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WKU Student Affairs

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After an altercation Sunday that left a WKU student hospitalized, the former WKU student, Higbee, pleaded not guilty to his charges.

Higbee, a WKU senior, was charged after an altercation Sunday that left a WKU student hospitalized. Higbee’s lawyer said the former WKU student was not trying to attack the victim.

On Monday, Higbee’s attorney, Brian Lowder of the Bowling Green law firm Lowder & Mc Gill said in an interview Tuesday that Higbee wasn’t trying to attack the victim.

“Mr. Alsaleh made physical contact with Higbee, shoved his head against them, and his girlfriend,” Lowder said. “Before they had to pull Mr. Alsaleh off of him, Mr. Alsaleh used force against them. Mr. Alsaleh made physical contact with Higbee, shoved his head against them, and his girlfriend was shouting at him.”

Alsaleh, an international student and sophomore at WKU, was in a critical care unit at Trimble Skilful Medical Center in Louisville Monday when, yet again, he was driven to Skyline where he could not release Alsaleh’s condition because of medical privacy lines.

Alsaleh was unresponsive after the altercation outside Skyline’s music club on Morris Alley early Sunday morning and was eventually taken to The Hermitage Hotel, a budget hotel across the street.

One campus group is working to make it easier for students to find work on campus while simultaneously working to make a difference in the community.

The $100 Solution House and its residents are trying to share their unique home with the greater WKU community. Bowling Green Junior Karina Spears has lived in the house for two years.

“We want this house to be a place where the community feels welcome,” Spears said. “We want the community to be comfortable with using us as a resource if they need it.”

The house is co-sponsored by the Alcove Center in Bowling Green, Housing and Residence Life and the $100 Solution organization. The $100 Solution projects challenge community members to make a difference using exactly $100.

Residents of the house are required to work together to carry out at least two service-learning projects per semester. This week, the group of five students are planning their open house along with a meal. Both the meal and the open house took place on Wednesday.

Engineering students take first place in competition

A group of WKU civil engineering students won first place in the American Society of Civil Engineers Ohio Valley Student Conference's concrete canoe and steel bridge competitions held on March 31 through April 2.

Both groups’ efforts in the two competitions earned them a place in the ASCE’s national competition among student conference winners in June.

Matthew Dettman has been the faculty advisor of the concrete canoe team.

The concrete canoe competition isn’t based solely on the vessel’s ability to float. There are several factors, including a paper and oral presentation detailing the design of the canoe, a cross-section of the canoe, and allow for judging of the concrete and a
the police officer or someone makes a statement, doesn't mean it is true,” Lowder said. “We haven't been able to cross-examine the witnesses yet, one of which was anonymous.”

Lowder said accusations that Higbee's actions were racially motivated and that he evaded police are unfounded.

“Under normal circumstances versus higher education,” Beshear said. It’s not even about pensions. It’s about the law. “It’s a direct challenge to our liberty and our way of life, and it’s my job to stand up to anyone who claims to have that power.”

In response to Beshear’s announcement, Jessica Ditto, the communications director for the governor, said Bevin’s office disagreed with the attorney general’s decision. The governor’s office confirmed that the decision to close the state government will be made in the next few days. The governor’s office also confirmed that the decision has not yet been made public.

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Students meet with third Honors College associate director candidate

BY MONICA KAST
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

The Honors College hosted its final open student session for the third candidate for the position of Honors College associate director and Honors Academy department head.

The Honors College associate director will oversee the Honors College curriculum, staff and development within the Honors College. Additionally, the director will teach one course annually. Russelville sophomore James Fox facilitated the discussion and opened the session.

Dana Bradley is currently serving as the interim associate director of the WKU Honors College and as the Honors College department head. She also serves as the college's interim director. Bradley said she has been at WKU for about 10 years and was on the original Honors Development Board.

At the open student session, current honors students were able to meet with Bradley and ask questions about her and her plans for the Honors College if selected for the position.

