

# LIMITED EDITION

\*PROOFED BY HEATH VIRGIN AND CRISTINA THORSON

## WKU prime location for solar eclipse

Bowling Green preparing for flood of visitors; WKU delayed until 4:30 p.m.

**BY SARAH YAACOUB**  
Gatton Academy

On Monday, Aug. 21, a total solar eclipse will be visible from the continental United States for the first time in 38 years. For some cities, it will last as long as 2 minutes and 40 seconds. For Western Kentucky University, it will last 59 seconds.

But that minute will be a big deal.

WKU Student Activities Director Charley Pride estimated the university will spend about \$15,000 on the on-campus events for WKU students occurring on the day of the eclipse. Richard

Gelderman, director of the Hardin Planetarium, said the university — particularly the physics and astronomy department — has been preparing for the eclipse for more than a year and is working through the summer to make sure everything is in order.

Why put so much time and effort into an occurrence with a payoff lasting less than a minute? What's so special about this eclipse? After all, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, two to three solar eclipses take place every year, so this isn't a terribly unusual occurrence.

The answer lies in totality.

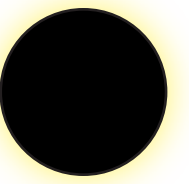
Partial eclipses, in which the moon only partially obstructs Earth's view of the sun, occur relatively frequently. But total eclipses conceal the sun completely and are rare. Globally, they've occurred only 12 times since the turn of the millennium, and they're unique events.

During a total eclipse, the area affected goes dark for the length of totality, and sunset, which normally takes 60 to 90 minutes, occurs in two to three. It's a rarity, but more than that, it's a spectacle — it muddles our daily routines and shocks our circadian rhythms.

SEE **ECLIPSE**, PAGE A2

### WHAT IS A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE?

Solar eclipses happen when the moon moves between Earth and the sun. In a total solar eclipse, the moon completely covers the sun and the sun's outer atmosphere can be seen.



### HOW TO WATCH

- Looking directly at the sun, be it in broad daylight or during the partial stages of a solar eclipse, can cause severe eye strain and retinal scarring.
- Use appropriate eye protection to prevent permanent ocular damage. While sunglasses are not suited for looking at an eclipse, the astronomy department has ordered over 100,000 NASA-approved solar viewers, and on the day of the eclipse, they will be distributed on the South Lawn at no cost to those with WKU IDs.
- Solar viewers for people unaffiliated with the university sell for \$3 each.
- While eye protection should not be worn during the period of totality, eclipse viewers must wear them during the first and fourth contacts (the time leading up to and following the total eclipse), as the sun will remain visible and harmful to the naked eye until it is fully concealed by the moon.

"I didn't want us to do anything that wasn't at the highest level in American higher education."

**Gary Ransdell, WKU President**



WKU President Gary Ransdell, welcomes students at the Topper Orientation Program Thursday, June 15. Ransdell will retire on July 1 and become CEO of Semester at Sea in January.

## Gatton to laud 10 years of success

**BY CRISTINA THORSON**  
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

Gatton Academy, a nationally renowned residential high school for gifted students, will celebrate its 10th anniversary this summer.

Founded in 2007 and based in Western Kentucky University's Florence Schneider Hall, Gatton is geared toward advancing gifted STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) students in their education. Students at Gatton Academy simultaneously complete their high school education at WKU and receive credit for at least 60 hours of college.

The program has garnered a reputation through the successes of its student body. WKU President Gary Ransdell credits Gatton Academy and the Mahurin Honors College with creating the "intellectual heartbeat for Kentucky."

In 2017, students received recognition for achievements ranging from becoming U.S. Presidential Scholars to National Merit finalists to Scholastic Art & Writing award winners. Gatton Academy was also named top high school in the U.S. for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

"It's nice to have prestige and to have had nice ratings in the past, but I don't think that's the reason to choose Gatton," said director Lynette Breedlove. "I think students should choose Gatton because they're ready for an intense, academic challenge. I think students should choose Gatton because they want to be part of our community."

The school previously enrolled roughly 60 boys and 60 girls for a total of 120 students, but recently expanded its dorms with a \$10 million donation from Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton. The academy is now able to house 192 students, which is the number of students that will be attending Gatton in the fall of 2017.

