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College Heights Herald

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 93, ISSUE 32



\$16 MILLION CUT

SILAS WALKER • HERALD

President Timothy Caboni listens to fellow speakers at the Board of Regents meeting on Friday in Jody Richards Hall. Caboni announced plans for dealing with the budget deficit going forward. "This is the worst decision anyone in a leadership position has to make," Caboni said at the end of the meeting.

University College eliminated, workforce to be reduced

BY HERALD STAFF

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

To combat the current \$15 million budget deficit, WKU's Budget Council has recommended eliminating University College, reducing the university's workforce and returning management of the three regional campuses to the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach.

The recommendations were announced at the quarterly meeting for the Board of Regents on Friday. Other recommendations include reducing the number of university vehicles and reorganizing or consolidating similar jobs and units.

"We are employing multiple strategies to put WKU on a more sound financial footing for the future, and these include our strategic planning efforts, our work with Huron Consulting to revamp our budget model and, of course, this effort to balance our budget," President Timothy Caboni said during a press conference follow-

ing the meeting.

A number of units will also see budget reductions. Academic Affairs' budget will have a cut of over \$7 million. Athletics will also lose over \$1 million which is 8.4 percent of the total cuts.

"We are employing multiple strategies to put WKU on a more sound financial footing for the future..."

President of WKU
TIMOTHY CABONI

The reductions total just under \$16 million.

Caboni tasked the Budget Council

last fall with examining WKU's budget model and addressing the current deficit as well as recommending new policies. The council includes one student, four faculty members and five staff members. The group produced 35 recommendations, a majority of which Caboni accepted.

WKU's deficit stems from a decrease in enrollment and state funding in the past few years, Caboni said. The deficit is expected to continue to grow this year. Gov. Matt Bevin has proposed a 6.25 percent cut to state funding. If approved, WKU could lose \$4.6 million.

Earlier this year, Caboni said WKU could have a budget deficit as large as \$40 million. The \$40 million comes from the current \$15 million deficit, the anticipated \$4.6 million cut, WKU's nearly \$9 million pension obligation and an anticipated \$10 million deficit from enrollment changes and fixed costs. Additionally, WKU may also lose \$750,000 if Bevin's proposal to eliminate the Kentucky Mesonet, a statewide weather and climate monitoring system, is approved.

This is the first round of Budget Council recommendations. Caboni said more cuts can be expected after the legislature releases Kentucky's final budget model in April.

University College

Following recommendations from the Budget Council, University College will be eliminated effective July 1.

Academic programs, which include African American Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies and Organizational Leadership, will be allocated to other colleges across WKU.

"We will consolidate the functions within University College that duplicate campus support systems and integrate others into Student Affairs or appropriate campus departments," Caboni said in an email.

University College currently has the lowest enrollment compared to other colleges at WKU, according to the WKU Fact Book. In 2016, University College had a total enrollment of 1,370

SEE BUDGET • PAGE A2

Athletics prepares for \$1.3 million budget cut

BY JEREMY CHISENHALL

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Following the WKU Budget Council's recommendation to cut over \$1.3 million from the athletics budget, WKU athletics is now tasked with finding where to cut costs.

The exact amount of the recommended cut is \$1,346,259 from university funding. That would be a 5.7 percent reduction of the athletic program's 2017-18 proposed budget of \$23.6 million. The \$1.3 million signifies an approximate eight percent re-

duction that athletics is bearing for the overall \$15 million deficit.

Athletics director Todd Stewart said he fears that difficult cuts may have to be made, which could threaten WKU's athletic success.

"The biggest challenge is, because of all the other cuts we've had up to now, the easy cuts have long since been made. There aren't anymore easy ones, and you know I think that's what's frustrating for everybody in athletics," Stewart said. "You have to have coaches, you have to have trainers, you have to have a strength coach, you have to travel, so all the areas where we're

SEE ATHLETICS • PAGE A2

Admission standards to increase at WKU

BY MONICA KAST

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WKU will no longer be admitting students with a Composite Admission Index score, or CAI, of less than 60, according to the budget restructuring plan announced on Friday.

The CAI is calculated using an applicant's unweighted high school GPA and ACT score. The applicant's GPA is multiplied by 20, and then the ACT score is added to calculate the CAI. Previously, WKU required a CAI of 65 or greater to guarantee admission, and applicants with a CAI score between

60 and 64 were "evaluated on a competitive basis," according to the university's website.

One of the accepted recommendations from the budget restructuring plan is to "revise admission policies/practices to end admission of undergraduate students with CAI scores below 60." President Timothy Caboni also said he will evaluate the recommendation to look into "the implications of raising the CAI threshold to 65 or higher."

At a press conference following the announcement of the budget restructuring plan on Friday, Caboni said

SEE ADMISSION • PAGE A3

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SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU Athletics Director Todd Stewart stands before the Board of Regents on Jan. 26 in Jody Richards Hall to ask that Rick Stansbury's annual base salary be raised by \$150,000. At the Board of Regents meeting on Feb. 23 the WKU Budget Council recommended a \$13 million athletics budget cut.

kind of cuts continue you're going to see that in a lot of other programs as well, and certainly we don't want to have that."

As cuts are made across the board, President Timothy Caboni made it clear after Friday's Board of Regents meeting that every department, including athletics, will be affected.

"Everyone across the university will share in some part of this pain," Caboni said. "They certainly will share in some portion of the reduction. At the same time, we want to make sure that we continue our winning traditions ... that's important for us as we work through our recruitment opportunities."

Stewart said that he thinks athletics is a major opportunity for WKU to enhance recruitment and increase enrollment.

"Our university has a major enrollment problem, and I think that's no secret, and we're going to get out of it as a university if we bring more people to campus that have been here before and they're excited about it," Stewart said. "Athletics is really one of the best ways to do that, so that's kind of something we take seriously, but it's just become more and more challenging with just the cumulative effect of these cuts."

In the budget restructuring plan, the Budget Council recommended that the university "ensure institutional support for Athletics is addressed in the RAMP [Resource Allocation, Management and Planning Committee] process in the development of a new budget model."

Caboni accepted that recommendation, but also chose to take under advisement the second portion of the athletics

recommendation that states "the growth in per athlete athletic spending should not outpace the growth in per student academic spending."

Stewart said he didn't place any blame on Caboni, who he said has been put in a tough position.

"I do not blame Tim Caboni at all for any of this. He's been handed an unwinnable situation," Stewart said. "He had nothing to do with any of this, and it's up to him, obviously, as the president, to fix a very challenging budget situation, and we all recognize that. And I hate what our entire campus is going through, I mean the angst and the stress that's associated with this."

WKU athletics' \$23.6 million budget was the third-most funded area of allocation in WKU's 2018 budget, behind academic affairs, which was budgeted for \$221.7 million, and Chief Facilities Officer, which was budgeted for \$28.9 million.

During the regents meeting, Caboni said people in positions eliminated will be able to keep their position until June 30, unless they choose to leave earlier.

"The conversation around what the reductions are and what positions are, are ongoing," Caboni said. "They're ongoing in Potter College, they're ongoing in our College of Engineering, they're ongoing in student affairs, and so that's the case with athletics as well."

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ATHLETICS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

spending, you know, you really can't cut those areas if you want to remain a Division I program."

WKU has won 23 Conference USA Championships since joining the conference, more than double any other program in the conference in that time, but the program's 2017-18 \$23.6 million

budget ranked 11th in the conference, according to university documents.

"The cuts just make it harder and harder to succeed in a very challenging landscape," Stewart said. "I look at our track program as the most recent example. That was one that won championships on a pretty regular basis, and at the indoor championships, our men came in eighth and our women came in 11th. The budget cuts have finally caught up to our track program, and my concern is that if these

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

students. The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences had the next lowest enrollment with 2,236 students.

Enrollment in University College has decreased by 30 percent from Fall 2012 to Fall 2016.

Provost David Lee said he planned to speak with people in University College to find a match for their academic programs over the next few weeks to work out the transition "in a pretty smooth and transparent way."

"I'm not terribly concerned about finding suitable homes for those programs, and they'll continue to function," Lee said. "From a student perspective ... you might go to different classrooms, but other than that, I don't think you'll notice much change in how those programs function."

University College Dean Dennis George has been at WKU 26 years and said while he is still trying to absorb the shock of his college's elimination, he still considers WKU his home.

He said he was unsure what it meant for his own future at WKU, but he is more focused on "getting through this painful process."

"It's certainly difficult to imagine being separated from people you've known and worked closely for years," George said. "[Employees of University College] are the most wonderful people in the world and deserve good homes."

George said he has had conversations both with Lee and Budget Council Chair Indudeep Chhachhi. He met with Chhachhi before winter break to discuss the future of University College.

"I know recommendations were made thoughtfully," George said.

Lee said he has no plans to eliminate any academic programs from University College "at this point in the process," but he said a thorough review of all of WKU's academic programs will begin next year.

"This is not a quick fix," Caboni said. "It's really thinking about what students who come to WKU want to study, and if we have those programs."

Workforce Reductions

Caboni also accepted the Budget Council's recommendation to eliminate 40 currently vacant positions and to terminate 90 to 100 already filled positions.

Caboni said employees will be informed if they will lose their jobs by mid-March, and the losses will occur across the entire university.

"This is painful; this is painful for our entire campus," Caboni said. "I ask you to respect the fact that these decisions affect real people's lives."

The Budget Council did not recommend which specific positions should be terminated. Caboni said the decision will fall on the vice presidents and deans. WKU will pay terminated employees through June 30. All eliminations will begin July 1.

"This has nothing to do with talent," Caboni said during the press conference. "It has everything to do with resources."

Caboni said WKU will continue to provide support to those individuals who will lose their jobs. He said human resources is ready to "wrap its arms around folks and support them" through the technical aspects of finding a new job. He said there are 1,200 vacant positions in Warren County that require a four-year degree.

"We're going to do everything in our power to create a pipeline with the folks whose positions have been downsized

to have access to those open positions," Caboni said.

Ann Mead, vice president of finance and administration, said human resources will partner with the career center to reach out to people on a one-on-one basis to help with finding a job or choosing another career.

WKU had already altered its hiring process to account for the deficit. A Personnel Actions Approval Committee lead by Mead, was formed last fall to review all requests to fill positions and determine whether they were critical to the university. Only positions deemed critical to

puses, Glasgow, Owensboro and Elizabethtown-Fort Knox, to the management of the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach (DELO).

DELO was officially formed in 2003 with the approval of the Board of Regents. Housed under DELO are numerous academic outreach units such as the Distance Learning Testing Centers, Study Away, WKU On Demand, winter term courses and summer course sessions and WKU Dual Credit.

At a press conference following the regents meeting, Caboni, when asked if the regional campus buildings would

students, such as veteran students and students who are already in the workforce but are in search of additional education to help them move up in their jobs.

Ellis said whereas the Bowling Green campus is viewed as a more traditional experience, the Elizabethtown-Ft. Knox campus works more to help people already in the workforce.

"I see the regional campuses as motorboats and Bowling Green as the cruise ship," Ellis said.

She also said the Elizabethtown-Ft. Knox campus is important because it helps deter people from going to the University of Louisville. She said she often hears from people how UofL is closer, and WKU is farther away, but the regional campus is helpful because they can work with students closer to that side of the state.

"We're fattening frogs for snakes," Ellis said.

Sally Ray, regional chancellor of the Glasgow campus, said she was surprised to hear about the changes, and last Friday's Board of Regents' meeting was the first she heard about the return to DELO.

She said she believes Caboni has a good understanding of the areas the regional campuses serve and is supportive of the institutions that serve those constituents. She said, however, there have been challenges in the past with getting the right programs to the campuses for those local constituents. She said DELO's flexibility would hopefully help with that.

"The intent is, by moving the regional to DELO, is it would allow the regional campuses to be better equipped to deliver programs that are aligned with workforce needs in the region," she said.

She said for Glasgow, the areas that would best align with the occupational growth in the region are in healthcare, business and education.

Former provost and faculty regent, Barbara Burch, was instrumental in the formation of the division, according to DELO's website. Burch said she took Caboni's decision to move the regional campuses back to DELO management as a commitment to strengthening the regional campuses.

"University College has been a fine home for them ... but part of DELO's mission is outreach," she said.

Burch said prior to the creation of DELO, there was no extended-outreach education division at WKU, and there wasn't a mechanism inside the university for dealing with online learning. She said DELO was built as a way to provide incentive for online programs.