"In this capacity, she was a candidate," Bradley said during the student session. "I do not represent the interests or the concerns or the knowledge of the Honors College." Since Bradley currently serves as the college's interim associate director, she was able to speak about the role and what she would do if the position were made permanent.

"My job is to create an environment where success is possible and risk is probable," Bradley said.

Bradley spoke of some of the challenges she has faced in the interim position. These include several Honors College staff members resigning or retiring during the past few months.

"I've really excited about having some more consistent staff," Bradley said. "You have moved on to different places, and that consistency [will increase] the capacity service that was not always a consistent thing."

Bradley also said she wanted to focus on retention within the college because upperclassmen have been dropping out of the college as they approach graduation.

"I think that we do a great job with the freshmen," Brad- ley said, adding that "we seem to be missing something in the junior and senior years."

"With Bradley and other candidates, students brought up issues they've faced with the honor's college and their projects and what they would do if they were selected for the position, she would like to see more freedom in the honors track and more students coming up with creative ideas for their theses."

Bradley was the final candidate for the campus for this position. Fox, the student representative on the selection committee, said that as far as he knows, the associate director and academy head would be named as quickly as possible.

"Ultimately, the decision is up to Dr. Cobina," Fox said in an email. "Even after he selects the next candidate, however, the chosen candidate will work in a two-week period to figure out his/her decision, and the offer is turned down, the next candidate in line receives the same treatment."

Construction on several facilities to continue during summer

BY EMMA COLLINS
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

As the spring semester comes to a close and summer break nears, those overseeing construction on campus prepare to ramp up progress.

Bryan Russell, chief facilities officer, said WKU has a number of projects planned to begin over summer break.

"Planning, Design and Construction and Facilities Management department have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming summer while continuing ongoing construction [and renovation] projects at WKU," Russell said.

Russell said the exterior structure of Hardin Planetarium needs work, which is expected to be completed over the summer.

"This work is a basic Academy department head," Russell said. "The project is moving ahead, and this iconic structure remains part of our WKU's landscape for many years to come."

In addition to the planetarium, several other locations will undergo minor renovations. These renovations will include the restoration of the exterior of Helm Library and the replacement of several air handler units in various buildings.

The (plans) are planned for construction during our summer session when there is no programming to provide less disruption to our guests, students, faculty and staff," Russell said.

Russell also said construction will continue on the Thompson Complex Center Wing, the new Confucius Institute building, and the Gatton Academy.

The Thompson Complex will receive a new roof. Additionally, the fourth floor will be completely renovated, and other interior areas will undergo minor renovations.

The Confucius Institute building, which will house the Confucius Institute offices currently located in Helm, will also continue during the summer. The 7,000 square foot building is expected to be completed this summer before the start of the fall 2016 semester.

The construction on the academy is also expected to be completed before the start of the upcoming fall semester. The construction will allow for an expansion of the academy department head enrolled in the academy. Enrollment is expected to increase from 120 students this fall to 200 students in fall 2017.

On Tuesday, the university held the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Ogden College Hall. Russell said he expects construction of the building that will replace the Thompson Complex Center Wing to begin soon.

"The project is scheduled to be completed before the fall 2016 semester," Russell said.

Gary Measman, auxiliary services vice president of Business and Auxiliary Services, said the department will also continue. Business and Auxiliary Services does not receive state funding, its projects will be able to begin.

"The project is moving ahead, and late work is really taking shape," Measman said.

Measman also said Business and Auxiliary Services is currently working with Planning, Design and Construction on the construction of a new parking structure.

Students hold open discussion with Christopher Kelly, candidate for the position of Honors College associate director and Honors Academy department head.

Students meet with Thomas Spencer, candidate for the position of Honors College associate director and Honors Academy department head, at the Honors College and International Center on Monday, on April 4. (GABRIEL SCARLETT/HERALD)

Russell also said construction will continue during the summer. The new parking structure.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

and leader of our community — a plea of being a leader by serving as an example, I would give Jay Todd my vote. I am a nontraditional student who is deaf and hard of hearing. I might die now. #ineedanescalator — 8:38 AM - 12 Apr 2016

Bradion Powell is the perfect example of being a leader by serving as an example to those he serves and always being available for positive change. I had the pleasure to meet Bradion Powell two years ago. I have seen him grow into a hardworking Hilltopper and leader of our community — a leader who, with no doubt in my mind, is ready to take action as your next SGA president!