The academy prioritizes closeness with its students. The staff tries to maintain personal relationships, taking into consideration that the students are usually far away from home at a young age. A larger student body presents challenges in preserving the community feel, Breedlove said.

SEE **GATTON**, PAGE A2



OLIVIA BROTZGE/  
DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

"I think students should choose Gatton because they're ready for an intense, academic challenge."

**Lynette Breedlove, director**

## BOWING OUT

Ransdell's legacy extends throughout campus

**BY VERONICA CLEPHAS** | Fern Creek High School

On June 30, WKU President Gary Ransdell will say goodbye to a campus he transformed and a university he redefined. • Ransdell, whose 20-year tenure as president is surpassed only by that of WKU founder Henry Hardin Cherry, said in an interview that he leaves the office proud of where the university stands today compared to when he took office in 1997.

"I didn't want us to do anything that wasn't at the highest level in American higher education," said Ransdell, 65, who served as WKU's ninth president.

Once he turns over the university to Timothy Caboni, who becomes WKU's 10th president July 1, Ransdell will take a six-month sabbatical, and then will become CEO of the Semester at Sea program in January.

With transformation as the hallmark of his presidency, Ransdell cited four areas where he is particularly proud — renewal of campus through construction and renovation, strategic sets of capital campaigns, the elevation of academic programs in success and stature, and WKU's efforts to extend its reach internationally.

### CAMPUS RENEWAL

When Ransdell arrived at WKU, there was much work to be done on the physical campus. Maintenance items had been deferred to save money. Parking lots filled the interior of campus. The newest major academic building had opened in the 1970s.

The place was tired. The challenge inspired the new president, who had earned his undergraduate



KEILEN FRAZIER / FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

President Gary Ransdell delivers a heart-warming speech to the incoming freshmen as he concludes his presidency with his last Topper Orientation.

degree on the Hill.

"You have to be inspired where you are," Ransdell said. "If they learn to take pride in this place and take care of this place, those thoughts will prevail wherever they live for the rest of their life."

During his two decades, the main campus has seen dramatic changes and multiple new buildings. Major academic buildings include the Engineering and Biological Sciences Building, Jody Richards Hall (originally Mass Media and Technology

Hall), Snell Hall, Gary Ransdell Hall, Mahurin Honors College and Ogden College Hall, which will open in January 2018. Other major new buildings include the Augenstein Alumni Center and three new parking garages.

Existing buildings throughout campus received renovations from minor to major. The largest included Downing Student Union, Preston Center, Smith Stadium and Diddle Arena.

SEE **RANSDELL**, PAGE A2



# Ransdell

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

A Student Life Foundation was created to renovate and build dormitories. Each residence hall was renovated, apartments were added and the foundation recently launched a multi-year program to build new halls and renew or replace old halls.

To the president, the campus is a major part of the college experience.

“The physical place is as much about the technology and what’s in and under the ground as it is the building themselves,” Ransdell said. WKU has spent millions upgrading electrical systems and technology.

Enrollment growth fueled some of the nearly \$1 billion in construction projects. In 1997, WKU had 14,500 students; today that number sits at about 20,000.

## FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Both financial strength and pressure marked Ransdell’s tenure as president.

As president, he led two successful fundraising campaigns that helped raise close to \$500 million in private donations over the past 20 years.

The university’s annual budget has grown from about \$130 million to more than \$400 million today.

But the period also has seen state support for WKU plunge from about 51 percent of the budget to about 18.5 percent today.

Much of WKU’s financial stability depends on the money it raises from tuition. Tuition and fees for one semester have climbed to just under \$5,000 in Spring 2017.

In 1997, tuition generated about \$50 million toward budget. As of 2017, tuition generated \$200 million. While the number of students paying tuition grew significantly during the 20 years, the individual’s cost grew as well.

Those factors have made raising money in the private sector crucial, Ransdell said.

“It takes work and confidence, but it’s a huge game changer for us,” Ransdell said about private donors. He would seek those with the capacity and raise their inclination, or willingness, to contribute to the university. This approach has increased the amount of money the university gets from private donors, he said.

Much of that money goes into endowments – money donated for a specific cause in which the donation is protected and invested, and its earnings benefit the targeted program or mission.

“Endowments make universities permanent,” Ransdell said.

## ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENTS

While much attention has been focused on campus construction and fundraising, Ransdell said the heart of any university are its aca-



PHOTOS BY KEILEN FRAZIER / FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

WKU President Gary Ransdell waits to be introduced to speak to students at his last WKU freshman orientation on Thursday, June 15 in the auditorium of the Downing Student Union.

dem programs.

In Ransdell’s time at WKU, there have been major changes.

One that has attracted a lot of attention is the Mahurin Honors College, which has about 1,300 students and enrolls approximately 350 new students each year. When Ransdell first became president, the Honors College was only a program.

“The Honors College has changed the intellectual energy of the campus,” Ransdell said.

He said that the Honors College challenges students even if they’re not in the program because the students are challenged in classes where both honors students and regular students are in the same class.

The Carol Martin Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science also opened, and celebrates its 10th anniversary this summer. The high school for gifted juniors and seniors from throughout Kentucky has been named the nation’s top public high school three times.

Together, Ransdell said, the Honors College and Gatton formed a new “intellectual heartbeat for Kentucky.”

However, improving academics hasn’t always been easy. When WKU got its first doctoral degree in the 2008-2009 academic year, it had to fight a system that limited doctoral classes to the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville.

Ransdell has also valued partnerships. The recent partnership with the University of Kentucky to bring a medical school to Bowling Green is a prime example.

“The partnership is cool,”



WKU President Gary Ransdell discusses changes to WKU’s campus with Xposure Workshop students on Thursday, June 15 at the Craig Administrative Center.

Ransdell said.

He said he could have fought to have a medical school, but decided to partner with UK: “It’s not worth the fight when we can achieve the same ends by holding hands.”

Additionally, Ransdell said wanted to avoid a political conflict during his last two years at WKU. “I’m not sure I could’ve won that fight,” he said.

Ransdell also emphasizes the importance of private partnerships, calling them critical and saying that without those partnerships, the university would not have made as much progress.

Among those partnerships are the \$14 million Bill Gatton donated for Gatton Academy and the collaboration between WKU and Alltech that brought the nation’s largest commercial brewery on a college campus and created a brewing sciences program.

## INTERNATIONALIZATION

One of the biggest events of the past century -- the terrorist attacks

of Sept. 11, 2001 -- galvanized the importance of widening WKU’s horizons, Ransdell said.

“It became clear that there were problems around the globe and I was determined that we would never graduate another student that didn’t have some understanding of the complexity of the globe,” Ransdell said. “We are no longer isolated on the globe.”

“The globe has become a very small place and I want our students to be comfortable and confident in a global context.”

One of the programs which helped internationalize the campus is the Chinese Flagship program. The program is meant to take someone with no prior knowledge of the Chinese language and get them to a proficient level. The program has about 75 students, all of whom will work in China for a semester as part of the program.

The Chinese Flagship is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense as part of the Critical Languages program. The program is meant to bridge gaps between the US and other countries such as China.

“The more you know the better you embrace, the better you embrace the better you trade,” Ransdell said. He said he wanted students to be capable of acting in the economy in a global environment.

Ransdell also struck agreements with Hanban, the Chinese education authority, to open WKU’s Confucius Institute, which moved into its own building this year.

Also during Ransdell’s tenure, WKU entered into an agreement with the University of Evansville to send students each semester to

live and learn at UE’s Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, where students take classes and stay in a stately manor house.

Hundreds of WKU students each year now study across the globe, a dramatic increase from the handful that did so in the 1990s.

As WKU students are studying abroad, the number of international students studying at WKU also has increased significantly. According to the College Heights Herald, 1,446 international students studied at WKU in 2016-17, nearly 14 times the amount when Ransdell started in 1997.

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So what would Ransdell do differently in his 20 years?