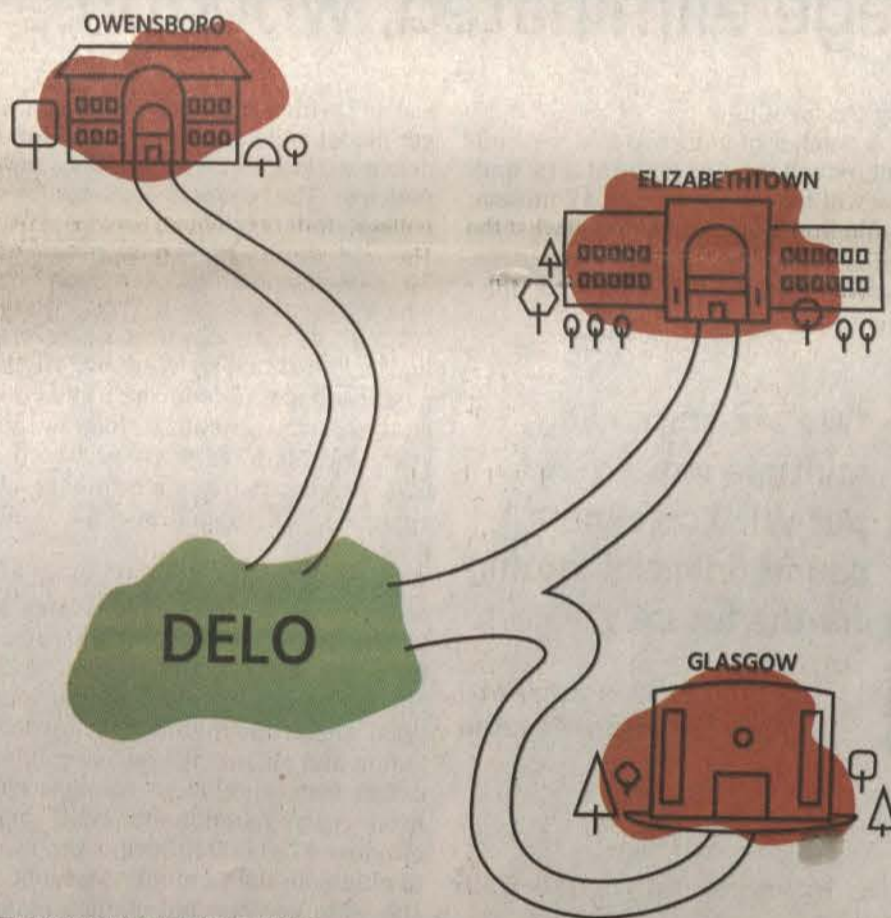
According to the impact report, in 2016, over 2,400 students took solely online courses through DELO, and 4,800 students took courses in a mix of delivery methods, such as a blend of online and face-to-face.

Online classes also make up 51 percent of course enrollments across the regional campuses, according to the Fall 2017 Regional Campus Enrollment Report.

"With the tightness of our fiscal situation, hopefully DELO can still be positioned to do good things for our university," Burch said.

Caboni also said there would be reductions in staff at the regional campuses in an attempt to centralize services that are offered across all the campuses.

When asked during the press conference if some of the 90 to 100 currently filled positions that will be terminated would come from the regional campuses, Caboni didn't specify and said the cuts would be across the entire university.



GRAPHIC BY CRAIG OSTERTAG • HERALD

WKU's operation were filled.

The personnel reductions total just under \$10 million and make up two-thirds of the \$15 million reduction.

"This is the worst decision anyone in this position ever has to make, and we've done it with the most amount of care that we possibly can," Caboni said.

Claus Ernst, the faculty regent, said the faculty has expressed concerns about the workforce reductions. He said he has known layoffs were likely since last fall, but he didn't know how many layoffs would happen.

Ernst said he expects more layoffs after the General Assembly releases the budget plan in April. He said the current budget reductions proposed by the Budget Council pertain to the \$15 million deficit and not the cuts that are expected to come from the state in April.

"I do not know how to do this without affecting personnel," Ernst said of the cuts.

The Budget Council also recommended a 4 percent campus-wide salary increase pool. The pool would start on Jan. 1, 2019.

"This is something we must do for our faculty and staff," Caboni said.

Regional Campuses

Under the Budget Council's recommendations and with Caboni's approval, WKU is returning its three regional cam-

pus to be eliminated and everything would go online, said there's not any intentions to move away from in-person classes on the regional campuses.

However, he said there is an intention to offer courses in a way that is directly connected to the local economies of the regional campuses and focuses on what the people in those communities desperately need.

"I've used this example a couple of occasions," Caboni said. "As much as I think it's interesting to offer a history degree on our Glasgow campus, I'm not sure that best meets the needs of the local economy."

The Herald reached out to Bob Skipper, director of media relations and asked if there are any plans to eliminate in-person courses at the regional campuses or if they would be moved completely online. Skipper did not respond before publication.

The Herald also reached out to Beth Laves, associate vice president of DELO, but she did not respond before publication. This story will be updated online with their comments.

Evelyn Ellis, regional chancellor of the Elizabethtown-Ft. Knox campus, said she was excited to hear about the changes and hopes to do more to align her campus with employers in the area.

"I think it's a breath of fresh air," she said. Ellis said the Elizabethtown-Ft. Knox campus receives many non-traditional



Ann Mead
Vice president of finance and administration



David Lee
Provost & vice president of academic affairs

Students reflect on tailgating location change

BY OLIVIA EILER
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

WKU's Student Activities is hosting a tailgating forum at 7 p.m. tonight in Downing Student Union room 2123.

Director of student activities Charley Pride said the event will be a "discussion about last year's tailgating by Zacharias and Meredith [halls], feedback and what we do next."

Pride said he hopes to hear students' opinions on what worked and what didn't in the transition from the Valley to the Pearce-Ford Tower lot. Tailgating was relocated because of the new Hilltopper Hall.

"This meeting is the start of a process to see what we do next with student tailgating," Pride said.

The forum will also include information about behavior expectations during tailgating.

Sigma Phi Epsilon member Anthony Graham said he felt WKU was unprepared for relocating the Greek tailgating last year.

"They had decided, 'Oh, we're making this building, and we don't have an action plan for moving Greek life,'" Graham said. "So they said, 'Find an open space besides South Lawn and stick them there.' It felt like we were shoved in there, like we didn't really have an option."

Graham said he thinks members of Greek organizations should meet with WKU to compromise on the best location for tailgating instead of the university making the final decision.

Other students said the location of the PFT parking lot was a problem.

Zac Chavez said it is more difficult for fraternity members to get from their houses on or near College Street to the new tailgating location. He said it is a far walk for people who live off



LYDIA SCHWEICKART • HERALD

Senior Corey Graham and junior Josh Rickert play beer pong on South Lawn during tailgating before WKU's homecoming game on October 14.

campus or on the other side of the Hill.

"If they could find another location, kind of in the center of campus, I would start with that," Chavez said.

Brandon Mosely said it was easier to get to the Houchens-Smith Stadium when tailgating was in the Valley.

"It's not awful; it's just kind of inconvenient," Mosely said. "Getting from point A to point B is just a lot more difficult because of the distance."

Mosely said the atmosphere in the

tailgating area could be improved by making it "more of a close-knit thing." He said the students are separated from the people who tailgate on South Lawn and from the stadium itself.

"You're so separated from everyone else, and you're separated from the game physically," Mosely said. "If people were able to be at least in sight of the field, I think that would help a lot."

Zacharias Hall resident Sam Yaw said he believes the transition went smoothly.

"The only problem with it is that I just have to make sure that I'm not parked in the area where it's at," Yaw said. "They do call you and ask you to move your car before they tow it, so that was nice."

All students are invited to attend the forum tonight to offer their own feedback and suggestions.

News reporter Olivia Eiler can be reached at 270-745-6011 and olivia.eiler789@topper.wku.edu. Follow Olivia on Twitter at @oliviaeiler16.

ADMISSION

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

WKU needs to admit students who have a "reasonable chance of being successful."

"I think that has not been our past practice," Caboni said at the press conference. "If there is a cohort of students we have admitted that have essentially a zero percent chance of graduating in six years, the question is, 'Should we admit them?' And I've said no. It's not fair to them, it's not fair to the families, it's not fair to the folks that subsidize their educations."

Caboni said the university would focus on maintaining the diversity of the student population with the change to admission standards.

"We will focus on ensuring that we [remain] a diverse institution," Caboni said.

Richard Miller, vice provost for policies and personnel, said any time the minimum academic standards for ad-

mission are increased, there could be "significant impact for low-income minority students." Miller said changing the CAI index did raise some concerns, but it would be difficult to tell what the impact would be.

"We'll have to see the impact," Miller said.

Miller also said raising the CAI was likely included in the budget restructuring plan, not as a cost-saving option, but as a way to improve "academic retention rates." Miller said it would focus on students who would "persist longer than students who have a lesser academic profile."

Jace Lux, director of recruitment and admissions, said he thought the change would affect all types of students who apply to WKU and "the percentages of students would likely remain the same."

"I certainly think this is going to affect all students," Lux said. "We have students of all backgrounds and under-represented status as well as students who are in the majority who we admit based on their Composite Admission

Index scores. That trend is going to spread across all student types."

Later, Lux added that WKU has a high percentage of first-generation college students from all backgrounds. He said those students may be the most affected.

"I think first generation students may experience higher rates of admission decisions that were declined than non-first generation students, but that's always been the case at WKU," Lux said.

Lux said he thought the decision may have been made from a "performance funding standpoint."

"I think the idea is that we want to get students who may not be ready for WKU who might come here and spend a semester or two semesters incurring debt...we want to get them to a place where they can be successful, get some preparation that they need so that they can come back to us later when they are prepared," Lux said.

Lux said for the class that started in fall 2017, 255 students were admitted to WKU with a CAI between 60 and 64.

Lux said of the 255 admitted, 86 enrolled in classes for that semester.

Lux also said the change would not affect students they are admitting for fall 2018 but would likely affect the class admitted for fall 2019, though that was not definitively known.

Both Lux and Miller said more information will become known in the coming days regarding changing the CAI. Lux said he found out about the change during the budget restructuring plan announcement. He said he would be working with others at the university "sooner rather than later" to work out the details.

Miller also said he was hopeful more information would be known soon.

"The devil is in the details, that will become more clear in the next few days or so," Miller said.

Print managing editor Monica Kast can be reached at 270-745-6011 or monica.kast187@topper.wku.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @monica_kast.

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OPINION

A SLICE TO SAVOR

How to revamp your New Year's healthy lifestyle

BY SHAWNA AUD

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How many of you said "this year I'm going to start eating healthier and actually stick with it this time" when contemplating your 2018 New Year's resolution? I'm here to help you with the "stick with it" part. Making your New Year's resolution into a lifetime resolution is the ultimate goal here.

Are you needing some motivation to continue with your healthy eating goals from the New Year? In all honesty, me too. As a nutrition expert, people expect me to wake up every day, craving kale and carrots for breakfast. I can't stress enough how far that is from the truth. We are all human, we all have cravings and we all lose motivation every now and then.

Throughout my experience of living a mostly healthy lifestyle, I have come across several ways to make healthy eating an easy, maintainable task of my daily routine instead of the dreaded chore that it may seem to be for some people.

First of all, don't be afraid to try new things. Start by picking a new fruit or vegetable (or both) to try each week. This will add variety to the nutrients you are consuming, as well as keep you from getting burnt out on the same foods. After you've found a few new favorites in the produce section, use them to find and make new, healthy recipes. You'll be amazed at just how good vegetables can taste.

Secondly, I'm sure you've heard of meal prepping, but what about snack prepping? Healthy snack prepping is critical to your healthy eating goals. Throw some almonds and blueberries in a container and head out the door. Celery and peanut butter might be your healthy "between classes" treat. Have it ready the night before a busy day so getting hungry between meals isn't an option for you.

Rushing between classes, the gym and studying can make it hard to have time for perfectly prepared, balanced meals. In times like these, snack prepping will have you covered with healthy snacks to keep you from getting hungry between meals and resorting to fast food or unhealthy convenience store items.

Last and most importantly, is to consume a nutritional diet that you enjoy. If you hate cherries, don't eat them. Don't buy fish and brussels sprouts if you despise their taste just because they are deemed nutritious. Forcing yourself to eat foods that you don't enjoy will only discourage the habits you've worked so hard to instill. The grocery store is stocked full of healthy fruit and vegetable choices for you to explore. This tip leaves us with no room for excuses.

Remember, healthy eating is a lifestyle change, not just a New Year's resolution. It is not something that is meant to be learned overnight, so don't expect it to be. You've already made it two months into your journey. I hope these tips will motivate you to continue on with the rest of it.

