses were trained to stop for?
(a) Dakota (b) Montana (c) Texas
- What was Tin Man's real name?
(a) Darwin (b) Galileo (c) Columbus
- What did the Easter Island statue want Larry to give him?
(a) M&Ms (b) Junior Mints (c) Gum
- When the thief was trying to escape, what form of transportation did he take?
(a) Roosevelt's horse (b) Stagecoach (c) Chariot
- Jedediah Smith was played by what actor?
(a) Owen Wilson (b) Paul Rudd (c) Dan Rizzuto
- Who advised Larry to read the instruction manual before working at the museum?

1.D. 6.C.
2.C. 7.C.
3.C. 8.B.
4.C. 5.A.
6.C. 7.C.
8.B. 9.C.
10.D.

Across

- Newspaper page
- Conclude, with "up"
- Lay an egg
- Wispy clouds
- Vagabond
- Maltese cash
- They're entered in court
- Surefooted goat
- Word of agreement
- Biblical beast
- Bedouin's mount
- Monastery head
- Synagogue
- Presidents' Day mo.
- Breakfast cereal
- Courtroom area
- Merchandise
- Symbol of freshness
- Drop the ball
- Litmus reddener
- Angler's stash
- Prefix with phone
- Thai river
- "The Crucible" setting
- Hungarian wine
- Sea cows
- Beefeater
- "Comprende?"
- Church part
- Extinguish
- Day parts
- Part of a litter
- Voting "no"
- Engine sound
- Stand up
- Like Beethoven
- Doe's mate



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- Kind of tube
- Pasty-faced
- Man, for one
- Falls behind

Down

- Perfume ingredients
- Coercing
- Historical period
- Hash out
- Fancy
- Justice's garb
- Discoverer of New Zealand, ___ Tasman
- Curse
- Flaccid

- Arm or leg
- Popular cookie
- Breathe hard
- Tax pro, for short
- Entirely
- Ethereal
- Take note of
- Bother
- Former Portuguese province
- Graven images
- Use a crowbar
- Apiculture
- Periodical
- Like Superman's vision
- Potter's tool
- "___ you kidding?"

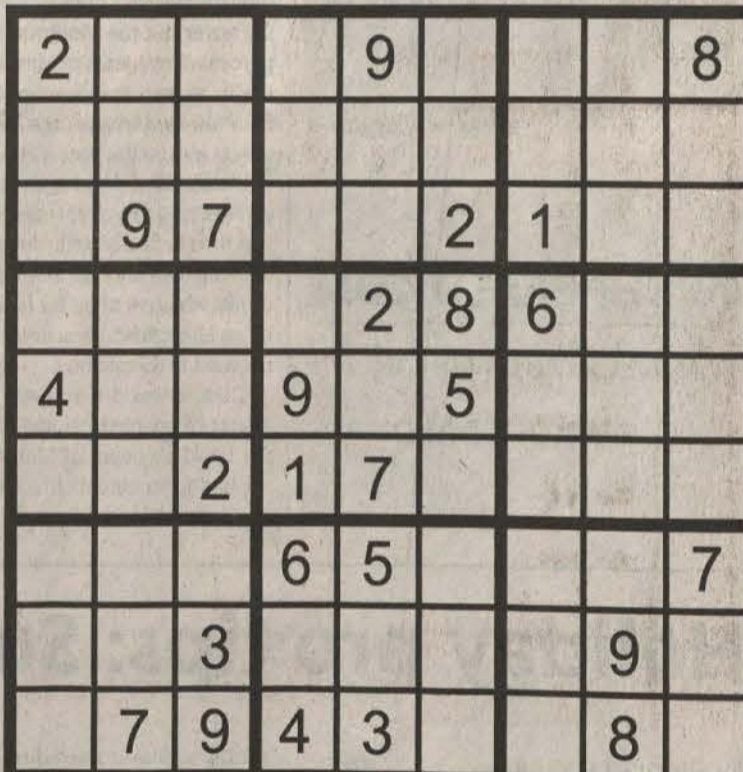
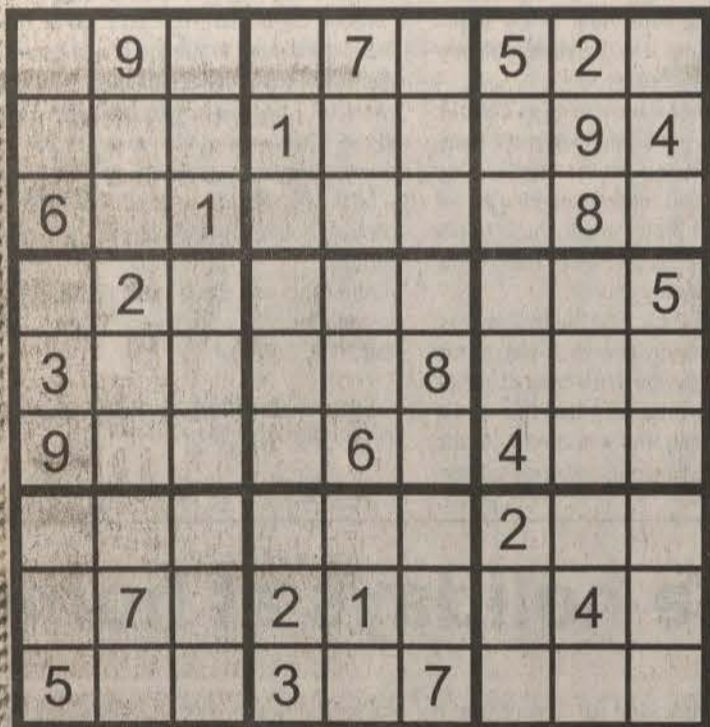
- "Minimum" amount
- Some parents
- Old knife
- Mast hanger-on
- Get drunk?
- Musical aptitude
- Bit of baby talk
- Addition column
- Kings Peak locale
- Shanties
- Kind of surgeon
- Encourage
- Plays for a sap
- ___ annum
- Chi follower
- Genetic material

Last Weeks Solution (11/13)

STOP GARTH CASK
HAIR ALOHA OVEN
AXLE NITER RARE
DISPATCHED GIVE
TIRE HAILED
SHODDY URAL
LOTUS PRETENDED
EPIC SAGES ONLY
DISTILLED PROSE
LESS PAMPER
INTAKE CAT
GAUR PERISHABLE
LUNG EXULT LOOM
OREO RADIO MAGI
OUST SMEAR STET



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.