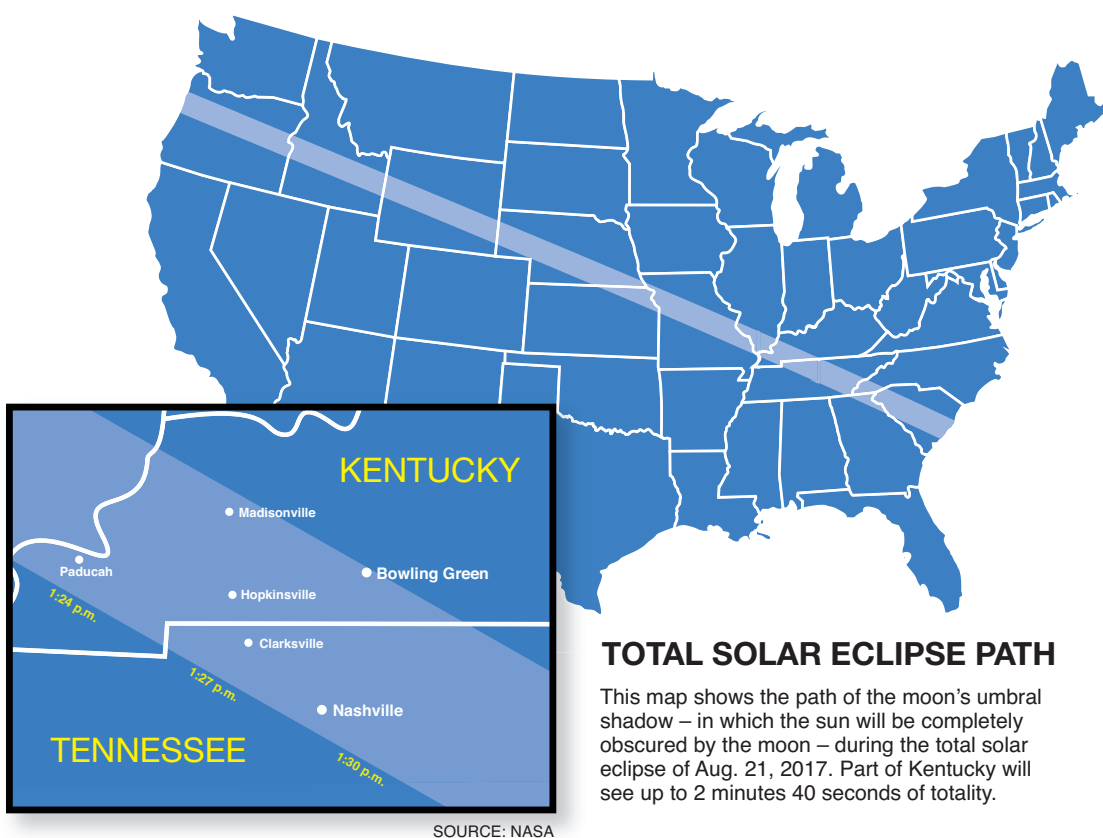
“I just don’t know what I would’ve or could’ve done differently,” the president said. “I think I was aggressive and pursued things to the best of my abilities.”

During Ransdell’s 20 years as president, more than 66,000 students have graduated – or about 62 percent of the university’s 107,000 living alumni. Each has had the opportunity to shake his hand as they were honored at commencement ceremonies.

The last of those students to walk across the floor of Diddle Arena and shake Ransdell’s hand was Georgia Childers, graduating from the exceptional education program in the last ceremony of Spring 2017, on May 13.

Instead of taking Ransdell’s traditional handshake, she asked him to dance.

“So we slow danced for 30 or 40 seconds, and on the back of her cap was ‘Oh the places you will go,’” Ransdell said. “... That was a cool moment.”



# Eclipse

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In the words of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the eclipse is a planned natural disaster.

During a total solar eclipse, the moon completely obstructs the view of the sun from a specific path along which it follows. The sky goes dark, and daylight vanishes, leaving only a glowing crown along the circumference of the moon and, on a clear day, stars. It’s night in the middle of the day, a strange but sensational event that one must see to fully comprehend.

In fact, when asked to describe the experience of seeing a total solar eclipse, Gelderman refused, saying there was no way he could possibly do the event justice, and it wouldn’t be fair to try.

“When you get there, it will

be so much more than anything you’ve seen or heard about,” Gelderman said. “It’s like visiting the Grand Canyon after seeing it in pictures. You can’t imagine it.”

Marco Garcia, 17, agreed that eclipses are indescribable phenomena, which is why he thought it important that those who can view the total eclipse this August do so.

“It was one of the coolest things I’ve ever seen,” said Garcia, a rising Gatton Academy senior and observer of a total solar eclipse in Seychelles. “People can always tell you what it’s going to look like, but it’s another thing entirely to actually see the halo around the moon.”

He was referring to the corona, the outermost layer of the sun, comprised of hydrogen gas and only visible during the brief moments of totality.

Bowling Green residents and

others who live near a point of totality are encouraged to make the trip to the nearest location with a clear view of the total eclipse, if possible.