LISTEN UP!

Overcoming the label of victim in modern society

BY NICOLE LEONARD

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The transition from 2017 to 2018 witnessed the transformation of victims into activists. The end of the year left many frustrated with the stagnation of change, and they made moves to actualize social reformation.

Sexual harassment in the workplace and within all facets of society was rampant for decades. Despite the dialogue sparked by Anita Hill's sexual harassment allegations against now Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in 1991, victims continued to be outwardly

shamed and blamed for the injustices their abusers perpetrated.

Sexual harassment victims and their allies generated buzz about causes like the "MeToo" campaign and "Time's Up" initiative as 2017 came to a close. Top businessmen and public figures were consequently fired from their positions in the wake of this bold conversation.

As individuals come forward, refusing to remain complicit with the victimization of their bodies, minds and reputations, the public has no option but to alter the course of dialogue regarding their strife. As victim becomes a term which connotes determined defiance, their victimization becomes their strength in numbers and in heart.

Gun control has dominated media conversation recently, as another group refuses to become another victim of public, political indifference.

Exasperated by the notion that community members had reported the shooter's violent tendencies, and teachers had undergone training to prevent an active shooter situation, students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school joined forces to devise a plan that will feasibly suffice.

They called on politicians to cut off the influence of the National Rifle Association, who they claim had paved the way for a dangerous 19 year old to murder their friends and classmates. They denounced the weak and ineffective sentiments of thoughts and

prayers aimed at their tragedy. They met with victims from the 2016 Pulse nightclub murders, who had received a similarly pathetic public reaction, to rally strength before confronting Capitol Hill politicians directly.

Victims' experiences, their attitudes and their anger are a blatant testimony to the tragedies we sweep under the table on a day-to-day basis. They are evidence of social and governmental ignorance. They are arbiters of reparation for those who stand beside them and behind them, and they are voices for those who still fear the consequence of politicizing their social afflictions.

To victimize the resilient is to wage a battle that generates an era of transformational social movement.

BY HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

The Issue: In a budget restructuring plan recently issued by President Timothy Caboni, specifications were laid out on how the current administration is going to address a \$15 million budget deficit. These cuts, which represent only phase one of a series of reductions to come in the future, include eliminating University College, returning the management of three regional campuses to DELO (Division of Extended Learning and Outreach) and reducing the size of the workforce across WKU.

Our Stance: These cuts are a necessary evil brought about by former President Gary Ransdell's administration and the reckless spending he was allowed to undertake with little to no oversight from the Board of Regents. Caboni made the right decision in actually addressing the budget crisis in his first year on the job. Caboni has also made promises in the past to help terminated employees through this transition process, a promise that needs to be upheld.

When President Timothy Caboni first assumed his position here at WKU almost eight months ago, one can only speculate if he knew just how bad of a financial situation he was getting himself into. What began as an estimated \$11-15 million budget deficit last August has ballooned into estimated overall \$40 million budget deficit, a combination of the initial \$15 million budget deficit, pension obligations, state cuts to higher education and other various expenses.

In difficult times such as these, empathy should first and foremost lie with those who will lose their jobs in what is only phase one of a series of reductions that are sure to affect the lives of more faculty and staff in the future. These people did not ask the former administration to be so reckless in their spending which created a hole so big the only solution was to fill it with a permanent reduction of the WKU workforce.

Speaking of reckless spending, if there are two entities to direct one's anger at it's Gary Ransdell and the Board of Regents. The original \$15 million deficit was a direct result of overzealous expansion projects to further the Ransdell legacy while relying too heavily on potential enrollment and placing too much hope in revenue which never materialized.



"NOW ENTERING THE BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING, EMPEROR GARY RANSELL!"

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY VOGLER • HERALD

The Board of Regents, a governing body of WKU that could have limited Ransdell's spending, instead allowed him to play emperor for over a decade, while giving little to no oversight on budgetary decisions. The recent Armark contract, which will end up costing students who opt out of WKU's meal plan \$350 a semester, is just one example of a lack of oversight.

Caboni, on the other hand, should be commended for actually addressing the budget crisis and making tough decisions, even if it makes him unpopular in his first year on the job. That being said, Caboni still has a responsibility to help terminated employees through this transition period where displaced employees will be paid through June 30.

While, according to the budget restructuring plan, 90-100 filled positions as well as 40 vacant positions are going to be eliminated, it's important to note that Caboni chose not to accept the recommendation for administrative salaries, and instead place it under evaluation. Under this stipulation,

previous administrators who step into faculty roles would not have the administrative increment included in their salaries.

Essentially, the administration is willing to eliminate over 100 positions, but still conveniently has the money to pay former administrators who return to being faculty, practically the same as they were getting paid as administrators.

Morehead State University made news recently as doing the opposite of WKU after they saved \$1 million by cutting five administrative posts.

This is just phase one in a series of budget reductions that are sure to affect the entire WKU population in one way or another. It is crucial that we all remain informed on these decisions whose repercussions will be felt by the next generation of students and faculty.

Not only that, but Caboni also needs to be held accountable, if he truly claims these cuts are going to be across the board, for making cuts to administrators in addition to everyone else.

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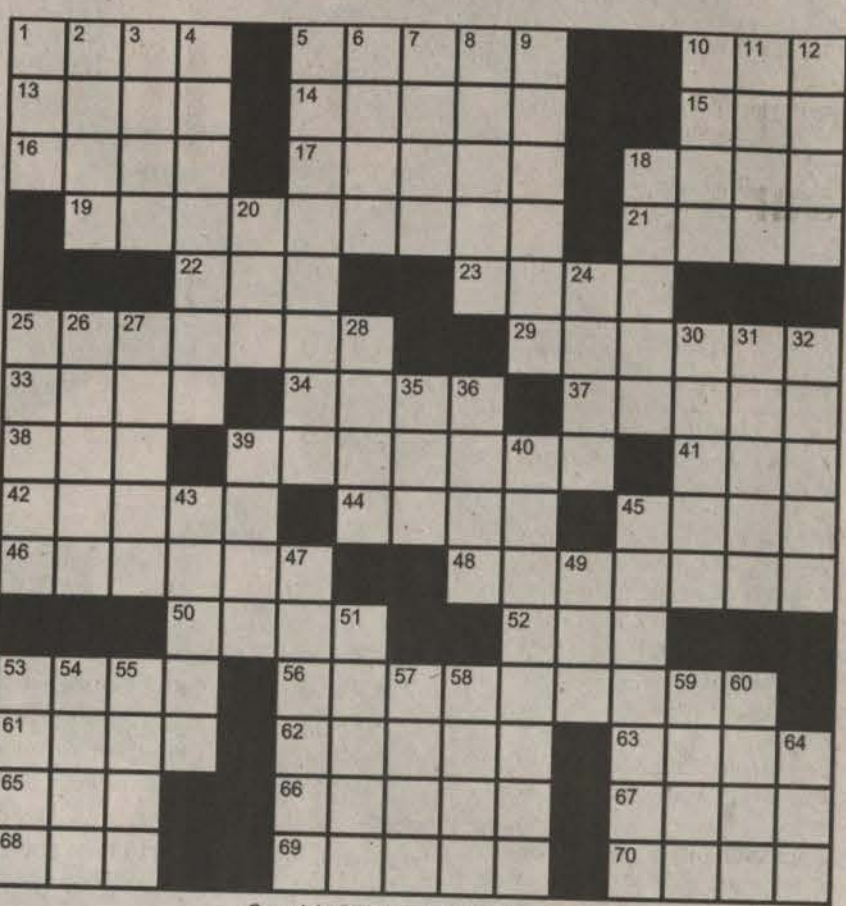
- Ireland**
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- What river flows through Dublin, Ireland?
(a) Finn (b) Boyne (c) Liffey
 - What is the most northern county?
(a) Limerick (b) Donegal (c) Waterford
 - In which county is Blarney castle?
(a) Cork (b) Galway (c) Kildare
 - What is the largest island off Ireland's coast?
(a) Valentia (b) Omey (c) Achill
 - The Cliffs of Moher on the western coastline are how high?
(a) 700 feet (b) 925 feet (c) 500 feet
 - What river flows through Belfast?
(a) Barrow (b) Lagan (c) Clare
 - The highest peak is Carrantuohill at 3415 feet located in what county?
(a) Kerry (b) Mayo (c) Tipperary
 - Ireland has how many miles of coastline?
(a) 5200 (b) 2600 (c) 3500
 - The longest river in Ireland is what?
(a) Blackwater (b) Shannon (c) Nore
 - How many provinces does Ireland have?
(a) 4 (b) 10 (c) 6

Solution

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. b |
| 2. b | 7. a |
| 3. a | 8. c |
| 4. c | 9. b |
| 5. a | 10. a |

Across

- Salon supply
- Ladder parts
- Cave dweller
- Auditory
- Wagner work
- Metal in rocks
- Fast feline
- Recurring theme
- Heating device
- Mediterranean arm
- Not written
- Slip into
- Material for glaze of pottery
- Moderately slow, musically
- All together
- Get-out-of-jail money
- Questionable
- Tall timber tree of New Zealand
- Compass dir.
- Sophia Loren, e.g.
- Buck's mate
- Wagers
- Exclusive
- Last name in fashion
- Occult
- Wounds
- Sci-fi fliers
- Plague
- Exploit
- Former Austrian cash
- Rattle
- Purple shade
- Member of the arum family



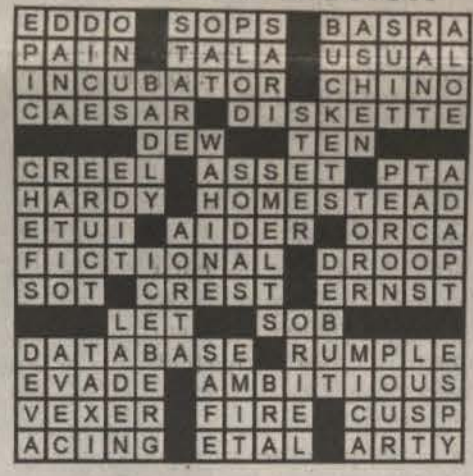
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- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 65 Dogma | 9 African expedition | 35 To and ___ |
| 66 Cantina cookers | 10 Vulgarian | 36 Raise the roof |
| 67 During | 11 "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g. | 39 "___ I care!" |
| 68 Anatomical foot | 12 Blab | 40 Type of jam |
| 69 Reaches over | 18 Terra ___ | 43 Opus |
| 70 Do the work of a banker | 20 Cyclotron bit | 45 Like many clocks |
| | 24 Squid's squirts | 47 Universe |
| | 25 Crosswise, on deck | 49 Peruvian coin |
| | 26 Mary Poppins, e.g. | 51 Massage target |
| | 27 Fare reductions | 53 Mr. Unexciting |
| | 28 Small amphibians | 54 Facilitate |
| | 30 Part of a TV feed | 55 Stately trees |
| | 31 Sing like Bing | 57 Maui dance |
| | 32 Levels | 58 Tolstoy hero |
| | | 59 Identify |
| | | 60 Sheepish look |
| | | 64 Roulette bet |

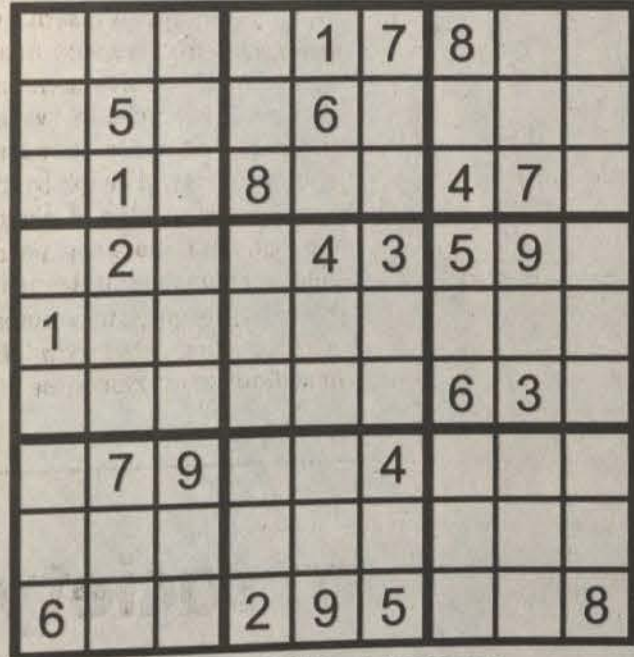
Down

- Elephant grp.
- Pocketbook
- Celeb's ride
- Tabloid topic
- Amorous
- Straddling
- Hair controllers
- "Good ___!"

