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Ransdell Hall receives LEED Gold certification

By NICK BRATCHER 
news@wkuherald.com

An expected 35,000 high school football fans will be pouring onto campus Friday and Saturday as WKU hosts the KISSA state football championships.

Campus parking is making some changes to accommodate the influx of visitors. This will require some extra measures by students today and tomorrow.

Jennifer Tougas, director of Parking Services, said it’s important for students, faculty and staff to be aware of what’s coming.

“It’s an unusual circumstance to any plan for 30,000 people to visit our campus over two days, so that’s why the changes are going into effect,” Tougas said. “They’re going to be here regardless.”

“We have two ideas: we can plan for it or let it be a free for all. We’ve chosen to plan for it.”

Both the commuter Parking Structure No. 2 — located between Diddle Arena and South Student — and the Creason Lot will be used exclusively for paid parking all day, closing the Topper Transit bus stops.

Parking and Transportation required all students to remove their vehicles from the Creason Lot by 5 p.m. Thursday to avoid a $250 fine. Students displaced by the lot’s closing should park in other housing lots or Creason Street South through Sunday.

Tougas said a temporary Gables bus stop will be added at the intersection of Robinson Drive and Creason Drive at the Gable Apartments Complex. Commuters can also find parking in the garage across the street from the Crossman Hall parking lot.

Tougas said commuter students who typically park in PS2 or Chestnut South Lot should also use the Center Street Green Lot or the park and ride lots which shuttle students from South Campus to main campus.

Buses run from the Campbell Lane and South Campus lots every five to eight minutes for commuting students.

The surface lots around Diddle Arena, the South Lawn Lot between the Downing University Center and Preston Health and Fitness Center, and the Ransdell Bell Lot will also be reserved exclusively for game officials and media.

Parking Structure No. 1 — located up the hill from Diddle Arena on Avenue of Champions — will be used for excess public parking starting at 5 p.m. on Friday and continuing into all day Saturday.

Unlike the Creason Lot, housing students parked in the structure are not required to move their vehicles.

Parking offers backup plans with HS fans in BG

By KATHERINE WADE

The developer of a new hotel being built on Campbell Lane may also be interested in building in Block 12.

President Gary Ransdell said he received word that the developer of Steeplegate Suites, located near the Knecly Conference Center, is also going to bid on the Block 12 property.

Earlier this month, WKU released a request for proposal to find a hotel developer for a 90- to 100-room hotel that is planned for Block 12. Block 12 is part of Bowling Green’s Tax Increment Financing District. Currently, WKU is constructing a parking structure with housing built around it and the new Augsung Alumni Center in that area.

Kerra Ogden, project manager for Planning, Design and Construction, said that WKU would like to have a developer locked in by the beginning of 2012, but nothing is confirmed at this stage.

The size of the hotel, amenities and number of rooms have also yet to be finalized, Ogden said. Each proposal will be analyzed and compared before a decision is made.

“Although WKU would not be directly financially involved with the hotel, Ransdell said it’s possible they would use the revenue generated by it.

“It would clearly be a university asset,” Ransdell said.

The current plan for the hotel may go in Block 12 and could be run by a private company that would be run through ARAMARK and therefore part of the campus program, Ransdell said.

For coverage of last night’s basketball game against Murray State, check out WKUHERALD.COM
Three number of churches Mariah Yelverton and her family have been kicked out of since she came out as a lesbian.

The Louisville freshman said she came out during her freshman year of high school and since then has finally felt truly comfortable in her own skin despite others’ reactions.

“I can now do what I want and be myself,” Yelverton said. “I just know, and it’s crazy because my mom did, too.”

Louisville freshman Mariah Yelverton, 19, spends time with two of her closest friends, Lauren Cox and Landon Shull, both also freshmen from Louisville. Off her homesickness, Yelverton said, “I just know, and it’s crazy because my mom did, too.”

That is the number of suicides against me because I know they aren’t alone,” Yelverton said, noting how some people who she has a difficult time with her sexuality when she lived in Alabama for a year, because she wasn’t accepted for who she was.

Yelverton said she was also repected it, but her father practically discouraged her.

I was a dyke or other names, but I just brush it off,” she said. “I already have two people who aren’t OK with it and I won’t be as long as we have committed suicide.

The organization is an outlet for campus’ LGBTQs.

As a military leader, Yelverton said she is planning on joining the Army after graduation. Although she was going to join no matter what, she said she is re-lived that the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy has been repealed and she will no longer have to hide her identity.

I think Christians are extremely hypocritical,” she said. “They say God forgives, but then turn around and say God hates gays.”

Yelverton said she was also re-educated about her sexual orientation, her mother accepted it, but her father practically discouraged her.