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SPONSORED CONTENT

WKU Store celebrates a century of basketball

By Abbey Norvell / Cherry Creative

One hundred years. One hundred seasons of basketball. One hundred years of building a rich tradition and molding athletes.

The WKU Store is here to provide the best products to celebrate and commemorate 100 successful seasons of basketball. In honor of the landmark year for the basketball program, The WKU Store has released a variety of new merchandise featuring throwback

"We are pairing old photos from the WKU Archives with the new product that we have now and reflecting back on some of the vintage logos."

Sarah Sears
Marketing Coordinator



Courtesy of WKU archives
Color photos submitted by WKU Store

official marks from the College Vault, such as a block W and vintage WK.

"We are really excited about these designs," marketing coordinator Sarah Sears said. "We are pairing old photos from the WKU Archives with the new product that we have now and reflecting back on some of the vintage logos."

One aspect of The WKU Store that makes it so unique is the variety of products available. Customers can find anything from a red towel sherpa pullover to a Big Red cookie cutter.

In addition to WKU Archives, The WKU Store creatively collaborates with multiple on campus outlets, like WKU Athletics and Alumni to name a few.

"We did it for football season, and now for basketball soon too," she said. "We have been collecting a bunch of old photos from previous basketball seasons going all the way 100 years back."

In the spirit of supporting the university's history and traditions in basketball, The WKU Store is also

working with a group of film students to produce a unique commercial.

"We've looked through old basketball footage because we are piecing together our basketball commercial," Sears said. "The commercial will feature shots of people in their WKU gear now and flashback to game footage from years ago. It should be a nice 30 second homage to our past players and fans."

The vintage logos and the throwback photos seem to not only resonate with long-time WKU fans and former players, but also with current students and customers.

"They are loving anything with the W on it. It has become one of our better-

selling designs this year," Sears said. "Not that every fan fully appreciates the nostalgia of it all, but they know what they like when they see it. It is so much fun to see what was around before we were a part of The Hill."

The 100 years celebration is creating personal connections with some customers.

"Just the other day a gentleman was admiring the black and white basketball photos in our window display when he spotted one that had his relative in it, and he requested a copy of it. The past is all around us, and it doesn't take long to make it personal when you're looking," Sears said.

Besides sharing history, The WKU Store also offers many deals to WKU fans. An ongoing promotion it has is the third Thursday discount. On the third Thursday of every month, students get 15 percent off, a free laundry bag, and sometimes free gifts with purchase when they show their student ID. There is also an upcoming holiday sale Nov. 29 and 30 that offers 25 percent off all WKU gear.

The WKU Store also occasionally partnered with Starbucks to create dual deals.

"The best way for students to stay updated on our deals is to follow The WKU Store on our social media accounts," Sears said.

Be sure to check out your WKU Store for a blast from the past and everything you need to cheer on the Tops.

THE WKU Store

Hilltopper Holiday Sale Nov. 29 - 30, 2018

25% OFF WKU GEAR

Use Online Code: **Hilliday25** | wkustore.com

ENJOY FREE SHIPPING ONLINE

No additional discounts apply



PHOTO



GRACE PRITCHETT • HERALD

Jkeyah Patterson, 22, leads the room in song as they celebrate Jalen Franklin's (front) birthday. Patterson, who works as a recreation assistant at PBCC, says she enjoys helping the kids grow in confidence and molding them into the person they want to be. "I'm really grateful to work here so that I can give my love and attention to them," Patterson said.



GRACE PRITCHETT • HERALD

Takoryah Green eagerly waits to answer a question asked by PBCC's supervisor Omar Rogers. Rogers says they start the program each day by asking the children questions about school and giving them the chance to work on their homework.



GRACE PRITCHETT • HERALD

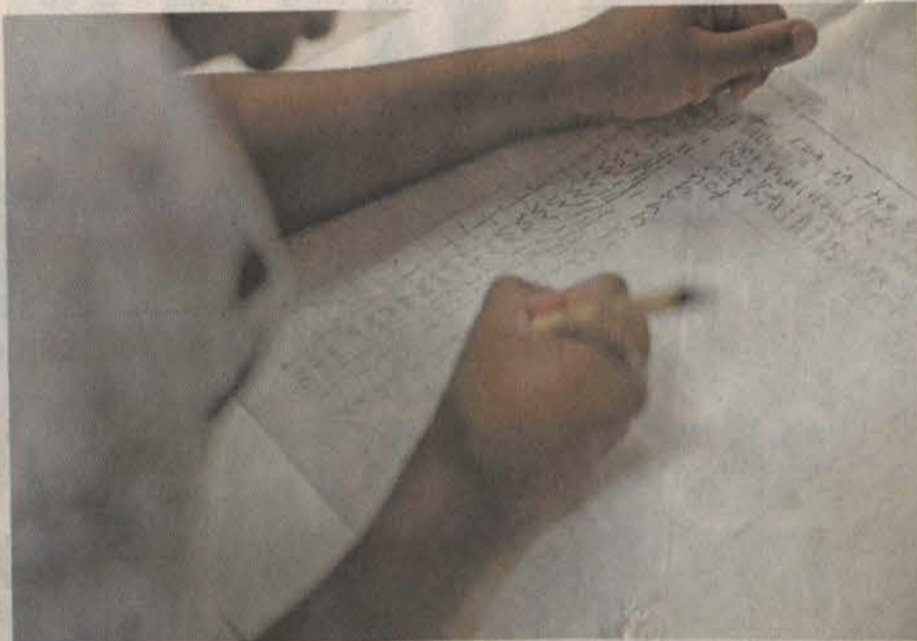
The Parker Bennett Community Center provides free after-school care to the Bowling Green community and is located near the Housing Authority.

SCHOOL'S OUT

PHOTOS BY GRACE PRITCHETT
HERALD.PHOTO@WKU.EDU

Parker Bennett Community Center's after-school program is a free service hosted by Bowling Green Parks & Recreation in Bowling Green. Located near the Housing Authority, it provides free care to many low-income families. The cost of childcare has been increasing significantly since the 1960s, according to the USDA "Expenditures on Children by Families" report in 2015. Jkeyah Patterson, 22, is a recreation assistant for the after-school

program. Patterson says the most rewarding part of her job is helping to mold the children at the program into what they want to be, while taking into consideration the fact that most of these kids are coming from low-income households. "Realizing that all kids don't come from the same area...from the same place. That's why I'm really grateful to work here so that I can give my love and attention to them," Patterson said.



