SGA passes four bills in Tuesday meeting

BY JODI CAMP
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

During the Student Government Association meeting on Tuesday, Sen- • • •

matrack student president regarding the new budget cuts. Both restaurants have been briefly closed and reopen early next month.

Matt Bevin. Richey said student re-

sponsibilities have increased since 2008. Jefferon County said tuition rates have increased significantly due to state funding cuts. He added that students should be aware of the tuition freeze and the potential for tuition increases in the future.

If passed, the bill, which is spon-

sored by Republican senators Dan Seum, John Schickel and Chris Girdler, will ensure that tuition for the 2018-2020 school years remains equal to the 2015-2016 school year. The bill would also require universities to increase student involvement in the school's activities and programs.

By Emma Collins
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

In an attempt to make college edu-

cation more affordable and ease the burden of college debt, Ohio Ken- • • •

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Senate Bill 75, An Act relating to tu- • • •

tion freeze for postsecondary education and declaring an emergency, was pre-

sent to the Kentucky Senate on Jan. 12.

By Kentucky Senate to hear tuition freeze bill

Jennifer Ringgold

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sent to the Kentucky Senate on Jan. 12.
**SAFETY FIRST**

**Tuition Freeze**

As we have every year we set a tuition freeze this year. We are not recommending a 10 percent increase in any way or any amount of increase.

Gary Ransdell said in reaction to the topic of budget cuts and in response to the proposed budget, Ransdell said that there has been a freeze from WKU this year.

"She got a great education, was thrilled here since 1966, so since this anniversary Celebration of WKU SGA, we've been here since 1966, so since the 50th anniversary, the 50th anniversary celebration of WKU SGA, which will take place on April 30 in the auditorium, of the 50th anniversary celebration of WKU SGA, which will take place on April 30 in the auditorium..." This is really a critical issue. We don't have any policy in the books right now regarding student mothers." Line One.

**New minors approved by Board of Regents**

According to the Academic Affairs portion of the minutes, the Board of Regents will consider several other committees within the University's budget and will propose on Oct. 31, 2015.

"Since grades can be applied to a wide range of disciplines from across the university, there has been significant interest in a minor or photojournalism from students and others as well as those who are interested in applying to photography on the proposal read."

According to the program, the Board of Regents also approved a new graduate certificate in Elementary Math Specialization to be offered by the College of Education.

"Many education schools have made the case that undergraduate institutions are not adequately preparing students to enter the workforce, online or otherwise, the proposed reads."

Janet Lynn Taylor, an associate professor in the School of Business, said the program was highly recommended.

"I had teachings from all levels for various reasons cost tuition freeze."

"It may not pass this time. You may have to wait another year or if it doesn't pass the process can take a long time, but it is doing something for the university, to the state, to the university's desire to expand."

"We've proposed a funding bill, but it will be brought to the governor's desk."

**FORENSICS**

"In Ransdell's opinion, the budget is being discussed." 

"As we have every year we set a tuition freeze this year. We are not recommending a 10 percent increase in any way or any amount of increase."

"We've proposed a funding bill, but it will be brought to the governor's desk."

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Students learn culture from calligraphy

A3

BY MADHAVA ABHI
HERALDNEWS@WKU.EDU

WKU is home to a growing Chinese language program that immerses students in traditional Chinese culture by giving them access to classes on topics like calligraphy.

Assistant professor of Chinese Huiqiang Zheng has spent the last two years teaching a Chinese calligraphy class. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Zheng also runs an office hours session for any students interested in learning more about the art form.


Huiqiang Zheng, assistant professor of Chinese, leads a Chinese calligraphy class at the Fine Arts Center on Tuesday. This is Zheng’s second year teaching the class, and he enjoys exposing his students to ancient Chinese culture.

“I like watching [students] progress and use what they learn to form letters and words,” Zheng said.

The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays for two hours. In the class, Zheng and students spend more than just time with a brush, he said. “I learned calligraphy as a child so that I can be happy to see how students become comfortable with a brush,” Zheng said.


Zheng’s students said they enjoy learning and finding new avenues to bring value to their futures. “I like watching [students] progress and use what they learn to form letters and words,” Zheng said.

“Many Japanese people who are left-handed learn to write with their right hand,” Zheng said. However, this challenge has not stopped her from progressing and finishing the portfolio of printed images.

“I am very proud of myself and my students,” Zheng said. “I am very proud of myself and my students.”