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

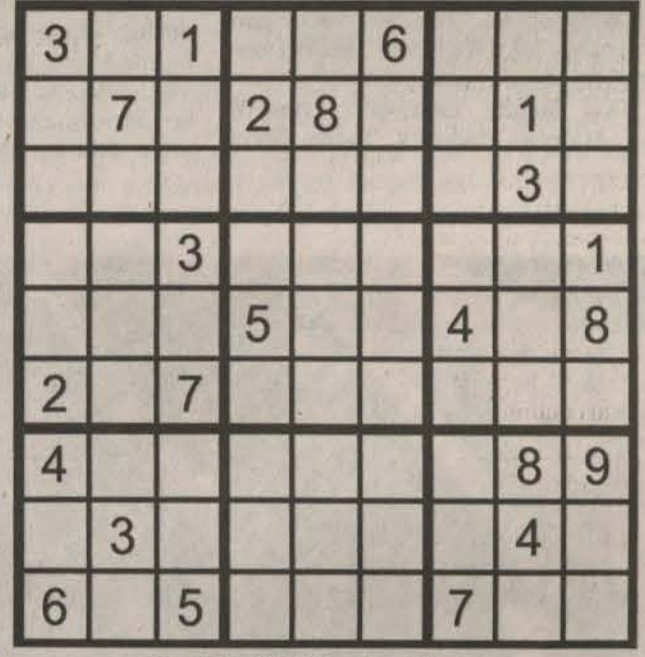


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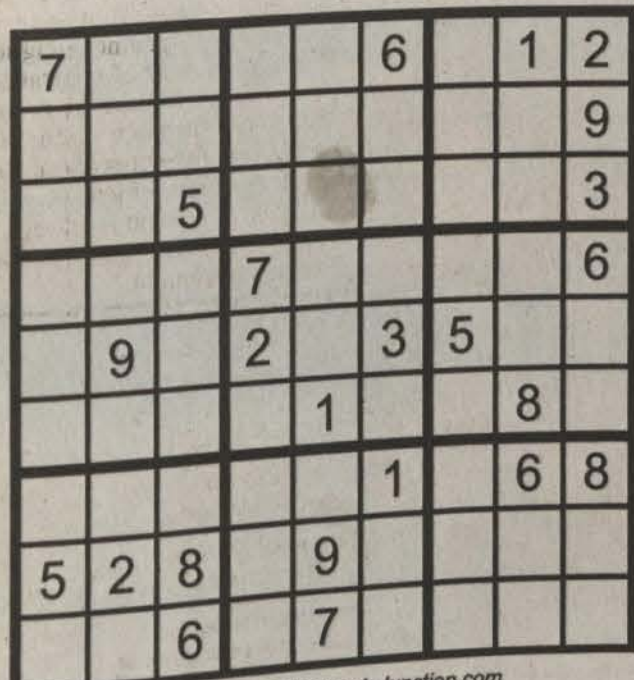
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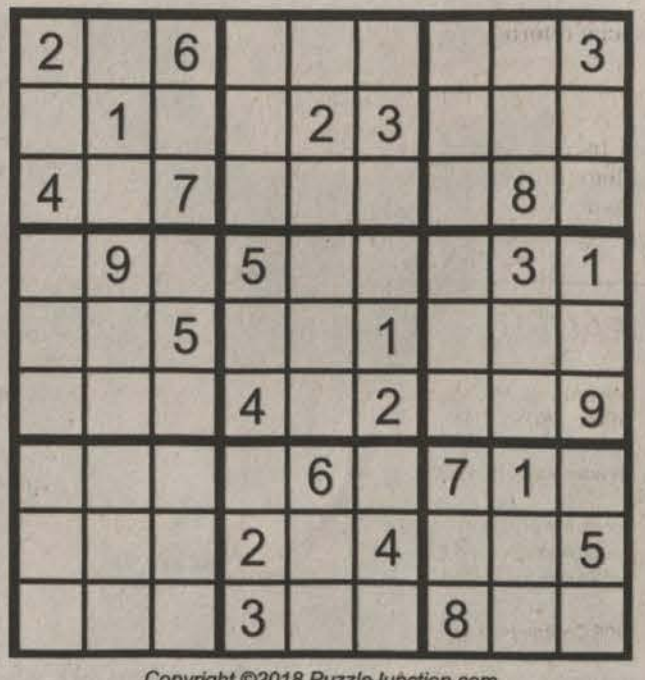
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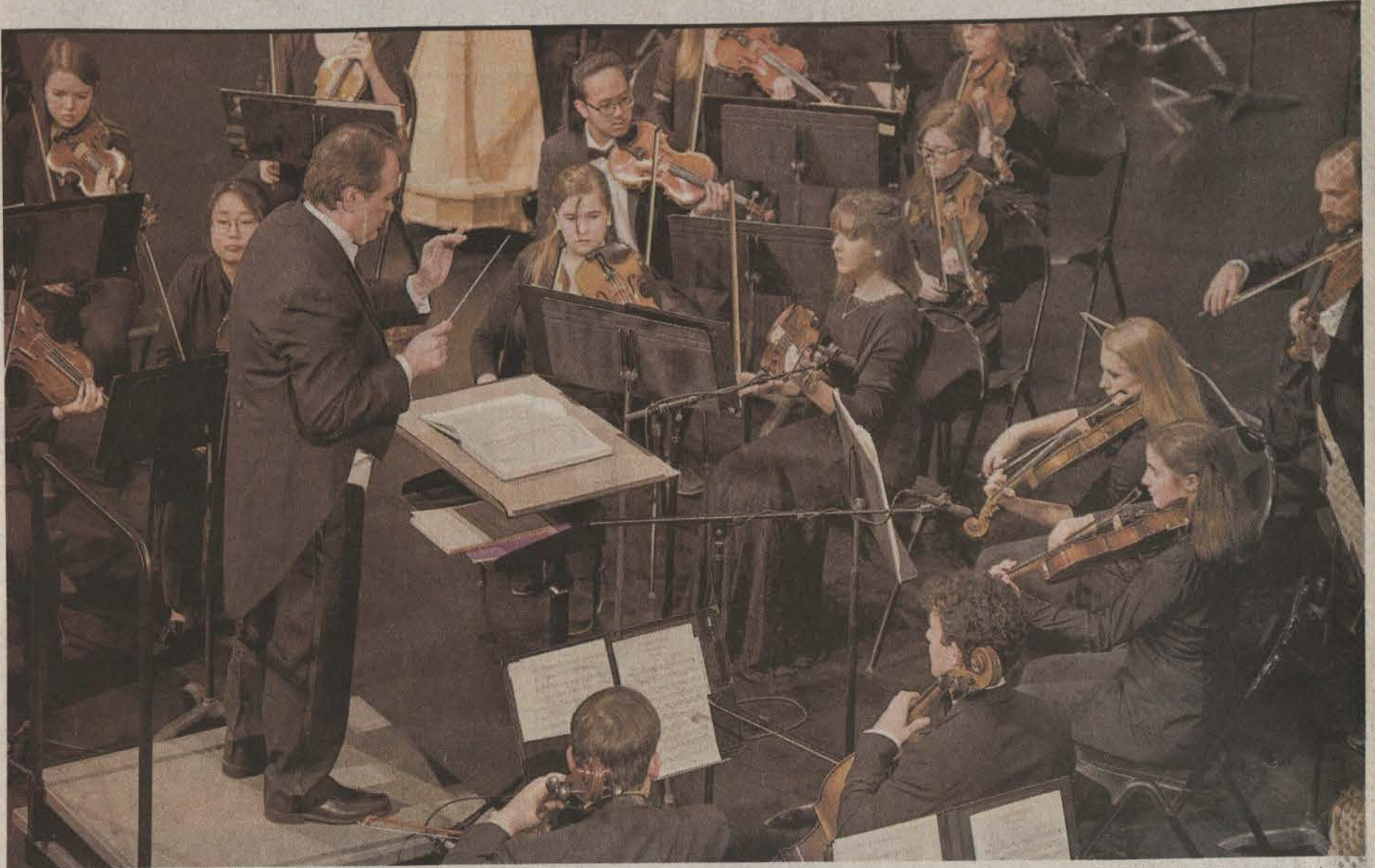
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PHOTO



Brian St. John directs the violin section of the orchestra during the show in Van Meter Hall on Friday. There are two sections of violin players, with 14 players total, including one WKU faculty member.

STRING THEORY

WKU symphony orchestra performs Arabian Nights

BY HUNTER HALLORAN &
HANNAH LEBOEUF
PHOTOS BY HANNAH LEBOEUF

The WKU Symphony Orchestra performed their Arabian Nights concert in Van Meter Hall on Friday. The concert featured every part of the orchestra as a solo.

"We have rehearsed once a week for two-and-a-half hours in order to prepare for this performance," said Lauren Witty, oboist. "The most hectic part to prepare for tonight was Scheherazade, [Symphonic Suite, Op. 35]."

WKU faculty members, Ching-Yi Lin, Andrew Braddock, Sarah Berry

and Patrick O'Rourke performed in the orchestra, playing instruments such as bass, viola and violin. All members of the orchestra practiced before the show started and again before intermission was over.

The symphony was conducted by music professor Brian St. John. He holds a bachelor's degree in viola performance and a master's degree in orchestral conducting. St. John was accompanied by special guest Zachary Lopes, pianist and assistant professor of piano at WKU, who performed during Piano and Orchestra No.1 in E-Flat Major. Lopes is an active soloist and collaborative artist who has given performances and master-classes around the United States.



The Symphony was led in their final piece by Brian St. John. St. John is a professor of music theory and composition and conductor of the orchestra at WKU.



The Symphony at WKU held the Arabian Nights concert in Van Meter Hall on Friday. The show was led by Brian St. John, music director and conductor, with special guest pianist Zachary Lopes.

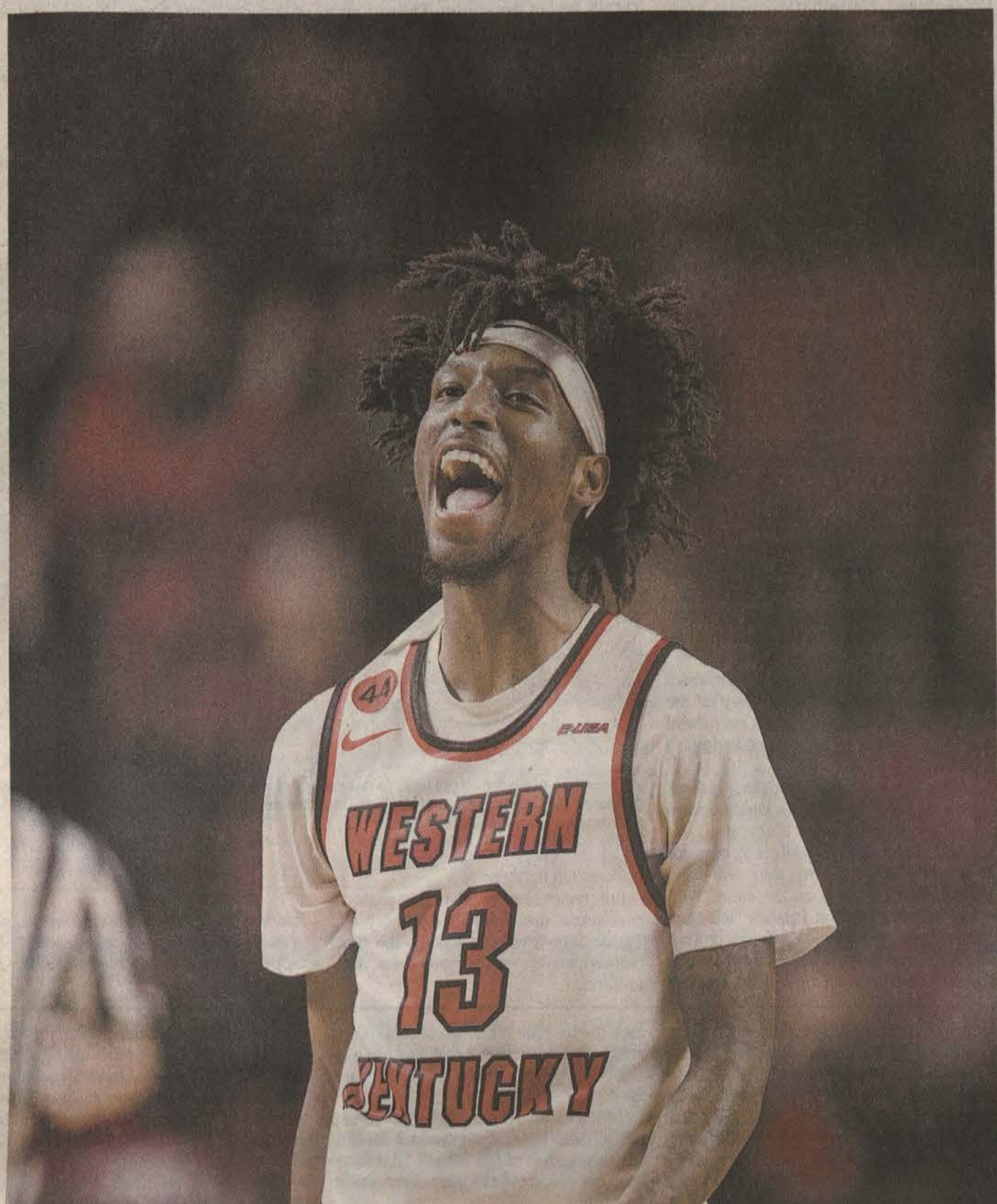


Harpist Phyllis Sparks performs with the orchestra on Friday at the Arabian Nights concert in Van Meter. Oboist Lauren Witty said Sparks usually isn't able to make every show but she was for this one.



