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WKU Student Affairs

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Students and community march for sexual assault

BY EMMA COLLINS
HERALD NEWS@WKU.Edu

Despite the chance of rain, WKU students and members of the Bowling Green community gathered together on Thursday night for Take Back the Night, an event held to show support for survivors of sexual violence.

The program, which was held at the First Christian Church, began with testimonies from survivors of sexual assault and rape.

Abigail Raley, a junior from Bowling Green High School, was one of the speakers.

While some in the audience held back tears, Raley performed a poem she had written about her experience as a survivor.

The message of her presentation was simple: do not be afraid to speak.

“A lot of times victims don’t want to speak about it or feel like they shouldn’t or are told that they shouldn’t because then people won’t believe them if they speak out about it,” Raley said. “I think that’s really stupid.”

Collin Higgins, a freshman from the University of Kentucky who came with a group of BTC members, was one audience member who was touched by Raley’s words.

He described her poem and the testimony from other survivors as “inspiring.”

“It’s been really great,” Higgins said. After the speakers finished, Ellis-Ward said that since he spoke at the SGA meeting, he didn’t see any scholarships during the last month.

Last month, Ward worked with SGA President Jay Todd Richey to make a proposal to offer scholarships to students with disabilities.

“As a freshman, I looked at the website, and I didn’t see any scholarships during scholarship season for people like me — people with a disability,” Ward said. “I went to the SGA meeting, I proposed a proposal seeing if they could come up with any type of fund for students with disabilities.”

Ward has been recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and will be speaking on a panel at its annual program in Washington, D.C., on May 9.

As a freshman, Ward felt he was never able to meet the benchmarks and requirements for scholarships and awards because of his attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Now a freshman at WKU, a Memorial native, is fighting for increased scholarship availability for students with disabilities.

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Reserve fund tapped, search firm announced

BY MONICA KAST
HERALD NEWSPAPEREDU

The Board of Regents met Friday to hear from several administrators about the presidential search and approval of employee contracts and new majors.

Brendan Ward, the chair of the University Reserve Fund, provided an update on the fund's status. The fund, which was established to help students with disabilities, is currently at $3,353,219. However, the fund is projected to be depleted by October 31, if steps are not taken to replenish it.

Ward stated that the fund has seen a significant decrease in contributions since its establishment in 2003. He emphasized the importance of finding ways to replenish the fund to ensure that it remains available for students who need it.

The Budget and Finance Committee held a discussion about the fund and provided recommendations for action. The committee suggested that the fund be used to support students with disabilities and that additional funds be secured through partnerships with community organizations.

President Gary Ransdell provided an update on the search for the university's next president. He noted that the search firm chosen for the position is well-qualified and that he is confident in the process.

Ransdell also addressed the issue of the WKU Board of Regents approving Pathways International, a program that helps international students access higher education in the United States. He stated that while the program is beneficial for the university, it is important to consider the impact on the local community.

The Budget and Finance Committee approved several changes to the university budget, including an increase in the salary for the university's chief financial officer. The committee also approved the allocation of funds for various initiatives, including an increase in funding for the Center for Community Engagement.

The Budget and Finance Committee also approved the selection of a search firm to help identify candidates for the next president. The firm, Korn Ferry, is well-regarded in the academic community and is expected to provide a diverse pool of candidates.

In other news, the Board of Regents approved the appointment of two new deans: the dean of the School of Business and the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The new deans will be tasked with leading their respective units and ensuring that they continue to provide high-quality education to students.

The Board of Regents also approved the establishment of a new institute in the College of Business, the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The institute will provide resources and support to students and faculty interested in entrepreneurship and innovation.

Finally, the Board of Regents approved the renaming of the university's mascot from the Big Red to the RedHawks. The name change is expected to be implemented in the fall of 2023.

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WKU staff give suggestions to search committee

BY ELISABETH MOORE

The Presidential Search Committee invited an open forum for university staff on Friday, April 22, to allow feedback on what they want in the next university president.

All members of the search committee were present except for Julie Hinson, who watched the forum from Louisville via videoconference. The videoconference was shown to other WKU regional campuses to allow their participation as well.

Committee chairman Phillip Bale began the forum by explaining the process of selecting the next university president. Bale said the committee had selected the firm, nosecom, Miller to assist in the search for presidential candidates.