Finalists chosen in Study Abroad director search

BY MONICA KAST
HERALDNEWS@WKU.EDU

The Office of Study Abroad and Global Learning has narrowed its search for a new director down to three potential candidates.

Seven candidates were invited to express interest in the position. Among those candidates, Assistant professor of Chinese Huiqiang Zheng, who is going into his third year teaching a Chinese Calligraphy class at WKU’s Fine Arts Center, is one of the finalists.

Zheng is a student of Dr. Wei Fan, a Chinese scholar who has been teaching Chinese calligraphy for over 30 years.


Zheng’s students said they enjoy learning and finding new avenues to bring value to their futures. “I like watching [students] progress and use what they learn to form letters and words,” Zheng said.

“I am very proud of myself and my students,” Zheng said. “I am very proud of myself and my students.”

Laura Monarch, stepped down from the position in May. She was looking to fill the position.

“We’re evaluating the candidates,” Cobane said. “Are they a good fit? Can they get the job done? But also, we’re looking at the candidates’ strengths and weaknesses to see who best lines up with what the university is looking for.”

“Being interim director, I get more access to students than I typically would as Chief International Officer,” Cobane said. “Being an administrator is a fantastic, rewarding position, but it does have its difficulties.”

One of the candidates has already been on campus for their interviews and public presentation. Cobane said that around 20 faculty and staff were there for the presentation. The remaining two candidates will be on campus for their interviews and presentations in the coming weeks.

Cobane said he expects that the new director will start on July 1, depending on negotiations and their schedules.

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Good things come in threes, right? No. 3 on WKUHerald’s article titled “How To Seduce A Woman” is active listening. They recommend a few sample questions you can use to keep her parsing. “Where did you grow up?” is one.

So here’s what you do: Walk up to this hot chick after class and ask her where she lived when she was a little kid. Let her sit down. You’ll be doing some heavy petting in no time.

PAUL: You’re gross.

PAUL’S CAT: And you’ll be getting nasty soon too, man.

PAUL: I first off, I’m sure the person writing in has already looked at this particular Wikihow article if “heat af” is being used. Second off, it’s not Recording women, especially college students, aren’t things to be won or deemed for “heavy petting.”

But hey, if you see her on Tinder, slide right. You never know what could happen.

PRIES CAT: Or just talk to her in person with your usual chutzpah. Humans and cell-phones, I’ll never understand.

Want to have your problem solved by Paul and his cat? Email paulandhiscat@outlook.com. If published, letters may be edited for space or clarity.

JOHN WINSTEAD

News of President Gary Ransdell’s retirement is bittersweet. It should come as no shock that I am a harsh critic of Ransdell. In recent years, most of my criticism has been directed towards encouraging him to confront the implicit or explicit racism WKU perpetuates through its lack of resources for students of color and its failure to apologize for racist building constructions.

But before Ransdell’s tenure ends, I’ll try to explain the cult of personality he represents. I firmly believe the reason people love and respect Ransdell has less to do with his policies than with his image. The president has been more politically than leader. He has shown that he knows the right time to call in favors and the right market to target himself. He has also brought fudging to WKU — though not enough to offset his spending policies.

However, most of my criticisms stem from issues that rarely receive attention from the general student body. These include concerns about faculty pay and working rights, concerns about the history of this school, and concerns that faculty programs are more spectacle than substance. Faculty rights and salaries matter. Hiring policies should be more inclusive. Staffed women’s resource centers and LGBT resource centers should be established. Racism on WKU’s campus needs to be addressed.

I’m willing to retire personal bit- terness about Ransdell’s actions as president along with his retirement. But I want to see more than polished charisma from our next president. I want to see substantial social changes and a willingness to tackle concerns on campus head-on.

PAUL AND HIS CAT

Q: My biology teaching assistant should I send?

A: No.

Comments should be well written and contain content of interest to the magazine’s readers. All letters should be signed and should contain the author’s name, address, phone number, and classifi cation or title. Letters exceeding 250 words may be edited for space. The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of interest. Letters should be received by 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.

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Opinion 270.745.4874 || herald.opinion@wku.edu

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Have an opinion? Tweet us @WKUherald or find us online at WKUHerald.com. Let us know your thoughts about the editorial, or write us with what’s on your mind.

LISTEN TO THIS

January’s top three new release standouts

1. “Not to Disappear” by The British indie folk trio Daughter is the live- best bunch. On the impeccable songwriting, good tunes include “In the End.”