I have always admired Powell’s dedication and drive to want to serve in any capacity he truly believes in, and let me tell you, SGA is something he lives and breathes. Whenever you are around him, he will start talking about politics and how we could do things differently as a community to make people’s lives better.

I know he always questions things; it makes one think about things on a more in-depth level. I think that’s a positive quality in a leader, a leader who questions things to try to make the best decisions. I believe our campus needs a leader who can lead our university by questioning things and allowing students to participate openly as well as one-on-one within the cabinet.

While more changes are still forthcoming, there is no doubt that Powell has created division between students has since been diminished. We have a strong student body to work together to reach the best decisions for our university. One of Powell’s best qualities is how much he cares for people. If you see him around campus, he is always willing to stop and say hi to people, willing to build relationships among his peers and those who are around him.

By Eric Woulard
Herald adviser

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why should you vote for Jay Todd Richey

I am writing to the Hilltopper newspaper to vote for Jay Todd Richey as SGA president! I have always admired Powell’s dedication and drive to want to serve in any capacity he truly believes in.

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By Eric Woulard
Herald adviser

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why should you vote for Braxton Powell as SGA president

I am writing to the Hilltopper newspaper to vote for Braxton Powell as SGA president! I have always admired Powell’s dedication and drive to want to serve in any capacity he truly believes in, and let me tell you, SGA is something he lives and breathes. Whenever you are around him, he will start talking about politics and how we could do things differently as a community to make people’s lives better.

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By Eric Woulard
Herald adviser
Challenge Advertising Manager: Gretchen Lane Benefield

HELP WANTED

City of Bowling Green
GOLF INSTRUCTOR

Parks & Recreation Department - Golf

Instructs golf through scheduling and conducting youth and adult clinics, courses and academies, elementary to high school P.E., class instruction and special events that focus on teaching and growing the sport. Schedule: promotes, and assists with the directing of golf tournaments, outings, leagues and adult clinics, camps and academies, elementary to high school. May be required. Salary: $11.40. Hours: 12-15 hrs/week typically afternoon, evenings and weekends.

Interested applicants can apply online at www.bgky.org/hr/jobs or in person in City Hall, 1001 College Street, Bowling Green.
The City of Bowling Green is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Drug Free Workplace.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open Until Filled

The Corner Bakery Cafe

Open Until Filled

Salary: $11.40.

Hours: 12-22 HR. Position: Assistant Project Manager.

Due to company growth, our general contracting company is looking for an experienced, detail-oriented candidate to fill our Assistant Project Manager position.

This position works closely with the lead Project Manager. He/She is responsible for project development, scheduling and management, and will assist in all phases of the construction process. This includes reviewing plans and specifications, providing support to the subcontractors and owners, expediting, maintaining project progress, assuring project is within budget and on schedule, and performing any other tasks as assigned by the lead Project Manager.

The candidate will preferably be a college graduate, and have some experience in the construction industry. This detail-oriented candidate must be very organized, have the ability to multi-task and work on multiple projects simultaneously. Proficiency in Microsoft Office products necessary, experience in AIA software a plus. Experience in reading shop drawings and blueprints recommended.

This position is based in Louisville, KY. Some light travel may be required. If interested, please send your resume to info@redleeconstruction.com.