"This is the second in a series of open forums that we are holding in order to gain stakeholder input into our process, which is just beginning," Bale said. "The real purpose of this meeting is for us to listen. We have met with the faculty, and this meeting is intended for the staff. We do want your input."

Bale gave a few suggestions of his own for presidential qualities during the forum.

"A university president needs to be an excellent manager," Bale said. "They need to be a politician, fundraiser, scholar and visionary. Because of the recent budget cuts from Gov. Bevin, these items are key."

The search committee then opened the floor to feedback from staff members. Andrea Cheney, assistant director of the Office of International Programs, said the new university president should focus on more parking and on narrowing the focus of what WKU is as an institution.

"It is in great to want to achieve a lot of different things, but when you stretch yourself so thinly, it becomes difficult to accomplish things and do them well," Cheney said. "We need a president who can work with the faculty and staff here and that can help to craft a vision and stick to that vision, and it may need to be a narrower vision than what we have now.

Sharon Hunter, the director of strategic enrollment management and retention support, said she would like to see more diversity in the presidential search.

"It makes a difference," Hunter said. "I have listened to a lot of you for a number of years, and I just want you to know that [diversity] is important, with, as what someone said earlier today, 'a billion dollar business.' It is important that we are going to be a global leader and if we are going to train the teachers who are going to influence the future of our Commonwealth. We have to reflect the world we are expecting our students to thrive in."

Stephanie Siggsson, the director of international enrollment management, said the new university president should be someone who is well traveled and who is more open minded.

"I advise coming from international enrollment management, that the new leader will be open minded and visionary, Sieggreen said. "We need to be able to take risks and to have somebody that has a strong fist who can put it down and say 'this is what we need to do' to move forward and be more accountable for it."

Lynette Breedlove, the director of Gatton Academy, agreed that the new university president should be a risk-taker while being open to diversity, ethnicity and age.

"I believe Gatton Academy represents one of those risks that Gary Ransdell has taken, and I think it has paid off well," Breedlove said. "A big part of the reason it has been so successful is the warm community and atmosphere that is here at WKU. We really need a president that is open to continuing that community feel because I think that is one of the parts that our students feel very supportive of, and that is a big selling point for WKU."

Bale said with the help of the new firm, the search committee hopes to name the next university president by March 1, 2017.

The Presidential Search Committee will host another open forum for faculty on April 27 at 4 p.m. in Snell Hall room 1108. A student open forum will be held on April 27 at 1 p.m. in Downing Student Union room 2005.

CRIME REPORTS

• Junior Mark E. Shiple Jr., Glasgow, was arrested on April 23 and charged with alcohol intoxication in the Valley.

• Freshman Hamilton Rush, Bowling Green, was arrested on April 23 and charged with a DUI in the Hugh Poland lot.

• Freshman Wesley Osborne, Owensboro, was arrested on April 25 and charged with alcohol intoxication in a public place.

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When you get into the habit of eating well and staying hydrated, you’ll feel better and be healthier, and it just may be the stress reliever you’re seeking.

The Issue: With the looming cuts to WKU’s budget, many programs could be affected, one of which is the track and field team. These budget cuts are being brought on at the same time that Athletic Director Todd Stewart could get large contract incentives and football Head Coach Jeff Brohm will be receiving a raise.

Our stance: If the budget situation is so dire that programs are being cut drastically by 50 percent, then there is a better way to be spending the raise and incentive money.

With the approval of the two-year state budget, Kentucky universities will see a cut of 4.5 percent to their state budget. According to a report from USA Today, this means a $3.4 million decrease to WKU’s nearly operating budget. Because the new budget needs to be finalized by June 30, decisions are already being made about which programs to cut. Last week, the Herald reported that the track and field teams’ budget could be cut by up to 50 percent for the coming year. If the cuts end up being that big, it could be devastating to the team. Currently track and field has the third highest budget of athletic teams at $1.8 million.

Alas, however, the Board of Regents voted to approve new contracts and addendums for Stewart and Brohm. According to the Herald, the sport contract addendums include possible incentives that could total about $1.6 million. This is the case, shouldn’t the budget be used to support programs that are facing major financial setbacks rather than raising salaries for the coaches of the most popular teams?

