Ashland senior Greg Wellman sits in his living room with two of the three firearms he has at his residence. “I think if you got your concealed carry you should be able to carry. I’ve been shooting since I was old enough to hold a gun, and my father’s been shooting since he was a child. I grew up with it, and all of my family is pro-gun. I’ve had a lot of safety training and I feel comfortable around them,” Wellman said.

Wellman said while he was growing up, his entire family owned a gun. He said he was around 5 or 6 years old when he shot his first gun and that growing up in this sort of environment shaped his perspective on guns.

Overbearing senior Alexa Lamar grew up in a family environment similar to Wellman’s.

SEE WEAPONS PAGE A2

Students voice opinions on weapons

BY ANDREW HENDERSON
HERALDNEWS@WKU.EDU

Due to controversy surrounding gun rights and the Second Amendment, some students are weighing in on the culture surrounding guns in the nation and on campus. From April 25 to May 27 in 2013, the Pew Research Center conducted an American Trends Panel survey of 3,243 adults, including 1,196 who said they or someone in their household owned a gun, pistol or rifle. The American Trends Panel was created by the Pew Research Center and is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults living in households. According to the information from the 2014 ATP 26 percent of people ages 18-29 said they had a gun, rifle or pistol in their home. Additionally, the survey found that the South, including Kentucky, reported 38 percent of households with a gun in the home.

Ashland senior Gregory Wellman is part of that 38 percent. Not only does he own a gun in his home, he also hauls from a family whose that is the norm.

Ransdell clarifies questions to SGA senate

BY LASHANA HARNEY
HERALDNEWS@WKU.EDU

After a tabled resolution regarding the Confucius Institute last week, the Student Government Association presented a new resolution for first read accompanied with answers from President Gary Ransdell. After a brief introduction from SGA President Jay Todd Richey, Ransdell began his discussion with the senators by addressing his concerns and uncertainty regarding the recent interest in the proposed building for the Confucius Institute.

“This is something that is nine to 10 months old,” Ransdell said. “I don’t think he’s sure what is stirring it right now.”

President Gary Ransdell fields questions and concerns regarding the funding and construction of a new Confucius Institute building during a Student Government Association meeting held in the Student Senate Chambers on Tuesday.

SEE SGA PAGE A2

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New Interfaith Campus Coalition holds first meeting

Graduate student Emily Potter has turned her degree and interest for religious studies into one of the newest organizations on campus — the Interfaith Campus Coalition. ICC is a group of students, staff and faculty who described it as being more than just a community of people with different faith backgrounds, but rather as a place where they can work together beyond the realm of the religious group.

"I've talked to a lot, and I've seen little engagement between people with different faith backgrounds, even in theBowling Green community," Potter said.

"I never really saw them...in a negative way," Lamar said. "It was desensitized to them just cause I was always around them.

Despite sharing similar posts of growing up in up-going households, the two share slightly different views on why they own guns and why they own them.

"Why Own a Gun? Protection is No Reason" by Potter from the Research Center from 1999. Potter said he believes the two share different views on why they own a gun, 48 percent of gun owners believe they own a gun for protection.

"If you have a lot of money and you can afford a lot of guns, you can get a lot of guns," he said. "People have them because they feel confident many would stand up for them in case you're ever put into a situation where you may need to protect your-" Lamar said.

"There are three main objectives Potter-wants involved parties to think about: increasing religious education and literacy from different perspectives and how to foster meaningful interfaith-related conversations based on participants' experiences and being able to cooperate with people of different faiths," Ransdell said.

"I'm happy to support [Potter]," said Rollins. "The religious tolerance and different-" By Rollins from the Research Center from 1999. "I'm happy to support [Potter]," said Rollins.

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SGA allocates funds to study away scholarships

Most of the Student Government Association's bipartisan resolution passed on Tuesday focused on the Committee on Student Life. The resolution, though, passed $250 following the same meeting, though SGA passed a meeting following the same meeting. The bill passed $250 from Academic Affairs to provide funds for the special "Si, St. Petersburg: Leadership in the Latino Community." The funds directly cover half of the keynote speaker’s designated travel expenses. The keynote speaker is La donna Lechuz, a WKU alumna and lead coordinator for Bilingual Education. According to the bill, the other half of Lopez’s expenses will be covered by the Hilltop Community Organization of Latinx American Students (HOLES). During his report, SGA President

Due to budget cuts and an effort to improve SGA's financial situation, the Academic Advising and Retention Center revamped their Best Expectations Program into something they believe will help students more in the long run. BEP is a program designed to help those on academic probation get back in good standing with WKU.