GRACE PRITCHETT • HERALD

T.J. Travels, 8, writes lines as a punishment after getting caught running through the center by supervisor Omar Rogers. Rogers says he does this, in short, to help them calm down before putting them back with the other kids. "My point is just to remove them from the situation for a little bit, let them calm down, regroup, and then put them back with the kids," Rogers said.



GRACE PRITCHETT • HERALD

Bilal Hashi, 5, asks Jkeyah Patterson, 22, to help tie his shoe. Patterson notices the differences between the kids at the PBCC and those who are more privileged. "Over here, it's low income, so they are going to appreciate more," Patterson said.



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE • HERALD

Senior Keaton Walker does his weekly routine of checking to see if cars are parked in the wrong lot on a Tuesday night. "I always try to lend a hand to any student that needs it," Walker said.

BETWEEN THE LINES

PTS workers explain parking misconceptions

BY ELEANOR TOLBERT

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Keaton Walker begins his shift with Parking and Transportation by clocking in at the bottom of Parking Structure 2 and grabbing a patrol vehicle.

Walker is a senior at WKU and an enforcement officer for Parking and Transportation. Enforcement officers are the employees of Parking and Transportation that patrol the lots and hand out tickets. He began as an events worker in 2014 but then moved into enforcement during the fall of 2015.

Each officer has a device called a T2. With this, they can look people up and see their citation history, car model and other information. If a student has no previous citations, they will receive a warning.

"Most of the tickets we give are usually to the same people," Walker said. "Very rarely is it new people that are getting tickets."

While monitoring the Normal Street lot, Walker noticed a car parked in an improper zone. As he looked up the student on the T2, he saw they had three outstanding tickets, which means they would now receive a boot.

"This never happens," Walker said. "We only hand out about three to four boots a semester."

Walker said that in his experience the most common violations are students not having permits on display and parking in improper zones. He said lots with the most violations are Minton and Mimosa lots.

Walker demonstrated how to print the tickets on the T2. With a printer in the car, they are able to do it right then

and there. He put the ticket in an envelope with all the instructions of what the student can do—either pay the ticket or make an appeal—and left it on the car.

He then got a bright orange boot out of the truck and put it on the tire.

"To get the boot off, the student can now either call and pay off the tickets or set up a payment plan," Walker said.

Although Parking and Transportation can be strict, Walker said they are here to help students. Walker explained that the purpose of the officers is to enforce the rules but also to help people find other spots. They do not want to give tickets just as much as students don't want to receive them.

According to Jennifer Tougas, the di-

rector of WKU Parking and Transportation, legal parking is," Tougas said.

The parking plan as a whole has changed, as well. Tougas said everyone who lives on campus has a designated spot to park. As soon as people figure out how campus parking works and where they are supposed to go, there are less citations.

As both a student and enforcement officer, Walker has a different perspective on parking on campus than some of his fellow employees.

"I think the students understand me more," Walker said. "If I am working an event and, say, Parking Structure 2 is closed, I tell students I go through the same thing. You got to just read the emails. It helps."

If students can learn one thing about

"We really try to make it easy for people to understand 'this is where the legal parking is, and this is not where the legal parking is.'"

Director of WKU Parking and Transportation Services
JENNIFER TOUGAS

rector of WKU Parking and Transportation, on-campus parking is better than it has been in previous years.

"Last year we were at 13,600 tickets annually," Tougas said. "That's down from 17,500 from way back when. We've actually decreased the number of citations we issue per student over the years."

The reason for this can be attributed to a combination of things. Parking lots have improved, which has made it easier and faster to find parking.

"We really try to make it easy for people to understand. 'This is where the legal parking is, and this is not where the

Parking and Transportation, Walker wants it to be that the enforcement of officers are there to help.

"Everybody does have a certain place to be," Walker said. "It's a chain reaction."

Walker thinks if everyone follows the rules and especially reads their emails, parking on campus will be smoother and better than ever.

Features reporter Eleanor Tolbert can be reached at 502-386-4608 and eleanor.tolbert618@topper.wku.edu. Follow on her on social media at [@eltolbert](https://twitter.com/eltolbert).

WKU student pursues passion in being a local disc jockey

BY MARK WEBSTER JR.

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

When he was a young kid living off Hanover Street in Bowling Green, WKU senior Jared Watkins knew his ultimate goal in life was to go to the NFL. Playing the game he loved all the way up until his last year of high school, he insisted it was NFL or bust.

Watkins said his vision changed the Christmas of his senior year. After receiving turntables as a gift, he knew his drive was headed in a different direction.

Watkins, now known as DJ 270, is no stranger when it comes to hard work and determination. Watkins' mother is a WKU graduate, and he said he is aware of the importance of securing a bachelor's degree.

"I've worked so hard," Watkins said. "It's going to mean everything to walk across that stage once May arrives."

Watkins is known for his newfound craft: being a disc jockey. Watkins' first DJ name was "DJ Smooth" because it was his childhood nickname. As he became more familiar with the industry, he found out a lot of DJs used that name, so he decided to come up with

"It's going to mean everything to walk across that stage once May arrives."

Senior and DJ
JARED WATKINS

something original that stuck out.

"I try to balance everything out because I know I can't lose focus on my ultimate goal," Watkins said. "Staying busy keeps me motivated."

Watkins said he wants to give back to his community while pursuing his degree and still being heavily involved on campus. He's the go-to campus DJ for Greek life and fundraising events.

Senior Cameron Brooks said he believes Watkins' success can sometimes be overlooked just because people don't stop and recognize it.

"He is a caring individual," Brooks said in an email. "He is, in my opinion, is the life of the party."

Junior Austin Hughes said the name DJ 270 is even well known in the Louisville area.

"I remember at the end of my freshman year talking to my friend who goes to University of Louisville, and he asked if DJ 270 was DJing the party," Hughes said. "I knew then our school had one of the coolest DJ's in Kentucky."

Watkins said that though he contacted WKU's athletic department several times to be the official DJ for Hilltop-

SEE DJ • PAGE B2

Professor goes the extra mile in giving happiness

BY KELLEY HOLLAND

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Through her position in the Department of Counseling and Student Affairs, Loretta Dye works to promote health and wellness at WKU and in the Bowling Green community. From yoga to drum circles and everything in between, Dye is committed to helping those around her.

