**Veteran students adjust to college life**

**BY JESSICA VOORHEES**  
**NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM**

Most students entered their freshman year of college coming from a world where their greatest concerns were who to ask to prom or moving away from home. For veterans who entered school after years of service in the military, trying to adapt and fit in can be a challenge.

Portland, Tennessee freshman Chris Parker started school this fall, 30 days after serving active duty in the Army. He was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Parker said it was challenging to make the transition to the college lifestyle.

“It’s difficult to go from that and into this role of being a civilian where you’re dealing with people that are younger and not experienced in a professional way of life,” he said.

**CHHS dean search to conclude**

**BY LASHANA HARNEY**  
**NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM**

The current dean of the College of Health and Human Services, John Bonaguro, is stepping down.

Bonaguro worked as the dean for 12 years. He was the founding dean of the college and has watched it grow into the largest college at WKU with approximately one out of four students having a major in the college.

The search committee for the new dean, appointed by Gordon Emslie, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, is nearing the end of the search.

Cheryl Stevens, search committee member and dean of the Ogden College of Science & Engineering, said the search for the new dean resumed this summer after the initial search failed.

**SGA resolution supports amending alcohol policy**

**BY LASHANA HARNEY**  
**NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM**

The Student Government Association will vote on a resolution Tuesday in its last meeting of the year that would support on-campus restaurants adding a new type of item to their menus.

Resolution 13-14-E Resolution to Support amending the University’s Alcohol Policy and Student Code of Conduct, will support amending WKU’s alcohol policy and the code of conduct to include allowing students age 21 or older to purchase and possess alcohol on-campus.

The current alcohol policy states that it is against the Student Code of Conduct for students to drive under the influence, to be publicly intoxicated, to consume alcohol while underage, to possess alcohol in on-campus housing, to use alcohol in an on-campus residence hall or to have possession of alcohol on campus.

**SEE DEAN PAGE A3**

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**SEE DEAN PAGE A3**
FOOTBALL

Brohm called a timeout and threw the same late-game play they ran in last season’s nail-biting finale — a 31-31 win over Arkansas State — with the same personnel: Doughty and redshirt senior receiver Willie McNeal.

Turns out, the result was the same, too.

“That’s our favorite play. We do it every week — two-point play,” McNeal said following the game. “Usually I’m in the inside. It was a little mixed up. Coach called a timeout to get everyone where they needed to be. I ran the slant, and I saw the guy was already celebrating inside. Stuck the slant hard and came out, and Doughy just threw a perfect pass.

“I was waiting for my team to come celebrate with me. Like I said, we do it every week in practice. It’s the same routine.”

The two-point conversion might have been dashed for the Hilltoppers, but the 67-66 overtime victory over the Thundering Herd was anything but. The win marked the first over a ranked FBS opponent in program history, and the 133 combined points scored is the most in any FBS game.

“It’s definitely one of those games that you’ll remember for a long time,” Brohm said. “It was a statement game. It really showed what Western Kentucky can be in the future. To beat an unranked opponent in the top-25 on their turf in the last game of the year, it’s just a great way to go out.”

His 44 touchdown passes this season are an FBS-high, and the total is tied for third most in single-season FBS history.

The remarkable performance at Marshall shall capped off a record-breaking regular season for the Hilltoppers. WKU set a new mark for points in a season with 528, surpassing the former total of 432 that was reached in 35 games during the 2002 season — three more than the Hilltoppers have played this season.

WKU’s 69 regular-season touchdowns break a 41-year-old record of 52, and its single-game yardage total of 738 against Marshall breaks previous single-game highs set against Bowling Green State (708) and Middle Tennessee State (713).

The Hilltoppers also broke single-season records for total yards, passing yards, touchdowns and first-downs, setting new per-game marks in points, yards, touchdowns scored and first-downs.

The defense has steadily improved as well, forcing at least one turnover in eight of the last nine games. The four interceptions against Marshall had a career-high for interceptions thrown by Cato. He had thrown eight in the previous 11 games leading up to Friday’s matchup.

Brohm’s senior receiver, safety Branden Leston nabbed three of the picks one week after he recorded two in the game.