“Some react negatively to her sexual ori-entation. Her mother ac-cepted it, but her father prac-tically discouraged her.

I tend to do pretty mundane things,” she said. “My friends even refer to me as one of the guys.”

When she first spoke up about her sexual ori-entation, her mother ac-cepted it, but her father prac-tically discouraged her.

As the organization is an outlet for campus’ LG-TQs to be able to meet other each other and talk and to know they aren’t alone,” Yelverton said, noting how some people are rejected by their own families after coming out.

“Coming out takes years to do and it’s hard no matter what, but it gets better,” he said. “Especially if you’re around people who are cool about it.”

Shull said he thought people are more mature and accepting now, but they still need to learn more about LGBTQs.

Yelverton said more awareness should be made about those who are committed suicide.

“Nobody wants to know, but people need change need to be made about the gay com-munity.”

Each Friday, the Herald brings you a story inspired by a letter of the alphabet. Today’s is the letter L.

I am black and a lesbian,” she said. “I just happen to be attract-Ing for Lesbian

Lisa is for Lesbian

Student copes with others’ reactions to her sexual orientation

By NATALIE WEST

Yelverton and her family have never been kicked out of since she came out as a lesbian.

The Louisville freshman said she came out during her freshman year of high school and since then has finally felt truly comfortable in her own skin despite others’ reactions.

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When she first spoke up about her sexual ori-entation, her mother ac-cepted it, but her father prac-tically discouraged her.

“I wasn’t his daughter anymore,” Yelverton said, looking down. “It was just me.”

She said she has always been a supporter of social jus-tice, but she also has her limitations.

Bethany Coffey, Bowling Green, reported her property stolen on Nov 29. The estimated value of the property is $225.

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WKU grads hope to create next big social network

Since the 2010 earthquake, Patrick Brown and Bruna da Silva are still thinking and dreaming about Haiti. In addition to their current positions as a mathematics instructor and a mathematics teacher respectively, they are also working on a new business plan for Mindgy, a social networking website.

They graduated from WKU in May 2011, and both are currently working on their master’s degrees. However, they are not just attending classes. They are also working on their new business idea.

When asked why they are still thinking about Haiti, they both say it is because of the people. They both say they cannot forget the people they met during their time in Haiti.

“People are the most important thing,” said Brown. “We want to help people.”

“We want to make a difference,” said da Silva.

After leaving Haiti, they both started working on their new business idea. They wanted to create a social networking website that would allow people to connect with each other.

“We want to create a place where people can connect with each other,” said Brown.

“We want to create a place where people can connect with each other,” said da Silva.

They started working on their new business idea in 2011, and they have been working on it ever since.

“We have been working on it for a year and a half,” said Brown.

“We have been working on it for a year and a half,” said da Silva.

They have been working on their new business idea for more than a year and a half, and they are still working on it.

“We are still working on it,” said Brown.

“We are still working on it,” said da Silva.

They are still working on their new business idea, and they are still hoping to create the next big social network.

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They are still working on their new business idea, and they are still hoping to create the next big social network.
Sickening end to the semester

With two weeks left in the semester, I’m proud to say that I have great—well, perhaps not a great, but still very successful—semester at the Herald, and have experienced one of the most fun semesters of my life. What is that? A year ago I wouldn’t have realized that it’s something I would be doing, but I have. Nothing left to say. It’s probably just the result of the fact that I have a professional writing job and I get paid for it, so I do it. Nothing to say. It’s not going to happen again.

Besides, try to think of some other things that happen in three weeks. To begin with, I’ll be in bed, not writing. This is a huge deal to me. I have always been a professional author, which means that I write many stories, both by students and professionals, that are treated as second rate to stories of these stories that they are written for the content, if you are asked to care about your work, you might start caring accidentally.

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Former WKU athlete works at new running store

By MONTA REINFELDE

Paul placed his hand on the counter. It is true. Even the most disciplined athletes have to have our lights on.

“Just because I ran in college doesn’t mean I am a better athlete by you in any means,” said Paul. “Because athleticism is a lot of aspects, dedication, determination, all those things fall into what makes a true athlete.”

Paul said she loves working at the TRAX store in the morning, helping customers get ready for the day. “It is like a family. I’ve been working here for a long time,” she said. “That way it is not just something you have to do, it is a lot.”

Paul works at the TRAX store in Bowling Green, KY. She works at the store every weekday. “I love it here,” Paul said. “I don’t mind being dirty in the kitchen.”

“I don’t mind being dirty in the kitchen. We have to have our lights on.”

Bonita Paul worked hard every day while she was in college competing for WKU in cross-country and track. Now the WKU graduate is tapping back into her running experiences.

Paul works at the newly opened TRAX running store, located in Kereiakes Park at 1240 Farrior Road, helping women purchase the newest products. “I love it here,” Paul said. “It is like a family that I have been adopted.”