2. “Suicide Songs” by Money: The title of this album is only slightly misleading. It’s easy to consider Manchester-based trio Money as an amplification of classic British myrry and cynicism. However, there is a nuance to the style of music and sum. With songs like “Can’t Change My Alcoholics’ New Year,” it’s hard to take the album completely seriously in its grievances. Sure, another Manchester indie band might have mastered [myy] and self-deprecation, but it’s not a bad tradition to continue.
Across
1 Directive to a dealer
6 Adds liberally
13 Sustain
15 Apple bug?
16 Strength in numbers?
18 Blubber
19 What “this love is,” in a Taylor Swift title
20 Shades go-with
21 Shepherd’s dishes?
24 Fruit trees
25 __ cut: fabric design technique
26 Birch of Indiana
28 Unkempt abode
29 Umbrian tourist town
32 Salisbury smooch
34 Beats the rap
40 __ Accords: Israel/PLO agreements
41 Acorn bearer
42 Ad follower
45 Some 55-Across works
47 Smidge
48 Mocks
50 Blockers’ targets
53 Dodges
55 Joan of art
56 __ Dome: Lucas Oil Stadium predecessor
58 Best Actress the year before Kate Winslet
61 Dizzy with delight
62 Neptune, e.g.
63 Gently passes
64 Simmers

SYLLABLES
1 Swear words
2 “If I Can’t Love Her” singer, in a 1994 musical
3 “I Love You”
4 Hie
5 Literature Nobelist who won two posthumous Tony Awards
6 ___
7 Spanish 101 word
8 Vitalize
9 Calls or cells
10 “Like I care”
11 Kevin of “Shark Tank”
12 “Drat!”
13 “This is what it is,”
14 Support spec of a sort
15 Really enlightened
16 Salt Lake daily
17 Sale warning
18 Apocalypsis
19 “Ring Cycle” quartet
20 “Gunfight at the O.K. Corral” screenwriter
21 Spherical extremities
22 Play hard to get
23 Pull-up beneficiary, briefly
24 Color similar to crimson
25 Narrow shore point
26 Portrayer of Django and Ray
27 Issues a mea culpa
28 Concern for some bodybuilders
29 Narrow shore point
30 Squeak (out)
31 Logician’s words
32 Sporty VW
33 Squeak (out)
34 Tosses in
35 Tosses in
36 From 2009 through Sep. 2015, it paid $143 billion in dividends to the U.S. Treasury
37 Concern for some bodybuilders
38 Issues a mea culpa
39 Squeak (out)
40 Museo de la Revolución city
41 “Ring Cycle” quartet
42 Cyclist’s abode
43 “Drat!”
44 Support spec of a sort
45 Some 55-Across works
46 Narrow shore point
47 Smidge
48 Mocks
49 Throws below
50 Blockers’ targets
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54 Snoot
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58 Best Actress the year before Kate Winslet
59 Playing hard to get
60 Pull-up beneficiary, briefly
61 Dizzy with delight
62 Neptune, e.g.
63 Gently passes
64 Simmers

Down
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2 Hip
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PREVIOUS SOLUTION
FEBRUARY 11, 2016 > WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Tired climbers rest between ascents in the Ice Climbers Lounge at Silo Ice Climbing in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Feb. 6. Making it to the top of the 60-foot ice sheet takes a lot out of a climber, and only about one in 12 make it all the way up on their first attempt.

GABRIEL SCARLETT /HERALD

Nashville freshman Brent Andrews looks to the next hold for his ice climbing pick at Silo Ice Climbing in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Feb. 6. Ice climbing requires balance, technique and full-body endurance that do not come quickly to first-time ice climbers. The trip, put on by WKU ORAC, introduced 12 participants to a brand new sport in a safe learning environment.

GABRIEL SCARLETT /HERALD

Bowling Green native Nathan Spainhoward sets his crampons while working his way up a wall of ice at Silo Ice Climbing in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Feb. 6. Spainhoward and a group of 11 others with WKU's Outdoor Recreation Activity Center made the 10-hour drive to climb at the ice wall, which has been run by Don Briggs since 2001.

GABRIEL SCARLETT /HERALD

Lexington senior David English searches for a hold with his ice pick while traversing the wall at Silo Ice Climbing in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Feb. 6. “Anything worth doing is worth overdoing,” English said.