The redshirt senior capped off a record-breaking regular season — three more than the 66 that was reached in 15 games during the 2002 season — for the Hilltoppers. WKU’s 69 regular-season touchdowns break a 41-year-old record of 52, and its single-game yardage total of 738 against Marshall breaks previous single-game highs set against Bowling Green State (708) and Middle Tennessee State (713).

The redshirt senior finished the day 34-for-50 with 491 yards, eight touchdowns and two interceptions, bringing his all-time career touchdown pass total to 58 — the most in program history. His 44 touchdown passes this season are an FBS-high, and the total is tied for the fifth-most in single-season FBS history.

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"There’s a huge cloud around the challenges we face as veterans," he said.

Bonaguro said although he will miss the job and the people he worked with, he thinks getting new leadership is important and he looks forward to spending time with his family. "I plan to reflect, think, spend time with my family," he said. "But now it’s changed a lot in my life with the sabbatical and stepping down from the deanship."
How to prepare for a successful finals week

You're about to hit the wall. Now is the time to pull together and get your head back into the game. The last few weeks are going to be hectic, but you've got this. So here are some tips to prepare for finals:

1. Get your sleep. Good sleep is vital to study. Lay out all the material that you have that will be on the test. Spend fifteen minutes a day going back over the material. A little studying each day now will be a whole lot better than doing it all in the last week.

2. Stay organized. Knock yourself out. Prioritize your tasks and make a schedule. Make sure you have enough time to study for each subject.

3. Take breaks. Good sleep is vital to study. Lay out all the material that you have that will be on the test. Spend fifteen minutes a day going back over the material. A little studying each day now will be a whole lot better than doing it all in the last week.

4. Stay hydrated. Drink a lot of water and quench your thirst to keep your body hydrated and your brain functioning.

5. Stay active. Exercise is key to maintaining your energy levels and improving your mood.

6. Stay positive. Believe in yourself and your ability to succeed. Don't let negative thoughts get in your way.

Remember, finals are coming. Did I just ruin your week? Give up now. Give up the thrill of student life. The holidays are here, and it's time to enjoy yourself. How to prepare for a successful finals week?
I forgot to charge my camera battery so I totally screwed up that shoot.

It’s going to be okay. It’s a part of the experience.

Photos by Alyssa Pointer
**AAMBGA works to revive past**

**BY STEPHANIE JESSIE**

LIFE@WKUHERALD.COM

In 1866 in Bowling Green, Virgil Loving was the big man in town. A blacksmith with seven and a half acres of land in his name, Living and his wife, Gilly, had six daughters. He could read and write, though Gilly could not. He was also a blacksmith in a world fresh out of the Civil War.

In this new post-Civil War Bowling Green area, black men made up the majority of the lower class. Virgil bought the land and paid the mortgage through his work as a blacksmith and by selling land to other blacks in the area. Virgil died in 1913 and is buried with his wife in Mount Moriah cemetery, located behind Speers Kentucke Park. The land he was said to own is estimated to be located near the railroads and Baseline Road.

It is stories like those of Virgil Loving that the African American Museum of Bowling Green Area wishes to tell. Created in 2011, the AAMBGA's official mission statement is to recover, document, preserve and present the history of African Americans in the Bowling Green area.

"What we have to understand is black history is more than just the month of February," Lloren Foster said. "But if you're going to compartmentalize it in that fashion, we see ourselves as the majority of the lower class. Virgil brought them together.

"(The AAMBGA) has developed a shared interest of creating an African American Museum in Bowling Green. We haven't always been able to get the resources and a lot of what you would like to know hasn't always been recorded because many of us...were property," Foster said. "When it came to census records, you were not named. You were a pencil stroke.

The group of those involved in the museum is ever-changing, as more and more people hear about it. The AAMBGA works to revive past

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**TOP:** Ricky Shelton, left, 23, of Franklin, and Jeff Allison, 37, of Bowling Green, carry a tree out of Morgan's Fresh Cut Trees for customers Mary and Thendil Smith on Monday. The tree lot, located at Lost River Cave, sells four varieties of trees, as well as garlands, wreaths and tree stands.

**BOTTOM:** Freshly cut garland strands sit ready for purchase at Morgan's Fresh Cut Trees in Bowling Green on Monday. The trees made their way to the Bluegrass after the Burks' daughter, Morgan, formed a bond with a regular customer asking the Burk family if they would be interested in starting a market stand. This simple event later sparked conversation and resulted in the lot of their own.