However, because the Warren County population is expected to roughly double from the influx of people seeking an optimal viewing spot, arriving early is a good idea to avoid traffic and find parking more easily.

The WKU campus is expected to be extremely crowded that day, with more than 10,000 schoolchildren expected to visit campus for the special eclipse educational programming and viewing in the football stadium. Between 2,000 and 3,000 WKU students are expected to congregate on the South Lawn from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to celebrate the eclipse since their first day of classes is postponed until 4:30 in observation of the solar eclipse.



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA BROTZGJE/DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

The well-known Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year. Gatton Academy ranks as one of the top performing schools in the nation.

# Gatton

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The staff is attentive and the relationships with them are more defined than they would be elsewhere, rising Gatton senior Brian Zhu said.

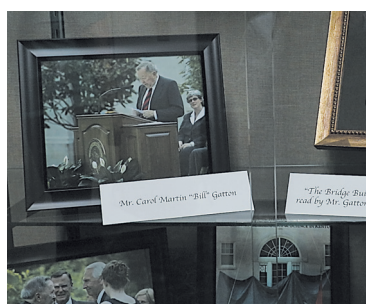
“I definitely feel super close to my peers,” Zhu said. “Especially the ones that live on my wing, since we’re around each other a ton.”

Even with the expansion, Gatton still experiences rigorous competition among applicants. The expected number of applicants in the upcoming year is at least 400, and less than a quarter of that number are accepted.

Attending the academy has provided the students with opportunities they would not otherwise have had. Many students choose to attend Gatton because of the research opportunities that are offered.

“I’ve always wanted to do astronomy-related research, and that wasn’t an option in my hometown,” said Gatton student Morganne Williams. “However, at WKU, that option was very real.”

Williams is pursuing her dream of researching dark matter through Gatton Academy programs. Although she plans to apply for WKU to continue her



A display case in the Gatton Academy contains pictures from Gatton’s history, including one of Gatton’s founder, Carol Martin “Bill” Gatton.

college education, only 25 percent of Gatton students typically attend the university after completing the Gatton curriculum.

Gatton alumni will return to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the program from August 19-21. The anniversary is a “huge milestone” for Gatton, Breedlove said.

According to the Gatton alumni website, 10 events are planned, ranging from nostalgic “classes” to prom. The weekend will end with a solar eclipse festival that invites Gatton alumni, family and friends to attend.

The anniversary is not only significant for the alumni, as “the first graduating class is now in the workforce and the true economic effects that Gatton graduates are making can be measured,” Zhu said.





PHOTOS BY KEILEN FRAZIER / FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

WKU Volleyball Coach Travis Hudson and son, Drew, stand together and watch players participating in the WKU volleyball skills summer camp run drills on the court.

# For Hudson, coaching is more than life on volleyball court

BY KADEN GAYLORD

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

One name that has become synonymous in Western Kentucky history is Travis Hudson.

Heading into his 23rd season as the head coach of the volleyball team, Hudson is the all-time winningest volleyball coach in WKU history. After going 30-3 in 2016, Hudson was named South Region and Conference USA coach of the year.

Despite all of the accolades, his off-the-court contributions have stuck out the most.

"If all I'm remembered for is wins and losses then I think that's shallow and sad," he said.

Hudson is originally from Louisville, but grew up in a lake house around Mammoth Cave.

"I come from not a lot," he said. "My family didn't have much money when I was growing up."

When he got to college he went straight to work. Hudson got two jobs, along with being a full-time student. He said he didn't really interact much at the student center or play intramural sports. He went to work, class, then back to work.

Hudson graduated from WKU in 1994 and was the first person from his family to graduate from college.

"When you're down in life it is going to go one of two ways — you're either going to make excuses for it or it's going to drive you," he said.

Hudson said to go through what he had to endure made him



WKU Volleyball Coach Travis Hudson displays his collection of conference rings, photos of his wife, Cindy, and their children, Drew and Tyler, in his office.

the man he is today.

Having a great relationship with his players is one of Hudson's valuable strengths.

"Travis is a coach that genuinely cares about your future outside of volleyball," said rising senior and All-American Alyssa Cavanaugh. "It isn't all about winning on the court. It's about creating an environment and principles that will take us to bigger things after volleyball."