Paul came to WKU from South Africa in 2004 to compete in cross-country and track on a full-ride scholarship and attained a degree in exercise science. She completed her graduate studies in 2008. Paul said the skills and knowledge gained during her time at college are invaluable for life and career. “It is a juggle. You have to figure it out.”

Because of all the employers’ athletic backgrounds, the atmosphere in the store is great, said Joe Wheat. Blow-meat concerns are not to make a lot of money. It is, however, to promote sports in Bowling Green. “We want people to come in here and to hang out,” Joe Wheat said. “I enjoy helping people.”

“I can relate to people who are injured or struggling to get motivated,” said Joe. “I know how it feels. I know it is hard, so that is a good connection and a benefit that helped me a lot.”

Paul has always put academics before everything else. A degree is more important to employers, she said. However, athletics is something that sets a person apart. “Actually it was more my background and my major than anything else,” Paul said. “I have to have an education to back up your knowledge, plus experience.”

“It is a juggle. You have to figure it out.”

Her sophomore throughout her stay, Paul worked at AKA-MARK, a catering company. “It was good because we were busy,” she said. “That way I was not just running and studying. It gives you something else to do, and it taught me how to get along in the kitchen.”

People can drop off their used shoes at TRAX Running store or at the WKU Book Store on campus for students. Locke said. “My personal goal is to collect 1,000 pair of shoes, he said. “However, I wouldn’t like to get more.”

Locke said at the end of the campaign, donated shoes will be delivered to Nashville and then distributed to people in need. “We will donate shoes to people in Africa, India and Thailand,” he said. “Anywhere in the world where people need them.”

In Dec. 2009, when visiting Africa on his mission trip, Locke saw the terrible condition of the kids’ feet. It broke my heart,” Locke said.

Now he said he encourages all people to donate their shoes, because they can change the conditions of others’ lives. “It is very easy way to reverse that problem,” Locke said. “Everyone has shoes that they don’t wear.”

Soles4Souls accepts any type of shoe as long as they are new or gently used. Monetary donations are also encouraged. If checks are made out to Soles4Souls, it is a tax deductible donation.

Locke said Joe Wheat, a partner of the TRAX Running store, wanted to get involved with a charity as well. Wheat said people who will drop off their shoes at TRAX Running will get 10 percent off a new shoe purchase.

WKU graduate taking shoe donations at TRAX, WKU Store

If you’re planning to get a new pair of shoes for Christmas or have gently used shoes that you’re not wearing any more, don’t toss them in the trash.

Daniel Locke, a 2009 WKU graduate, collaborated with a Nashville-based charity organization Soles4Souls to start a shoe donation campaign that will take place until Dec. 19 in Bowling Green.

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By JOANNA WILLIAMS

WKU professor featured in prominent science journal

China is working to reduce its internationally read academic landscape of south central Kentucky.

DECEMBER 2, 2011 COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

Priority registration proves difficult for some students

A WKU professor is working internationally, "The fact that Western is..." Groves said. "I already pay out-of-state tuition..." Keeling said. "I have had a few individu..." Eggleton said. "There are some students who..." Many journals that scientists publish in are very prestigious, but two journals, "Science" and "Nature," are more broad, with a large and international readership.

GROVES, David Keeling, geography and geology, made several categories of students accessible for her major were full. Paige Bickerstaff, a junior exercise science, said that when she woke up to register for classes, the classes that she needs for her major were full. "I woke up at 4:50 a.m.," she said, "I was checking my class, and they were all closed." "There wasn’t one open that I needed," Bickerstaff said.

"I already pay out-of-state tuition and I have only take prerequisites and not classes in my major was pointless," said Bickerstaff. Keeling said that she ultimately got into three of her major classes. "Even though we’ve been experiencing..." Eggleton said. "I have had a few individu..." Eggleton said that students have been working in the field for land-use management and carbon sequestration.

"It’s one of those opportunities..." Groves said. "It’s talking about collaboration between some of us at Western and working in China with Chinese scientists..." Keeling said. "I already pay out-of-state tuition and I have only take prerequisites and not classes in my major was pointless," said Bickerstaff. Keeling said that she ultimately got into three of her major classes. "Even though we’ve been experiencing..." Eggleton said. "I have had a few individu..." Eggleton said that students have been working in the field for land-use management and carbon sequestration.

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Social media posts have included videos of fans raving. Head Coach Mark Bass said on Monday against Louisiana that "the timing of this break in practice," Cowles said. "It allowed us to get back on the practice floor really well, really good for us.”

The Lady Toppers moved to 7-7 on the year and WKU's next game is Monday and Thursday, a drivable distance. It's a Saturday. It's after the holidays. “It makes sense in a lot of ways. But at the moment we can’t anticipate that will all line up and reward our players and coaches for a job well done.”