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**Seasonal tree lot celebrates family, holidays**

**BY ANDREW HENDERSON**

LIFE@WKUHERALD.COM

Around the Christmas season, the scent of pine trees, Fraser firs and camellia flowers are abundant as trees line the streets. In the West End of Bowling Green, Morgan's Fresh Cut Trees is home to the aforementioned trees, as well as grand firs, conicals, Douglas firs, white pines and many others. Morgan's celebrates its fifth year in Bowling Green this season, having expanded to lots in Nashville, and other areas across Tennessee and Kentucky.

The business was started by Cindy Burk and her husband, Paxx, who both act as co-owners in the business, which opened for the season last Friday, Nov. 28.

The trees that line Morgan’s were all grown in Hart, Michigan.

The business made their way to the Bluegrass after the Burks’ daughter, Morgan, formed a bond with a regular customer asking the Burk family if they would be interested in starting a tree lot of their own.

Thus, Morgan's Fresh Cut Trees began, with the family business being named after Morgan, who routinely lends a helping hand at the lot. A portion of the funds from the trees also go to help Morgan.

“A percentage of the profits goes into her college fund,” Burk said. Burk said that quite a bit of work goes into growing the trees and setting up the lot. She also highlighted many of the differences that surrounded the various types of trees they have. Some trees have to be cared for differently to ensure they all grow tall enough for the holiday season.

She said that many people are unfa-

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**'HORRIBLE BOSSES 2' IS A HEATING HELPING OF STUPID FUN**

**BY JACKSON FRENCH**

OPINION@WKUHERALD.COM

In 1866 in Bowling Green, Virgil Loving was the big man in town. A blacksmith with seven and a half acres of land in his name, Loving and his wife, Gilly, had six daughters. He could read and write, though Gilly could not. He was also a blacksmith in a world fresh out of the Civil War.

In this new post-Civil War Bowling Green area, black men made up the majority of the lower class. Virgil bought his seven and a half acres on Jan. 1, 1866 from Victor Loving, a Louisville man who had connections to the railroads and Russellville Road.

It is stories like those of Virgil Loving that the African American Museum of the Bowling Green Area wishes to tell. Created in 2011, the AAMBGA’s official mission statement is to recover, document, preserve and present the history of African Americans in the Bowling Green area.

“We have to understand is black history is more than just the month of February,” Lloren Foster said. “But if you’re going to compartmentalize it in that fashion, we see ourselves as the majority of the lower class. Virgil brought them together.

“Installing the Board of Directors, we have worked on the project together since 2011 after discovering a shared interest of creating an African American Museum in Bowling Green. We brought them together.

“I didn’t even know his name until we had (the steering) meeting in 2011,” Foster said.

Long, a retired WKU professor spends much of his time researching in the Bowling Green archives to find stories like Virgil’s.

“We haven’t always been able to get to the resources and a lot of what you would like to know hasn’t always been recorded because many of us...were property,” Foster said. “When it came to census records, you were not named. You were a pencil stroke.

The group of those involved in the museum is ever-changing, as more and more people hear about it.
riot of laughter. Charlie Day brings a loud and manic energy to the production that Jason Bateman nicely counteracts with his subtle approach. Jason Sudeikis, meanwhile, is a bottomless well of choice insult humor.

Luckily the protagonists aren’t doing the exact same thing as in the last film. This time, they try their hands at holding a CEO’s son, played by Chris Pine, for ransom. “Horrible Bosses 2,” like its predecessor, follows these average Joes trying their hands at real crime. It maintains just enough variation to keep the formula from getting too stale. Pine’s character is funny and charming enough to make you forget he’s a terribly abusive employer. Though almost as funny as the original, “Horrible Bosses 2” fails to present a clever story. When the protagonists start to execute their big plan, the movie jumps the tracks. At this point, all remaining shreds of believability — which there weren’t many of to begin with — fly right out the window. The film’s decision to cut to credits without bothering to tie up numerous loose ends leaves a bad taste in one’s mouth.

Even though it’s not as good as the original, “Horrible Bosses 2” is still easily worth the time it takes to watch. Though the story is much weaker and the overall production is both dumber and sloppier, there’s enough racy humor and stooge-ish hijinks for this sequel to provide an enjoyable experience.