He takes much pride in telling others that there has only been one player to transfer from the program in his 22 years of being the head coach.

Hudson said he invites his players over for dinner and to play with his sons.

"I want to be somebody that they know I care about them...it's

"Travis is a coach that genuinely cares about your future outside of volleyball. It isn't all about winning on the court. It's about creating an environment and principles that will take us to bigger things after volleyball."

Alyssa Cavanaugh, rising senior

important to know your players," he said.

Even when his players graduate from the program he stays in touch with them, like outgoing senior Georgia O'Connell.

"He is always there giving

me advice and reassuring me that everything will be OK," she said. "He has been a great motivator."

Being a coach takes a lot of energy and time, which can interfere with some other aspects of life. Hudson said the hardest part is traveling with his sons growing up, because they didn't understand why he left as much as he did.

His wife, Cindy Hudson, was a volleyball player when she was in college, so she understood why he left as much as he did.

"If it wasn't for controlling my time I would be a lifelong assistant," he said.

Hudson said there are some disadvantages for his kids but there are also many upsides like growing up in an athletic environment and traveling the country.

"I want them to be a part of this with me and if I ever have to decide between being a good coach or a good dad, I am going to be a good dad every time," he said.

Hudson said he is really invested in his kids 24/7, which includes the academic side of his student-athletes.

"I've been very hands on through the years...you'll have an academic advisor and I'll be the second one," he said.

Hudson keeps up with his team and their goals in life and everything they hope to achieve. In the 22 years at WKU, 100 percent of his players have graduated.

"This (WKU) is my home," he said. "... I don't know if I would feel the same passion anywhere else."

# Imel a picture of community journalism

BY HEATH VIRGIN

Madison Central High School

Imagine a man running toward you with a knife. Most would reach for a weapon, but Joe Imel reaches for his camera.

Imel is the director of Media Operations at the Bowling Green Daily News who frankly loves to shoot anything that's news among his community.

His childhood was filled with moving all around the country, even living to Germany twice. This was the result of his father being in the Army. "I didn't mind [moving] because I lived on military bases and so everybody there was doing the same thing I was," Imel said. "Deep down, that probably helped me learn to adjust."

He later found a home at Fort Knox High School in Hardin County in the eighth grade. There, he learned about his love for art. Imel later found his desire to be an artist.

Imel majored in art at Western Kentucky University, but he said he wasn't a good student, "I didn't attend class," he said.

But, the more he went to classes, the more he fell in love with photojournalism. He then switched his major to what he was fond of. "Photojournalism taught me it's OK to be me." But even then he said he "was printing my assignments at the last minute."



KEILEN FRAZIER/FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Bowling Green Daily News' Joe Imel shows Xposure students what he views as his most essential photography gear.

"They hired me because they knew I was a hard worker. I'm not Usain Bolt, but I will go all day long."

Joe Imel, director of Media Operations at the Bowling Green Daily News

Then one of Imel's fraternity brothers asked if he'd want to work for a paper in Calhoun in McLean County. After accepting the job, he worked at the McLean County News. Imel had a sports column called "Imel's Insight," and also had the freedom to shoot anything he wanted at the paper. "I traveled with farmers, Amish, and all sorts of

people," he said. "I had the time of my life."

After leaving Calhoun, he spent two years at the Hardin County Independent News in Elizabethtown. Imel then received what he wanted, a daily paper job. The Daily News in Bowling Green hired him in 1991. "They hired me because they knew I was a hard worker,"

he said. "I'm not Usain Bolt, but I will go all day long."

Even since he has been working in management at the Daily News, he still shoots pictures for the paper all around south-central Kentucky.

One of the many stories he told the 12 students in the workshop was about a fire at the Holiday hotel on the 31-W By-Pass. It was a cold, icy night in January of 1996. Awakened by his wife, he got a call on his police scanner and quickly headed to the scene.

"When I got there, there were people crying, snorting, and screaming," Imel said. He said he saw a man's body on the ground lying in the shape of a cross. Smoke billowed from the man, while people tried to revive him. The man did not survive, Imel said.

The police scanner he used that night is an essential tool that Imel uses to this day. The scanner is used so he can immediately hear about fires, shootings, and other incidents that policemen talk about through the scanner. "[Scanner] is my quick start to learn what was going on."

Imel's Twitter account with thousands of followers. His followers are updated with the latest breaking news that hasn't hit other news outlets yet. "I tweet the news that not news but is news."

