Thompson Complex renovations underway with demo

By Shelton Antell-Pettway

Bryan Russell, chief facilities officer, said the North Wing will be completely demolished by the end of January and has been a part of a ‘master plan’ and construction since 2005.

The university’s vision is to rebuild the Mathematics and Science college campus.

“We are optimistic about the modern learning the new labs and classrooms will promote,” said Cheryl Stevens, dean of the Ogden College of Science and Engineering. “The building was planned to be torn down for 10 years, so we are just excited at the thought of a new facility.”

The process became tangible when Thompson Complex renovations Central Wing of the Thompson Complex are being done. Russell said the overall renovation will be completed in January 2018.

Abatement of hazardous materials, steel and salvageable items were also a part of the left million project.

“Thompson Complex has been there since the ’60s, though it had proper upkeep, asbestos creeps into the floor tiles, roofs and wiring,” said Russell. “So we had to rid that hazardous waste from the premise properly.”

The Planning, Design and Construction department worked closely with the university and community in recycling and breaking down of the North Wing of Thompson Complex.

The Environmental Health and Safety department helped with recycling the asbestos and old lab materials.

Free community college proposal could affect WKU

By Trey Crumbie

President Barack Obama outlined many proposals during his State of the Union address on Jan. 20, but one of the most prominent was the idea to make the first two years of community college free.

"An idea on first fibers in the 20th century because we made high school free," he said.

Obama said other countries have caught up, and America needs to take more steps to reward knowledge in order to flourish in a modern economy.

The proposal, called America’s College Promise, would provide tuition for the first two years of community college, provided that students maintain a 2.5 grade point average, attend school at least half-time and “make steady progress toward completing their program” according to white-house.gov.

By the end of the decade, two-thirds of the workforce will need some post-secondary education.

"We need to ensure that our country and our workers are competitive globally,” Obama said.

One part of the proposal could have a direct impact on WKU.

The university experiences revenue growth, officials to monitor budget

By Jessica Voornhees

THE ALLEGATIONS are that there was hazing on and off-campus, according to the police report.

Bowling Green police are investigating hazing allegations made by a former student involving the WKU swim team.

Collin Craig, who was a freshman from Meadow Vista, California during the fall 2014 semester, alleged that members of the swim team forced him to drink alcohol, assaulted and hazed him multiple times.

The complaint was filed on Jan. 6 via email. The incidents took place off-campus, according to the police report.

Brenda Ward, public information officer for the Bowling Green Police Department, said the investigation is in its infancy.

“Those are that there was some abuse from some swim team members. The investigation is in its infancy.”

The allegations are that there was some abuse from some swim team members during Craig’s time.”

The swimmer was on the WKU swimming team.

Hazing reports are common in college campuses, but are often not thoroughly investigated.

According to WKU’s Code of Student Conduct, hazing is defined as any practice or custom which results in or is likely to result in bodily or mental harm to any student participating in the practice or custom.

The student conduct code states that hazing can include but is not limited to “the infliction of physical pain or mental suffering.”

A SWIMMER page A2

BUDGET page A2
The Board of Regents discussed the design and construction of a new Confucius Institute building on Normal Drive adjacent to the university and will provide an award of $1.5 million from the state budget going into the second year of the biennium. The building will be located in a new Confucius Institute building adjacent to and the university will provide at least 7,000 square feet in the new building to allow the Honors College and Interdisciplinary Studies, said once the BGPD investigation was complete, the case will be utilized.

Outside of the university, the Board of Regents discussed the procurement of new explosives and old refrigerators. Brian Meredith, chief enrollment and marketing officer, said he felt pleased with the current budget cut going into the second year of the biennium. "I hope we don't get word of a budget cut, but we really don't know what the future holds," said once the BGPD investigation was complete, the case will be utilized.

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**Research administrator ‘phased out’**

BY JESSICA VOORHEES

WKU eliminated the position of vice president for Research guided by Gordon Baylis, but the Office of Research will operate as usual this semester under the cut.

The responsibilities of the position will be distributed to various administrators.