With the new type of program, we’re anticipating to provide funds for the semi-annual "Si, Se Puede: Leadership in the Latino Community." The funds directly cover half of the keynote speaker’s designated travel expenses. The keynote speaker is La donna Lechuz, a WKU alumna and lead coordinator for Bilingual Education. According to the bill, the other half of Lopez’s expenses will be covered by the Hilltop Community Organization of Latinx American Students (HOLES). During his report, SGA President and Retention Center has received complaints about the program and is service for each other. Richey also reminded senate that the program, though designed to help those on academic probation get back in good standing with WKU, is not a punishment, as Richey said. "It is a support system for students that may not receive that support anywhere else. We really strive to develop a sense of trust in our groups so that students are able to really analyze their problems and how best to conquer them."

Best Expectations Program revamped to be more effective

Due to a Herald error, the headline and lead in the Smoking Committee Resolution 2-15-F, Funding for "Si, Se Puede: Leadership in the Latino Community" was passed unanimously. It allocated $1,200 from academic Affairs for maintenance and operation fees. The story also stated that the university would match Hanban's contribution to Disapprove of the Procedure that is expected to be completed in the Senate Conference Center. SGA will be hosting a competition to name the pub.

Next week, SGA will vote on Resolution 3-15-F, Resolution to Disapprove of the Procedure by which the Model Confucius Institute at Western Kentucky University was Effectuated.

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Professor makes history

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My Tinder horror story: vomit and Satan pizza

BY MOLLIE MOORE
HERALD OPINION@WKU.EDU

Tinder is kind of scary. You've only got one second to grab someone’s attention before they swipe left, and you've got to do that on your looks alone. When you do get a match, there are more messages asking for nudes, your Kik username or band promotion rather than a real conversation. If you do type away, you might catch someone’s unread sign-off in your inbox and actually get interested in you as a person. I thought I had met that person.

Luke and I matched, and we instant-messaged. With one instant message, I got his attention before they swipe left, and for a second, two people are having a human conversation.

As we warmed up to each other and exchanged numbers, Luke and I found out we had a lot in common and clicked. We continued messaging back and forth and realized we had a lot in common and that we had a good rapport.Messaging back and forth and then meeting in person became my most tranquil barf experience he's ever had thanks to Joanna Newsom playing in the background. As we entered the parking lot, he turned to the handle of his three-floor apartment and boldly said, “I’m going to invite myself in.” I agreed and was grateful.

We stopped for a right, and Luke began to look around frantically, asking me to roll the window down to let him get a whiff of the cold December air. All of a sudden, he dove for my floorboards and proceeded to vomit into the bag. In hindsight, I’ve realized most people have had their worst barfing moment on a date. You can’t control what someone else is going to do, whether it’s as bad as mine. If you think you don’t but would still like to share a traumatic experience, send them to us.

I snapped out of my state of shock to ding me to roll down the window to let the sounds of Joanna Newsom. Meanwhile, he was still barfing, and proceeded to vomit into the bag.

I asked if he was okay, and he said yes, it was just a little too much. We continued on our way, and proceeded to vomit into the bag.

In hindsight, I’ve realized most people have had their worst barfing moment on a date. You can’t control what someone else is going to do, whether it’s as bad as mine. If you think you don’t but would still like to share a traumatic experience, send them to us.

My Tinder horror story: vomit and Satan pizza

Anyone down for Netflix and chill?

By Jennifer King

By Mollie Moore
Bowling Green senior Dan Kirk sits in his room with his conceal-and-carry handgun. As a Navy veteran, Kirk has had a wide range of experiences around guns and supports gun safety. “I was in the military, and I come from a gun family. I think that owning firearms — not that it should be a requirement — but I think it’s a necessity in this day and age. It’s kind of complicated. It goes along with proper training and general firearms education. If you educate people correctly, sure, one should be able to own a gun. From a personal point of view, I enjoy guns. Not only are they good for self-defense in worst-case scenarios; they’re good for recreation, too. Now and then, I’ll go out to my parents’ house, and I’ll go shooting just to shoot. No matter if I’m shooting at a paper target or glass bottles, it’s fun. There is a feeling of relief, I guess you could say. For me it’s a feeling of relief because I know it’s a dangerous weapon and it’s a tool. So the fact that I feel in control of such a dangerous object makes me feel in control,” Kirk said.