Cellist David Wiles stands after the end of one of the pieces. The Symphony at WKU played three pieces conducted by Brian St. John, music director and conductor, with special guest pianist Zachary Lopes.

SPORTS



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU guard Taveion Hollingsworth (13) celebrates after scoring during the game against Old Dominion on Saturday. Hollingsworth scored 20 points and played 33 minutes.

Hilltoppers get series win thanks to pitching and offense

BY MATT STAHL
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

The WKU baseball team won its first home series of the season against Northern Illinois University, winning three out of four games, including the program's first home doubleheader sweep since April 2015.

The Hilltoppers were propelled to victory by a number of factors, including a high-scoring offense and a strong showing from their starting pitching.

"We try to schedule tough teams and good competition and this weekend, you know, was an indication of how challenging every weekend is," head coach John Pawlowski said. "I'm encouraged by the signs that we see and the development that's taking place with some of these guys."

The series win comes after the Hilltoppers won their home opener against Belmont University and moves WKU to 5-3 on the season, the team's hottest start since 2016.

In the first game of the Friday doubleheader, which was previously scheduled for Saturday, but was moved due to concerns over the weather, senior pitcher Ryan Thurston got his first win of the season, striking out nine NIU batters and only allowing two earned runs, the best performance during a stellar weekend for WKU's starting pitchers.

"I think our guys have gone out there and done a really good job," Pawlowski said. "Their goal is to get us deep into the game. I feel like we have some potential guys who can certainly do that. Proud of what they've done so far but a lot of work yet to do."

WKU's offense was dynamite in the first game, with senior left fielder Colie Currie and junior right fielder Chase Larsen leading the way, each getting hits on their first three at bats.

"I was just trying to swing at good pitches," Currie said. "Me and Chase both were both rolling that day so we were just feeding off each other's positive energy."

After the Huskies closed the gap to make the score 6-4 in the sixth inning, junior catcher Colin Butkiewicz hit a two-RBI double and then scored on a sacrifice fly to make the final score 9-5 in favor of the Hilltoppers. Senior Ben Morrison got the save and NIU senior George Faue took the loss.

In the second game of the doubleheader, WKU's offense stagnated. The Hilltoppers were held without a hit un-

WORK TO DO

Seniors go out in fashion, final road trip remains

BY SAM PORTER
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU



Saturday night's game against Old Dominion University marked the end of an era for the WKU men's basketball program.

The 88-66 thrashing of the Monarchs was the final game in Diddle Arena for senior forward Justin Johnson and graduate transfers Dwight Coleby and Darius Thompson. Although their time at WKU

was short-lived, the excitement Coleby and Thompson have brought to the Hill will not be forgotten anytime soon.

As for Johnson, no one could have written a better script for his final game in front of a Hilltopper crowd. The four year starter tallied 19 points and 11 rebounds, his 34th career double-double, as well as proposing to his girlfriend, now fiancée, following the senior day ceremonies. The 22-point victory puts WKU in sole possession of 2nd place in Conference USA.

"That's the way you send your seniors off," head coach Rick Stansbury said.

"You all have heard me talk about our three seniors all year long. They're incredible people, they always play great and they're the type of kids you want to coach."

One factor for WKU's success on Saturday, and in Diddle Arena all season, was the crowd finally creating an atmosphere that's tough for opponents to play in. Diddle Arena was sold out and packed on multiple occasions this season, including the home finale. Johnson hit his first five

SEE MBB • PAGE B2

SEE BASEBALL • PAGE B2

Lady Topper Legends finish career in Diddle Arena

BY ALEC JESSIE
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

WKU's senior night win over UNC Charlotte featured a perfect ending to senior forward Tashia Brown's career in Diddle Arena, as she scored a career-high 38 points.

Women's basketball head coach Michelle Clark-Heard couldn't contain her happiness or praise for Tashia Brown's final home performance.

"I'm just really glad she was able to finish out her career like that," Clark-Heard said after Friday's win. "She's just special. She plays hard all the time. She's very coachable. She's one of the best teammates anyone could ever ask for."

The 6-1" guard from Lake Park, Georgia, progressed each year with the Lady Toppers. Coming into her senior season, Tashia Brown never averaged more than 20 points or five rebounds per game. But in the 2017-18 season, she has tallied career highs in points and rebounds per game with 23.3 PPG and 5.4

RPG. For her career, she has scored 1,961 points on 42.5 percent shooting, good for 15.2 PPG.

Coming into the game, Tashia Brown's previous career high was 34 points against Old Dominion University Feb. 18, 2016.

When asked if she knew about Crystal Kelly's record-setting 42 point performance, and if she was chasing it, Brown claimed she was just focused on the game itself.

"I was just playing," Tashia Brown said. "I didn't even know what I had at halftime

until they said something to me in the locker room. I wasn't really trying to go for a certain amount of points."

Clark-Heard said no one planned for Tashia Brown's scoring outburst, but told her to take what the defense gives her.

"I just talked to her about being aggressive and seeing how they were going to play her," Clark-Heard said. "See every game we go in, she never knows what's going to happen."

While Tashia Brown lit up the

SEE WBB • PAGE B2

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B2 SPORTS

College Heights Herald

MBB
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

shots of the game against ODU, helping WKU build an early double-digit lead and causing Diddle to erupt as loud as it's been all season long.

"They helped us win a ball game today," Johnson said of the crowd following the ODU win. "After the first 4 minutes, all of us on the court looked at each other and were like 'It's rocking in here.' From the get-go the crowd was fantastic. The students were on their feet the whole game."

But although you may never see Johnson, Coleby and Thompson play in Diddle Arena ever again, the era is still far from finished. In fact, it may just be getting started. Still with three games left in the season, the Hilltoppers have already tallied 22 wins, which are the most in a single season for WKU in nearly a decade. WKU's 14 wins in C-USA are also the most since it joined the conference in the 2014-15 season. Over the past three games, the Hilltoppers have outscored their opponents by an average of 26.3 points per game. WKU will hope to ride that momentum into the most important

game of the season Thursday against Middle Tennessee State University.

On Jan. 20, MTSU stormed into Diddle Arena and handed WKU its only home C-USA loss of the season. The win gave the Blue Raiders control of first place. Now, the Hilltoppers will look to avenge that loss Thursday when they travel to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for round two. With a win, WKU would be tied with MTSU atop the C-USA standings. If the two were both to finish with the same C-USA record, Marshall would have to finish ahead of University of Texas-San Antonio in the final C-USA standings for

WKU to claim the number one overall seed in the C-USA tournament.

"They're the best team in our conference, and I'm going to say that until somebody beats them," Stansbury said. "They are in the top 25 for a reason. I have a lot of respect for what they're doing and what they've done. It will take our best to beat them."

Reporter Sam Porter can be reached at 270-745-6291 and sam.porter270@gmail.com Follow him on Twitter at @SammyP14.

WBB
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

scoreboard, Ivy Brown watched most of the action. The skilled forward played only 19 minutes in the game and just one minute in the first half after she picked up two quick fouls.

But the senior leader didn't hang her head and came out strong in the second half. She finished with 14 points on 5-for-7 shooting and five rebounds, with almost all of that production coming in the second half.

Clark-Heard loved Brown's toughness, calling it her identity as a player and person.

"That's what she is," Clark-Heard said after the game. "If Ivy's name was in the dictionary, beside her name would be hardest worker and tough. That's what she is and what she does every single day."

Even though she was frustrated while sitting the first half, Brown was happy with her teammates' performance.

"I sat on the bench for the longest first half of my entire life, but it was nice to see the team go out and play well," Brown said.

The 6-1" forward from Hodgenville made her mark on the Lady Toppers with her versatility and efficiency. To go along with a career high 16.2 PPG, she also

registered over two steals per game and one block per game on defense. A career 48 percent shooter from the floor and 80 percent shooter from the free-throw line, Ivy Brown was a super efficient scorer and near-automatic inside the paint.

Clark-Heard said she is appreciative of the two seniors for taking a chance on the Lady Toppers program and sticking with it for four years.

"When we really weren't winning big, like we are now, Ivy Brown took a chance on us," Clark-Heard said. "Then you have Tashia Brown as well and you look at what those two have done for this program."

Clark-Heard also praised them for how unique and selfless they have been while at WKU.

"We've never had players like them here," Clark-Heard said. "They're the most unselfish players I've ever been around. They're so selfless, so loving, so caring."

After the game, they both fought back tears as they thanked the Diddle crowd for their support the last four years.

While the days Diddle are over for Ivy and Tashia Brown, they still have unfinished business on the court. With two regular season games left and the regular season Conference USA Championship at stake, there is still plenty of basketball in a Lady Toppers



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

WKU forward Tashia Brown (10) looks to make a pass as she is defended by UNC guard Jada Martin (10) during the Lady Toppers 83-61 win over UNC Charlotte on Friday in Diddle Arena. Brown led the Lady Toppers in scoring with 38 points.

uniform left for those two.

But regardless of what the season's conclusion may have in store, Ivy and Tashia Brown will be among the most beloved players to ever put on a WKU uniform.

Sports reporter Alec Jessie can be reached at 270-745-6291 and alec.jessie226@topper.wku.edu. Follow Alec on Twitter at @Alec_Jessie.

BASEBALL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

til the seventh inning. Fortunately for the Hilltoppers, their defense was excellent and junior RF Dillon Nelson hit a solo home run in the eighth inning to give WKU the 1-0 victory. Morrison got his second save of the day.

On Saturday WKU got off to a slow start, as NIU took a 2-1 lead into the bot-

tom of the fourth inning. The Hilltoppers loaded the bases before the teams were pulled from the field for a 45-minute lightning delay. After the delay, WKU scored six runs to blow the game open and then added one run in the fifth and two in the seventh to earn a 10-2 victory.

The Hilltoppers couldn't pull off the series sweep, falling 5-0 Sunday after being unable to generate any meaningful offense, only managing five hits while giving up 11. Junior pitcher Troy Newell

took the loss for WKU, his second of the season, while freshman pitcher Michael Lasiewicz earned the win for the Huskies.

"We wanted to complete the sweep today," said Nelson, who went 3-for-3 in the final game of the series. "But three wins out of four, it's tough to beat a team four times."

The Hilltoppers will hope to extend their momentum to their midweek away game against number eight-ranked Uni-

versity of Kentucky, before coming back to Nick Denes Field for a weekend series against West Virginia University, a team which began the season ranked in the top 25, but has struggled out of the gate, starting 2-5.

Reporter Matt Stahl can be reached at 270-745-6291 and matthew.stahl551@topper.wku.edu Follow him on Twitter at @mattstahl97.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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Trey Turner's illustrations go beyond just artwork

BY TYLER EATON

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

Trey Turner is known for being the man behind WKU's men's basketball season ticket design this season, but he's a lot more than that.

In high school, Turner dreamed of being a big time basketball player, excelling at Logan County High School and twice being named a Kentucky Nike HoopStar. To chase that dream, he went to Division III liberal arts school Hanover College in Indiana.

Quickly he realized that this dream may simply be just that — a dream — and he decided to come back closer to home to WKU. Soon after returning, however, things took an unexpected turn for the worse.

"I went through some really bad health problems when I got to Western," Turner, now a WKU alumnus, said. "It actually reached the point that I had to get my left lung removed."

Turner clarified that he had a portion of his left lung removed in December 2015. His illness effectively ended any hopes Turner had of pursuing that dream of basketball stardom and forced him to begin focusing on other ways to have a successful future.