GABRIEL SCARLETT /HERALD

Visitors at Silo Ice Climbing wait their turn as climbers make their way up the 60-foot sheet of ice on Feb. 6 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Sprayed water freezes on the silo weeks before the climbing season begins, and climbers travel from all over the country to tackle the one-of-a-kind ice wall.

GABRIEL SCARLETT /HERALD

The sport of climbing is as much about the journey as it is the destination. People have been known to traverse continents, cross oceans and trek countless miles in search of the perfect rock or ice to climb, so it is fitting that this year’s ORAC trip to ice climb in Iowa involved driving 10 hours each way. Opened in 2001 by experienced rock and ice climber Don Briggs, Silo Ice Climbing in Cedar Falls, Iowa, was inspired by his trip to the manmade ice climbing mecca Ouray Ice Park in Colorado. Briggs does not profit from the endeavor and cycles any leftover funds back into new gear for his visitors, but he does get to climb here almost every day and enjoys introducing new faces to the sport. All 12 students on Western Kentucky University’s ORAC team were new to ice climbing, but were encouraged by employees to “leave it all on the silo,” and they did. Excited by topping out most of his climbs, Lexington senior David English said, “Anything worth doing is worth overdoing ice climbing is worth overdoing.”

By Gabriel Scarlett

IOWA ICE

WKU ORAC STUDENTS FIND THEIR STRENGTH ON THE WALL

By Gabriel Scarlett

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GABRIEL SCARLETT /HERALD

Climbers make their way up the ice wall at Silo Ice Climbing in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Feb. 6. WKU’s Outdoor Recreation Activity Center sent a group of 12 on the 10-hour drive to climb at the ice wall.

GABRIEL SCARLETT /HERALD

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GABRIEL SCARLETT /HERALD
Columbia junior William Hisston started Bluegrass Lore his freshman year at WKU. Hixson, an elementary education major, got into t-shirt printing as a hobby, and now has a fully fledged business built around it. “Sororities are definitely my most stressful clients,” Hixson said.

“I wanted it to have the word ‘bluegrass’ in it, and I knew I didn’t want to use the word ‘lore’,” Hixson, now a 20-year-old sophomore at WKU, said. “It was a chance to run into 20-somethings in a non-sleazy pickup line. I never really thought about owning my own business until this idea came to me.”

With limited ideas for what to name the business, Hixson used Google to find ideas. “Ethan didn’t know what to call it,” Hisston, now a 20-year-old junior at WKU, said while sipping coffee. “I asked him to have the word Bluegrass Lore in it, and I knew I didn’t want to use the word ‘Southern,’ so I Googled synonyms and found ‘lore.’”

Hisston started by establishing Bluegrass Lore, Brown and Hixson began producing their ideas and designs for affordable Southern prep clothing despite starting without funds.

Brown said he reasoned that if he was going to spend $40 on a shirt, he would want to spend it on something he would wear. He ran with this idea to make sure Bluegrass Lore merchandise was both affordable and desirable. Combining their first order among friends and family, Brown and Hixson decided to expand to an online store with the help of Fremont, New Hampshire photojournalism junior Leah Johnson.

“I thought our business was cool and it was easy to wear it on my family’s farm. Johnson said he was willing to help in any way she could and that she enjoyed taking time to express her passion for her own work. With their store’s website up and running, Brown and Hixson visited different businesses and promoting Bluegrass Lore on social media. Through social media, they made contact with Bluetique, a Bowling Green boutique that began the first vendor selling their merchandise.

“When it comes to owning a business, you can’t be afraid to fail,” Brown said. “We had Bluegrass lore.”

**Southern Prep Style**

Duo seeks to rebrand ‘Bluegrass State’

**BY SHELBY BRUCE**

HERALDFEATURES@WKU.EDU

It was spring 2014 when Columbia High School senior Ethan Brown approached Columbia freshman Will Hisston with the idea of creating a design for his Southern prep t-shirt company.

Starting with nothing but Hisston’s experience in graphic design, the two partnered to create a clothing business. “I never really thought about owning my own business until this idea came to me,” Hisston, now a 20-year-old junior at WKU, said while sipping coffee. “I wanted him to have the word Bluegrass Lore in it, and I knew I didn’t want to use the word ‘lore’.”

With limited ideas for what to name the business, Hixson used Google to find ideas. “Ethan didn’t know what to call it,” Hisston, now a 20-year-old junior at WKU, said while sipping coffee. “I asked him to have the word Bluegrass Lore in it, and I knew I didn’t want to use the word ‘Southern,’ so I Googled synonyms and found ‘lore.’”