Born and raised in Peoria, Illinois, Dye has always been drawn to people. As a young girl, she always wanted to help people, and she looked up to her grandmother and other family members who were involved in their communities. She went to Bradley University for her undergraduate and master's degrees and holds a doctorate in counselor education from Western Michigan University.

Throughout her life, she has worked as a mental health therapist, working with patients with addictions, as a school counselor as well as working with couples and families.



IVY CEBALLO • HERALD

WKU's Loretta Dye facilitates a group activity during "My Mind Matters" at Bowling Green Junior High School on Friday, Nov. 2. Dye's son inspired her to lead the mini-workshops, which she said is a spinoff to her "Black Minds Matter" discussion series. The group of African-American seventh graders will meet with Dye and volunteer ISEC mentors for a class period six times throughout the semester to promote academic achievement and excellence among the students.

In 2012, after completing her doctorate, she and her family moved to Bowling Green so she could start her job at WKU. She is now an associate

professor and trains students who want to pursue a career in mental health services.

Besides teaching, Dye also hosts a variety of events to promote wellness, including drum circles as an alternative to drinking alcohol. Using African drums, Dye encourages participants to release undesired emotions or tension from the week. She teaches yoga at the Preston Center with the same intentions.

"To me that's just like giving life to these babies—I call the students babies," Dye said. "These young people, giving life to them and letting them learn how to destress, self-regulate and manage self through a different way."

With her husband, Dye hosts community meals on Sundays and invites domestic and international WKU students to their house.

"We've had students from all over the world in our house," Dye said. "One time, I remember we had a representa-

SEE DYE • PAGE B2

DYE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

tion of at least nine different countries." Dye also invited people to her house to celebrate Thanksgiving.

"We say it to everybody," Dye said. "If you know somebody who's not going anywhere, come over here. It'll just be our family and anybody that wants to show up."

Dye said she often ends up becoming a mentor to many students and people who come in contact with her. She and her husband have turned into mentors for young couples that they have met through her various events. Currently, they're mentoring four dif-



Ariyah Perry and Chloe Potter try to hold a tree pose while participating in one of the many group activities that Loretta Dye puts on for the "My Mind Matters" program at Bowling Green Junior High School.

IVY CEBALLO • HERALD

"I really, really have to be intentional about making a way to show up and do what I love everyday."

WKU professor
LACRETIA DYE

ferent couples. Peter Fleming was inspired to pur-

sue a graduate degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at WKU after having Dye as a teacher.

"She exuded so much passion and fulfillment in her teaching," Fleming said in an email. "She channels her energy into helping those around her such as her students, clients and most everyone that she comes into contact with."

Fleming said Dye is one of the greatest teachers and individuals he has

ever come in contact with.

WKU alumna Chanel Watkins met Dye at a multicultural retreat through WKU, where Dye was a guest speaker. Watkins said the impact Dye had on her was immediate, and they have been connected ever since. Dye will always go the extra mile and put in the work needed to get the results she wants, Watkins said.

"She does an excellent job with be-

ing relatable and getting the students to open up," Watkins said in an email. "She's a mentor to the lost, and a motivator to the encouraged. She's all-around greatness."

Outside of WKU, Dye is involved with the Bowling Green community by donating shoes to local international communities. She also goes to a local junior high and presents a workshop based off of the Black Minds Matter lecture series she hosts at WKU. Along with volunteers from the community, Dye said she gets children involved in activities and talks about self-development and self growth.

"I'm right here in this community, and there's a need, so I'm going to act," Dye said. "As long as we're seeing needs, and if we find out that there truly is a need, why not act on it?"

Her genuine love for life and for people inspires her to impact the community. Dye said she wants to participate in life fully and in a way that is healthy for her and for those around her.

"I just think about how precious life is," Dye said. "I really, really have to be intentional about making a way to show up and do what I love every day."

Features reporter Kelley Holland can be reached at 270-745-6291 and kelly.holland872@topper.wku.edu.

DJ
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

per football and basketball events, he didn't get the answer he was looking for.

"I feel being born and raised in this great city of Bowling Green, I would love to be the official DJ for WKU Athletics," he said. "A lot of schools find a way to have an official DJ. Why can't we join the wave?"

After graduation, Watkins said he plans to get right on the road. Whether he ends up working as a DJ or another opportunity presents itself, he said he would be willing to travel and sacrifice.

"Whatever it takes to secure the bag is what I'm going to do," Watkins said.

DJ 270 will host a canned goods drive party called "270's Give Back Party" the Tuesday of finals week. It's a time where students and the community can come together to end the semester as well as support a good cause, Watkins said. By bringing a canned good, or \$2, anyone may be admitted into the party.

Watkins stressed the importance of the party and how it was never intended to generate a profit for himself but to give back.

"I was raised to give back," Watkins said. "My mom taught me once you do good unto others, you will continue to receive the ultimate blessings."

Although Watkins said that being the life of the party is cool, DJ 270 is ver-

satile when it comes to his education and image. After being initiated into

"Whatever it takes to secure the bag is what I'm going to do."

WKU senior
JARED WATKINS

the business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi, Watkins felt enhanced on a business level. He said he was thankful for

his brothers and for having the ability to be in an establishment that prepares students for the real world.

Junior Malik Reece, the president of Culturally Suited and a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, said he has built a relationship with Watkins.

"He is a hard-working, very determined young man that puts a lot of practice into his craft," Reece said. "With him being a fraternity brother ... he showed me that he would always put 110 percent in everything he does."

Features reporter Mark Webster Jr. can be reached at 317-874-8618 and mark.webster102@topper.wku.edu.

WKU alumna influences lives through philanthropy

BY GRIFFIN FLETCHER
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

At 6:15 p.m. on a rainy early-November evening, Dana Matukas, 41, of Bowling Green had just walked into Downing Student Union. Dressed in a black pullover bearing "Norton's Children's Hospital" and "Dance Big Red" insignia paired with matching black pants, she was accompanied by her son Ryan, 9, and daughter, Cooper, 7. Her husband and oldest son, Jax, a 12-year-old, were busy at a game.

With Ryan and Cooper preoccupied by a pair of iPads, Matukas prepared for a 7 p.m. student-run Dance Big Red Executive Board meeting. Her medium-length blonde hair tied back, Matukas spoke with a board member before the meeting near the building's third floor elevators.