THE FIRST HALF OF ‘MOCKINGJAY’ IS BORING

After the events of the last movie, it’s impossible for “The Hunger Games” series to return to the gladiatorial combat that originally put it on the map. This time around, the stakes are higher with a full-blown insurrection breaking out in Panem. Though “Mockingjay - Part One” is epic in scope, it fails to bring back what people first appealing about the series.

Simply put, there’s not enough action in this movie. We only see Katniss in combat once. There are a few other tumultuous moments, but our heroine isn’t in them except for an air-raid-prompted evacuation. Some of these end up being accidentally funny because the rebels somehow don’t have guns. They just stupidly charge at armed soldiers like ants, hoping to overcome them through sheer numbers. This doesn’t feel like the story of a revolution as much as it does the story about that revolution’s PR campaign. The first half of “Mockingjay - Part One” is about how rebel leaders Julianne Moore and Philip Seymour Hoffman build propaganda around Katniss, which is about as unexciting as it sounds.

Director Francis Lawrence vastly overestimates the importance of a few of the characters. He wastes a lot of screen time on Prim, played by Willow Shields, and the irritating Effie Trinket, played by Elizabeth Banks. Both are in this movie an awful lot despite having long since lost any relevance. There’s also a weird sentimentality built up around Trinket as if we’re supposed to be happy the series’ most annoying character is back. The director seems to have forgotten what makes these movies appeal to so many people. He doesn’t compensate for the absence of arena fighting with anything interesting. Instead, we get boring discourses on politics and propaganda. In an apparent attempt to be smarter than its predecessors, “Mockingjay - Part One” only succeeds in being less fun.

NOW PLAYING: DOUBLE FEATURE

星期六/星期日 11月22日和11月23日

“horrible bosses 2” 和 “the hunger games: mockingjay - part one”

IT Helpdesk ResNet

www.wku.edu/it/helpdesk www.wku.edu/it/resnet 270-745-7000

That ad was supposed to be BLACK AND WHITE? Whoopsie Daisy.
**TUESDAY, DEC. 2**

**Ecuador in Library Special Collections**
Location: Kentucky Building, second floor
Time: All Day

**Geology Club Bake Sale**
Location: EST Lobby
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Geometry Chats Series**
Location: Health Services Lobby
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Student Government Association**
Location: DSU 3029
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

** Keep it Real tournament**
Location: DSU 3024
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**WGU vs. Bowling Green State**
Location: Oddfellows Hall, 7th floor
Time: 7:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 5**

**Ecuador in Library Special Collections**
Location: Kentucky Building, second floor
Time: All Day

**Louisville Actor and Writer**
Location: Kentucky Building, second floor
Time: All Day

**Downlight Opens Up**
Location: Fountain Square Park
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**“Harper and the Magical Book”**
Location: Gordon Wilson Hall 0100
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Symphony at WKU: Holiday Pops**
Location: Van Meter Auditorium
Time: 7:00 p.m.

**AMAGBA CONTINUES HELPING**

When walking into the multi-purpose Physical Education Center and seeing students using defense tactics to defend against bear hugs and other attacks, one might think this isn't a conventional classroom setting.

Self-defense courses are offered, both for men and women. Andy Wright, instructor for the course, has taught self-defense for men for the past two years. Some students take the course with no prior experience, while others have had experience with jiu jitsu or karate.

"Some do have experience, whether it’s just karate but other martial arts also. Oftentimes, said Wright. "If you have prior experience in martial arts, it’s fine. If you don’t, that’s fine too."

Wright hopes all students will gain confidence after completing the course. "The best self defense is when you don’t have to defend yourself. Prevention is the key," Wright said.

Some students continue with martial arts after the course, while others decide to pursue other hobbies. Wright hopes students will gain a variety of questions that they can’t go back to artificial situations. "The best self defense is when you can’t defend yourself. Prevention is the key," Wright said.

Whether or not students continue with martial arts after the course, Wright hopes all students will gain confidence after completing the course. "The best self defense is when you don’t have to defend yourself. Prevention is the key," Wright said.

"People tell us once they’ve tried a non-official non-profit agency, so the city gave the money to the housing authority to manage until the project is finished. Nesterov said he probably won’t continue with karate or taekwondo after the course, which is exactly what he did. Wright said that he was interested in karate and self-defense when he took Karate 1 for a physical education credit.