Across

1 Way back when
8 __ top
14 Winnipeg’s province
16 Doubleheader half
17 1986 movie set partly in the Australian Outback
19 Shoe parts
20 Loch with a legend
21 One-named singer
24 Biol. or eccl.
25 Under attack
26 Co-star of the 2015 film “Joy”
28 Boot attachment
30 “Bridge of Spies” actor Alan
31 Onion rings are fried in it
34 Worldwide economic org.
37 1988 movie set in a Southern California high school
40 Tam or trilby
41 Pencil tip
42 Time in ads
43 FBI agent
44 __ of influence
46 Start of el ato
49 Record players, briefly
52 Improve a lawn

53 Roman baker’s dozen
54 More sudy
56 1996 movie set in Nevada’s Area 51
61 Nicks on many albums
62 1967 Temptations hit
63 Like some movies ________literally including 17, 37- and 56-Across
64 Wine competition attendees

Down

1 “Better Call Saul” soundtrack
2 Long-nosed fish
3 “Microsoft sound” composer
4 Like cannoni
5 One making amends
6 Mars and Venus
7 Bios are often part of them
8 Vanilla containers
9 “The Simpsons” shopkeeper
10 Star of E!’s network’s “I Am Cait”
11 Machu Picchu’s range
12 Attorney general under Reagan
13 “Give it ___”
15 Novelist Waugh
16 Single show
17 Cookbook measuring words
18 22nd of April
19 Calif father
22 Toro family
23 Run until
24 1988 movie set in California high school
25 “Better Call Saul” soundtrack
26 1996 movie set in Nevada’s Area 51
27 Tara family
28 Coat
29 Harbour side stroll ing spots
30 Without end
31 NFL scores
32 NFL games
33 NFL scores
34 Green climbers
35 D.C. underground
36 Set loose
37 Sample in a product pitch
38 Mourn
39 Hard-wired
40 Potato
41 Attorney
42 Nicks on many albums
43 Mourn
44 __ top
45 Summary
46 Have a place in the world
47 Critical measuring words
48 Mr. Bean
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The Corner Bakery Cafe is now hiring cashiers, service assistants, and kitchen help! A place where growth, better hours, and great potential is an offer you can’t refuse.

Apply in person anyday or call 210-202-4465. This is a part-time position.

The Corner Bakery Cafe is an equal opportunity employer.
Story and photos by Abby Potter

Glitter, pounding music, sparkling high heels and wadded dollar bills: all sounds and sights one would not initially associate with Joshua Finn, a religious studies major. Despite appearances, Finn performs in drag on many weekends under the stage name Geneva LaDiva.

"Growing up, I wanted to be an actor, a rock star or a supermodel," Finn said through a puff of smoke after a drag show in Nashville. "Drag allows me to be all of those, but I get to take it off at the end of the club."

Finn has a support group of friends and family in the drag community. "When it comes to his biological family, the support is not always present," he said. "But I had to keep drag a secret from a lot of my family for a long time."

When not in drag, Finn, 36, of Franklin is usually studying. He is back at WKU this semester after a 14-year hiatus from school. Previously a public relations major, Finn is now pursuing a degree in religious studies and hopes to one day teach religion classes.

"I'm trying to find myself, and religion fascinates me," he said.

Finn said he is in no way ashamed of the drag side of his life, but he doesn't mention it to most people at school. Although he plans to keep up drag as a side job for many years, he said he sees the goal of graduating as his guiding force for the next few years.

Drag queen Geneva LaDiva dances to a performance of "Sweet Dreams" by Brooke Lynn Hytes at Play Dance Bar in Nashville, April 2. LaDiva was part of the Sunday night cast at Play for three years.
JC’s Barber Shop is a cut above the rest

It actually became a better location for the day care than it was for the barber shop, Junius Carpenter said. “With a barber shop, you need community around it.”

Because the location was a vital part of his family history, Junius Carpenter knew a move would be a difficult change to get everyone to support. “I didn’t just wake up and say, ‘Hey, let’s move. This will be good.'”

“Years ago when I first started, it was really a neighborhood, and people would walk to the barber shop,” Junius Carpenter said, “so we kind of knew that even if we moved, we would still have a clientele because of the neighborhood ties.”

“I was well aware of [Groves’] interest in China, and he had done some work with kars, so I decided to get in touch with him,” Meier said. Groves believes this was just an example of how colleagues work with each other. “We all collaborated and exchanged ideas, Groves said. “We were all meeting in the middle.”