After officially establishing Bluegrass Lore, Brown and Hisston began producing their ideas and designs for affordable Southern prep clothing despite starting without funds.

Brown said he reasoned that if he was going to spend $40 on a shirt, he would want to spend it on something he would wear. He ran with this idea to make sure Bluegrass Lore merchandise was both affordable and desirable. Combining their first order among friends and family, Brown and Hixson decided to expand to an online store with the help of Fremont, New Hampshire photojournalism junior Leah Johnson.

“I thought our business was cool and it was easy to wear it on my family’s farm. Johnson said he was willing to help in any way she could and that she enjoyed taking time to express her passion for her own work. With their store’s website up and running, Brown and Hixson visited different businesses and promoting Bluegrass Lore on social media. Through social media, they made contact with Bluetique, a Bowling Green boutique that became the first vendor selling their merchandise.

“When it comes to owning a business, you can’t be afraid to fail,” Brown said. “We had Bluegrass lore.”

**SEE BLUEGRASS PAGE B2**

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**Bowling Green to host Kentucky pageant**

**BY MADISON MARTIN**

HERALDFEATURES@WKU.EDU

This weekend, the WKU community can expect a competition filled with flair and glamour coupled with a display of personal character and speaking ability at Van Meter Auditorium.

Miss Kentucky United States will commence for the first time in Bowling Green.

Katy Moody Cusick, director of the pageant and a previous titleholder of Miss Kentucky United States, said organization for the event began several months ago after she took over the role in November 2015. A Bowling Green native and WKU alumna, Cusick said she hopes the pageant can continue to be held in Bowling Green.

“We just want to get Bowling Green involved and maybe find a new home so we can keep [the pageant] here every year,” Cusick said.

There are seven divisions that nearly 30 girls and women will compete in based on their respective age brackets.

The pageants involve four components: evening wear, swimsuit and fitness, an onstage question and a closed interview.

Participants will arrive in Bowling Green on the evening of Friday, Feb. 12, and will engage in a meet-and-greet before having their pictures taken the following day. They go on to compete throughout the weekend, and eventually the new title holders are crowned.

Advertising agency Poole, a Bowling Green freshwoman at the University of Kentucky, was hired to create a trophy for the pageant. Poole said the 10-minute interview portion is what really defines the competition and makes a candidate stand out.

“I think that’s the most important thing about pageantry is really seeing who the girl truly is and her credentials,” Poole said.

Cusick said title holders in the past have made appearances at numerous events at the University of Kentucky, as well as for the pageant and for the promotion of the pageant for the national competition. Such a high level of exposure was deemed impossible in Poole’s eyes, though.

“Crime is affecting my life...it provided me a year of self-growth so I wouldn’t have other wise had it,” Poole said.

The preliminary competition will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. The finals on Sunday will begin at 3 p.m.

**SEE PAGE B2**

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**Couple establishes relationship through online app**

**BY AMBRIEHL CRUTCHFIELD**

HERALDFEATURES@WKU.EDU

Lebanon, Tennessee sophomore Desmond Darling, 19, and Island senior Nick Willis, 22, have been seeing each other for a month, but have only been dating officially for a week. The two met on the dating app Tinder.

“I didn’t want her distaste for coffee to be the deciding factor,” Willis said.

Darling said she recognized Willis after a week.

“She asked me what you think about mixing and with this a hot bev...”

The two then met in person at the first time for Spencer’s Coffee. Though Darling accepted the offer, she remembered feeling uneasy about meeting the stranger as a potential possibility and what-if scenarios came in her mind. Several of Darling’s friends meet their significant other on Tinder and have been dating successfully for five months or more. Darling said she told her best friend about the...
WIND ENSEMBLE PERFORM AT EMANUEL AME CHURCH

BY BRITTINY MOORE
HERALD FEATURES@WKU.Edu

During a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charle- ston, South Carolina, a gunman opened fire on the congregation, killing nine members in an act of domestic terrorism.

Eight months later, the event's pain and shock can still be felt throughout the nation.

To pay homage to the tragic event, the WKU Wind Ensemble will play a piece dedicated to the community at the College Band Directors National Association conference in Charleston on Feb 20.