The track and field teams are exceptions to this trend. The success these teams have brought on at the same time that Athletic Foundation, the approval process has seen 39 of its athletes named NCAA All-Americans since 2011. Furthermore, Head Coach Erik Jenkins was named C-USA Coach of the Year for his two-year success with the men’s track and field team. These teams are doing very well and dressing to the nines. For a brunch, I say break out the sundresses. For a garden party? Lucky you! Going to a garden party? Lucky you! Whether you are a transplant or a native, we all know what the most ex- citing 2 minutes in sports are really about — and it’s not the horses. The thoroughbreds are a perfect excuse to dress up big hats, seersucker suits and sun hats and fascinators are non-negotiable. The key to fashion for Derby style is a precarious balance of whimsy. The key to fashion for Derby style is a precarious balance of whimsy. Whether you are a transplant or a native, we all know what the most exciting 2 minutes in sports are really about — and it’s not the horses. The thoroughbreds are a perfect excuse to dress up big hats, seersucker suits and sun hats and fascinators are non-negotiable. The key to fashion for Derby style is a precarious balance of whimsy. The key to fashion for Derby style is a precarious balance of whimsy. Whether you are a transplant or a native, we all know what the most exciting 2 minutes in sports are really about — and it’s not the horses. The thoroughbreds are a perfect excuse to dress up big hats, seersucker suits and sun hats and fascinators are non-negotiable. The key to fashion for Derby style is a precarious balance of whimsy. The key to fashion for Derby style is a precarious balance of whimsy. Whether you are a transplant or a native, we all know what the most exciting 2 minutes in sports are really about — and it’s not the horses. The thoroughbreds are a perfect excuse to dress up big hats, seersucker suits and sun hats and fascinators are non-negotiable. The key to fashion for Derby style is a precarious balance of whimsy.
BY GABRIEL SCARLETT

You got to have heart out on that field,” said freshman Sophie Hammann of the annual TUG event, which took place Friday at the Agricultural Exposition Center. “Without heart, there’s no use in being here.” As one of the final events of Greek Week, TUG is a staple of the WKU Greek tradition that draws hundreds of participants and observers for an afternoon of muddy competition.

While many teams had trained for months to hone their techniques and practice their strategies, others were just there to have a good time and share in the revelry. Whatever their reasons for attending, members of the WKU Greek community understand the value of this iconic event that epitomizes the idea of friendly competition. It is not hard to imagine that the tradition will continue for many years to come.
Inclusive Ministries hosts benefit concert

By KJ Hall
HERALD FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Lights lifted from the front of the Living Hope Baptist Church Chapel Friday night as performers took to the stage. Vocalists and Inclusive Ministries member Ashley Renae opened for the Inclusive Ministries Benefit Concert. The Down Syndrome of South Central Kentucky Rocker Dance Team performed next.

The team captured the hearts of the crowd in no time and danced to a broad array of songs, including "Beautiful" by Christina Aguilera.

Jordan Allen and the Bellwheelers closed the show. They had a folk-like sound and said that although they are not a Christian band, they are a band that hopes to transmit a message of love and how they can reach others who may not have a chance to hear the message of Jesus.

"This was a time for us to reflect on all we have done in our organization and what we continue to do," said Ashley Renae. "God has been very faithful in all God has done in our organization and what they do.

"Our mission is to encourage reading and the love of books," said Sara Volpi, SOKY Book Fest coordinator and outreach coordinator for WKU Libraries.

The book fest, presented by Barnes and Noble Bookstores, the Warren County Public Library and WKU Libraries, featured several authors this year including New York Times best-selling authors A.J. Jacobs, Garth Stein and Lily Ashby.

Those who attended had the opportunity to hear presentations by these authors and attend panel discussions by authors

SOKY convenes for 18th year at Knicely

BY EMMA AUSTIN
HERALD FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Thousands of readers gathered at WKU’s Knicely Conference Center on Saturday to meet and hear from some of their favorite authors as well as purchase signed copies of their books at the 18th annual Southern Kentucky Book Fest.

"My ego was writing checks for my character couldn’t carry them to do more than just talk for the day, April 23. This young Boone, from the Washington, D.C., area, participated in the fest for the first time.

"I’m here to give you a real picture of a broken person who made a lot of mistakes," Lecrae told the crowd before encouraging them to make a difference in the world. He urged them to do more than just talk about global problems by actually taking initiative to help the people who face them.

"His music has a really good beat, but it has a lot of really good things to say as well," McKay said.