Wright went on to become a second degree black belt in karate and a first degree black belt in Japanese jiu jitsu.

In addition to teaching the physical aspects of self-defense, Wright also focuses on the philosophical side. "The course teaches the levels of conflict escalation and how to de-escalate a situation. "The best self-defense is when you don’t have to defend yourself. Prevention is the key," Wright said.

Williams was raised in Alabama in the ‘60s and experienced much of these hardships when a young black man. "I saw the changes," he said. "I saw the progress." Williams was raised in Alabama in the ‘60s and experienced much of these hardships when a young black man. "I saw the changes," he said. "I saw the progress." Williams was raised in Alabama in the ‘60s and experienced much of these hardships when a young black man. "I saw the changes," he said. "I saw the progress." Williams was raised in Alabama in the ‘60s and experienced much of these hardships when a young black man. "I saw the changes," he said. "I saw the progress."
WKU falls at Stony Brook, notches Thanksgiving win at MSG

The Lady Toppers fell at Stony Brook's Citation Center on Saturday and then turned to the holidays, overindulging then getting to the gym to win a Thanksgiving tournament.

WS to Stony Brook...In what has become a half-decade of defeats, the Hilltoppers fell at Stony Brook's Citation Center 71-64 in the second game of the NIT Season Tip-Off on Nov. 29, giving WKU its first three-game losing streak since last February.

WKU took one-point lead in the tournament, but was unable to play, before committing three-straight turnovers and missing four consecutive shot attempts. The Lady Toppers committed eight second-half turnovers and were outscored 30-18 from the free throw stripe.

The Lady Toppers scored the first three this season for Junior forward Aleksej Rostov goes up for a shot over two Belmont defenders in WKU's Nov. 22 game against the Bruins. Rostov scored four points and pulled down five rebounds in 18 minutes of action in WKU's 64-63 loss.

Junior guard Carson Price led the team in scoring with 19 points, Junior forward Sam Wamphy added a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Foster broke his chocolate against the Seawolves. After averaging 7.7 points and shooting 54.5 percent from the field in the last three games, he was limited to just 10 points going 5-for-9 from the field, despite fouling out with 1:51 remaining.

Stony Brook (3-3) held a 58-57 lead to 72-53, but the Lady Toppers erased a double-digit deficit to 61-59 with 3:37 remaining in the second half. WKU then went on a 3-0 run to grab the lead 64-61 with 1:27 to play. The Lady Toppers would not score again until the 10:56 mark of the first half.

WKU 64, Saint Joseph's 59

The final game of the team's three-straight games against Atlantic 10 foes on the road was a Nov. 29 70-65 overtime win over tournament host team Hofstra.

The Lady Toppers scored the first three points of the game against the Bruins. Rostov scored four points and pulled down five rebounds in 18 minutes of action in WKU's 64-63 loss.

Junior guard Carson Price, who led all scorers with 19 points, Junior forward Sam Wamphy added a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

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FOOTBALL

Continued from Sports

Undefeated season since 1999.

Marshall and Louisiana Tech will play for the Conference USA championship in Huntington, West Virginia this Saturday.

When WKU announced its move to C-USA in April 2013, it knew right away that its football program would reap the benefits of the league’s multiple bowl tie-ins.

C-USA guarantees five bowl games to teams with seven or more wins. If the bowls can’t be filled, the teams with 6-6 records are next in line.

WKU’s upset win, on the road at then-undefeated Marshall, not only bolstered their resume, but guaranteed their spot in the postseason, with a 7-5 regular season record.

Despite last season’s 8-4 record, a program best, in their last year of the Sun Belt Conference, the Hilltoppers were left out of the postseason because the league only guaranteed two bowl games. Instead, Louisiana-Lafayette and Arkansas State finished first and second, respectively, in the conference in 2013 and earned a bowl berth over WKU.

C-USA has primary bowl tie-ins with the newly formed Bahamas Bowl, Boca Raton Bowl and New Mexico Bowl, along with the Heart of Dallas Bowl and the Hawaii Bowl.

Stewart said the only bowl outside of the C-USA tie-ins that could be open as an option for WKU would be the New Orleans Bowl, which usually pits a representative from the Sun Belt and the Mountain West Conference.

