**EDITORIAL:** **TRANS RIGHTS SHOULD BE A PRIORITY FOR ALL STUDENTS**  
OPINION, PAGE A4

**Balloons, Tunes and BBQ Snapshots**  
PHOTO, PAGE A6

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Within the past year, WKU has undergone many changes on campus with construction and renovations to buildings, the largest project being Downing Student Union. One project that most students probably did not know about was the preservation and restoration of the original president’s home, the Craig Administrative Center, located across from the Kentucky Museum.

President Gary Ransdell said, the building is an important part of WKU’s history.

“Once the Alumni Association moved out and moved into the new Augustinian Alumni Center, this house began to deteriorate quickly,” Ransdell said. “We had to make a decision whether to restore it or tear it down, we chose to restore it.”

SEE OFFICES PAGE A2

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The Academic Advising and Retention Center brought in some new changes following the beginning of the 2014 fall semester. The Learning Center, dorms and the Fine Arts Center will no longer have monitored study halls. Russell Curley, director of AARC, said the AARC is all about retention.

“We have a limited budget,” he said. “And so we have to decide what we can and can’t afford. We’ve had to make some cuts and so we looked at all of our programs, and the monitored study hall was a passive program.”

Most of the students that came to the monitored study hall were required to attend, but most didn’t make an appearance.

“Students resented it,” Curley said. “It was very inconvenient for them.”

Upon looking at the programs offered at the AARC, Curley said that the monitored study halls didn’t serve the

SEE AARC PAGE A3

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For students who may have trouble keeping track of all the events at WKU, a simple phone app may help.

iWKU, the official mobile app of WKU, has been updated for the start of the new school year.

iWKU adds update  
BY JESSICA VOORHEES  
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

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Hidden behind WKU’s agricultural farm, a large, grassy area plays host to a giant, towering wooden structure with a series of nets, dangling ropes and zip lines, suspended 40 feet above the ground.

On the ground level, colored noodles and small, square fabric patches litter the green grass, as wooded trails lead off to various other challenges. All of these make up the WKU Challenge Course.

The course, located off Nashville Road, offers a plethora of outdoor challenge activities, ranging from those taking place on the aforementioned wooden structure, the High Course, and those taking place on the various trails and grassy areas surrounding it, the Low Course.

“It’s an opportunity for participants to grow, challenge themselves and try new things,” Tammi Stenger-Ramsey, associate professor of kinesiology, recreation and sport, said.

SEE APP PAGE A3

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Frankfort senior AJ Snipes, 23, repels down the open face of the WKU Challenge Course as Hebron senior Thomas Kerman, 21, ascends the rock wall. Students in the Recreation Administration major have the option to complete REC 419: Challenge Course Facilitation, for a concentration in Outdoor Recreation.

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**Balloons, Tunes and BBQ Snapshots**  
PHOTO, PAGE A6

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Many groups have ventured out onto the course either for a class or as a team building exercise. Participants challenge themselves mentally and physically, strengthening their teamwork skills as they go.

“We are always open to campus groups coming out. We encourage this by offering reduced prices to WKU affiliated groups,” Brooks Riddlesperger, a graduate assistant at the course, said.

Riddlesperger has worked on other courses, both as a student and professionally, especially at his alma mater, the College of William and Mary. “I was introduced to these (ropes courses) in a class… at William and Mary,” Riddlesperger said. “I have also worked for a summer camp where I facilitated a course as part of my responsibilities.”

Riddlesperger is partnering his challenge course background, both at aforementioned locations and now at WKU, with a degree in recreation and a minor-recreational sports department, with a certificate in outdoor leadership.

“I believe the challenge course is a great asset to WKU,” Riddlesperger said. “It offers an alternative to the traditional classroom. It also offers a means for groups to grow and become stronger.”

I had a great time getting to bond with my classmates while participating in the challenge course,” Tom Seibold, a Louisville junior and Gatton alum, said. “It was a fun experience that allowed us to get to know each other in a unique way to have new students meet their classmates.”

“Many groups have ventured out onto the course either for a class or as a team building exercise. Participants challenge themselves mentally and physically, strengthening their teamwork skills as they go.

“We are always open to campus groups coming out. We encourage this by offering reduced prices to WKU affiliated groups,” Brooks Riddlesperger, a graduate assistant at the course, said.