Gordon Emde, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, split the responsibilities with the interim with Ann Wedemeyer, vice president for Finance and Administration.

“I wish to stress that other changes are the obvious ones at the Vice-President level, the Office of Research is, for the most part, in a ‘business as usual mode,’ Emde said in an email to faculty.

Cheryl Stevens, dean of the Office of Research, serves as interim president of the WKU Research Foundation.

A committee consisting of individuals from the existing Research Council and the Office of Research is being formed to make recommendations by the end of next month for a new administrative structure for the re-search operation.

The University Senate also formed a committee to study the research enterprise at WKU and to work with the Research Council group in making structural decisions for the program.

The university removed the position in response to budget cuts.

Baylis’ salary was $307,096 for this fiscal year. Kim Reed, budget director, said about $55,000 is being used to balance the fiscal budget at the moment, although the remaining bulk of the money will be used for Office of the Provost to help create a re-search leadership position yet to be named.

This isn’t WKU’s first admin-istrative cut in order to bucket the budget. Last spring, President Gary Ransdell restruc-tured these positions within the administrative council to assure the responsibilities of Vice President of Campus Services and Facilities John Ogle, who was in Office of the Provost.

Baylis notified faculty of the changes via email, thanking his colleagues and mentioning his return to the university as a professor.

It’s a bit unfortunate, but I would like that this will not compromise the progress that everyone has made: a spirit of creativity and entrepreneurialism is firmly established at WKU,” he said.

WKU remains engaged in seven lawsuits

**JESSICA VOORHEES**

The university is involved in seven lawsuits—the oldest of which has yet to be solved.

The U.S. District Court granted WKU motion for summary judgment in the case of Terry Reagan, another African American em-ployee who filed a civil suit in 2012 alleging she was fired due to her race and age.

Deborah Wilkins, general counsel, said there is no rule for summary judgment, the case as assigned to the judge in December.

“Terry Reagan has been given to the Office of the WKU and to work with the Research Council group in making structural decisions for the program,” Wilkins said in an email to the newsroom.

He alleged that WKU’s refusal to provide the accused course in his hometown violated the American with Disabilities Act.

WKU will file a motion on December 29 alleging that the university breached an employer contract following voluntary retirement.

The Kentucky Supreme Court won’t take action on the motion and has this case is on hold.

One of its oldest case in April 2014.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals dismissed the case.

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Two WKU employees are named in the case of Whiting State Pageant Org., et.al., a civil suit in 2010 alleging that the university breached an employer contract following voluntary retirement.

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One of its oldest case in April 2014.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals dismissed the case.

In a 2011 discrimination case, Marilyn Gardner said she was discriminated on the basis of disability and retaliation.

Deborah Wilkins, general counsel, said the ruling for summary judgment will be taken or not based on the case assigned to the judge in December.

Terry Reagan also filed suit in 2012 alleging she was fired due to her race and age.

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American Sniper is expertly crafted but manipulative

The movie shows the toll war has on the individual both on the battlefield and back at home. Unfortunately, director Clint Eastwood dampened the film's effectiveness with its overt glorification of the protagonist.

Bradley Cooper, starring as Chris Kyle, the venerated snipper, is at the center of this movie. His performance is astonishing. As a driven but conflicted soldier, Cooper shows many sides of this pseudo-legend. The film crafts Kyle's constant battle and he bears personal responsibility for the safety of every American soldier. Post-traumatic stress disorder makes an impact on the hero and his family as well.