“We’re just kind of in a wait-and-see mode,” Stewart said. “We need to find out what happens this weekend in the conference championship games… and whether or not the New Orleans Bowl opens up, and play into where Conference USA schools go.”

WKU’s lone bowl trip occurred in 2012 when the Hilltoppers fell 24-21 to Central Michigan in the Little Caesar’s Pizza Bowl in Detroit, Michigan. However, WKU’s options, as an affiliate of C-USA, will have the Hilltoppers playing in much warmer weather this season.

“I do like warm weather,” Brohm said. “They all sound good to me.”

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Exciting. I think our players enjoy that. ‘Definitely think people like watching that brand of football.’

This is exactly what has me most interested in seeing which team faces the Hilltoppers in a few weeks.

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Brohm, a quarterback by nature, knows to form an offense around the quarterback’s strengths, which is exactly what he did with Doughty.

“Being a former quarterback, you know how important it is,” Brohm said. “You want to try to develop the offense around the quarterback’s skills, whoever that is, and mold the offense around him, because he’s the guy who’s going to have the ball in his hands the entire time.”

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SIDELINES

Continued from Sports

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The plus side to it all is you get to see the two of them work some offensive magic one more time.
This is the first time in the last four years that WKU Athletics Director Todd Stewart doesn't have to work to push the Hilltopper football program into the postseason.

"What has been nice about this week, versus each of the last three years, was this was a week before, of heavy lobbying — calling and selling and calling back and double-checking and sending the 15th email and leaving the 20th message, and now we're not having to do any of that because of the position we're in," Stewart said. "It's been much easier this time around."

WKU (7-5, 4-4 Conference USA) secured its place in a bowl game for just the second time in the last four years after a 67-66 overtime victory against Marshall on Nov. 28. The bowl lineups will be announced on Sunday.

"It's definitely one of those games you'll remember for a long time," Head Coach Jeff Brohm said. "It was a statement game. It really showed what Western Kentucky can be in the future... To beat an undefeated opponent in the top 25 on their turf in the last game of the year, it's been a long time," Head Coach Jeff Broom said. "It was a state-..."
It’s easy to overlook Bowling Green, despite its rank as the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s third largest city. Yes, it pops up on the national radar now and then. In February, a sinkhole swallowed eight Corvettes at the National Corvette Museum as sports car aficionados worldwide watched in collective pain.

The WKU men’s basketball team garnered fame as a Cinderella pick in the 2008 and 2009 NCAA Tournaments, reeling off upsets in consecutive years, highlighted by Ty Rogers’ now-famous buzzer-beating, 26-foot shot to defeat Drake University.

Bobby Petrino, reputation smudged from an extramarital affair with a University of Arkansas athletic trainer and a motorcycle accident in which they were involved, landed at WKU for a year — and quickly quit to return to coaching duties at the University of Louisville.

And then there was the “non-incident” that occurred on the WKU campus a few years back, when a report of students with guns led state and national media, and law enforcement SWAT teams, to descend on campus like bees to honey.

But now the fast-food hub, long famous for its Corvette heritage, might have a natural signature developing that could stick: a budding music scene born of roots that some might not know about.

Bowling Green bands such as Cage the Elephant, Morning Teleportation and Sleeper Agent — long known by the college set at WKU and elsewhere — continue to make waves nationally.

In 2011, Rolling Stone took notice of the Bowling Green music scene. The iconic music publication selected Cage the Elephant and Sleeper Agent as the No. 1 and No. 2 best new artists of the year, respectively. Cage the Elephant’s latest album “Melophobia,” released in October 2013, gained critical acclaim. The group played on “Ellen” in March 2014. Ellen Degeneres is a fan, she says. They also nabbed spots playing well-known summer festivals in 2014 — Coachella, Bonnaroo and Lollapalooza.

The recent emergence of the Bowling Green music scene might seem like a contemporary trend. However, the city has been the stomping ground for talented musicians for decades.

The Hilltoppers, a pop trio formed at WKU in the 1950s, sold more than a million copies of the 1953 release, “P.S. I Love You.”

Bowling Green native and bluegrass musician Sam Bush was instrumental in creating the “new grass” sound, which incorporated electric instruments and song styles from other genres.

All this occurred long before Matt Shultz, the front man for Bowling Green’s Cage the Elephant, dangled from the rafters for capacity shows or snapped backstage selfies with Beyoncé at Coachella.