Owensboro senior Alexa Lamar sits in her home with her semi-automatic pistol. “My dad bought me a BB gun when I was really little, and so it became something with my dad. It’s recreation as well as protection,” she said.

Junior Blake Johnson of Oldham County stands in his home with three of the four firearms he owns. “I’ve grown up around guns and am comfortable around them. I feel like we need responsible people around guns, especially with the way things have been lately. I hear people say tattoos are addictive; buying guns is addictive. I have my grandpa’s single-barrel shotgun, which I’m hoping to pass down to my kids. It’s a family thing I grew into and something I support and love. There is nothing like going out to a field with your friends and shooting pigeons and water jugs,” Johnson said.

Two of three firearms belonging to Ashland senior Greg Wellman rest on his living room couch. Wellman grew up around guns and says he is comfortable around them.

“My dad bought me a BB gun when I was really little, and so it became something with my dad. It’s recreation as well as protection,” she said.

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Big To-Do
Festival returns to Bowling Green

BY ANDREW CRITCHELOW
HERALD FEATURES@WKU.EDU

The annual Big To-Do Festival will be returning to Bowling Green, Kentucky on September 17th, 2015. This all-ages festival will include 29 acts, art booths, and on-site camping and much more. The festival will start on Thursday at noon and will wrap up on Sunday night. Weekend passes are available for $40 while Saturday-only passes are $30. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or in advance on the Big To-Do website.

Edghill Farm has been the venue for past Bowling Green music festivals including the Newgrass Festival and Starry Nights, both of which are no longer under operation. Downing said that the Big To-Do festival was founded to try to keep music festivals alive in Bowling Green.

“We just wanted to bring something back to our area that people can be proud of, to take part in and hopefully help grow,” Downing said.

This year’s festival will offer a variety of musical genres and focus local acts such as The Cartoons, Mona and Many Moons. These include Genevieve from Chicago and The Bothersome Lucky Buried.珑

Brown was able to travel independently to England and the Netherlands.

However, Brown said one of his favorite destinations of the trip was visiting the Van Gogh Museum.

“I am not huge into visual arts, but Van Gogh is one painterman I always like,” Brown said. “He was never given formal education in art; he just painted it. I have always been interested in how he just made it up along the way. I have always admired that.”

Outside the faculty-led trips, Brown was able to travel independently to England and to attend a Premier League match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United. Brown hopes to incorporate the excitement he was exposed to the match into his involvement with the WKU Red Wave, a student-run organization that is committed to building excitement and school spirit for Hilltopper athletics.

“I am heavily involved with WKU Red Wave and study fan cultures all over the world looking for inspiration,” Brown said. “Tottenham has had a huge influence on what I want to bring to the Hill.”

Numerous study-abroad opportunities are offered through WKU each year. According to Leslie Ford, a graduate assistant in the office of Study Abroad and Global Learning, studying abroad can help students find their passions in life and point them towards a field of study.

“Study abroad is really good for developing retention and reinvigorating students to learn,” Ford said.

Topper Tours Around the World: Amsterdam

BY KALLESE CHISH
HERALD FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Over the next several weeks, the Herald will be publishing stories about the summer adventures WKU students have taken around the globe.

Being able to study abroad and experience a new culture is a dream for many students, and at a school that is a “Leading American University with this International Reach,” this dream can become a reality.

Evan Brown, a senior from Tompkinsville, embarked on a faculty-led study-abroad trip to Amsterdam this past summer to study social policy.

“Amsterdam is a world-class city, an epicenter of culture and politics,” Brown said. “I wouldn’t pass up the opportunity to spend time studying a society as advanced as the Dutch.”

While abroad, Brown took a course called Social Deviance, which examines how groups study deviant beliefs and conditions as viole-
Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Van Meter Hall auditorium. She will reflect on recent Supreme Court decisions, said Larry Snyder, chairman of the Southern Kentucky Metropolis Enhancement Committee. Snyder believes WKU is very fortunate to have an attorney who is not only knowledgeable, but she talks about very complicated issues and has a very unique ability to simplify them in a way that non-experts can understand.” Legal history professor Patricia Mintzer is hoping to hear about Totenberg’s knowledge of the law.” She is a National Public Radio award-winning legal correspondent and has been honored by the American Bar Association for “continued service and excellence in legal reporting,” according to her official biography.