The viewer gets a strong sense of anguish when the film shows him hearing the din of battle in an empty room and how unimaginable it is to his family's needs. Though visibly glori- fied, this character is shown to be more depth than it seems at first. Kyle, as he's presented in American Sniper, is Eastwood's ideal patriotic American.}

In the film, he's a man whose sole motivation is his country's interests. Kyle never questions why he has to kill in the first place despite the toll the killings take on his psyche. By portraying Kyle as a role model, Eastwood glorifies such blind obedience. In one scene, Kyle founds such an innocent and helpless woman. The film makes Kyle look heroic while in- volving the home and threatening to ruin his family. In this movie, Eastwood seems to be saying that an American soldier doing his duty shouldn't be held accountable for war crimes. American Sniper can seem like a recruitment tool at points but also at other times, its battle chaos and its violence can be shocking and ac- curate sense that anyone could die at any time.
Over the last three days of my winter break I was able to photograph events surrounding major issues currently affecting the country. I covered a protest on Martin Luther King Jr. Day against police violence, two press conferences about the Keystone Pipeline and taxation, a hearing on net neutrality and the State of the Union. I witnessed history everywhere I went.

Last year, I watched the State of the Union addressed while running a 5K in the Preston Center. This year I got to experience it up close through a 300mm lens. Through the kindness of Doug Mills, photojournalist at The New York Times, who suggested I come hang out with him on Capitol Hill, I was able to shadow him and Jabin Botsford (my boyfriend, a recent WKU photojournalism graduate and photojournalist intern at The New York Times) during the State of the Union.

What I learned is that everything dealing with politics is a well-orchestrated sequence of events. What you are looking for are the moments where the curtain comes up—the accidental, in-between moments where you catch politicians off guard. You have to look for new angles and perspectives on situations, and you must know your politics. Go to wkuherald.com for the full column.
For three years, English professor Walker Rutledge has led a study abroad program to Cuba.

This year, he was joined by English department head Robert Hale, 11 students and loosened travel restrictions.

The Cuban embargo barred many Americans from the country, since 1961.

However, college students remained an exception to the strict travel laws.

Since 2012, WKU has worked with a Cuban travel agency, located in Toronto, Canada, to make the program a reality.

The group stayed, primarily, at the Ambos Mundos hotel in Havana, the country’s capital. The itinerary included visits to Ernest Hemingway’s homestead, the National Museum of Fine Arts, a Cuban baseball game and a tobacco farm.

For some, Cuba was not their first international experience.

Harlan senior Sarah Haywood studied at Harlaxton College in England.

“I loved studying abroad before and wanted to do it again,” she said.

“I think it opens your mind to other opportunities. I love history, as an English and history major, so it was really cool to see history in person.”

Students visit revived Cuba

BY ABBY PONDER
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

The WKU Music Department celebrated 20 years of a beloved concert series.

For two decades, PRISM Concert sought to display the passions of collegiate musicians while providing the audience with a unique experience. The concert combines various performers at WKU into one showcase.

The event in Van Meter Hall kicked off on Friday night at 8 to a packed house. The diverse crowd consisted of students and community members.

The event was also open to the 421 high school students from Kentucky, Tennessee and Southern Indiana who were attending the 34th WKU Honors Band Clinic over the weekend.

The concert compiled several ensembles within the department that included the Wind Ensemble, Symphony, WKU Chorale, Steel Drum Band, Redshirts, TrebleMakers and Jazz Ensemble. A total of 24 ensembles and soloists performed throughout the night.

New to the Bowling Green community, Candida Cutrer and her daughter, Corina, attended the concert.

Wheatless, Bowling Green’s newest “allergy-friendly” restaurant, features a grilled Mushroom Swiss burger served on a gluten-free bun from an exclusive bread recipe created by their executive chef. The burger comes with one side dish, such as the crisp and slightly caramelized onion petals with gluten-free breading, as prepared on Sunday, Jan. 25. Wheatless, which has been open for two and a half months, serves a full menu with breakfast all day and is located in Buckhead Square on Campbell Lane.

“Wheatless’ merits attention

In the midst of a vibrant national health-conscious movement, the clamor for gluten-free products has recently acquired strong momentum.

Bowling Green is no exception, but until recently it lacked the resources to fully support this demand.

Born out of a desire to fill this void, Wheatless makes a fairly strong case for a satisfying gluten-free restaurant.