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Discussions about building a challenge course started in the 1990s, but it long time in the classroom.”

I have a soft spot for old houses anyway,” Wilkins said. “I’m just happy the restored building can contact McDonald for arrangements. Those interested in reserving space in the restored building can contact McDonald for arrangements.

The house was one of the original historic buildings on campus built in 1931 by architect Brinton Davis, Ransdell said. Davis also designed Van Meter Hall, Snell Hall, Heims Library, Gordon Wilson Hall, the Industrial Education Building, Mack Hall, the Heating Plant building, Cherry Hall, the Heating Plant and the Colonnade.

“He was the original campus master planner for the first 30 years of our history,” Ransdell said. “Most people don’t know the original campus master plan when the university was founded.”

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The home opened last week and was named after WKU’s original alumni director, Billy Craig. It once was the home of the former suite in the Wetherby Administration Building. Ransdell said the first floor of the renovated building is open to be used by students, faculty and staff. The floor contains a library, living room, dining room, and a small meeting room. These interested in reserving space in the restored building can contact McDonald for arrangements.

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association. There is also a function
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To students.”

Wku construction of the courts began in October of last year.

The recent updates and the begin-
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The courts are located at South Campus, adjacent to the intra-
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WKU and UPIKE partner to improve healthcare

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HELP WANTED

Rafferty’s of Bowling Green is hiring Servers! Apply in person Monday thru Friday between 2pm and 4pm at 939 Scoville Road. Top Dollar Potential Earnings! Great Working Atmosphere!

City of Bowling Green

AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR
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Instructs aerobic activities, including yoga, spinning, and any other specialty classes. CPR & First Aid Certifications required. Classes may be taught in the mornings, evenings, or weekend. Hours/days may vary. $17.64 per hour.

Interested applicants should obtain an employment application from the Human Resources Department in City Hall, 1001 College Street, Bowling Green, or from our website at www.bgky.org.

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APPLY NOW FOR CLASSES BEGINNING OCTOBER 20TH

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BUY-SELL-TRADE: Games, DVDs, Records! Also: Comics, CDs, Toys, CCGs, RPGs, more!

The Great Escape Records & Comics
2643 Chandler Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42104. 270-484-0750.
Spectators photograph hot air balloons with their smartphones at the 24th annual U.S. Bank Balloons, Tunes & BBQ festival at the Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport. Net proceeds from the festival are to be used by United Way to impact individuals in need located in the BRADD (Barren River Area Developmental District) region.

On the count of three, ballooners inflate hot air balloons at the Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport on Sept. 5.

ABOVE: Yuka Fjita, 36, holds her daughter, Momo, 3, as she watches hot air balloons glowing in unison at the Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport.

LEFT: Loving Mary performs at Balloons, Tunes & BBQ on Sept. 5. The alternative country band hails from Nashville and was the last act to perform, following Justin Rivers and Bowling Green Idol.

Balloons, Tunes & BBQ vendors prepare southern comfort food behind food trucks for crowds of hungry patrons at dinnertime.

On the count of three, ballooners inflate hot air balloons at the Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport on Sept. 5.
Graduate student works to improve water literacy in Africa

BY LASHANA HARNEY

On a campus where there are numerous religious groups, WKU's Secular Student Alliance is one of the only organizations in its campus. "If you are religious or non-religious," the group's Facebook page states, "you are welcome." The group was established in 2010 and now has 15 chapter members, meeting every week in the Cravens Library to discuss secular issues.

"We wanted to build a community for atheists and agnostics," Lexington sophomore Ryan Pouch, SSA chair, said. "And in some cases, hand-sell water or use solar disinfectant," he said.

Although the organization abstains from religion, they are not anti-religious.

"We are friends first," he said. "We limit our meetings to every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in room 409 in Cravens Library to discuss secular issues. The faculty advisor over the organization is Jerry Dadian, interim executive director for the Center for Faculty Development. SSA keeps students updated by posting on the group's Facebook page. "There have been previous versions of SSA in the past. "We had kind of a weak version," Schrader said. "About five of us would get together and meet, but it died out quickly. So, some of us decided to re-invigorate it and rework the Facebook group at the beginning of last semesters."