It was soon after his illness that Turner began focusing on another one of his childhood passions: art. Turner eventually graduated from WKU and moved on to teaching at Daymar College in Bowling

Green.

"I always enjoyed drawing when I was younger," Turner said. "I fell in love with Western Kentucky sports and started drawing players for fun."

This combination of two of Turner's greatest loves, art and sports, began as just a hobby but would soon become much more than that.

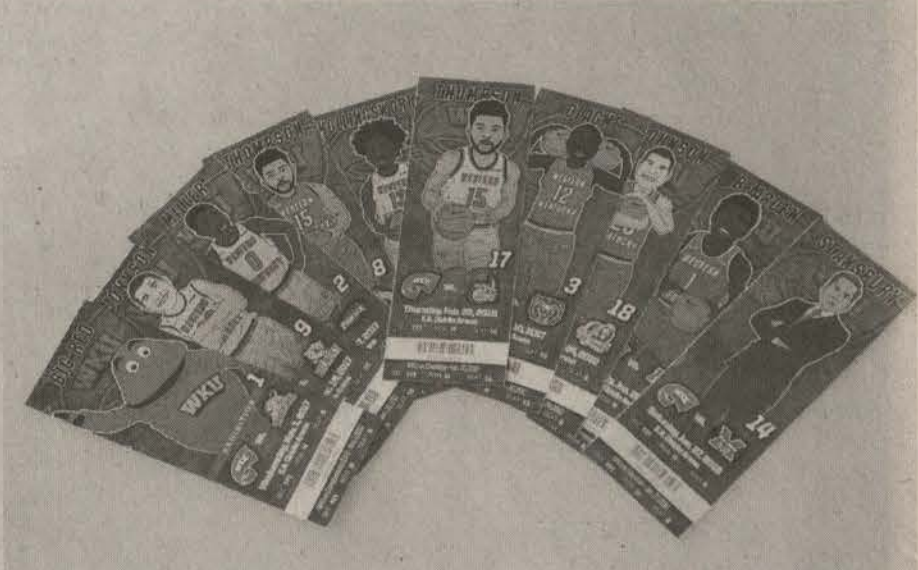
Using the skills he was developing in graphic design, Turner started to create different illustrations of the players and post them on social media. His first drawing to gain public attention was a 2016 illustration of former Hilltopper George Fant.

The following fall, Turner began to draw illustrations of various football and basketball players. As the popularity of the illustrations continued to increase, so did the enjoyment from making and sharing them.

"I'd just be watching TV and see something cool that happens and think it would be awesome to see a Western player doing that," Turner said. "Other times, I'll see an emotional moment on the court and put it into an illustration."

Turner did all of these illustrations in his free time while working at Daymar. Last year, he got the opportunity to begin his current job at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College. That wasn't the last opportunity to come his way in 2017, as WKU basketball would soon come calling.

Because of WKU's switch to Nike apparel, new jerseys had to be made for the bas-



LYDIA SCHWEICKART • HERALD

ketball teams. The new Nike jerseys didn't arrive in time for pictures of the players to be taken in them for the season ticket holder packages.

This led to WKU contacting Turner about doing illustrations of all the players. Turner had done many drawings of last year's players on social media, including drawings of head coach Rick Stansbury.

As it pertains to this Hilltoppers team featured in those season ticket illustrations, Turner has nothing but the highest of praise, even comparing this year's team to one of WKU's best in recent memory.

"I'm loving the team," Turner said. "They play with so much energy. I got here the year after Courtney Lee left, but that

team was good, and this is the best team we've had since that team with Courtney."

The Hilltoppers went 29-7 in Lee's senior season. Lee was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year.

Despite this initially seeming to be a one time occurrence out of necessity, he certainly wouldn't mind doing it again.

"I did it just for the boys this year," Turner said. "Maybe next year they'll have me do it again. Maybe I can do the boys and the girls. We'll see."

Reporter Tyler Eaton can be reached at 270-745-6291 and tylereaton1022@yahoo.com. Follow him on Twitter at @Tyler_eaton1022

Lady Toppers on offensive tear to begin 2018

BY CASEY MCCARTHY

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

WKU softball continues to impress in the early part of the regular season, as the Lady Toppers are boasting one of the top statistical offenses in the nation.

WKU (11-4) finished the Hilltopper Classic with a 3-1 record through adverse weather. With a win in their second straight home opener, the Lady Toppers are now 4-1 in home openers under head coach Amy Tudor, 12-7 overall. WKU entered the weekend leading the nation in doubles per game, at 2.4 per game. The Lady Toppers also rank near the top-10 nationally in batting average, on-base percentage and scoring.

Senior Brittany Vaughn, who had a home run in the final game to go along with a multitude of impressive plays in the field, including a jumping tag-out at second base, reiterated that the team's underclassmen don't act like underclassmen.

"It's not just one person has to be hot the whole time," Vaughn said. "It's kind of like a mix of everyone, and we're excited to continue that."

Sophomore Paige Carter leads the Lady Toppers batting barrage, hitting a blistering .512 with seven multi-hit games on the year already. Freshman Maddie Bowlds has been impressive as well with two multi-hit games in the series. She's currently hitting .400 for the year. Five other Lady Toppers have averages over .300 as well.

As a team, WKU's average of .349 is considerably higher than the team's mark at this time last season, .227. While last year's squad was able to generate more home runs at this point in the year, the Lady Toppers attack has become more balanced this season.

Compared to the 2017 season, WKU has generated over twice as many hits, almost 30 more runs and over 40 more RBIs. The Lady Toppers will look to continue their searing start as they push towards conference play.

"Obviously our hitting is still going well," Vaughn said. "Every aspect of softball you can always improve on."

WKU opened the weekend slate with its fifth run-rule victory of the year, defeating University of Wisconsin-Green Bay 10-0 in five innings. A pair of triples from Vaughn and Carter opened the scoring, and the Lady Toppers never let up. Carter

matched her season-high RBI total with three on the game, as Vaughn turned in a 3-for-3 performance at the plate, her second-straight three-hit performance.

Sophomore Haylee Towers picked up her first decision of the year, pitching four scoreless innings and allowing just three hits. WKU's offense failed to find the plate in the team's lone loss on the weekend, dropping the second game Friday to Toledo, 1-0. Bowlds finished with her second multi-hit performance of the day as freshman Shelby Nunn pitched her fifth and sixth complete games on the year this weekend.

"I thought [Friday] was a great day for our pitching staff," head coach Amy Tudor said in a press release. "We executed our pitches and had a great presence on the mound. Shelby took a tough loss in the circle but threw well enough to win."

In a Saturday slate shortened by severe weather, WKU used a big first inning, notching five runs, to put Indiana State in a hole early. The Lady Toppers never let up, with Paige Carter hitting a three-run home run, her second of the year, off the parking garage. Carter, McGuffin and junior Jordan Vorbrink all registered multi-hit performances on the day, as Nunn picked up her second decision of the

weekend.

The Lady Toppers closed the weekend slate with a pair of wins Sunday, coming from behind to defeat Green Bay 6-5, before defeating Indiana State 6-2 in the final game of the weekend.

Down 3-0 going into the bottom of the fourth inning, WKU responded with five runs on four hits to take the lead, adding a sixth run in the bottom of the fifth. Green Bay responded with two runs in the top of the sixth but was unable to make up the deficit.

WKU closed out Sunday evening, getting off to another fast start, scoring four runs in the bottom of the first against Indiana State University. Vaughn launched a ball towards center field that bounced off the fielder's glove and over the wall for a two-run homer. The Sycamores responded with runs in the third and fourth. They generated hits but were unable to turn them into runs.

The Lady Toppers will be back in action on Friday afternoon at home against Austin Peay State University.

Reporter Casey McCarthy can be reached at 270-745-6291 and casey.mccarthy573@topper.wku.edu.

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PHOTO



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

WKU forward Tashia Brown (10) and her mother Tomekia Thomas wipe away tears as they listen to head coach Michelle Clark-Heard following the Lady Toppers 83-61 win over UNC Charlotte on Friday in Diddle Arena. In her four years on the team, Brown has scored 1,961 points, averaging 15.2 points per game.

SENIOR SEND-OFF

Men's and women's teams win on senior night

BY JEREMY CHISENHALL
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

Both the men's and women's basketball teams held their senior night in Diddle Arena last week, and both came away with convincing wins in their final home games of the season. Both teams have a short road trip to end the season before the Con-

ference USA Tournament starts. The Lady Toppers sent seniors Ivy and Tashia Brown off with an 83-61 win over UNC Charlotte. Brown scored a career-high 38 points on the night, which was good for the fifth-most points in a single game in program history. Ivy Brown scored 14 points, including three 3-pointers. Both Ivy and Tashia Brown are members of the 1,000-point club, with Tashia Brown nearing 2,000 points for her career.

The Hilltoppers won their final home game against Old Dominion University, 88-66, in front of a sell-out crowd. Senior forward Justin Johnson picked up his 34th career double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Graduate transfer guard Darius Thompson had 11 points, six rebounds and a team-high eight assists. Graduate transfer forward Dwight Coleby had 11 points and eight rebounds.



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU forward Ivy Brown embraces head coach Michelle Clark-Heard following the Lady Toppers' game against UNC Charlotte on Friday in Diddle Arena. In her four years as a Lady Topper Brown has scored 1,388 points and is averaging 10.7 points per game.

Graduate student forward Dwight Coleby (23) celebrates during the game against Old Dominion on Saturday. The Hilltoppers beat Old Dominion 88-66.



SILAS WALKER • HERALD



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU senior guard Justin Johnson (23) holds his framed jersey in Diddle Arena during senior night on Saturday. Johnson scored 19 points and had 11 rebounds during the game vs. Old Dominion.

WKU senior guard Justin Johnson (23) kisses his long-time girlfriend and now fiancé, Keeley Rogers, after proposing to her on senior night Saturday in Diddle Arena. WKU went on to beat Old Dominion 88 - 66.

LIFE

Special Section: BLACK HISTORY MONTH



CHRIS KOHLEY • HERALD

Tammra Turner styles hair on Feb. 21 in her salon, Designs by Tammra. After attending cosmetology school and working in a hair salon, Turner decided to open her own business. Turner's daughter, Deidra Morrow, has also picked up hairstyling and is following in her mother's footsteps.

IN THE FAMILY

Mother and daughter share love of hairstyling, run businesses

BY LAUREL DEPPEN
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU



Tammra Turner has been interested in hairstyling since she was 5 years old. Now, years later, she owns her own salon, Designs by Tammra.

Turner links her interest in hairstyling to her grandmother, who was a hairstylist as well. She recalled her grandmother braiding her hair and wanting to be able to braid like her.

At the age of 5, Turner remembered practicing on a Barbie hairstyling head.

"My relatives noticed that I had gotten really good, and it's been history ever since," she said.

Turner went to the Lindsey Institute of Cosmetology in Bowling Green and started working at Angel's Professional Salon. After working there for four years, Turner decided to go into business for herself, something that she recalled as being scary, but rewarding.

"For me, it's more about doing quality work than having lots of people here," she said.

Turner said she has several regulars, some who have been with her since she's been in business, and some who travel to meet with her from as far as Nashville and Louisville. Turner credits this to her passion for hairstyling.

"I'm not going to say I'm that good," Turner said. "They know I love what I do, and because I love what I do, I'm going to take my time and do my best. I've never considered myself to be better than anyone. I've just looked at myself as trying to do my best."

Though Turner has a passion for what she does, she said her career focuses more on building and maintaining relationships. She commented on how the role of a hairstylist in a person's life is a vital one, even though it is behind the scenes.

"We are important to the world, even though we're mostly in the background," Turner said. "I had one lady whose hair I did for her prom, her wedding—every time she looks at those pictures she's going to think of me. That's a special place in people's lives. That's how serious I think the job is."

Turner also commented on how her role as a hairstylist has a lot to do with

trust. She said that to her, trust goes beyond knowing what hairstyles or colors look best on someone.

"This is a kind of ministry," Turner said. "So many times, people come here and they want me to listen when I work. We talk about things they're going through. Sometimes they just need a listening ear. They don't need you to say anything or repeat what they say. I've learned to appreciate the space people give me in their lives outside of their hair."

Turner's daughter, Deidra Morrow, also inherited a love for hairstyling. Morrow opened her own business, The Beauty Bar, just across the hall from Turner's salon.

"My grandmother was really happy," Turner said. "It just made her day to see both of us doing good in our own businesses."

Morrow said hairstyling came naturally to her after growing up and seeing her mother work.