Refugee worker speaking at KY Live!

“Flavors from Home” received a rat- ing of five out of five stars from the San Francisco Book Review.

Though karst rocky desertification was the main premise of the research, Laffoon wanted to do more than simply explain it; she also wanted to try to find a solution. Her idea for a solution came at the perfect time, according to Meier. “A friend of my wife said 'we wanted to come over and plant crops. Sounding boring, but I obliged,' Meier said.

What Meier’s friend was actually doing was hugelkultur, a mound of logs buried under a soil mound that produces better soil, food, and water, according to Laffoon. Meier thought that could be a perfect time, according to Meier. Laffoon had the help of two professors on campus: Albert Meier, biology professor, who had been her adviser, and Chris Groves, the director of the Hoffmann Environmental Research Institute. Meier learned about Laffoon's interest in China, and he had done some work with kars, so I decided to get in touch with him.

Laffoon recently went to China to present research on karst rocky desertification. Karst rocky desertification occurs when vegetation deteriorates due to human land use and therefore causes water loss and rocky forms to appear in some regions, according to Laffoon.

“Flavors from Home is important in helping us understand the difficulties faced by refugees in Kentucky and the importance of supporting our neighbors on their own country,” said Brian Cruts. “We were all meeting in the middle.”

“I didn’t just wake up and say, ‘Hey, this is something I want to research’,” Laffoon said.

“Years ago when I first started, it was really the reason I moved down there,” Junius Carpenter said. “It’s a dynamic location, and people would walk to the barber shop.”

See KY Live! Page B3

SEE KY LIVE!}

Student presents research in China

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SEE RESEARCH PAGE B2

Junius Carpenter, owner of JC’s Barber Shop, shares a customer’s hair on Saturday, April 2. Carpenter said Saturdays are typically the shop’s busiest day, but he sometimes can’t even eat lunch. “I was well aware of [Grove’s] interest in China, and he had done some work with kars, so I decided to get in touch with him,” Meier said. Groves believes this was just an example of how colleagues work with each other. “We all collaborated and exchanged ideas, Groves said. “We were all meeting in the middle.”

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SEE RESEARCH PAGE B2

The Special Olympic Spring Games will be hosted this year in Bowling Green High School. See more on page B3.
Steel drum band performs final show for semester

By SHANTEL-ANN PETTWAY
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

What, drums beat and tropical island shirts greeted audience members as they dawned for the WKU Steel Band’s concert.

On Tuesday, the band performed in its final show for the semester in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The 13 member band, dressed in floral, tropical-themed shirts, performed at the request of many students and faculty.

As family members stood in the hall, waiting for the house doors to open, Laura Wathen, mother of Bowling Green senior Adam Wathen, was excited to see her son perform again. "It’s a sense of pride and a lot of fun," Wathen said. Leitchfield freshman A.J. Cook, played one of the steel drums at the concert. "I didn’t study for the test, but I did read the book," Cook said. "I’ve been at WKU for a little more than a year, and it’s a lot of hard work and finding solutions," Meier said. "I don’t really think about how much time I spend on it, but I do go to class and study, so I have to manage my time."

He said he loves teaching the history of steel drums, arranging music and seeing students grow. "I have a passion for music in general, and it’s great to teach students how to play the steel drums," he said.

Many students who take part in the band have been in music programs throughout their careers, but have never played the steel drums. "The steel drums aren’t an easy instrument to play, but once you get the hang of it, you can do it," said Barry. "It was a learning experience and something new," he said.

The 13-member band, dressed in floral, tropical-themed shirts, performed at the request of many students and faculty. As family members stood in the hall, waiting for the house doors to open, Laura Wathen, mother of Bowling Green senior Adam Wathen, was excited to see her son perform again. "It’s a sense of pride and a lot of fun," Wathen said. Leitchfield freshman A.J. Cook, played one of the steel drums at the concert. "I didn’t study for the test, but I did read the book," Cook said. "I’ve been at WKU for a little more than a year, and it’s a lot of hard work and finding solutions," Meier said. "I don’t really think about how much time I spend on it, but I do go to class and study, so I have to manage my time."