Dance Big Red is WKU's annual 12-hour dance fundraiser for Norton Children's Hospital. As the hospital's first-ever development and marketing coordinator for the western Kentucky region, a position she's held for the past five years, Matukas saw the event as a prime opportunity to give back to the more than 8,000 kids born with heart conditions within the region, which includes Bowling Green, Owensboro, Elizabethtown, Paducah and Glasgow.

Throughout the meeting, which featured around 15 board members, Matukas sat in a front seat to the very left of the room, only diverting her attention from the board members' discussion periodically to the back of the room to remind her kids to remain quiet.

She took notes throughout the meeting and spoke sparingly. When she did speak, it was to remind each board member to sign a card she was planning to send to an anonymous Dance Big Red donor with cancer. She also told the members she would provide food during an all-day event specifically for contacting donors.

"We'll bring a pizza!" Matukas said. While listening to board members' fundraising proposals and other planned events, Matukas served as a point of reference regarding logistics and overall organization, offering advice when needed and enthusiasm too.

As the meeting ended and a number of members left the room, Matukas stayed around to answer any pressing questions and to make sure everyone signed the anonymous donor's card.

It was already 8 p.m. on a Monday night, but Matukas was in no rush. Dance Big Red was still over four months away.

The Bigger Picture

Over a year earlier in February 2017, Amanda Miller, 34, a teacher's aide at Jennings Creek Elementary School and mother of two boys, had just spent 28 hours in labor at The Medical Center in Bowling Green. Finally, she was ready to meet her new baby girl, Abigail.

Miller was excited to spend the next few days getting to know Abigail and recovering from the past eight and a half months of pregnancy. Abigail, her first daughter, was born almost right on schedule.

Just moments after a nurse brought Abigail to her mother, still struggling to manage her own breath, Miller noticed Abigail wasn't breathing properly. Instead, she sounded like she was growling, and her skin wasn't pink like her brothers' had been. She was gray.

Miller held her daughter for barely a minute before the nurse whisked her away again to determine what was wrong. Miller assumed the complica-

tions were merely a side effect of the especially long time she spent in labor. Nothing to worry about.

An hour passed. Then another. And another after that. Still no word.

Each time Miller and her husband asked a nurse if their daughter was OK, they were told she was still under examination, though nothing had been concluded. Five hours passed before they discovered Abigail was in need of immediate attention, as her current

still school to attend.

Miller said the transition from Norton's to home was tough. Due to Abigail's surgery, Miller and her husband weren't allowed to lift their daughter from under her arms for six weeks, and Miller was now primarily responsible for keeping track of Abigail at all times. Though she intended to return to work six weeks after giving birth, she was forced to quit her job on account of the demanding nature of Abigail's needs.



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE • HERALD

Dana Matukas, a WKU alumna, is the development and marketing coordinator for the Norton Children's Hospital and the coordinator for Dance Big Red, which happens every March in Preston. "I get emotional when I think of the children I work with," Matukas said. "Many have been in and out of the hospital most of their lives. You learn to not take life for granted when you work with these children and see what their families go through."

condition was "not compatible with life."

She was born with a large hole in her heart as well as a congenital heart condition known as dextro-transposition of the great arteries, which means the main arteries carrying blood away from her heart were reversed. Though each of Miller's four ultrasounds throughout her pregnancy with Abigail proved successful and showed no signs of irregularity, doctors concluded the condition developed when Abigail was only 8 weeks old. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, one in 110 babies in the United States are born with a heart defect.

"It was very scary to be told there

"It was a tense time," Miller said. "I just full-time went back to work six months ago."

Before leaving Norton, a nurse told Miller about a support group that existed for parents of children with heart conditions. The nurse then handed Miller a stack of business cards, saying, "You're gonna realize you need someone to talk to."

A few weeks later, Miller got a call from Matukas, who invited Miller and her family to a meeting of the Western Kentucky Brave Hearts Chapter, a support group for families affected by congenital heart defects that required surgery within the western Kentucky region.

"I think it was all part of God's plan to get me back here."

WKU alumna
DANA MATUKAS

was something wrong with your child," Miller said.

The family was informed Norton's transport team was already on a flight to Bowling Green to recover the girl and bring her to Norton in Louisville, where a medical team would attempt to keep her alive through the night.

Miller's husband flew with Abigail and the transport team to Louisville, but Miller had given birth only hours earlier and wasn't cleared to fly. Though new mothers are traditionally kept in the hospital close to 48 hours after giving birth, Miller stayed only 12. She needed to be with her family, the majority of which traveled to Louisville immediately after hearing the news about Abigail.

"I told the doctor, 'You're either going to release me, or I'm walking out,'" Miller said.

At only 3 days old, Abigail underwent life-saving open heart surgery. She and Miller spent the next 18 days at Norton while Miller's husband stayed in Bowling Green with their sons. There was

Miller said she and her family were "OK" and fine on their own.

Matukas called another time, but Miller wouldn't budge, insistent that she and her family didn't need help.

Without anyone to turn to for advice when things got especially difficult with Abigail, and with a husband and two boys to keep in mind, Miller realized, "Maybe I do need to talk to someone else who's been in this position."

Since then, Miller and her family have come to know Matukas well.

"She's not just the lady from Norton's," Miller said. "She's a friend of ours."

Miller said she's amazed by the level of commitment Matukas shows to every Brave Hearts family, given Matukas has three kids of her own. Despite being the one to organize and moderate every meeting of the Western Kentucky Brave Hearts, when speaking with Matukas, "it's like she has nothing else going on," Miller said.

"She puts her Brave Hearts families on the same pedestal as she does her

kids," Miller said. "They're of the utmost importance to her."

Life In Service

After graduating from WKU in 2001 with a degree in marketing, Matukas took a job with the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce.

A few years later, Matukas and her family moved to California, where her husband, Steve, 42, was from, so she and her husband could pursue careers in online real estate. Though the work provided her family a stable life in sun-soaked California, something was missing.

Matukas said she felt unfulfilled and didn't see a future for her family in the area, so she started to look for work back in Kentucky. Soon after, she found an opportunity with Norton she couldn't pass up.

"I think it was all part of God's plan to get me back here," Matukas said. "It's been the best thing."

Through her work with Norton, Matukas helped establish the Western Kentucky region's Brave Hearts group four years ago, which typically meets every other month at locations around the Bowling Green area.