"Working for yourself is a commitment to yourself," Morrow said. "It takes a lot. Even when motivation runs

SEE SALON • PAGE C2

Lecture to explore patriotism and race

BY JULIE SISLER
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

In honor of Black History Month, WKU will host Michael Butterworth, director of the Center for Sports Communication and Media and professor of communication studies from University of Texas at Austin, for a presentation called "Anthems, Athletes, and Activism: Communicating about Patriotism and Race in Contemporary Sport."

The lecture will be the first in the Carl L. and Mary Anne Kell Distinguished Lecture Series in Communication. It will take place tonight at 6 p.m. in the Grise Hall auditorium.

"With the program, we're aiming to inform and give them [students] an opportunity to be exposed to more speakers," Carl Kell, professor emeritus of communication, said. He and his wife founded the series.

Butterworth is a distinguished scholar in multiple areas but focuses on communication and athletics. He has authored multiple books, including "Baseball and Rhetoric of Purity: The National Pastime and American Identity during the War on Terror." He is also a published author in numerous journals.

He also serves as the chair of the Communication and Sport Division for the National Communication Association and secretary of the Sports Communication Interest Group for the International Communication Association.

The lecture series will feature multiple speakers from various areas of study coming together in an effort to provide WKU students with more exposure to outside speakers. The series will also place an emphasis on the importance and relevance of public speaking skills for students.

"The series is intended to bring in really high profile, distinguished scholars who speak in ways that students can understand and relate to," Helen Sterk, head of the communication department, said.

Butterworth's presentation will delve into the connections between patriotism and racism in modern, contemporary sports and how those connections relate to communication regarding those issues.

"He is, I'm sure, going to give a very interesting presentation," Kell said. "It's important information, even if you're not into the athletic side of

SEE LECTURE • PAGE C2

National Pan-Hellenic Council and its importance to WKU

BY GRIFFIN FLETCHER
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The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) is the governing body of WKU's nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities, many of which were founded on WKU's campus in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Durwan "Dee" Green a senior from Texas, an international business and Spanish major, member of the WKU Forensics team and former president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, said he

believes NPHC is a guiding force at WKU.

"We're the leaders and the voice for minorities on campus," Green said.

Green later added, "We were founded on the values of being a voice for minorities."

Founded in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha was the first African-American, intercollegiate Greek-lettered fraternity founded in the United States. Green said he is proud to be a member of Alpha Phi Alpha at WKU.

"It's really an honor to be a part of this fraternity because we had to set the foundation for those to come,"

Green said.

Lexington-native and Delta Sigma Theta sorority president Danielle Dailley, an education major, said NPHC is special in that it bonded the "Divine Nine," the nine most historically influential African-American fraternities and sororities in the United States, each represented at WKU and on NPHC.

"It's like being part of a family," Dailley said.

Blake Bowden of Stone Mountain, Georgia, a major in sport management and member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, serves as scholarship chair on the

NPHC Executive Board. Bowden said he believes Omega Psi Phi and all of NPHC are important to campus because they are proof of perseverance through segregation.

"We were founded because we weren't allowed to join white fraternities," Bowden said. "We had to make our own. Through doing so, we really made something beautiful."

NPHC is unique from the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the Panhellenic Council, the respective governing bodies of WKU's fraternities and

SEE NPHC • PAGE C3

CELEBRATING



AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Alum preserves history of black communities

BY DRAKE KIZER

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Bowling Green native Don Offutt, 70, has been deeply intertwined with the African-American community for his entire life, and now his ultimate goal is to make sure that his people's culture will never be forgotten.

Offutt was born in the Shake Rag community in his grandmother's house. At the time, segregation did not allow black people to use medical facilities, so doctors had to come into homes and deliver babies there.

Despite hardships, Offutt said Shake Rag, a black neighborhood in Bowling Green that rose to prominence following the conclusion of the Civil War, was actually very lucky.

"Bowling Green was one of the fortunate cities that sat on a primary road between Louisville and Nashville," Offutt said. "The black community in Bowling Green had one of the prime areas to develop since there was major traffic going north and south. Before 31-W existed, you could not get anywhere without coming through State Street."

As far back as first and second grade, Offutt said he was groomed to pursue his own excellence by the elders in his

life. Offutt said that he and some of his classmates were instructed to read poems before school programs as part of a special selection process. To him, this was an example of the critical role black women have always played in the survival of the black community.

"Once you were identified by the old ladies, you got chosen to be somebody," Offutt said about his youth. "If you had those old ladies lay their hands on you, you were going to do something special because they wouldn't see it any other way."

During his time at High Street High School, Offutt was the captain of the track and football teams. Segregation prevented most High Street athletic squads from competing against whites, and it also caused all of the black students within a 20-mile radius of Bowling Green to attend the same high school. Offutt said that reality actually helped contribute to the deep sense of camaraderie in Shake Rag.

"If you lost the football game because you dropped a pass, you didn't want to go to the barber shop to get your haircut for the next week because you'd hear about it," he said. "On Sunday at church the preacher would say, 'The Lord's going to bless wide receivers with better hands.' If you walked in to get a hamburger, you'd hear 'If I give you this, don't let it drop out of your hands,' but that type of tightness



WITNEY HARDIN • HERALD

Don Offutt, lectures on Feb. 8, 2018 at the Bob Kirby Library. The lecture explored the history of Jonestown, a town that existed near the Southwest part of campus, at the spot where Houchens-Smith Stadium currently stands.

is what drove the black community."

Offutt was also successful in the classroom, and he was named valedictorian of his senior class in 1965. After graduation, he received a scholarship to attend Kentucky State University, a historically black college. However, the school did not have much money to provide for him, and so he was forced to transfer to WKU after only one year

away from Bowling Green.

"Coming back to Western was one of those interestingly good, serendipitous kind of positive things," Offutt said. "Having gone to a [historically black college], what you learn about who you are and what you're capable of doing is never in question. Bowling

SEE PROFILE • PAGE C4

LECTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

things."

He will discuss the impacts of events such as those surrounding Colin Kaepernick, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, and other athletes kneeling during the national anthem. His presentation will go further into the activism of these movements and their impacts. Butterworth will also touch on how race impacts these movements.

People are likely familiar with the act of taking a knee or refusing to stand

during the national anthem as Kaepernick made headlines for kneeling during the national anthem in August 2016. Since then, it has grown more and more into a recognizable form of protest.

Kaepernick, in an August 2016 interview, told NFL media he was protesting what he deemed as "wrongdoings against African Americans and minorities in the United States."

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick told NFL Media. "To me, this is bigger than football and

it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

Much of the criticism surrounding kneeling during the anthem centers around the perceived disrespect towards American soldiers, veterans and military members.

"I'm very pleased that this is happening during Black History Month because I believe that this is black history in the making," Sterk said.

Sterk said Butterworth will explore both sides of the argument surrounding athletes using public events to


express private beliefs and whether or that is considered patriotism or anti-patriotism.

Kell said he hopes that students who attend will gain a deeper understanding of the everyday impacts of communication and its importance.

"My goal for the lecture is to fill every seat in Grise 235," Kell said.

Butterworth's presentation is a swipecable event for students.

Features reporter Julie Sisler can be reached at 270-745-6291 and julie.sisler389@topper.wku.edu. Follow Julie on Twitter at @julie_sisler.



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NPHC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

feature graduate chapters that exist all over the U.S. and consist of alumni of all ages. Graduate chapters stay active through community service and public works projects.

Bowden said graduate chapters make allegiance to an NPHC organization a lifetime commitment.

"When we join our organization, that is pretty much a lifetime dedication," Bowden said. "It's something that you carry on for life."

Though NPHC organizations are celebrated for their uniqueness, NPHC President LaRosa Shelton, a broadcast journalism major and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, said she hopes to bring organizations from NPHC, IFC and the Panhellenic Council together during her presidency.

"This is something that's never been done before," Shelton said. "I want us to be unified, and I think this is the time to do it."

SALON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

low, you still have to be dedicated."

That dedication is something Morrow said was a key part in being a successful business owner.

"What you get out is what you put in," Morrow said.

Turner said that she has high hopes for her daughter's future.

"We want our youth to aspire to do better than us," Turner said. "That's

Shelton said the three entities will be brought together this spring during Greek Week, which will mark the first time organizations from NPHC, IFC and Panhellenic have all experienced Greek Week from the same perspective. Shelton said the organizations will be able to compete through a variety of Greek week-themed events and activities.

Cori Venning, a broadcast news major and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, said she believes it's important that NPHC, IFC and Panhellenic "bridge the gap" and start working alongside one another more often. Venning said she believes all organizations at WKU share a bond in terms of service, which she said she believes makes integration possible.

"Our main goal is to serve our communities," Venning said. "We're just really trying to get out there and try and know each other."

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what I want my daughter to do. I want her to go further."

Turner said she had aspirations of running her salon out of her own building. She said that now she wants to help her daughter do that.

"I think every parent wants their child or the next generation to do better," Turner said.

Features reporter Laurel Deppen can be reached at 270-745-6291 and laur.deppen774@topper.wku.edu.



Designs by Tammra is a hair salon in Bowling Green. Tammra Turner is her own boss as the owner of the business and has a daughter who carried on the family tradition by becoming a hair stylist as well.

CHRIS KOHLEY • HERALD

Trying to find my place in the black community

BY EBONEE GABHART
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As a biracial female student and an individual within the black community in general, Black History Month is a liberating time to embrace and find passion in my roots.

Confidently taking part and being an actor and member within one's community is not something that just naturally unravels. Growing up and accepting that many people honestly do not value your emotions and seeing this as a consistent theme throughout large groups of people is disheartening as a child seeking pure friendship.

Speaking on my relationship with my blackness and how it is a part of my identity makes me feel extremely vulnerable. Vulnerable to the people who think that there are no more issues or that I have no experience. Vulnerable to people who do not see the importance of the month or understand my need to say any of this. And vulnerable to those interpreting my voice as whatever they perceive it to mean or

dismissing it.

This is part of why I feel Black History Month and events and representation of groups is so important. It's important because of how vulnerable I feel bringing up or discussing elements of my experience of being black in front of people, as if it is taboo.

This is not something I am trying to blanket over all people. Saying that everyone is indifferent to black voices and is eschew on their issues is ridiculous. I can only speak from my experience.

From my experience, though, I do not think there has ever been an environment where I have felt I could truly and honestly divulge to my feelings on racism and prejudice and this defining yet empowering aspect of my identity. Continuously throughout my life, the color of my skin has served as a sort of testament to my character.

I have watched it do the same for my parents, the two most in-love people I know who are married, raising biracial children in a world and society that does not understand their value yet.

I do not think people realize just how negative stereotypes shoved down a person's throat can erode their mind-

set, how constantly having false misconceptions forced onto you can affect your perspective.

Former United States Senator Carol Moseley-Braun once said, "Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face."

But this is again where I stress that people do not care about your emotions. At a young age this is something I continuously would remind myself of whenever I felt the need to ask someone to refrain from using the "n" word or became offended by a joke. People do not care about your emotions.

Maybe this is where the vulnerability sprouted, but nevertheless there has always been an anxiety about announcing my pain and sharing my experience within the black community for me — a fear of being discredited or not wanting to be heard and knowing that we are still at a place in our society where people make assessments based off of preconceived misconceptions of others.

Building a relationship and establishing my place within the black community is something that I am still trying to figure out. Being surrounded by

people and being in environments that foster connections within the black community and an appreciation and knowledge for the types of works African Americans have created is empowering. This type of acknowledgement is what Black History Month is built on.

We are pulling the attention to a group that usually isn't shown equally for what they can do. Black History Month is for African Americans, and it is to say, "Look, we can do this too, and we can do it just as good if not better. You deserve everything just as much as anyone else."

In one of my favorite poems by black poet Danez Smith he says, "Think: once, a white girl was kidnapped and that's the Trojan war. Later, up the block, Troy got shot and that was Tuesday. Are we not worthy of a piece of ash? Of 1,000 we not lauded because we are missed? Always something deserves to be burned. It's never the right thing."

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Black Student Union dissolved, now evolved

BY NOAH MOORE
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In the past century, colleges across America have seen the issue of minority representation at college campuses and worked to address it through implementing things such as Black Student Unions for African-American students. WKU, however, is not one of those campuses.

While the campus does not have its own center solely focused on African-American students, but it almost did.

What was once the Black Student Union has now evolved into organizations on campus such as the Intercultural Student Engagement Center, also known as ISEC, and the Black Student Alliance, also known as BSA, which work to create a community for minority students, specifically students of color.