"I love it. I want to do it for the rest of my life," Spearman said of his profession. "JC’s Barber Shop will be having an open house for the public in May to show off its new location and commemorate Jimmie Carpenter’s 65 years in the business."
The Special Olympic Spring Games will take place on Saturday, April 16, at Bowling Green High School.

Levis said the event will serve as an opportunity for both able-bodied individuals and those with disabilities to learn and participate in sports such as wheelchair basketball, baseball, tennis, and more.

"It allows us to have hands-on experience in dealing with this type of theater," said Levis. "For those of us going into this professionally, it is giving us an opportunity that many people don't get to have in a college setting.

Vincent said she loves performances in the New Works Festival because they are live.

"There is something about being on stage that is very powerful, and maybe in the moment in the way that they can be emotional and beautiful," she said. "In theater and performing arts is such a different and wonderful art form in the fact that it is live, and you can really experience live theater."
The Hilltoppers look for improvement at Mt. SAC Relays

BY EVAN HEICHELBECH HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

After hosting the Hilltopper Relays last weekend and turn- ing in a solid performance in the Florida Relays a week earlier, the WKU track and field team will head to Norwalk, California for the Mt. SAC Relays.

The Mt. SAC Relays will run from Thursday through Sat- urday. The Hilltoppers will attempt to build upon their performances from the previous two outings.

“We hope to get good weather,” Jenkins said. “When we were in Florida it was unreasonable- ly cool for them as well and then obviously this weekend we had a lot of total and cold temperatures. So hopefully we can go out to Mt. SAC and have warm temperatures and be able to make sure we have enough of the things we need to improve upon.”

WKU started the indoor season in Nashville at the Black and Gold Invitational on March 25 and 26. Both men’s and women’s teams claimed first place in the 4x100-meter relays. Sophomore Julius Morris teamed up with redshirt junior Corey Parks, junior Kyree King and senior JeKayra Redwine in the event and won the event with a time of 41.46 seconds. A week later, the Hilltop- pers were pitted against some of the superior talent in the country at the University of Arizona for the Pepsi Florida Relays.

Junior Ventariah Sears joined the trio of King, Redwine and Morris in the 4x400 meter relay and won the event with a time of 3:40.07 seconds, improved from the meet.

The trio of freshmen Keneon Laine, senior Jessica Gillan and junior Samantha Newell all achieved top-10 finishes during the three-day event, rep- resenting WKU well on a na- tional stage.

At the only home event of the outdoor season, seniors showed the most improvement from this spring, coming most often for the Lady Top- pers. The women claimed first place finishes in three of the two-day event.

Junior sprinter Carrol Hardy and freshman sprinter Azadra Breeden won the 100-meter dash, claiming the top two places.

Sophomore Corey Parks finished third in the 100-meter race and finished first in the 200-meter race with a time of 21.11 seconds. Jenkins was impressed with his team’s effort, but noted that his team still had a lot of im- provement.

“It wasn’t a perfect meet, but it was a meet for us to go out and take care of some things,” Jenkins said. “We also saw some good things. I think we need to work on in order to be prepared for the Conference USA Championship and the NCAA.”

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**BY JONATHAN PHILLIPS HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU**

This weekend the Lady Top- pers golf team will travel to Fort Meyers, Florida to compete in the Conference USA Championships April 18-20.

The championships come off the back of an object show- ing at the Lady Rebel Intercol- legiate hosted by Ole Miss on April 1-3.

In Oxford, Mississippi, the Lady Top- pers managed just an 11th place finish in a field of 15 and behind five-CUSA teams.

With the 11th place finish behind them, the Lady Top- pers will attempt to show im- provement from some of their other performances, more encouraging per- formances from this spring to follow.

These include a second place finish at the John Kirk Panther Invitational hosted by Georgia State in late March and a tie for first place one week before Georgia State in the Citrus Challenge Invita- tional hosted by Morehead State.