In April, the alliance held an event at Centennial Mall coined Ask-an-Atheist Day to help clarify misconceptions about those who aren't religious. "50 of reasons we have problems are because most people fear what they don't know. So on Ask-an-Atheist Day, we wanted people to ask what they want to know," Schrader said.

Bowling Green sophomore Michael Oglesby, SSA public relations officer, said members of the group "are advocates for separation of church and state, for science education, honesty, openness and ideas."

"SSA currently has about 14 to 15 members, but the alliance hopes to expand," due to the relatively small size of the group, Schrader said the group tends to be very close.

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Big Red competes in National Mascot Competition

BY ERIAN BRADLEY
LIFE@WKUHERALD.COM

This year Big Red will be competing once again in an online mascot challenge sponsored by Capital One. Big Red started entering this competition in 2002, and this will be the tenth time Big Red has participated. The annual competition includes 16 mascots from other universities. To get into the competition, a university has to submit a form online and a short video of its mascot doing their signature moves and interacting with fans. The routine has to be roughly two or three minutes, and WKU gets help with that from other sources.

“It’s not our expertise,” Marketing Assistant Paula Davids said. Davids also holds the title of being Big Red’s “mom.” Along with coming up with a routine, the universities have to post their video online. Big Red’s video is found on YouTube under the account WKUSports.

Big Red has never won first place in this competition. The closest he’s ever gotten to the top spot was fourth place. “It’s really hard to compete with bigger schools because their fan base and alumni is large,” Davids said. The competition is not all up to the mascot. Students and alumni must participate. Each week the website posts new challenges to support their mascot. Votes are earned through points. There is a 100 point challenge, a 50 point challenge and a 1 point challenge. The 100 point challenge requires voters to submit a photo or video to Twitter, Instagram or Facebook of a specific action, such as executing the mascot’s dance move. Capital One judges will review the submissions and give the 100 points to their school’s mascot. The 50 point challenge is done through sharing mascot pride on Twitter or Facebook, and one point is awarded for clicking a “vote now” button on the website. The prize for winning the challenge is $30,000. Even if Big Red doesn’t win, WKU still receives $5,000 from Capital One for entering in the challenge to go toward the mascot program.

To vote in the competition, go to capitalonemascots.com. The competition will run through the week of Nov. 10.
The Student Accessibility Resource Center, formerly Student Disability Services, consists of a collection of staff working toward a common goal: to ensure students with disabilities are able to experience and gain a broad college education at WKU.

A new student volunteer group has made it their mission to serve campus and the city to raise awareness about the programs offered through SARC.

The group is called Mastering Accessible Possibilities, or MAPS.

"It is important to help our students feel like they are also a part of the WKU community and do have a collective voice," Matthew Davis, coordinator for SARC, said. "The students involved with MAPS currently want to help other students with disabilities to realize that receiving help from SARC is an asset and not something they should shy away from or be apprehensive about during their college career."

Davis said MAPS also gives those involved an opportunity to educate students, faculty and staff about disabilities from their own point of view.

Sam Moore, a graduate student from Henderson who is blind, jumped on board with the project in January and was elected vice president of the group. Moore, like others involved with MAPS, wanted to share the benefits SARC brought during his undergraduate years with others.

"There are lots of people out there that don't know about the programs they offer or need to be publicized a little better," Moore said.

He said he came to WKU in 2006 and was involved with SARC until he graduated.

"Every class is different in its terms of its demands and requirements, and person

nel from the office assist me in adapting and adjusting as necessary in my efforts to fulfill mandatory duties and responsibilities within each class," Moore said.

This is Moore's last semester at WKU, and he credits SARC with many of his accomplishments.

Moore said SARC guides students on alternative testing schedules. He was "extremely visual in nature," Moore said.

"They are the reason for a lot of my success at WKU," he said. "It's something I've been a part of for all of these years and it means a lot to do what I can to help.

Through SARC, students can receive assistance with creating and arranging specifications they need for classes such as alternative testing schedules. SARC also helps students build or enhance relationship and communication with their professors. SARC also makes sure every student is able to attend classes without barriers. This means making sure that each student can get to class without problems and also have the resources to do well in the class.

MAPS plans to spread the word about these programs throughout the community as a whole, not limiting their efforts to campus. They hope to equip their intended audience with a better understanding of services provided by SARC.

