President Gary Ransdell speaks about the effects of the statewide budget cuts in Frankfort at the state Capitol building on Wednesday. The budget cuts could increase tuition by more than 3 percent.

**From the Hill**

By Mike Clark

About 100 students from Kentucky’s public universities marched from Kentucky State University in Frankfort to the State Capitol Thursday morning, as part of the March for Higher Education.

The march was to protest the 49 percent across-the-board budget cuts in higher education that Gov. Matt Bevin proposed during his 26th of the Commonwealth Address.

Murray State junior Emily Ferguson, who helped organize the event, said she left Murray at 5 a.m. to attend the march four hours away.

“We hope to let the legislators know we are here and we care,” Ferguson said.

After arriving at the capital, the students took turns speaking on the steps of the Capitol Annex building. Kentucky State University sophomore Kelsey Cormick, a music education major, said she worried her program would face cuts.

“I want to know why [Bevin] thinks he can decide if my education matters or not,” Cormick said. “My education matters to me; education for all of us matters, I don’t think it’s fair to take that away from us.”

Cormick is also worried her two younger siblings would not have the same educational opportunities she has had.

“They may not be able to follow their dreams in the state of Kentucky,” McCormick said.

One of the students’ concerns was that college departments in the arts and humanities would feel the budget cut most.

Students from Kentucky state universities gathered outside the Kentucky State Capitol Annex Thursday, Feb. 25, to protest Gov. Matt Bevin’s proposed budget, which calls for a 6 percent reduction in state funding for public universities. Mike Clark/HERALD

**Sen. Bill proposes change in restaurant tax**

By Monica Kast

A bill to reform how Kentucky restaurants are taxed and how that money is distributed to Kentucky cities has been introduced into the Kentucky Senate. Senate Bill 166 is an optional tax for Kentucky cities that, if passed, will change the way that restaurants are taxed.

Currently, restaurants pay a tax on their net profits, or gross receipts. The money from that tax is then given to non-elected officials, who distribute it to the tourism industry.

If Senate Bill 166 passes, the new tax would be consumption based and would allow the taxes paid from restaurants to go toward more tangible improvements to cities. It is limited to three percent, and would only be put into effect if a city voted to allow it, according to Senate Bill 166.

The money from the tax could be used for things such as construction, maintenance, or operation of tourism and economic areas in the cities of Kentucky.

Sen. Jason Carter introduced the bill to the Kentucky Senate on Feb. 11. The bill was sent to the Appropriations and Revenue Committee on Feb. 11, according to the Kentucky Legislature website.

“Instead of turning this tax over, it allows city governments to retain up to 75 percent of revenues and how they’re expended,” J.B. Chaney, the deputy execution director of the Kentucky League of Cities, said.

The Kentucky League of Cities provides “cities, towns, and counties with a number of services including legislative advocacy, legal services, community consulting, training and research, and more,” according to its website. Cormick described the League as an “association of city government officials.”

Chaney said the League of Cities helps write and get the bill introduced.

**See Restaurant Tax Page A2**

**BKU BASEBALL LANDS BIG WINS IN WEEKEND TOURNAMENT**

SPORTS, PAGE B4

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016 > WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY > VOLUME 91, ISSUE 11

**From the House**

By Jacob Dick

On Thursday, Feb. 25, President Gary Ransdell took his turn before the state House Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education in Frankfort to discuss concerns of the university from Gov. Matt Bevin’s proposed budget.

Ransdell discussed the possibility of at least 20 proposed programs, jobs losses and tuition raises at the university while college students protested on the steps of the Capitol.

“We’re here doing what you expect us to do,” he said. “The cuts would hinder the ability to do the very thing that the government and general assembly expects us to do in terms of productivity.”

During his testimony, he presented legislators with a study completed by Budget Policy and Priorities that showed postsecondary education funding in Kentucky was still at levels far below the pre-recession levels of most states. The study showed that state spending on higher education in Kentucky decreased 27.6 percent between 2008 and 2015: a $2.949 difference per student.

Kentucky decided to decrease funding during the budget session last year at a time where other states decided to raise the funding for state educational facilities.