Second-year WKU Head Coach Mark Solari will rely on sophomores Georgianna Black- man of Essex, England, and Katie Story of Dickson, Ten- nessee, to keep the scores low. Seniors Michaela Bordeia- ni and Elana Haag, both of them have come near the top scores, and as the season progresses, they will look to provide some leader- ship to a roster with just one upperclassman in Ital- ian junior Daniela Galassi. The other five Lady Top- pers are all sophomores.

Story will complete her first full campaign since trans- ferring from Belmont and will look to build off her best showing as a Lady Top- per on eighth overall finishes at the John Kirk Panther Intercol- legiate.

While the Rebel Intercol- legiate two weeks ago did not see any Lady Topper finishes in the top 10, the team did see sophomore Emily Alexander lead the Lady Topper team with a score of 13 over par, which tied for 30th place.

Alexander’s highest finish at WKU was at Ole Miss’ first for the sophomores.

Alexander, a Glasgow native, called in the Lady Topper- ers’ C-USA Women’s Golfer of the Week award on the week of March 21 for the spring camp- aign before leading the squad in scoring when she tied for 18th in a field of 118.

While the honors is the only C-USA title any of the Lady Toppy’s have come by this spring.

Haag earned it last spring in early March. According to golfs tat.com, which ranks every D-1 program from best to worst in state. No. 1 No. 235, WKU is the fifth best team in C-USA with a national power ranking of 117.

According to golfstat.com, Florida International comes in at 94, the University of Ten- nessee, San Antonio at 80 and Old Dominion at 78 while Middle Tennessee leads C-USA at the 55th best team in the nation.

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**SOFTBALL**

**One step closer to stirring up the Lady Toppers in the Southland**

The Lady Topper softball team could be on to a road trip in Charlotte, North Carolina, this weekend to face the Lady Eagles in a three-game series.

Senior pitcher Shasha Tudor has improved over the past few games.

Tudor's 21st victory this year against 16 losses, adds to the 3-0 lead as of press time.

**FOOTBALL**

**WKU's Dredge Shows Young Expressiveness in the Spring Game**

WKU's Dredge shows young expressiveness in the spring game.

The sophomore quarterback performed well in the spring game, completing 16 of 28 passes for 246 yards with two touchdowns and one interception.

His performance was a sign of improvement for the team.

**WKU's Last Three Games Against MTSU**

WKU has been on a streak of success in its last three games against MTSU, winning 49ers in a three-game series.

Charlotte, North Carolina, this weekend with a three-game series.

The game between the Cardinals and the Catamounts will begin on Sunday at 3 p.m. on southeast Louisiana.

The Cardinals have demonstrated a strong offense with 530 yards of total offense, while the Catamounts have struggled with 339 yards.

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Running backs return dependability in spring practice

With all three of these running backs, this will not be the case this season. Wales saw little playing time in the beginning of his career, but eventually became an offensive force. In just nine full games this season, Wales became WKU’s sixth consecutive 100-yard rusher, recording 1,091 yards on 155 carries and nine touchdowns. Ferby also proved to be a significant factor in WKU’s high-scoring offense last season, displaying an impressive season with 610 yards on 94 carries with 11 touchdowns. With all of these players returning this season, this is bound to entice the running backs to take on leadership roles and guide the team through the rest of spring practice.

In fact, when Ferby was asked about what the running backs could continue to work on for the upcoming season, he hinted on the concept of dependability. “So we just want to be ready for conference series against Charlotte this weekend. See B5.

When describing WKU’s running backs in spring practice, one word predominantly stood out: experience. Many aspects of this year’s team will be centered on finding players to fill in important positions that are missing, like the quarterback position for instance. However, for the running backs, this will not be the case since at least three experienced players are returning to lead this team to success.

The Hilltoppers traveled to Louisi- ana Tech, Head Coach John Pawlowski knew WKU needed to become more of a force at the plate. “We just weren’t able to manufacture any runs,” Pawlowski said after the Louisiana Tech series. “We have to be able to manufacture runs with our offense.”

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