Several games on Saturday needed to play out on WKU's behalf in order to keep the pool of at-large teams as large as possible. Cincinnati defeated Connecticut, Brigham Young beat Hawaii, No. 6 Houston beat No. 16 Southern Mississippi and No. 12 Georgia spoiling No. 1 Louisiana State's perfect season. Even if all of those results play out the way WKU wants, there's no guarantee the Lady Toppers would go bowling.

Bjork said that bowls could trade teams based on various contracts between bowls and conferences. "Our best-case scenario is that we're playing the Sun Belt Conference to-the-wire, but there's no guarantee the Lady Toppers would go bowling. We're having some growing pains all over the court right now," Cowles said. “I've been positive about this team ever since October when we started 3-0. I think Birmingham gives us the best shot because it's a drivable distance. It's a Sunday. It's after the holidays. It makes sense in a lot of ways. But at the moment we can’t anticipate that will all line up and reward our players and coaches for a job well done.”

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Head Coach Willie Taggart’s base salary is one of the lowest across college football.

Taggart makes $225,000 a year before bonuses, putting him in a tie for 108th out of the 110 head coaches whose salaries were reported to USA Today. But that may soon change, as Athletics Director Ross Bjork said on Tuesday he and Taggart were reported to USA Today.

“Contract negotiations are going on,” said Bjork. “That’s kind of what we’re going to do.”

Athletics Director Ross Bjork said he’s confident the team can execute a contract package.

“If we can win the Sun Belt again, if we can have a good year, we’ll have a lot of people interested in coaching here,” Bjork said.

“No comment on that. I haven’t talked to anyone about anything.”

Marchionda said his biggest concern is on the women’s side against Marshall. “They’ll be pretty good, and we’ll be missing two of our top girls,” he said.

Junior Adam Dajka, named Sun Belt Swimmer of the Week on Tuesday, said he’s confident the team can execute a contract package.

“I have no comment on that. I haven’t talked to anyone about anything,” said Bjork.

He said this meet will require more strategic planning than other meets planned before their match Friday afternoon.

Marquette, their first-round opponent from the Big East Conference, is ranked No. 40 in the latest RPI poll and also went 7-1 in the league.

“Marquette is a tough team,” said Marquette head coach Melissa Steinman. “They’ll be pretty good, and we’ll be missing a few key components from their lineup.”

The Lady Toppers fell to Western Kentucky on Wednesday and had six practices planned before their match Friday afternoon.
**FOOTBALL**

**WKU will learn its bowl fate by Sunday**

By BRAD STEPHENS

WKU’s annual end-of-the-year football banquet will take place at 6 p.m. Sunday. During that banquet the Toppers may know whether their 2011 season is indeed over, or if they will be playing in the first bowl game of the program’s Football Bowl Subdivision history.

WKU (7-5) is waiting to hear if it will receive an at-large bid in one of many post-season options. The bowl schedule will be announced at 7:15 p.m. on ESPN.

“The banquet would be an ideal time to make an announcement,” Athletics Director Ross Bjork said.

Kevin Kaspar drew comparisons to former WKU point guard Donald. Kaspar also emerged as a scoring threat in Charleston, but when WKU played in the Charleston Classic, it was Kaspar who got the start. He hasn’t relinquished that spot yet.

Junior guard Jamal Crook started the Toppers’ first two games and played at least 20 minutes in both. He’s been a key to the Toppers’ success this season.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Guard Kaspar proving tough as a freshman**

By COLE CLAIRBOURN

Kaspar Kaspar drovecomparestoformer WKU point guard Orlando Mendez-Velazquez from Head Coach Ken McDonald.

It wasn’t for his ability to hit clutch shots like Mendez-Velazquez did. He’s just a bigger, bulkier guard.

“Bigger minutes, bigger role…he gives you a fearless guy that braves out more supporters. He’s brought out more supporters. He’s a kid that tore his ACL on that very floor a year ago and look at all he’s accomplishing in the 12 months since then. I think it’s an inspiring story more than anything else.”

The Illinois location benefits some people associated with the WKU program, though. Many athletes on the team have family members living in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, and will have a shorter drive to Champaign than they would have had.

Senior outside hitter Jordyn Skinner’s parents live in Grand Rapids, Mich., and usually make the drive to Bowling Green for home matches. Many athletes on the team have family members associated with the WKU program, though.

“Jordyn is a positive one,” he said. “That’s a kid that tore her ACL on that very floor a year ago and look at all she’s accomplishing in the 12 months since then. I think it’s an inspiring story more than anything else.”

It was Kaspar who got the start. He hasn’t relinquished that spot yet.

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