"[This event] was during a time where a lot of racial con- nection that came with ease as he re- called making Darling giggle during the date. Hixson also recalled the day they vis- ited Southern Threads to meet with the manager, and there was an entire setup dedicated to Bluegrass Lore, according to the managers. Brown and Hixson agreed one of their favorite moments was when Sunny Moore, a country music band, posed for a photo wearing a Bluegrass Lore shirt.

"It's so normal, honestly," Brown said. "To see someone wear our shirt and knowing they would pay money to wear something you created is such an amazing feeling.

After the original establishment of Bluegrass Lore in 2014, the business underwent changes in fall 2015 when Brown decided to split from the company due to personal conflicts.

"It was never anything Will did; I just felt personally. I just didn't feel something anymore, it's re- ally hard for me to f ak e."

Although Slim was on his own, he has continued to run the business in his free time and has even designed some shirts for sororities and frater- nities at WKU.

"I hope to get back on track with pur- chaseing shirts and getting more involved since it's hard with school," said "I really want to continue building online and in retail." As Bluegrass Lore progresses, Brown has high hopes for Slimson as his for- mer partner Slimson now runs the business inde- pendently.

"I felt comfortable leaving it to Will since he was the backbone to it. I was always the face of marketing, but he was the person who made it happen," Brown said. "I think it would be cool if it got big and took off because then I could say that I started it."

COUPLE CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

low on social media so we decided to message them, and it turned into us selling our product in their store." From there, Brown and Hixson watched as their business began to ex- pand from Southern Threads in Bowling Green to Hallmark in Campbells- ville and gingerbread to Hallmark in Nashville.

"The Charleston community is encouraged to attend the event, and Schallert has also made efforts to reach out to people of color.

"I hope [the piece] is a wor- thy representation and tribute to the community, and I hope that they all moved, Thomas said.

BLUEGRASS

LOW HUES WERE A SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

I told my best friend for safety pur- poses," Darling said, "just in case the date went south, or the very slim chance that he was a murderer and I would wound up missing.

However, Darling said she decided to stick with a New Year's resolution to say yes to new experiences, which she ad- mitted sounds a little cheesy.

The couple's first date was at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville. They set up a date that came with ease as he re- called making Darling giggle during the date.

"I stole a few Seinfeld jokes, but I still count them as me making her laugh," he said.

"Will said he had some plans for the date that he wanted to make it official but because people were asking by asking too quickly. However, he said he waited until they left the museum because the artwork was depressing and he didn't want that to be their memory of their first date as a couple.

Though it is early in their relationship, the two said they've made plans for summer and smaller plans to have "just fun" because they're still getting to know each other.

For more on Bluegrass Lore, visit their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/bluegrasslore. For more information on the ensemble's season, visit http://www.kw.edu. 
IVY BROWN

As a freshman at WKU, Brown played in all 35 games and started once, even in games that were blowouts.

A former McDonald's All-American from Hill High School, Brown had to assume a leadership role in the team being behind one of the best players.

She was different just to come in and score some points, particularly a few free throws, Brown said. "My role of changed quite noticeably, you might never really know," said Brown.

On the Hill, Brown is a staple in the starting lineup. She currently averages three points and a double-double with 11.3 points and 13.3 rebounds per game. The Thundering Herd is averaging 62 percent of the floor, which means that they are an extreme challenge, Brown said.

She's been the most consistent player for Marshall, scoring 17 points while recording 17 rebounds in the last three games.

The Miners of the University of Texas, El Paso came to Diddle Arena and scored 14 points per game on any given night. You got to go out and make sure you're ready to play, Head Coach Michelle Clark-Huard said after the game. "We just had to get back and get focused and get them in the gym and then coach the things we need to to so when we go on the road we're ready."

The Herd has only lost one game this season, and that was to Middle Tennessee. In that game, the Hilltoppers were down by 13 points and only scored 13 points and add just three rebounds the last time they played at UTEP.

"We're not going to replace Miranda Kramer, who was a vocal player who has occupied many different roles since her freshman year," Tudor said the team is looking for someone to fill this spot. "I told Brooke to do whatever it takes to fill this spot. With Holloway being the low returning senior, that's one of the reasons Brooke said she doesn't feel like she's already down next year."

"I'll definitely say Brooke has done a good job," Tudor said. "She's our lone true senior, and this will be her third season with us. She's a leader by example as [she] makes good grades, does all the right things and is a great student-athlete. Brooke has been very steady, she's always up to helping the team. I think that is vital that we succeed. I think it's important that she say that she's "I told her that this year has been a little bit different than we did last year."