Matukas said the kids inspire her to ensure no child in need is ever left untreated. She said the Brave Hearts families she looks after have come to feel like her own family.

"You want to see them healthy and feeling good," Matukas said. "I love what I do."

Alongside then-sophomore Kelli Robinson, 24, of Bardstown, Matukas helped found Dance Big Red, which has raised over \$150,000 for kids affected by heart conditions and adolescent cancer within the region since first appearing on WKU's campus in 2014.

Robinson, now a registered behavior technician at the Bluegrass Center for Autism in Bardstown, said Matukas was the first person to support her desire to establish a dance fundraiser at WKU. She said it was Matukas' idea to center the fundraiser around heart-related issues.

Robinson said Matukas still attends every Dance Big Red student-led planning meeting and knows each member of the planning committee by name. Fittingly, Robinson said Matukas' dedication to Dance Big Red convinced the students who work alongside her to begin referring to her as "the mom of Dance Big Red."

"She's just a genuine person," Robinson said. "She really wanted to be a part of our lives."

Molly Ann Daniels, 23, was a 2017 Dance Big Red Co-chair. She said she experienced her own open heart surgery at age 6. She described Matukas as a great role model.

"If you're ever around Dana, you try to channel Dana," Daniel said, referencing a spinoff to a popular catchphrase she coined in honor of Matukas: "What would Dana do?"

During a recent lunch with Matukas, Daniel was surprised to discover Matukas had already participated in a radio interview and morning meeting before arriving to eat. After lunch, Matukas would be traveling to Owensboro for an all-day event and would later help construct a Dance Big Red Homecoming float for the upcoming parade. Above all, she had a family to go home to.

"Dana just does so, so much," Daniel said. "Truly, I don't think people understand just how much she does."

Reporter Griffin Fletcher can be reached at 270-745-2655 and griffin.fletcher398@topper.wku.edu.

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WKU returns home to play Morgan State

BY DRAKE KIZER

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU



It's been a difficult opening stretch for the WKU women's basketball team that now sits at 2-6 after playing four games in five days. The Lady Toppers will be in action once again on Wednesday for a home matchup with Morgan State.

WKU has never met MSU (1-6) on the hardwood. This year, MSU is 0-5 in games played away from its home arena, Hill Field House. In those contests, the Bears have given up 68.8 points per game and have been outscored by their opponents 344-235.

The Lady Toppers will have three full days of rest prior to their matchup with MSU, an advantage the team will not take lightly following its recent slate.

WKU kicked off its stretch of four games in five days against Southern Illinois (3-3) on Nov. 20.

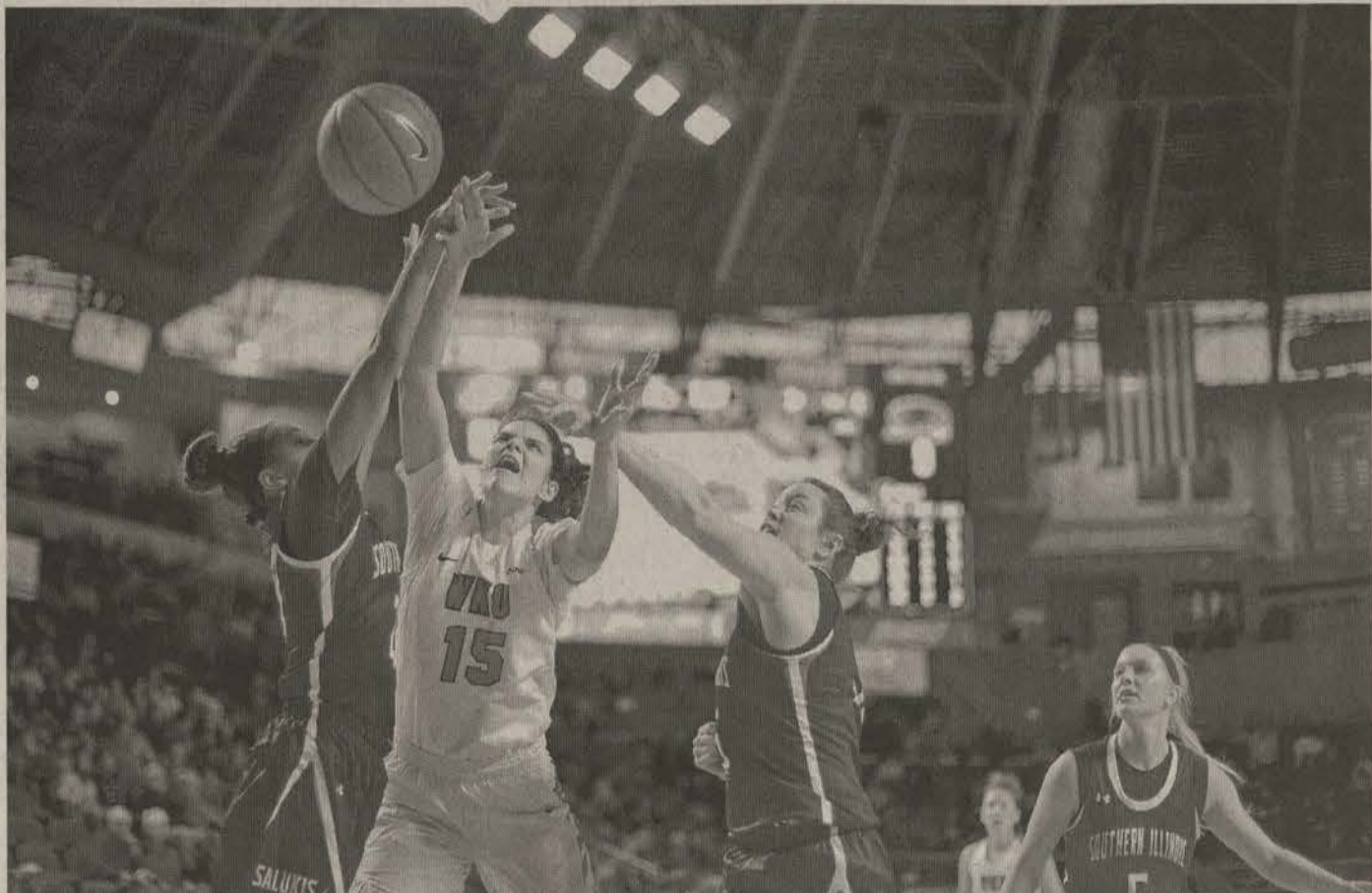
The Lady Toppers used the friendly confines of Diddle Arena to their advantage, leading the Salukis to 39:29 of clock time. Despite surrendering much of its 19-point halftime advantage down the stretch, WKU still came out on top 83-76.