For those who are apprehensive about gluten-free bread (myself included), one bite of Wheatless’ bun on the Mushroom Swiss burger allayed any fears. The restaurant clearly knows what it is doing in this regard. The misleading biscuit-like appearance of the bun gave way to a texture more reminiscent of a crumbly focaccia brand, a pleasant discovery that actually enhanced the burger.

Somewhat surprisingly, the weakest part of the burger was nestled between the buns. The well-done patty made a fairly strong case for a satisfying gluten-free restaurant.

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PHOTO BY LEANORA BENKATO/HERALD

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Gluten-free restaurant ‘Wheatless’ merits attention

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Continued from LIFE
PRISM

Upon hearing of the event at school.
concert, due to Corina’s excitement performances. During an interval, the au-
engaged throughout the concert.
There were even some musical jokes

that is really unique is that we utilize

There were even some musical jokes

and transition between perfor-

engaged throughout the concert.

There were even some musical jokes

in front of the curtain.”

stage, while some will be in the pit, and

The pair said they would also like to

They were good.

With a rich, alfredo-esque sauce

V 

emotional.

in the crowd.

Kristen Robertson, a Greenville junior,

Robertson said. “I’m looking forward to seeing all

the different groups in one concert

because I don’t get the chance to see everything, so it’s nice to be able to

see most of it all at once,” Robertson


Students performing in the con-
cert began preparing for the event
back in August, according to Scott

Haywood said.


“Havana is a very exciting time for WKU

and I also feel like they really have to

come together.”


“There is a lot of poverty in Cuba,

In addition to underestimating the dif-

ferences just because I’d been abroad

before,” she said.

President Obama’s recent proposal
to lift the Cuban embargo has the

potential to create many changes

for Cuba—especially in terms of its

economy. However, according to

Brumley, the changes will not occur

overnight.

Brumley agreed. “There is a lot of poverty in Cuba,

and the dryness left it a little wanting.

To make matters worse, there was

begging for a sauce to meld it all

of Swiss mushroom and beef was

eliminated any food safety concerns,

but it lacked juiciness or compelling

flavor. The tried-and-true combination

of penne and cheese was a persuasive choice.

and a sharp, tangy aftertaste, the mac

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Track and field finds success at the Vanderbilt Invitational

Men's and women's teams competed against three Conference USA foes, two ACC opponents and put on three Southeastern Conference programs.

"We have a young team," said coach Erskine Jenkins. "It is about getting experience and preparing them for conference and national competition."

Sophomore jumper Ventavious Sears established a personal indoor triple jump record of 49-feet-3.5 inches, putting himself at third place in the Wku record books. He later went on to finish third in the 200-meter dash with a 21.4 second clocking.

Junior K'Karys Redmon took third place in the 60-meter dash with a 6.78 clocking. The mark ranks third in program history, and second in the C-USA this season.

"I think we have a balanced team," Jenkins said. "We are a team that can't afford to be lazy and that is something like that.

Raigo Toompuu, a new freshman coach, a former Hilltopper and 2012 Olympian, already has the throwers team making an impact.

Senior Travis Gerding recorded the longest weight throw in Conference USA this season at 20 feet (good for sixth place) while freshman Nick Demaline set a personal record in the shot put with a toss of 56-feet-8.75 inches (good for fourth place).

Sophomore Carmi Hardy, who tied her own school record in the 60-meter dash at 7.41 last weekend, clocked the second-fastest time in school history at 7.32 seconds.

Senior pole vault Karleigh Jenkins cleared 13-feet-1.5 inches for the fifth time in her career, good enough to finish seventh overall in the competition, but highest in the C-USA this season.

"We just want to continue to get better—we have a lot of things to work on," Jenkins said. "It is about getting experience, staying healthy and staying humble.

Both the men and women's teams will compete again next weekend in Bloomington, Indiana for the Indiana relays.

SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Continuing from Sports

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Sophomore Carmi Hardy, who tied her own school record in the 60-meter dash at 7.41 last weekend, clocked the second-fastest time in school history at 7.32 seconds.

Senior pole vault Karleigh Jenkins cleared 13-feet-1.5 inches for the fifth time in her career, good enough to finish seventh overall in the competition, but highest in the C-USA this season.