The Toppers are preparing to get things on track as they head back to March and tournament time despite coming off a heart-breaking overtime loss against the University of Texas, El Paso.

However, the Lady Toppers are still realistic as C-USA seems to be wide open this season. More than only 13 points and 30 points the last time they played at UTEP.

"It seems to bother her on the big stage," said Brown.

Last season in the NCAA Tournament against Texas, Brown gave the Lady Toppers a final beacon of hope by nailing a 3-point shot to make it 51-50 with less than a minute to go. In the biggest game of the 2015-16 season, Brown had 12 points and led the team in rebounding with nine in that win over Texas."

"I'd much rather play in front of 5,000 people than 500. Just the atmosphere and the energy, you can build that off of," Clark-Heard said. "After Brown's freshman season, she was somewhat disappointed with her statistics."

However, the coaching staff was able to compare numbers with that of Gooch's in her first year. "I sat down with Gooch's numbers and her [Brown's] numbers and I tried to explain to her that she didn't have an awful freshman year," Collins said. "[Her] numbers are almost identical to Chastity Gooch. Everything was about the same, almost exactly. I think her coach said she was a vocal player who has occupied many different roles since her freshman year. The key is that she's able to play for the team to be successful," Collins said. "If it means don't shoot threes, she won't shoot threes. If it means go rebound, she'll go rebound. She just does whatever. Whatever Michelle Clark-Heard tells her to do, she does it."
BY HUNTER FRINT
HERALD SPORTS@WKU.EDU

Sophomore forward Ivy Brown is used to all the attention. Brown is used to the big games and being the centerpiece of a team. However, Brown focuses on exhausting every bit of her capability to help her own team in whatever role that may be.

“Shes the epitome of a team player,” Associate Head Coach Greg Collins said. “She wants to be on the court and do whatever it takes to win.”

The 6-foot-1-inch Hodgenville native was recruited heavily out of high school and was the nation’s second-ranked program University of Kentucky.

“She was interesting,” Brown said. “Besides the smaller Division-I schools, Western was really the only one that showed me a lot of interest from this beginning. Kentucky came in late, but just knowing that (WKU) was there from the start is pretty much what sold me.”

Ranked as the 72nd overall player in the nation by espn.com, Brown was a huge gain for Head Coach Michelle-Clark Heard.

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“Tuscaloosa, where they fell to No. 14 Georgia Bulldogs.

“Obviously it’s a big loss,” Tudor said. “It’s hard to replace a pitcher that led the nation in 2014 by espn.com, Kramer shouldered the majority of the pitching last year. Kramer had a 26-10 record while Marshall is in third place in Conference USA standings with a 4-7 record while Marshall is in third place in.

The Thundering Herd of Marshall (12-12) are heading to Diddle Arena Saturday night to take on the WKU men’s basketball team, who is also sitting at 12-12 on the season.

However, there is a big difference between the two programs as the Hilltoppers are currently 11th in the Conference USA standings with a 19-7 record while Marshall is in third place with an 8-3 record in conference play. Last season the Topper’s faced off against the Herd three times, winning the matchup both home and away sweeping both contests.

“The Thundering Herd of Marshall (12-12) are heading to Diddle Arena Saturday night to take on the WKU men’s basketball team, who is also sitting at 12-12 on the season.

The Herd comes into the contest with a 4-7 record in Conference USA and is searching for their first victory in the conference. The Hilltoppers are currently 11th in the standings with a 19-7 record.

“We have Parker having the leadership that she did last season,” Tudor said. “It’s hard to replace a pitcher that led the nation in 2014 by espn.com, Kramer shouldered the majority of the pitching last year. Kramer had a 26-10 record while Marshall is in third place in Conference USA standings with a 4-7 record while Marshall is in third place in.

Senior Brooke Holloway, left, softball Head Coach Amy Tudor, middle, and junior Kathryn Downing, right, answer questions about their upcoming season Monday, Feb. 9, at Diddle Arena. One concern for the team’s upcoming season is the loss of pitcher Miranda Kramer, who is transferring to the University of Kentucky. However, Tudor expects to spread the pitching load among five players this season instead of just one.

“We obviously don’t want to have one pitcher throwing 100 percent of the time,” Tudor said.

“I’m excited for this season’s team,” Kramer said. “I’m excited to work with the team and see what we can do.

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