Richmond freshman Anna McKay said she enjoys Lecrae’s music because of the lyric’s positive messages. "His music has a really good beat, but it has a lot of really good things to say as well," McKay said.

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BOOK FEST CONTINUED FROM TOP

genres.

The young adult romance panel fea-
tured authors who spoke about their books and explained with passion why they decided to write in that genre. The au-
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One of the speakers, “Thunder Dog” au-
thor Michael Hingson, gave a pre-
sentation about his experience of liv-
ing blind since birth and surviving the World Trade Center attacks with his guide dog, Roselle, on whom his book was based.

Martin Bower, author of the romantic
Southern gothic “Heirs of Watson Estate,” read his work. The novel is based.

When authors weren't speaking in panel or group presentations, they were in the book-signing area having one-on-one conversations with read-
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BENEFIT CONCERT CONTINUED FROM TOP

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ing meetings in a basement just a few years ago,” Levis said. Levis obtained his certificate in Special Education and is the Special Populations Coordinator with Bowling Green Parks and Recreation.

Layne is the social media chairwoman for Inclusive Ministries and also at-
tended the concert Friday.

Layne said she was excited to see so many people in attendance with an audience that ranged from students to parents and included community members with special needs.

“People that are affected by a disability are just really beautiful people that are full of more than I could ever hope to have,” Layne said.

With people who have disabilities gradu-
at from high school, they face an awk-
ward transition and are often ignored.

Sarah Levis, now the Special Populations Coordinator with Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, agreed and went on to talk about the driving force and overall mission of Inclusive Ministries.

“The organization’s heartbeat, Levis said, is the passion God has placed in vol-
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“People that are affected by a disability are just really beautiful people that are full of more than I could ever hope to have,” Layne said.

With people who have disabilities graduate from high school, they face an awkward transition and are often ignored.

Sarah Levis, now the Special Populations Coordinator with Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, agreed and went on to talk about the driving force and overall mission of Inclusive Ministries.

“The organization’s heartbeat, Levis said, is the passion God has placed in volunteers’ hearts for people with disabilities. In mission, he said, we share the love of Christ with individuals who have physical or intellectual disabilities and to spread awareness for inclusion through service, volunteerism and programming.

Several authors who spoke about their books and explained with passion why they decided to write in that genre. The authors also recounted personal experiences that gave the audience advice about revision and publication processes.

One of the speakers, “Thunder Dog” author Michael Hingson, gave a presentation about his experience of living blind since birth and surviving the World Trade Center attacks with his guide dog, Roselle, on whom his book was based.

Martin Bower, author of the romantic Southern gothic “Heirs of Watson Estate” series, read his work. The novel is based.

When authors weren't speaking in panel or group presentations, they were in the book-signing area having one-on-one conversations with readers.
However, George flied out to der looking to win the game. Proctor faced junior pitcher Kevin Elder pitched a one-2-3 bottom of the third. Duckworth doubled to right center, giving the Hilltoppers a 9-4 lead after just three innings. Hudzina then hit a home run to left center to put the Lady Toppers a 14-10 lead.

Soon after, Janes grounded out to first base, Andrew Clarkson and Janes to give the Hilltoppers a 18-10 lead. With the bases loaded, the Hampshire, Illinois, native kept the Roadrunners scoreless in the final 4.1 innings to give WKU an 8-5 victory and clinch the series. We've been swept a couple times, and we've swept a couple.
Offense wins annual spring game 52-31 over defense

Kraft and Eldar lead Tops to series sweep

BY SAM PORTER
HERALDSPORTSPARKU.EDU

The WKU baseball team hosted the University of Texas at San Antonio for a three-game Conference USA clash this weekend. Entering the series with a 6-9-5 record and a team batting average of .236, the Hilltoppers took the series against the Roadrunners for a 2-1 lead.

With two outs in the bottom of the 1st, Kraft singled to right center to score junior infielder Leff Larkin from the third base. After a wild pitch allowed Kraft to move to second base, redshirt sophomore Harrison Scanlin singled to score Kraft to give the Hilltoppers a 2-0 lead after one inning.

After the two teams traded runs, Kraft struck again in the bottom of the fifth. With senior infielder Danny Tubridge on base, Kraft connected for a single to left center to extend WKU’s lead to 4-2.