“Because of the money that’s been cut to higher education over the last eight years... there is no more across-the-board option,” Ransdell said. “For us to address these cuts, we’re going to eliminate... services our communities depend on because we are a public university.”

Ransdell also said there would be an expected 3 percent rise in tuition cost for students next fiscal year as outlined by the Council of Postsecondary Education.

See Ransdell in Frankfort

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**See Restaurant Tax Page A2**
During Bevill's address, the governor said that the current budget talks have centered around funding cuts, and the lawmakers are trying to find ways to preserve as much funding as possible.

Bevill's speech was likely aimed at reassuring his audience that he is working diligently to address the financial challenges facing the state. His words may have been intended to show that he understands the severity of the situation and is committed to finding solutions that will protect important state programs and services.

However, it remains to be seen whether the governor's statements will be enough to alleviate the concerns of those affected by the budget cuts. The ongoing negotiations are expected to be a point of contention for many Kentucky residents, and the outcome of these talks could have significant implications for the state's future.
Living will workshop held for WKU students

BY SAMANTHA CLARK
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

WKU Student Legal Services partnered with the WKU paralegal studies program on Thursday and Saturday to show students why living wills and digital directives are important.

Kelsey Luttrell, legal assistant with SLS, helped put a workshop together. She emphasized the importance of having a living will and digital directive. Although these can be hard to discuss, she said, they are necessary.

"It's not something you want to think about, but it happens, unfortunately," Luttrell said.

A living will appoints a person to make medical decisions for others when they physically or mentally can't make decisions. For some people, the appointed person could be a parent, but for others, the person making the final decisions could be a grandparent or sibling.

Ethan Bennett, a graduate student pursuing a degree in counseling, attended the workshop with his wife and 1-year-old daughter. He said he hadn't thought to make a living will until SLS sent an email advertising the event. As a new dad, he decided he should look into it.

"For those who are looking to start having families, for sure they need to be looking into having a living will," Bennett said.

Digital directives, also discussed at the workshop, are becoming more relevant with our changing technology. They allow an appointed person to access digital assets, such as pictures on Facebook or important documents in emails, that families might want.

SLS opened in January 2015 and provides a wide array of legal opportunities for students, faculty and staff. Any student with legal issues can be represented through legal services or be aided in finding a paralegal.

"Assistance with legal problems is an essential service for students because it is free and provides valuable assistance," the student legal services website stated.

The workshop consisted of students, faculty and staff meeting individually with a student legal services representative. Each pair discussed the living will and digital directives process, and then the representative assisted the client in assembling one.

"I know it's tough to think about a will, and I know it's tough to think about end-of-life decisions, but it's a reality, and I think that this will workshop is crucial for students to make their wishes known," Luttrell said.

SLS will continue to host events similar to this one to show students the legal services it offers. Landlord-tenant workshops are expected to occur in March. If students have suggestions for possible future workshops, they can contact SLS.

For those who are looking to start having families, for sure they need to be looking into having a living will."
The Kentucky Republican Party was spurred by Ken-
more relevant in the presidential race.

For the first time since 1984, a major political party will hold a caucus
in Kentucky.

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in Kentucky.

“The Issue:”

A major political party will hold a caucus
in Kentucky.

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Kara Short, 30, is escorted to Jesus Prom at Hillvue Heights Baptist Church by freshman offensive lineman R.J. Scaife on Friday. The WKU football team volunteered at prom to be escorts to many of the participants. There were more than 400 event volunteers, including many WKU fraternities, sororities and sports teams.

PHOTOS BY LEX SELIG, COPY BY MHARI SHAW

Amanda Browning, center, 33, dances with her escort Brad Bertram, 40, on the dance floor at Hillvue Heights Church on Friday. The dance floor was packed with people doing conga lines and dance battles.

BELOW: Tamara Fravala, 20, gets her makeup done at Jesus Prom in the atrium of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church on Friday. There were several makeup artist and stations where the participants could get their makeup done, their hair teased and their fingernails painted.