"In order to reach out to the WKU community, members of MAPS intend to make appearances in numerous classrooms across campus to spread the word about the organization and its mission," Moore said.

He said they also hope to go to area high schools to speak to prospective students about SARC and its mission.

Moore said the group is also assembling flyers and information packets to distribute around campus and to "Focus on WKU" events held throughout the region.

"It is hoped that this will also serve as a recruiting tool for new members in our quest to foster greater awareness of the SARC family," he said.

The program is still in its youth, but the team already has a strong idea of what they want to accomplish. Davis said he hopes MAPS will grow into a student-run organization and his involvement will lessen over the next few years.

"My hope is to show that students, with a wide range of disabilities, can succeed and have some of the same challenges/successes as most of the student body," Davis said.

"My hope is to help students that do not have a disability learn from those students who bring those challenges every day and collaborate together to spread awareness and focus on abilities and not disabilities.

**Ogleby**

Ogleby is writing his doctoral dissertation in the world. Both researcher and community members can learn from each other and provide opportunities to share successes and failures with other groups in other regions of the world," Ogleby said.
VKU falls to Tennessee, rebounds against Evansville

BY HALEY RUCKMAN
SPORTSWKUHERALD.COM

The Lady Toppers welcomed Tennessee and Evansville to the WKU Soccer Complex this weekend, and although they lost their first match with the Lady Vols on Friday, WKU rebounded for a victory over the Lady Aces on Sunday. WKU (3-5-1) was going for a wild card achievement advantage through the first half of play on Friday, but Tennessee (2-2-2) fired off 13 shots to the Lady Toppers’ two in the second half en route to a 1-0 victory.

The difference for the Lady Vols came in the ninth and the 57th minute as Tennessee’s Hannah Tuthill and总 was prime Spade found the back of the net, respectively.

Wittkopp managed her goal on a breakaway that was assisted by Spade and she turned the favor on the next goal as she found Spade for a successful header.

The two Tennessee goals were the first two given up by the freshman goalkeeper Allison Lane this season. She totaled four saved shot attempts in the game.

“I was very happy we were able to win the game. And we were just getting warm as an individual player can do. Once we did that, things really started to pick up,” Head Coach Jason Neidell said. “We have kind of identified individual direction – don’t think about what the team can do, but what each individual player can do. Once we did that, things really started to pick up.”

Oral Roberts was the last foe for the young Lady Toppers squad over the weekend. The Golden Eagles would prove to be worthy opponents, as they took the Lady Toppers into a fourth set – something that had not happened prior to Saturday.

The sweep was just points away, yet Oral Roberts slid past the Lady Topper in the second set, 25-23. The final three scores were 25-16, 23-25, 25-14 and 25-15.

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The women’s soccer team is headed to Florence this weekend for a crucial test, with the team totaling a .330 hitting percentage for the contest. Junior Haley Bodway smashed a season-high 18. Lucas managed 40 assists in the contest, with the team totaling a .30 hitting percentage for the match. Senior Heather Boyan garnered tournament honors later that night against, host team, Oral Roberts and recorded her third shutout of the season.

With that being said, I’m more focused on if our team is moving in the right direction – don’t think about what the team can do, but what each individual player can do. Once we did that, things really started to pick up,” Head Coach Jason Neidell said. “We have kind of identified individual direction – don’t think about what the team can do, but what each individual player can do. Once we did that, things really started to pick up.”

Oral Roberts was the last foe for the young Lady Toppers squad over the weekend. The Golden Eagles would prove to be worthy opponents, as they took the Lady Toppers into a fourth set – something that had not happened prior to Saturday.

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A smoke alarm went off during the second quarter, causing a delay in the game. WKU Police Department officials, WKU athletics and the university have since reviewed the university’s safety precautions.

In the second quarter of WKU’s 59-31 win on Friday, Aug. 29, smoke alarms were triggered by steam derailing a newly expanded food preparation area of Smith Stadium.

“Conpletely our our con- cussion protocol, it has actually added a lot to their menu this year, and because they’re offering food than ever, and we also have Moonlite Bar-B-Q com- ing in, they’re preparing food on the go for WKU with 122 rushing yards on 24 attempts, 11 points, whereas Saturday’s bout was a touchdown against Bowling Green State.