Soon after, junior catcher Hunter Studt singled to right field to give the junior outfielder Paul Murray to give the Hilltoppers a 6-1 lead after five innings. With a five-run lead, Kraft struck again in the sixth. The Virginia native singled to score sophomore outfielder Kaleb Dunkerson to give the Hilltoppers a comfortable 7-1 lead.

“Getting up, my dad and I were very passionate about the game of baseball,” Kraft said after the game. “Every day is a great day for me and my whole life, and it’s helped me so much here.”

However, the Roadrunners battled back with four unanswered runs in the eighth and ninth inning.

With two outs on the bases, Murray homered to take a 10-9 lead.

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 83

OFFENSIVE VISIONS

Offense wins annual spring game 52-31 over defense

BY JOHN REECER
HERALDSPORTSPARKU.EDU

On Saturday afternoon, the WKU football team looked to the field at Smith Stadium for its annual Red vs. White Spring Game. The offense, which was the Red team, still proved to be the team’s primary strength as it defeated the defense in a shutout by a score of 52-31 in front of a crowd of around 5,200 people.

“It’s our offensive fleet is coming along,” redshirt senior quarterback Nelson Fishback said. “I think obviously with any spring game and practice, there is going to be ups and downs and things to learn from. It was cool to cut loose a little and throw deep balls and stuff like that. I couldn’t really say any side really stood out because usually offense wins the spring game.”

Fishback was a part of the main attraction at Saturday’s spring game as the players competed with redshirt sophomores Drew Eckels, graduate senior Jake Feriga and redshirt junior Mike White for the starting quarterback spot after the departure of former quarterback Brandon Doughty.

The group combined to complete 58 of 95 passes for 660 yards. They also combined to throw for 33 touchdowns while completing only two interceptions on the day.

However, there were standout performances from the group despite the overall positive play of the four players. Eckels had the best day of the four as he completed 19 out of 24 passes, a 79.2% completion percentage, for 322 yards with three touchdowns and only one interception.

“We put up a lot of numbers today,” Eckels said. “When your number is called, you have to get in there and do your part. That’s great to know that when you don’t get in there, you have to do everything you can to provide for the team.”

Fishback was not far behind Eckels as the transfer from Louisiana completed 17 of 26 passes for 223 yards. Fishback got the start for the offense; however, he performed the worst statistically as he completed only 40 percent of his passes despite passing for 209 yards.

While he was a respectable game as he completed 40 percent of his passes for 125 yards while adding a touchdown and two interception.

“I think we make some big plays up the field, which is good,” Head Coach Jeff Brohm said of the quarterback competitions. “We did have two interception, which we don’t want to happen. It’s hard for me to tell right now. They all did good things, it’s a close race. I’m going to have to go back and look at this spring game and evaluate more.”

While a lot of attention was directed to the quarterbacks, the wide receivers — particularly the younger players — had a strong showing in the game.

Redshirt junior quarterback Mitchell White (14) throws the ball during the Hilltoppers’ Red vs. White game on Saturday, April 16, at Smith Stadium.

“Very pretty good,” Bush said. “We came out and tried to put on a show for the fans and tried to get better. We are all getting better together.”

Overall, while the quarterback battle was definitely not set in the spring game, the four candidates and the rest of the Hilltoppers will only have enough time to ease many worries some fans might have had.

“I liked today,” Brum said. “Of all of our guys comprised and glad that we got to go 500. It was a good day and I thought that just that thought we got better. Without question, there is room to improve, but I like the way the guys competed.”

SEE SOFTBALL PAGE 83

WALK-ON BECOMES IMPACT PLAYER FOR LADY TOPPERS

BY HUNTER FRINT
HERALDSPORTSPARKU.EDU

After taking a year off from riding the bench, junior Taylor Proctor returned to the rotation with major production, leading the Lady Topper in batter average and with a .454 batting average.

Proctor, originally from Bowling Green, transferred to WKU basketball team last fall after playing college ball for Lindsey Wilson last year. She was named to First Team All-South Atlantic Conference in her senior year.

Junior catcher Taylor Proctor (13) prepares for the second game of the doubleheader on Saturday, April 16, against Samford University. The Lady Topper lost 5-4. JONATHON KING/Herald

BY JOHN REECER
HERALDSPORTSPARKU.EDU

Football wins annual spring game 53-21 over defense

Offense wins annual spring game 52-31 over defense

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 83