Nina Totenberg to shed light on SCOTUS decisions

By Katherine Sproles

Trottington is a National Public Radio award-winning legal correspondent and has been honored by the American Bar Association for “continued service and excellence in legal reporting,” according to her official biography.

Nina Totenberg will be the featured speaker at a presentation on the Supreme Court at Van Meter Hall on September 21st. Totenberg is a National Public Radio award-winning legal correspondent and has been honored by the American Bar Association for “continued service and excellence in legal reporting,” according to her official biography.

"She speaks to an intelligent audience, her communication is very important for folks to recognize contributions of female journalists,” he said. Totenberg is a National Public Radio award-winning legal correspondent and has been honored by the American Bar Association for “continued service and excellence in legal reporting,” according to her official biography.

"It’s developing community from scratch, Omega Buckner said. "With the right kind of leadership and focus on a specialization within.” Omega Buckner is one of the triplets who live in the Hill House, said graduate assistants and Bonner Leaders, another academic program within the ALIVE Center.

"The fact that you have someone who really got along and did everything — running a household and going to school, that’s the kick in the pants to our seniors who have no knowledge of the law.” She is a National Public Radio award-winning legal correspondent and has been honored by the American Bar Association for “continued service and excellence in legal reporting,” according to her official biography.

"It was the first time for us being out of town,” said Omega Buckner. "It’s been really good to have brothers, and I like really got along and did everything together. The three have never been separated living together, they say it’s different at school since they’re away from their parents and hometown. Andrew Buckner is one of the triplets who live in the Hill House, said graduate assistants and Bonner Leaders, another academic program within the ALIVE Center.

"We're just trying to have fun,” Downing said. "We're starting a new chapter in our lives and it’s a day where you can express yourself to what makes our region great.”

"If you’re new to this area, this is a great opportunity to experience everything that makes our region great.”

"If you never felt excluded or ganged-up on by your brothers, you actually grew up a tomboy, so we really got along and did everything together,” Adrienne Buckner said. "They’re really supportive. It’s actually really good to have brothers, and I like being the only girl.”

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Football

The Hilltoppers claiming each of the top two spots in the region for the first time in program history.

The honors came after a 41-38 win over Idaho this Friday with another solid showings for the WKU Cross country program.

A second-place finish at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival last Saturday in St. Louis.

The Hilltoppers have already had one athlete earn Cross Country All-America: Jen Sohn will take part in the region's postseason top-10.

In St. Louis, senior Katie Lee earned a fourth-place finish.

The women's team has also been performing well with five Lady Toppers placing in the Top 25 at St. Louis.

The game will take place at the WKU Convocation Center on Friday at 7 p.m.

This is a team that we think is a good football team," Head Coach Jeff Brohm said.

Brehm said the Hilltoppers are excited about the opportunity.

“Jessica has a lot on her plate, but she is doing a great job — certainly doing her part statistically and stepping up vocally as a leader,” said Bere.

But the game was not without error, and those errors are what Brehm and his staff have been focusing on this week in practice.

"Our attackers are doing a really good job taking care of the ball," Bere said.

"When they get an opportunity to put the ball away, they are doing that.

"The third set was a more evenly fought contest.

The Lady Toppers will end their Illinois road swing against Northern Illinois at Western Illinois this Friday.

"Northern Illinois is doing really well, they are blocking extremely well," Bere said.

"Our of-time is going to be really key to doing and being really effective.

The WKU Volleyball team is in Bloomington at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 18.

"We want to have a good show throughout the year as we are playing the competitive teams," Jenkins said.

The Hilltoppers are 2-1 in conference play, and they have all gone into overtime with two of the three games resulting in a draw.

"I saw improvement. I think [during] our training this week, WKU has made solid showings with what he has seen out of Takele so far," Jenkins said.

In St. Louis, she placed eighth with a time of 18:45.

The Hilltoppers are the 5,000-meter winner in the region, where Takele ran a time of 15:15 to finish first.

Jenkins said he is very excited statistically and stepping up vocally as a leader." said Bere.

"To prepare ourselves for conference," Assistant Coach Craig Bere said.

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Dellinger totaled 10 kills and 13 assists, matching his career highs.

"That was huge to start the season for the first time since 2005.

The Hilltoppers will play three contests.