“…In the second half we took it for what it is. We came in yesterday Cameron Clemmons said. “You losses,” redshirt senior offensive line- man said after the game. “I don’t think 11 wins sounds too bad. We made some mistakes in this game. We’ll make our corrections for next week…take it one game at a time.”

The WKU defense forced its first turnover of the season in the fourth quarter, but it was an eight-point decision.

The Hilltoppers will target their con- fidence against former Sun Belt foe Tennessee on Saturday at 6 p.m. CDT. The rivalry is already the most storied in the C-USA, with WKU and the Blu- Raiders having faced off 63 times. WKU leads the all-time series, 33-29-1.

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Tops confident despite loss at Illinois

BY KYLE WILLIAMS
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WKU held a 27-21 advantage heading into the final quarter of Saturday’s matchup at Illinois, but the Fighting Illini capitalized on two Hilltopper turnovers in the fourth quarter and bolted out 21 points, which sealed the 42-34 loss.

Despite the final score, Head Coach Jeff Brohm and the Hilltoppers left Champaign, Illinois with an added sense of optimism. “We’re a good football team,” Brohm said after the game. “I think we can compete with anybody we play. I think we have guys that are capable of playing, if our guys continue to fight and get better each and every day, learn how to take advantage of our opportunities just like that, we’ll have a chance to win the ballgame.”

The Hilltoppers didn’t play awfully, but they didn’t play phenomenally either. Looking back to last season, their performance at Tennessee was simply atrocious, due to five turnovers in a six-play span.

WKU was 15 minutes away from an upset with a 27-21 lead in the fourth quarter. Then, in many games last year, the Hilltoppers stopped playing aggressive football just long enough to let mistakes cost them a win.

With a little over two minutes left on the clock, Illinois had scored two quick touchdowns to retake the lead. One of those scores came off a pick-six from redshirt senior quarterback Brandon Doughty.

Stop me if you’ve seen this scenario before too, but the Hilltoppers let mistakes cost them a win.

Doughty has to be a good sign of the future. “We just need to understand, especially in our new conference now, we have tough competition,” Brohm said. “We’re going to have to play well for four quarters. I think if our guys continue to fight and get better each and every day, learn how small the difference is between winning and losing, that you’ve got to stay focused and locked in and play hard and play for all four quarters. We can do that and sustain that, we’ll have a chance to win the ballgame.”

That seems to be the problem with the ‘could of,’ ‘should of,’ ‘would of’ games that WKU has let slip away.

With the exception of the Tennessee loss, WKU hasn’t been completely outmatched in their losses the past two seasons. Following last season’s loss at Tennessee, WKU played three solid quarters of football at South Alabama, before Doughty threw three interceptions.

The fact that the Hilltoppers were 15 minutes away from an upset was a bit more encouraging than its week two visit to Tennessee. Their losses the past two seasons have proven to follow suit to last year, but this team was on the road against a team wearing orange.

For the first time in a while, this is a team that can take more positives from a loss than negatives. While the run game was absent in the first game, junior running back Leon Allen finally got rolling with 119 yards on the ground. Outside of the pick-six, Doughty’s performance wasn’t bad, considering that was on the road against a team wearing orange.

If the play continues to follow the script, week three this season could prove to follow suit too in last year’s but this team is more experienced and mature now, with different plans in mind.

“We really preach not getting too high after wins and not too low after losses,” Brohm said after, has to be a good sign of the future for Brohm and company.

This season was a bit more even after wins and not too low after losses. Looking back to last season, their performance at Tennessee was simply atrocious, due to five turnovers in a six-play span.

WKU junior running back Leon Allen (33) huddles Illinois Taylor Barton (3) on Sept. 6 in a matchup against the Fighting Illini.

Tops take lessons from Illinois into rivalry week

BY ELLIOTT PRATT
SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

The Hilltoppers defensive back Prince Charles Iworah (30) elevates in front of Illinois’ Geronimo Allison (8) for an interception during the third quarter on Sept. 6 at Memorial Stadium in Champaign, Illinois.

Just like that, WKU let one get away. The team’s eyes were opened and let them know how fast victory can escape their grasp.

Elliott Pratt

Sportswriter

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