WKU's victory over SIU was the first regular-season win for head coach Greg Collins.

"In some ways, it's better to get this type of win than it is to get a win had we continued and scored 102 points to 67," Collins said. "Would I have liked for us to play better down the stretch? Absolutely. But it's good that we had a close ballgame and found a way to win, and we can take some of those lessons and move on to the next game."

Just two days later, the Lady Toppers traveled about 2,000 miles to Vancouver, Canada, to play in the inaugural Vancouver Showcase. The eight-team tournament marked WKU's first time playing outside the United States since the 2013-14 season.

"It's still a big challenge for us," Collins said about WKU's trip to Vancouver. "But that's how we learn, that's how we're going to get better. I tell the



JOSEPH BARKOFF • HERALD

Lady Topper forward Raneem Elgedawy drives to the net while being fouled by a Southern Illinois defender at Diddle Arena on Nov. 20.

players ... we're practicing and working so that when we play a schedule like this, we're more competitive with these teams, and we have opportunities to win against these teams."

WKU's first opponent in Vancouver was No. 9 Oregon State (5-1). The Lady Toppers held the Beavers to only 20 percent shooting from beyond the arc and forced 13 turnovers, but it was not enough, as OSU outscored WKU 44-24 in the paint on its way to a 74-60 victory on Thursday.

Following their opening-round loss, the Lady Toppers were matched up with East Tennessee State (0-7) in the consolation bracket. WKU outrebounded an opponent for the first time all season, defeating the Buccaneers on the glass 44-34. WKU sank 12-of-18 free throw attempts in the fourth quarter and overcame ETSU 82-68 on Friday.

On the final day of the Vancouver

Showcase, the Lady Toppers faced Gonzaga (6-1) in the fifth-place game. The Bulldogs led WKU for most of the contest thanks to shooting 45.3 percent from the field and 43.8 percent from beyond the arc. The Lady Toppers produced their lowest offensive output of the season in a 76-55 loss on Saturday.

During WKU's last four contests, redshirt junior forward Dee Givens averaged 19.3 points per game, including a career-high 25 points against ETSU.

During that same period, sophomore forward Raneem Elgedawy averaged 16.2 points per game. Elgedawy recorded her first double-double of the season against the Buccaneers, notching 17 points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

The Lady Toppers will continue to lean on Givens and Elgedawy for stellar performances, especially as Collins

looks for a consistent starting lineup. After junior guard Whitney Creech started each of WKU's first four games, sophomore guard Sherry Porter has started in her place for each of the Lady Toppers' last four contests.

After eight regular-season games, the Lady Toppers have faced six teams that made the NCAA Tournament in 2018. Three of those six opponents were ranked in the top 15. WKU is winless in those contests, posting an 0-6 record.

WKU has only six games remaining before Conference USA play begins Jan. 3. The Lady Toppers will seek a victory in the last leg of their non-conference slate against the Bears at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Diddle Arena.

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Bassey shines despite Hilltoppers' struggles

BY ALEC JESSIE
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU



Despite recent losses to Central Florida and Indiana State, WKU basketball's star freshman is already living up to high expectations.

Through his first five collegiate games, Bassey is averaging 14.7 points, good for third on the team, and 10 rebounds, which leads the team. He also leads the team in field goal percentage and blocks. In his first game at 25th-ranked Washington, Bassey registered a double-double in a tough matchup with senior Noah Dickerson. After the UW loss, Stansbury was impressed by Bassey's demeanor.

"I thought Charles was very even keel," Stansbury said. "He's like that most days. I didn't think his emotions were up and down. I thought he played consistent."

The consistency carried over to the Myrtle Beach Invitational. In the invitational championship, the star freshman exploded for 25 points and 10 rebounds and even hit his first 3-pointer against one of the longest players in college basketball Tacko Fall.

Bassey was the lone bright spot in WKU's 63-54 loss at Indiana State with 16 points and eight rebounds. Even with the impressive start, Stansbury sees ways for Bassey to improve.

"I told Charles that when we get in the bonus, you can't catch it and finesse it around that rim," Stansbury



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU freshman guard Charles Bassey (23) shoots a freethrow during an exhibition match vs Kentucky Wesleyan in Diddle Arena on Nov. 3.

said after the Hilltoppers win over UT Martin Nov. 10. "You've got to catch it and go through somebody. It's not about a soft post move, it's about scoring it or getting to the free throw line."

Even with small improvements to be made, Stansbury is confident Bassey will continue to improve.

"It's about experience," Stansbury said. "He's probably never heard that told to him. He's going to keep getting better."

Charles Bassey was originally in the class of 2019 and garnered five-star status in that class. Bassey attended St. Anthony Catholic in San Antonio before transferring to Aspire Academy in Louisville. He dominated the high school level. Aspire head coach Jeremy Kipness raved about Bassey's ability on the court.

"What's so special about him is the fact that he's such a team player," Kipness said. "When we need a bucket, he's going to create and finish. But he's such a good passer, which opens up so many opportunities for everyone outside on the perimeter."

Bassey's recruitment was very quiet leading up to his commitment to WKU. He only took one visit to Louisville and didn't get a lot of serious interest from major programs. Not only did head coach Rick Stansbury receive Bassey's commitment on June 13, but the five-star center also announced he would reclassify to the 2018 class and play this season for the Hilltoppers.

Bassey came into the season with a lot of hype, but there was still work to be done to improve his game.

"He's far from a finished product,"

Kipness said when Bassey was in high school. "He's concerned with his development. He wants to get better every single day. It's just about building upon his strengths."

Bassey cites coaching and his teammates as a big help for his adjusting to the college level.

"I have a good coach and good teammates," Bassey said. "It just helps me every time with what I do. Playing these scrimmages helps with the chemistry of the team."

Bassey will look to continue his successful freshman campaign Saturday when the Hilltoppers host Tennessee State.

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"It's about experience. He's probably never heard that told to him. He's going to keep getting better."

Head Coach
RICK STANSBURY

SANFORD CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

opponent. The Hilltoppers only managed to beat Ball State in their first 10 games. The 1-9 start included a blowout loss to Charlotte, a school that was founded in 2013.