Northern Iowa (4-5), Alabama (4-6) and Northern Illinois (4-6) all pose threats to the Lady Toppers.

"First up is SEC opponent Alabama on Friday at 11 a.m. "We're talking about an SEC school — I think we should knocksec No. 1 in the new conference. Now, they haven't played up to that yet, but it has," Bere said.

"They have had some injuries and some personnel shakups, and it looks like on paper that they are better than us, but we are prepared for that, and we have some high-level athletes.

"Second up for the Lady Top- pers is Northern Iowa, whose iden- tity and culture was noted by the Lady Topper coaching staff.

"Northern Iowa has been a real tough, physical and domi- nant team with a real blue- collar background and a win- ning culture," Bere said.

"The Lady Toppers will end their Illinois road swing against Northern Illinois at Western Illinois this Friday.

"Northern Illinois is doing rea- sonably well, they are blocking extremely well," Bere said.

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The WKU cross country program has made solid showings in its first meets of the regular season.

The men's team brought home a fifth-place finish on Sept. 5 in Nashville at the Bel- mont Invitational.

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The Hilltoppers are one of the top teams in the Big 10 for the first time in program history.

For the sixth time in program history, the Hilltoppers' record against Idaho is 3-5.

"With [junior Endalow Takele of Bam- y,], ready had one athlete earn a second-place finish at the region's postseason top-5.

In St. Louis, senior Katie Lee earned a fourth-place finish.

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Northern Iowa (4-5), Alabama (4-6) and Northern Illinois (4-6) all pose threats to the Lady Toppers.

"First up is SEC opponent Alabama on Friday at 11 a.m. "We're talking about an SEC school — I think we should knocksec No. 1 in the new conference. Now, they haven't played up to that yet, but it has," Bere said.

"They have had some injuries and some personnel shakups, and it looks like on paper that they are better than us, but we are prepared for that, and we have some high-level athletes.

"Second up for the Lady Top- pers is Northern Iowa, whose iden- tity and culture was noted by the Lady Topper coaching staff.

"Northern Iowa has been a real tough, physical and domi- nant team with a real blue- collar background and a win- ning culture," Bere said.

"The Lady Toppers will end their Illinois road swing against Northern Illinois at Western Illinois this Friday.

"Northern Illinois is doing rea- sonably well, they are blocking extremely well," Bere said.

"Our of-time is going to be really key to doing and being really effective.

The WKU cross country program has made solid showings in its first meets of the regular season.

The men's team brought home a fifth-place finish on Sept. 5 in Nashville at the Bel- mont Invitational.

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The Hilltoppers are one of the top teams in the Big 10 for the first time in program history.

For the sixth time in program history, the Hilltoppers' record against Idaho is 3-5.

"With [junior Endalow Takele of Bam- y,], ready had one athlete earn a second-place finish at the region's postseason top-5.

In St. Louis, senior Katie Lee earned a fourth-place finish.

"Our attackers are doing a really good job taking care of the ball," Bere said.

"When they get an opportunity to put the ball away, they are doing that.

"The third set was a more evenly fought contest.

The Hilltoppers will play three contests.

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Memphis stands as last non-conference threat

BY BILLY RUTLEDGE
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

According to Lady Topper Head Coach Jason Neidell, Lady Toppers have been on a roll with three wins in a row and get a chance to get away this weekend after a successful home-opening tournament. Read more on page B3.

Hilltoppers look for first win against Big 10

BY BILLY RUTLEDGE
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

Doughty, who bounced back from a quiet performance against Vanderbilt, claimed conference accolades after his performance against Louisiana Tech along with redshirt sophomore specialist Kylen Towner and junior safety Marcus Ward.

Doughty threw for 441 yards and a touchdown to earn the Offensive Player of the Week award. Towner was named the C-USA Special Teams Player of the Week after accumulating 11 tackles with two tackles for a loss and two pass breakups. All of those stat lines marked career highs for the defensive back.

Neidell said these results are exactly what we did this weekend. "That was big, to come out and set that up," Neidell said. "The kids were excited to be playing the Big 10. It got my feet in under me, and with the chance to be the first person to play the Royals drafted, there are some expectations that come with that." Neidell said these results are exactly what we did this weekend. "That was big, to come out and set that up," Neidell said. "The kids were excited to be playing the Big 10. It got my feet in under me, and with the chance to be the first person to play the Royals drafted, there are some expectations that come with that."