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE
PHOTOS BY LEX SELIG, COPY BY MHARI SHAW

Dancing, photo booths, tiaras and crowns filled the sanctuary of Bowling Green's Hillvue Heights Church for Jesus Prom on Friday. It was the annual event's fourth year, and more than 400 volunteers showed up to help put it together. Jesus Prom honors those in the community with physical and mental disabilities. The event is free and open to participants 16 and older. After guests arrive in their best prom attire, they are immediately treated like royalty. From the limo rides to the makeup salon, all guests are guaranteed a wonderful time.

Amanda Browning, center, 33, dances with her escort Brad Bertram, 40, on the dance floor at Hillvue Heights Church on Friday. The dance floor was packed with people doing conga lines and dance battles.

BELOW: Tamara Fravala, 20, gets her makeup done at Jesus Prom in the atrium of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church on Friday. There were several makeup artist and stations where the participants could get their makeup done, their hair teased and their fingernails painted.
Candidates vie for state delegates

BY SHANTEL-ANN PETTWAY
HERALDFEATURE@WKU.EDU

The 2016 presidential election is gearing up, and we’re looking ahead to this week’s big debate between the two candidates. According to a national poll, 12 states will be voting on Tuesday, and 30 states will be voting on Super Tuesday, with 12 states voting on primary day. 

For the 2016 election, Super Tuesday is also being referred to as “the SEC Primary.” This is because Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee choose to join Georgia in this historic event that brings 12 states together.

Democratic and Republicans will battle for delegates in states that include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, and eight others.

The goal for all of the presidential candidates because the results will ultimately be the presidential nominates will be.

There are 33 Republican delegates and 1,004 Democratic delegates up for grabs.

Sor Selena Sanderfer said. Dr. Foster because this was a movement I fully supported for studies professor Lloren Foster.

Glendale junior Jessey Key sings during her performance on Feb. 26, at the Country Nashville in Nashville, Tenn., Key and her band, which doesn't have a name yet, opened the night with a cover of Elvis Presley's “Hound Dog.”

She sings, writes music, plays banjo and ukulele.

It was the assistant advisor under Dr. Queen to help me, said her biggest passion.

Sidney Milsap and Patti Labelle.

While making the move to Nashville, Key is a junior at WKU but left campus together, “Hooks said.

His family has always known this was her passion.

I'm continuing his vision, but I want to do more than just talk. I want to do more on the campus,” Sanderfer said.

ASALH was founded in 1915 by Carter G. Woodson, who has worked with people like Ronnie Milsap and Patti Labelle.

However, Key’s career heightened once in Nashville.

“ASALH aims to educate students on African-American life and I think it can only go up from here.”

“The Black Cultural Center would be a perfect example for doing oral history, said Sanderfer. "Having the first student elected and the first students to occupy it would be an educational oppor-

"[There’s] lots more in the future that I’ll keep secret,” Roe said. "I'm very excited about the turnout we’ve had at all three events so far, and there will be more coming in the future."
Mountain Workshops gallery opens in Mass Media

BY KALEE CHISM

Every year, students and professional photojournalists flock to a city in Kentucky for the Mountain Workshops. The Mountain Workshops is a seminar and workshop series to help students learn from the power of collaboration and professional journalism. This year, the workshops travelled to Frankfort. Their work is now hung in the photo gallery of Mass Media and Technology Hall.

The workshops take students from WKU and other universities together with 140 professionals to learn from each other and collaborate together. “The very first day the participants arrive, there’s a big buzz with all the story ideas that they’ve researched in it,” Lauren Nolan, a senior photojournalism major from Union said. “It’s good to get started in a professional setting on getting feedback on your work and taking it well.”

Tyler Sanders, a complement photojournalism major from Owensboro and gallery manager at the workshop, said his favorite part of the Mountain Workshops is understanding the full power of collaboration as people constantly receive feedback from and bounces ideas off one another. Sanders became gallery manager to become more involved in his passion for photojournalism.

“I’ve always just been interested in the different aspects of photography: not just taking the photo, but the idea and collaboration and even the printing themselves,” he said. “I wanted to get involved with that.”

The workshop creates a traveling gallery of 50 images in addition to the exhibit in the Mass Media, Tim Broekema, professor, workshop producer and chairman of the gallery committee, said the gallery is unique in its ability to showcase journalistic photos.