From country songwriters to rap groups to punk rockers, Bowling Green, more than anything, means music.
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In 1983, Kenny Lee Smith opened the doors of Picasso's so the Ken Smith Band could perform for locals in Bowling Green. Local artists who gained national recognition, such as Government Cheese and the Kentucky Headhunters, all performed at the bar on a regular basis. It was the epicenter for live music in Bowling Green until it was shut down.

"For years and years, all I'd wanted was to actually make a record," Willis said. "The neighbors didn't want to hear us. We'd have to go up to the basement to record. And the people next door would wake up in the morning and say, 'We can smell you!'"

Womack likened playing a show in Bowling Green to "Pink Floyd's first album, but 10 times crazier." Womack said Government Cheese thing was happening. "It was just a party. We were playing rock'n'roll to people, and they would be dancing, and having fun, and just really enjoying it."

"Their faces became etched with pain, and we would be playing rock'n'roll to those people, and they would be dancing in pain because they had to go to work the next day," Womack said. "Government Cheese became a real step up from doing open mic nights at the coffeehouse."

"People were getting drunk as hell and buying drinks. Womack said. "We made our stamp, and that's my story." Womack said he is thrilled to have the opportunity to write a new chapter in the history of Government Cheese.
**MUSIC FOR THE SOULS**

Phillip Douglas knows about sticking around. The son of a country music singer, he grew up in Bowling Green, and his memories of the town are closely tied to a music scene that is part and parcel of the city’s identity. He spent much of his childhood going to concerts and listening to music, and he said that being a part of the music scene is one of the most important things he’s ever done. He’s pushing local artists today.

"Mom would go to church and cry and break down," he said. "You could see your breath in my room in the winter. I thought everybody was crying." The town was tough, but he knew that he didn’t want to move away. He was in love with the church, and he’s still got us through.

Douglas co-wrote “Kiss This,” Tip Dale’s most popular song, alongside Faith Hill and George Jones. “The music scene in Bowling Green is a different place now than it was when I was growing up,” he said. "We’re more open to different genres of music, and we’re proud of our roots.”

"I’m a dreamer, I’m a poet, I’m a singer, I’m a songwriter," he said. "I’ve been doing this for a long time, and I’m not going to stop.”

"It was a dream come true," he said. "I never thought I’d be able to make a living doing what I love.”

**THE 'PO' FOLKS**

"We bring up a band almost every single day living, everyday people together," said Davis. "That's what we do, and it's one of the most important things I've ever done." He said that he’s been a part of the music scene for a long time, and he’s proud of the role that he’s played in the community of musicians in Bowling Green.

"I love everything about Bowling Green. It's really nice to see a lot of musical talent,” he said. "I've been doing this for a long time, and I'm not going to stop.”

"I didn't get into music just to make a living," Davis said. "I've been doing this for a long time, and I'm not going to stop.”

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**A 'REVOLUTION'**

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"It was a dream come true," he said. "I never thought I'd be able to make a living doing what I love."
Within the past decade, Bowling Green music scene has proved to be a consistent producer of indie rock talent. Cage the Elephant paved the way, winning regional and national attention for its debut album, "Celebration." The band's first album led to tours with other respected acts, as well as an appearance at the 2012 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. Cage the Elephant’s ascent to prominence was no fluke, but also proved Cage the Elephant's influence on the local music scene since his early adoles-

cence, and has watched it flourish. Williams was hesitant at first to compar Bowling Green with other established music scenes, but he said that is quickly changing.

"People have been saying for years, since Cage really started picking up momentum, that Bowling Green's music scene was going to be one that people wrote about and remembered like Seattle's or Athens, Georgia," Williams said.

"For a long time, I thought it was silly of people to write history while it was happening like that. But now that more time has gone, I'm starting to believe that these people might be right, or at least close, and we are all really lucky to have a community like this.," Cage the Elephant's Tony Smith said about a history on top of the music scene in Nashville. Smith said the Bowling Green music scene, Cut the teeth playing rock 'n' roll in basements and small venues in her hometown as a teenager. But he waited for the day when he could grace the stage of a venue in Bowling Green. That day, he said, is the day he knew he had arrived.

Smith said the small-town feel of Bowling Green often had him longing for something more. "It's boring," he said. "If you're not in a band, you're not creating some kind of idea or doing something, you're probably going to school or working a job. I think the creativity comes from being antsy and wanting to do something.