In 2016, when the Honors College began to house the International Center, the Sofia-Downing House on College Street became the Black Cultural Center after student leaders in the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion began work on a proposal to present to former President Gary Ransdell. It detailed how students wanted a community space for black students

to collaborate, host sessions, relax and discuss issues they faced with like-minded individuals who have experienced similar circumstances.

The Black Cultural Center, also known as the BCC, began the move in early February of that year. However, it wasn't permanent. Months later, the BCC became part of the newly-created ISEC, where program coordinator Kristina Gamble took the reins.

"We had moved over there, but it never matriculated into what they had wanted the Black Cultural Center to become," Gamble said. "The students had wanted to create a safe space with community and did a great job of planning and presenting to Ransdell their reasonings for the BCC through a proposal, but it never truly took off."

When the Black Cultural Center diminished in prominence, the overflow of International Center offices took over the Sofia-Downing House, and BCC dissipated in 2016. However, the resources available to minority students grew.

Currently on campus, there are several organizations available to all minority students, but most are found under ISEC. ISEC is the umbrella organization that contains the ISEC Academy and the Pride Center, and it reaches out to organizations such as the Hilltopper Organization for Latin Ameri-

can Students and the Black Leadership Academic Conference. It also deals with recruitment, retention and graduation of traditionally underrepresented groups.

"The reason for ISEC's founding comes from the need for intersectionality," Gamble said. "You can't educate and isolate. It's OK to create safe communities in the umbrella groups, but we have different prongs. There is a sense of community within each minority group, and we want to expand that, but it's truly about creating a system of intersectionality where we can learn from each other."

ISEC Academy, a subset of ISEC, integrates these principles into the lives of its students through creating a living-learning community to surround students with other students in similar classes and ethnic backgrounds. Sophomore Jazzlin Hamilton, a participant in ISEC Academy, said this program has become more like a family to her.

"ISEC Academy provides a place where we all can get together because seeing someone who looks like you makes you feel more comfortable," Hamilton said. "We all live in the same dorm, have the same classes and study together. ISEC is a family that wants us to succeed. The staff there always has an open door policy, and if you need personal or educational help they will

make sure you get it."

Beyond ISEC, the BSA has also become a replacement for the Black Cultural Center in supplicating discussion, unity, and empowerment, said BSA president Ciara Futrell, a junior.

"We provide a space for students of color to come together, providing unity, group discussion and conversation about issues facing African American students in our campus and community," Futrell said. "We are actually the oldest non-Greek organization on campus."

BSA also defines itself as a black student union which fills the void left after the BCC fell through. As president, Futrell said she sees the future of BSA growing under her leadership and beyond.

"I want BSA to grow to be the home for all black students on campus," she said. "I hope that students continue to notice us and the difference it can make on their college experience. It gives me the power to make a difference within the community, and although it can be challenging, nothing beats pulling our community together in one setting."

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Student art exhibit honors Black History Month

BY JULIE SISLER

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The bright hues of red, white and blue starkly contrast the pitch-black surroundings on the canvas. The outline of Africa, filled with bright colors and the detailed portrait of a young black woman, contrasts with the dark background.

"This shows that this is a person that is an American who just happens to be African American," Angie Link, office coordinator of the Intercultural Student Engagement Center (ISEC), said. "We believe that this piece represents Black History Month the most."

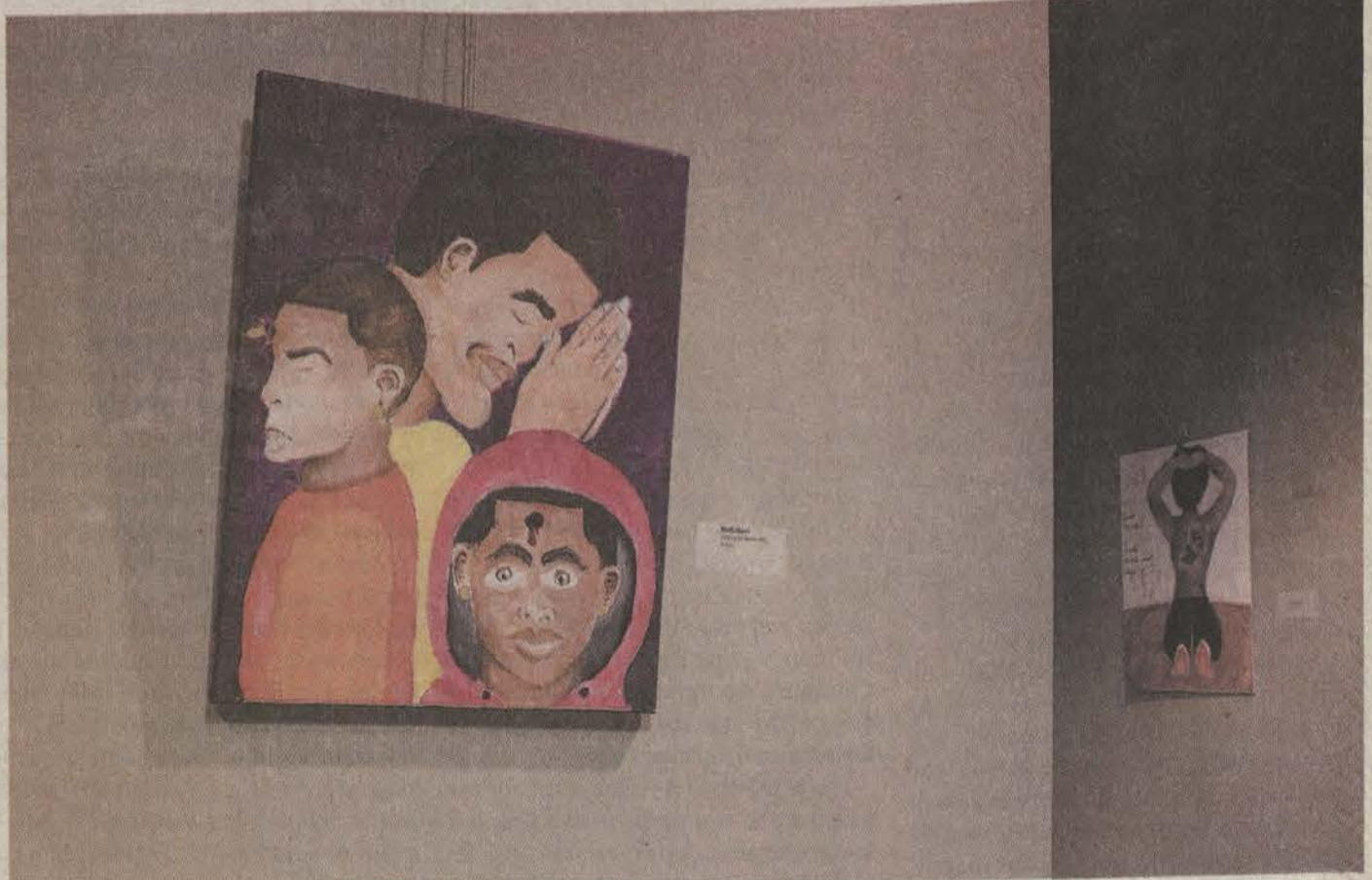
The piece, entitled "African American," is by student Malik Reece. It depicts a young woman with an American flag headwrap, with the shape of Africa cut out around her. Link chose this piece to be sent out across campus to faculty and staff as a promotion for the exhibit.

In honor of Black History Month, ISEC is holding a month-long art exhibit. The artists, all black students, produced various pieces, including paintings and sketches. The artists are Malik Reece, Shayne Howell and Darinda Reddick.

"We wanted to do something to commemorate Black History Month," Link said. "Each of these pieces is symbolic to Black History Month and shows the struggles these artists and others have faced."

The pieces cover a range of topics, including education, female empowerment, spirituality and violence against the African-American community.

"Darinda [one of the artists] works a lot with women and the issues faced by African-American women," Link said. "She's passionate about women and nature and the symbol of an African



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Art hangs for a Black History Month gallery in room 2041 of DSU. The event, sponsored by the Intercultural Student Engagement Center, features artwork from WKU students Malik Reece, Darinda Reddick and Shayne Howell. The gallery will be available to view throughout the remainder of this month and the first week of March.

woman being a queen who is strong in her community."

Howell's "Balance" shows the relationship between two lovers and how they must balance each other out.

"I wanted this to show my perspective on black love and how a man and woman should support and grow with one another," Howell said.

Howell's work also used art to depict the impact of words on members of the African-American community.

"I wanted to show my vision on the words that weighed on us back then and possibly still do," he said.

Reece's "Unspoken Graduation" portrays a young black man in graduation robes with duct tape over his

mouth. Link said the piece shows how many black men are told that they can't graduate high school or college, but will persevere and become what they want to be in the black community and prove to society that they can do it.

Link said she believes that the artists hope to show the struggles faced in the African-American community while also showing that they will overcome those challenges.

"In some ways, this exhibit has done just what I hoped," Howell said. "I think the most important message [that the exhibit sends] would be to express what you believe in."

ISEC is also hoping to put together a guided tour and question and answer session with the artists in order to learn more about the artwork and their messages.

"We really hope students will come by and see the artwork on display," Link said. "It's done by fellow students and it's in honor of Black History Month and the things that African Americans have done throughout history."

The gallery will be open through the end of the month in ISEC's office at Downing Student Union in room 2041.

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PROFILE

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Green is home, and that provided impetus to make some changes there."

The changes Offutt sought to bring to WKU were immediate, as he and fellow student Larry Ashby founded the Omega Psi Phi fraternity in December 1968. Offutt said the organization was the first black fraternity on a white campus in the slave-holding south, and it represented progress for the university's African-American students.

"When we came, there was absolutely no black organization on Western's campus," Offutt said. "The school only had a few years of black folk really coming there, so they may have had 100 black students. The monument we put near Van Meter Hall and the old Kissing Bridge to commemorate our founding is still very important to me."

Offutt graduated from WKU in 1969. From there, he worked various jobs, including serving in the National Guard, before settling on a teaching career. He taught at many schools, but his longest-tenured position was as a professor in the College of Education at Kentucky State University from 1992 until his retirement in 2006. In addition to teaching, Offutt has received two different master's degrees and is currently working on his doctorate from the University of Kentucky.

Since retiring, Offutt has been devoted to the African American Museum

in Bowling Green. He said he drives to Bowling Green from his home in Lexington multiple days per week in order to volunteer and do speaking arrangements. Though the museum's physical location at 1783 Chestnut St. is relatively new, the ideas behind it are not.

"About five of us actually started planning museum concepts as far back as the mid-'90s," Offutt said. "We all went to the same high school, and we all wanted to maintain that life because

"I always say that Don's got more stamina than me because at 70 years old, he's going to get his doctorate," Bailey said when asked about his life-long acquaintance. "We have always been friends, but we reconnected on our interest here in the museum."

Offutt has many reasons to be invested in the museum, but he said a key one is to educate people and remove what he calls "mythological information" from the minds of the masses.

Those folks contributed to their own freedom. No one ever really gave them anything. Many of the people in the Bowling Green area had been enslaved, so that's where a lot of the energy for those communities came from.

Bowling Green native and WKU Alum
DON OFFUTT

we were all born in the same area. The preservation of our history and culture has been something that we have done for a long time because our dads and grandfathers were activists in the community before us."

Howard Bailey, former vice president for Student Affairs at WKU and African American Museum board member, said he has known Offutt since the two were both students. After his retirement in 2015, Bailey has become more involved in the museum, and the two have bonded as a result.

For example, Offutt is quick to remind people that the Civil War was not about freeing slaves, but about black people freeing themselves and taking control of their own destinies once they had the chance to do so.

"Those folks contributed to their own freedom; no one ever really gave them anything," Offutt said. "Many of the people in the Bowling Green area had been enslaved, so that's where a lot of the energy for those communities came from. Even in the difficult times that they faced, there was the

concept to self-define and self-determine their fates."

WKU senior Erian Bradley was not aware that the African American Museum existed. She said she believes it should be showcased and advertised around campus, especially during Black History Month.

"I'm pretty sure if people knew about it, they would go see it," Bradley said. "We only get 28 days of black history, so there should be as much promotion as possible."

Offutt said he owes his identity to his hometown, and his mission in life moving forward is not just to show that there were great people and things going on in Bowling Green's African-American communities, but to also preserve their memories and artifacts.

"I have been married 47 years, and I have two children and a grandson," Offutt said. "I want the grandchildren that I'll see and the grandchildren that I'll never see to be able to go somewhere and read something about where old Papa came from and why he was what he was. It's all about understanding the importance of ancestors and honoring the people who walked this journey before us."

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