“It’s a journalist gallery that’s driven on what exists in a journalistic world,” said Broekema. “I appreciate … being able to have a home for that.”

Brenna said the gallery is about Frankfort and titled “The Land Between,” because of the city’s placement in Kentucky.

“We really felt how the people of Frankfort feel,” Brenna said. “They’re stuck between two big cities, halfway between Louisville and Lexington. They are between, but they’re their own. They’re independent. They’re fierce. They are proud of their family heritage [and] their connections with the town.”

Sanders said seeing the gallery come together is the most satisfying part of his job. “Seeing it up is the best because it’s a lot of labor to get ready. To see it just hanging … you kind of feel like you’re something in it,” Sanders said. Broekema said he hopes people can use the gallery to feel a personal connection and reflect.

“Any gallery show is about personal experiences,” Broekema said. “They find a little engagement, or they find something that interests them.”

Queen asked.

If the 36 students surveyed, half were registered to vote and half weren’t. Concerns about registering to vote stemmed from not being informed on issues. Stark believes that you don’t have to be a political scientist to vote, but being informed matters.

“If you don’t have information on who you’re voting for, what good does that do?” Stark asked.

Key said originals are her favorite to perform because she knows them best and can relate to … and that God has a hand in it. “I just want to sing songs that people can relate to ... and that God has always been with me,” Key said.

Jeffrey Tokey’s father, is a WKU alumnus who was recently asked to serve on the Board of Directors for the WKU Alumni Association. He said it was thrilling to see his daughter living out her dreams.

“She’s been performing for a long time. It’s fun to see a lot of different places, but to see her getting a contract and signing in Nashville where she’s dancing in crowds, it’s just so rewarding,” Jeff Tokey said. Jessie Key also encourages other aspiring singers and songwriters to follow her dreams.

“If you love it and it’s what you want to do when you’re alone in the car, in the shower, if you hum in lines — do it,” Key said. “Go for your dreams.”

Key sang some classics, such as Ella James’ “At Last,” yodeled to “Yodeling Country” and sang four of her own songs. Key said originals are her favorite to perform because she knows them best and can relate to … and that God has a hand in it. “I just want to sing songs that people can relate to ... and that God has always been with me,” Key said.

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Above: One of the photos featured in the gallery. Charlie Long moved to Frankfort with his wife when he was 20 and went to school to be a barber. After 50 years, he still works in the same barber shop in the Eastwood Shopping Center in Frankfort, KY.

MATT LUNSFORD/HERALD
The offensive barrage from sophomore guard Ivy Brown finished the game with 11 points. The offense picked up quickly from the beginning of the game, shooting a 20-11 lead after the first quarter, WKU was just 4-14 from the floor in the first big play. Asked if Bopp was an “annoying” defender, Clark-Heard said, “I'm just really proud of [Bopp] because she's really stepped up a bit in those last few games.”

Efforts like Bopp’s helped the Lady Toppers overcome a 10-rebound deficit and 40 percent shooting percentage to attain the win. “It’s a great feeling, I thought last time in MTSU, I didn’t play very well at all,” Noble said. “I was trying to be aggressive and get my teammates involved, and I think everybody stepped up and played with energy.”

On Saturday, UAB arrived in Diddle Arena seeking revenge from an earlier 61-49 loss to WKU. It was senior day for forward Jyllain McClain, the only graduating player on the roster. She would play well tonight.” Clark-Heard said. “I'm just really proud of [her].” Noble said. “We started off very slow, and good thing Ivy was hitting threes or we probably wouldn’t have gotten blown out. We stepped up in the second half for a good team win.”

The defensive intensity was key for the Lady Toppers in the second half. UAB had no answers to crack Clark-Heard’s schemes.

WKU forced 23 turnovers, and UAB’s shooting percentage cooled off as the Toppers' defense took over. The team will next travel to Nashville to play Belmont next Tuesday. The following day, Lipscomb University will travel to Bowling Green to take on the Lady Toppers.

Once we have that energy on defense, it also produces on offense.”

Freshman Guard Kayla Smith
Toppers spilt games in final road trip of regular season.