"We just want to continue to get better—we have a lot of things to work on," Jenkins said. "It is about getting experience, staying healthy and staying humble.

Both the men and women's teams will compete again next weekend in Bloomington, Indiana for the Indiana relays.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Continuing from Sports

"We have a young team," said coach Erskine Jenkins. "It is about getting experience and preparing them for conference and national competition."

Sophomore jumper Ventavious Sears established a personal indoor triple jump record of 49-feet-3.5 inches, putting himself at third place in the Wku record books. He later went on to finish third in the 200-meter dash with a 21.4 second clocking.

Junior K'Karys Redmon took third place in the 60-meter dash with a 6.78 clocking. The mark ranks third in program history, and second in the C-USA this season.

"I think we have a balanced team," Jenkins said. "We are a team that can't afford to be lazy and that is something like that.

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Lady Toppers win streak snapped by UTSA

BY JONAH PHILLIPS  SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

The WKU women’s basketball team went on a two-game Texas road swing last week, starting its 14 straight game against UTEP 80-74, before having their impressive streak snapped with a 64-63 loss against UTSA on Saturday. The team’s first loss since Nov. 25 came at the hands of a free throw in the final three seconds of the game.

The Lady Toppers’ [17-3, 6-1] Thursday contest against UTEP saw the team convert on 30-of-36 attempts from the free-throw line and force the Miners to turn the ball over 24 times. “We didn’t shoot the ball well,” Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard said of her team against UTEP. “But we found different ways and different people stepped up. Again, I go back to how selfless this team is and how determined they are to win.” WKU shot just 38.3 percent from the field for the game, converting on 23-of-60 shots, but made all 10 of its free throw attempts in the final minute to secure the win and remain (temporarily) unbeaten in conference play.

“We came out of the locker room in the second half, and we were really ready to play,” Clark-Heard said. “Defensively it started for us—we were able to get a couple steals and a couple baskets. I think we sat back and guarded better in the second half.”

The Lady Toppers could not carry the momentum of 14 straight wins into Saturday’s contest against UTSA, which was a homecoming game for senior All-American candidate Alexis Govan. Despite the loss, Govan still performed well in her hometown. She led the Lady Top- pers with 22 points on 8-of-13 shooting in her hometown. WKU shot 3-of-14 from the field to open the game but was outpunted by UTSA’s 22-18 advantage in the paint. WKU shot 3-of-14 from the field to open the game but was outpunted by UTSA’s 22-18 advantage in the paint.

Sneaker guard Trency Jackson (3) penetrates the lane during the Hilltoppers matchup against Conference USA opponent UTSA Saturday. The Hilltoppers defeated the Roadrunners 83-74. PHOTOS BY LUKE FRANKE /HERALD

The men’s basketball team gets amped up, prior to their home matchup against Conference USA opponent UTSA Saturday. The Hilltoppers defeated the Roadrunners 83-74. PHOTOS BY LUKE FRANKE /HERALD

The WKU men’s basketball program is making historic strides in its first season in the Conference USA. The Hilltoppers (14-5, 7-0 C-USA) are riding a nine-game win streak and are atop the Conference USA standings after a weekend sweep of UTEP and UTSA. WKU’s 7-0 conference start is its best since the 1969-70 season, when the Hilltoppers went 14-0 in league play.

“In the preseason, I had the opportunity to watch them every day, who you’re seeing now is who they were— We’ve gotten back to who we were preseason,” Head Coach Ray Harper said after defeating Old Dominion. “They love playing together, they play for each other and they don’t care who scores and because of it, we’re winning some basketball games and look pretty un-Topp-able.”

Senior guard Trency Jackson (3) penetrates the lane during the first half of the Hilltoppers matchup against Conference USA opponent UTSA Saturday. The Hilltoppers defeated the Roadrunners 83-74 and remain undefeated in conference play.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Historic start for Tops in C-USA

BY BILLY RUTLEDGE  SPORTS@WKUHERALD.COM

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