While it wasn't known at the time, there wasn't anything Sanford could do to help himself after the 1-9 start. The Hilltoppers won their last two games, including a win over a bowl-eligible Louisiana Tech team, but Stewart still pulled the plug.

"The thing that I point out is the evaluation on the overall body of work. And the two years that Mike was our head coach, the winning percentage over those two years is the worst by any Western Kentucky head coach since 1922," Stewart said. "You look at where we have been as a program and where we are now—we

need to get back to where we were."

Sanford's win percentage was .360, the worst by a Hilltopper coach since Jesse Thomas in 1946-47, who had a record of 5-10-2 (.353).

The Hilltoppers were coming off back-to-back seasons of 11-plus wins

"You look at where we have been as a program and where we are now—we need to get back to where we were."

Athletic director
TODD STEWART

as well as back-to-back Conference USA championships. During Sanford's tenure, the Hilltoppers fell into the cellar of Football Bowl Sub-division rankings.

As troubling as 2017 was in certain statistical aspects, 2018 was worse in others. Most notably, the Hilltoppers were atrocious in converting third and fourth downs. WKU converted just 72-of-185 third downs, which was just 39 percent. The Hilltoppers

struggled mightily on fourth down converting, just 9-of-24 attempts (38 percent), and yet they continued to attempt fourth-down conversions for much of the year.

During Sanford's tenure, WKU saw a number of departures from the football program between 2017 and 2018 for a variety of reasons. Punter Jake Collins transferred to Northwestern, running back Quinton Baker was removed from the team and announced he would transfer, as well. Running back Marquez Trigg left the team as well during the 2018 season, and Xavier Lane was temporarily removed from the roster.

While Sanford seemed like an exciting young hire at the time, he's left this program in far worse shape than it was when he got here. Thankfully for the next incoming head coach, they've got the best recruiting class in WKU history to build on.

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CAITIE MCKEIN • NEWS SENTINEL NF

Quarterbacks coach Tyson Helton walks in the Vol Walk outside Neyland Stadium before a game between University of Tennessee and the University of Texas at El Paso on Sept. 15, 2018.

NOW WHAT?

Helton enters with questions to answer for WKU football

BY MATT STAHL

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU



After WKU fired head coach Mike Sanford on Sunday following a 3-9 season, and with Tennessee offensive coordinator Tyson Helton taking the helm as the new head coach, the Hilltoppers have a plethora of questions to answer with its new head coach and the player personnel going into the 2019 season.

When former head coach Jeff Brohm left the program following the 2016 season, several players left with him, including star linebacker T.J. McCollum, who followed Brohm to Purdue. Helton will hope to avoid losing a significant number of players to transfer.

"I think that they too know the reality of this," athletic director Todd Stewart said of the players after he announced Sanford's firing. "Mike was the fourth head coach that we've had in six years. Now we'll have another head coach. Change has been a constant in our program."

One of the first things Helton will have to deal with is finding his starting quarterback. Redshirt sophomore

Steven Duncan ended the season as the starter and played very well, winning the team's final two games after leading it to victory against Ball State earlier in the season.

At the end of the season, redshirt freshman Davis Shanley was backing up Duncan. Shanley started several games early in the season and played

"Mike was the fourth head coach that we've had in six years. Now we'll have another head coach. Change has been a constant in our program."

Athletic director
TODD STEWART

particularly well against Louisville, almost leading the team to victory after taking over for Duncan, who started the game and promptly threw an interception.

A wild card in the quarterback battle will be Kevaris Thomas, who just finished his redshirt freshman season, seeing action in several games but mostly executing designed quarterback runs. Thomas was a highly prized recruit coming out of high school, as he was the Hilltoppers' first four-star

signee in program history.

Whoever wins the job will most likely see an increase in workload this season, as Helton's offense relies more heavily on the pass than Sanford's, which stressed the run and run-pass options during Sanford's tenure.

Another question for Helton to answer will be who stays and who goes

quarterbacks coach Bryan Ellis in as the new offensive coordinator. Ellis was an assistant coach at WKU from 2014-16. He called plays in WKU's 51-31 Boca Raton Bowl victory over Memphis. Junior Adams is the current offensive coordinator, and Sanford was in charge of playcalling.

One coach who seems like a candidate to stay is defensive coordinator Clayton White. White's defense was the highlight of the final two games of the season, coming up with six interceptions and nine sacks combined against Louisiana Tech and Texas-El Paso.

White has maintained lofty goals for the defense, which he outlined during the coaches' weekly press conference before the LA Tech game.

"We do feel like if we can just continue the growth and continue working the way we're working ... that one of these days it's going to be the Western Kentucky defense that we all want, to be one of the top defenses in our division, to be one of the top defenses in the country," White said.

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THE WALKTHROUGH

Sanford's second season forced quick firing

BY JEREMY CHISENHALL

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It's really not surprising we're at this point.

Most WKU fans saw it coming last year, not hesitating to pour criticism on now-former WKU head coach

Mike Sanford after the Hilltoppers lost three straight to Florida Atlantic, Vanderbilt and Marshall last year. That criticism certainly didn't let up when WKU got annihilated by Florida International 41-17 to close the season. Nor did it let up when the Hilltoppers lost to Georgia State 27-17 in the Cure Bowl, falling to a Panthers team that was playing in only its second bowl game in the program's history.

"I felt like Georgia State honestly wanted the game more than we did," athletic director Todd Stewart said. "And that was disappointing because we had a lot at stake. We'd won a bowl game three straight years. There were only nine programs in the country that had done that, and that was a historical game, so to come out and play like that was disappointing."

The Hilltoppers struggled in almost every facet of the game in 2017. Most notably, they averaged just 61 rushing yards per game and recorded only 12 sacks all year.

Still, 6-7 got the job done in year one. College coaches generally get four years to implement their own system, and after year one it seemed like

Sanford would get that.

But in Sanford's second year—his first without star quarterback Mike White to aid the offense—the Hilltopper program regressed more severely than anyone could have expected.

"I felt like Georgia State honestly wanted the game more than we did, and that was disappointing because we had a lot at stake."

Athletic director
TODD STEWART

It didn't seem like it could get much worse when WKU lost to Maine, a Football Championship Subdivision



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU beats Ball State 28-20 at Scheumann Stadium on Sept. 22, 2018. "I saw finish, I've seen fight so far in the season, but tonight I saw finish," head coach Mike Sanford said after the win.