Toppers will see Louisiana (19-19) will come to Diddle. This weekend the Toppers are home against Georgia Southern.

Freshman forward Dee Givens (4) steals the ball during the first half of the WKU vs. UAB game Saturday, Feb. 27, at Diddle Arena. (CHRISTIAN JENKINS | HERALD)

**MEN’S BASEBALL**

**Hilltoppers go undefeated in Bulldog Invitational by SAM PORTER**

The WKU baseball team traveled to Athens, Georgia, this past weekend for a three-game stint at the Butchewits Invitational.

The Toppers defeated the University of Cincinnati, South Alabama and the University of Georgia to sweep the tournament.

The sweep improves the Toppers to a 17-2 start to the season that included a 14-game stretch in which no opponent scored more than 69 points.

“Murray capped the inning off with a two-run double to tie the game,” head coach Travis Anschutz said in the postgame radio interview. “When we came on the road, the biggest thing I told the team was that we needed to play hard and make sure we competed in every inning. The results were tremendous, I’m just proud of how we competed this weekend.”

The Toppers opened the Invitational on Friday against the University of Cincinnati.

Redshirt junior infielder Thomas Petrie hit a walk-off single against the Bearcats early, hinting a run-homer in the third inning to give the Toppers a 9-2 win.

Shortly after, sophomore outfielder Kaden Mitchell hit a game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth inning to bring in senior infielder Danny Hostetler to extend the lead to 3-0.

Junior outfielder Paul Munay followed with a sacrifice fly, scoring Duckworth to cap off a four-scoring inning. The Bearcats scored two of the last three runs, but it wasn’t enough to push the game past 5-2 in the seventh inning.

On Saturday the Toppers played former Sun Belt Conference foe South Alabama. Both teams played with nine players, with the Hilltoppers winning 9-3 in the first inning to pull away from the Jaguars.

The two teams went back and forth at the plate as the Jaguars took an 8-7 lead going into the final inning. But catcher Hunter Wood hit a single RBI double to tie the game.

Shortly after, freshman infielder Steven Hancock hit a sacrifice fly to score the lead. Murray’s three-run double to score two more runs to earn the win, extending their win streak to 15.

South Alabama scored two runs to pull within three, but a three-run home run from senior catcher Kendall Noble sealed the game for the Hilltoppers.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

WKU looked solid on offense and defense against longtime rival MTSU. The Toppers used a huge offensive performance to overcome MTSU.

The Toppers played their final two games of the regular season away against the season.

The offense was firing on all cylinders for the Toppers, who shot 50 percent from the field including 38.5 percent from the three-point line.

Senior forward Justin Johnson led all scorers with 13 points, six rebounds and six assists. Freshman Markeith Edmond filled the stat sheet with 13 points, six rebounds and nine assists.

The offense was firing on all cylinders for the Toppers, who shot 50 percent from the field including 38.5 percent from the three-point line.

Junior guard Fredrick Edwards and senior forward Justin Johnson led the team in scoring with 13 and 10 points respectively.

Junior guard Fredrick Edwards (25) dunks the ball in the last few seconds of the final half during WKU’s game against Marshall Saturday, Feb. 13. Edwards ended with 25 points at the end of overtime.

**HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU**

**BY MATTHEW STEWART**

Crunch time is nearing, and the WKU men’s basketball team (14-15) seems to be getting closer to being tournament-ready.

This past weekend, the Hilltoppers played their final two games of the regular season away against longtime rivals MTSU. The Toppers took the opportunity to get two big wins before returning to Diddle Arena for the final two regular season games this Thursday and Saturday.

The first game of the weekend was the conference’s last against longtime rival MTSU. The Toppers took control of business in their trip to Murfreesboro and won 78-72.

The win over the Blue Raiders extends WKU’s win streak to 11 with the Toppers completing a three-game stretch versus Southern Mississippi (7-19). The Toppers are set to take care of business in their trip to Murfreesboro and win 78-72.

Toppers spilt games in final road trip of regular season.

**HOME WINS MOVE WKU TO SECOND IN USA STANDINGS**

**EVAN HIECHLEBECH**

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