Smith spent his formative years fronting bands like Such Tall Buildings, The Decade of Experts and Assasins and Downtown Handshake. He was immersed in a Bowling Green music scene that includes the likes of Cage the Elephant, Morning Teleportation and the emerging Buffalo Roosters.

"As a teenager, I always wanted to play in Nashville — it was everything to me," said Smith, a 2010 WKU graduate with a degree in advertising.

"If you're going to make it, you have to play Nashville. They wouldn't book my band or anything," Smith said attending shows in Nashville inspired him. He'd try to channel the energy he saw.

"We'd go to a lot of shows in Nashville, and we'd take it to Bowling Green and we'd try to duplicate it," Smith said.

Despite the rejection, Smith trudges ahead in his creative endeavors. Smith said the Bowling Green music scene he grew up with had been hungry for attention in regard to its musical talent for some time.

"Maybe Bowling Green feels a little shunned," he said. "We've impoverished. We've got music and ideas and we've gotta do it. 'So fuck you.' That's kind of the mentality."

Daniel Shultz, the youngest brother of Cage the Elephant’s Matt and Brad Shultz, said playing in Nashville is still always there and in trying to ride his brothers’ coattails to find a career of his own. But he does intend to carry on the family’s legacy of musicianship.

"It's a big thing like for a Bowling Green band playing Nashville for the first time," Shultz said. "But once you eventually keep going and you're playing like Atlanta or whatever, Nashville is still always there and in your heart."

Shultz, 18, has already played popu-
lar summer music festival Lollapalooza, playing bass for his cousin Kate Stewart’s band Plastic Visions in Chi-

Shultz remains focused on making a lasting impression on the local music scene like his brothers have, but most important, he wants artistry in Bowling Green to continue to prosper.

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"I just want this to thrive," he said. "I want there to be something for gen-
ations and generations, I just want this town to grow musically and as a community and everything."
To longtime Bowling Green resi-
dents disconnected with the local mu-
ice, it’s sometimes still referred to as the old Parakeet. The two-story brick structure is now home to Tidball’s, one of Bowling Green’s premier music venues, and is considered by many to be the epicenter of the music scene. John Tidball and his business part-
ner, Brian Jarvis, both Springfi eld, Missouri, natives, opened the bar in 2001. In the 13 years since, the venue has become a cornerstone of the local music community, regularly featuring some of the best to play.

"Everyone in the scene inspires us," said Jarvis. "Everyone comes out to support fel-
lowers, and that's pretty important for local music." Jarvis vividly recalls Cage The Elephant, then "five kids that had long stringy hair," playing their fi rst show at Tidball’s.

In the beginning, Jarvis wasn’t ex-
actly a fan. "When they fi rst played their music it was a little jazzy, so in your face out there," he said. "They would do crazy shit. Climb on the speakers and play, climb on the balcony and hang from the chain." Jarvis said it wasn’t before Perfection captivating, high-en-
ergy sets.

"It's like you have to turn over a new leaf when you move to this town recently," he said. "There's been a band recently played shows at The Manor, a long-
time venue in Bowling Green, Plum Pizza Shopping Center, and at Mabelle keyboardist Spencer Wood’s house, where he said, "It's like you’re right there with the audience. They’re right in your face, and the energy and the anxiety and the pressure of just, just this will is that it's great. It's really unique, sometimes it can get borderline scary." Jarvis said the venue at The Pig House, a defunct dance house venue that Cage The Elephant, Morning Telegraph and Sleeper Agent frequented in the days before Tidball's opened.

"Everyone was pretty loopy, the crowd was packed to the wall," he said. "We only got half-
way through a song, everybody was jumping at the same time and just it’s just the sort of vibe of the room. It’s just amazing." Jarvis said the venue at The Pig House, a defunct dance house venue that Cage The Elephant, Morning Telegraph and Sleeper Agent frequented in the days before Tidball’s opened.

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going Green and hang out and watch shows," she said. "I think that's really what we're all about," he said. "In the beginning, we kind of put them under our wing, since they're always been kind of looked out for us. Now, sometimes people speak of us.

Many locals are watching Bowling Green, bands, especially those bands sometimes you have to go out of town that's pretty cool." Jarvis said.

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