COMMENTARY

# Equality essential for all

BY MAYA JOSHI

duPont Manual High School

One year after 49 members of the LGBT+ community lost their lives to home-grown homophobia in the Pulse nightclub shooting, the LGBT+ community is facing record high levels of discrimination and violence as Pride month nears its mid-point.

Part of this comes from a new political atmosphere that encourages confrontational, aggressive behavior when seeing something that counters your own political or religious views. Part of this is from a new administration that not only promotes and encourages violence, but says they'll have the perpetrator's back. Part of this is from everyday people seeing harassment and assaults and saying nothing, turning their head, being a bystander and refusing to help for their own fears.

The statistics show that non-heteronormative sexual assault isn't as rare as some would expect. According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network), 21 percent of transgender, genderqueer, or otherwise gender non conformative (TGQN) college students have been sexually assaulted, while 18 percent of non-TGQN females and 4 percent of non-TGQN males have been sexually assaulted.

And 46.4 percent lesbians, 74.9 percent bisexual women, 43.3 percent heterosexual women, 40.2 percent gay men, 47.4 percent bisexual men reported sexual violence other than rape during their lifetimes according to the NSVRC, or National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

About one in five TGQN (transgender, genderqueer, questioning, nonconforming) college students have been sexually assaulted.

About one in six non-TGQN female college students have been sexually assaulted. About one in 25 non-TGQN male college students have been sexually assaulted. About eleven out of every 25 women who are lesbian, about 11 out of every 25 women who are straight, about two out of five men who are gay, over one in five men who are straight, about 12 out of every 25 men who are bisexual and about three out of four women who are bisexual have experienced sexual violence other than rape.

The number of bisexual men who have experienced sexual violence other than rape is about half of the number of bisexual women who have experienced sexual violence other than rape.

But these numbers aren't actually completely accurate. In reality, the numbers are considerably higher because most rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual violence and sexual abuse go unreported, meaning data pools consistently show lower numbers than the reality of the situation.

To say Kentucky's laws regarding LGBT+ youth are lacking is an incredible understatement.

There are no anti-bullying, non-discrimination, foster/adoption system protection or conversion therapy ban laws or policies or acts whatsoever. Nothing for students. Nothing for minors. In fact, the Bluegrass State goes as far as criminalizing exposure to/transmission of HIV.

The state requires proof of sex reassignment surgery before allowing the gender on a birth certificate to be changed and requires proof of sex reassignment surgery, court order or an amended birth certificate before allowing the gender marker on a driver's license to be changed.

Of Kentucky's 120 counties, only two prohibit private employment discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation. Seven cities have similar laws.

Kentucky has a little over 4.3 million people and more than 130,000 of them are LGBT+. We need to demand better for all of our friends, loved ones, and enemies who face extreme adversity because of who they love and who they are.

We need to demand better for our children and grandchildren, who all deserve the same opportunity for a better life. We need to demand better for those who fought before us, and so that someday after us they won't need to fight for equal rights.

For full story go to [wkuxposure.com](http://wkuxposure.com)

# Robot takes over milking at Chaney's

BY KATE NEAL  
duPont Manual High School

After nearly 80 years, the days of milking by hand at Chaney's Dairy Barn are over – a robot has taken over.

Since its purchase in 1888, the Chaney family farm has gone through a multitude of changes while maintaining the same vision the original owner, James Chaney Sr., had envisioned for it.

Carl Chaney is part of the fourth generation of the Chaney family to own the farm and has made considerable changes in how the farm operates and functions in the community. One of these changes is the introduction of a \$260,000 robotic milking system that was installed June 14, 2016. This machine greatly differs from their old system of milking the cows dating back to 1940 when Chaney's father began milking cows in the barn.

"He started milking two cows by hand," Chaney said. "In 1948, we got electricity...I can only imagine that dad was about as excited when he got electricity as we were when we got this robot put in."

The robot begins the milking process when a cow walks into its stall. The cow will be wearing a necklace that is read by the robot to see who the cow is.

After the cow is identified, the machine determines if the cow is ready to be milked.

"If that cow is ready to be milked, it will start giving her some feed up front," Chaney said. "If she's not, it will reject her. It will open the front gate back up, she will walk out, front gate will close, back gate will open and another cow will come in."

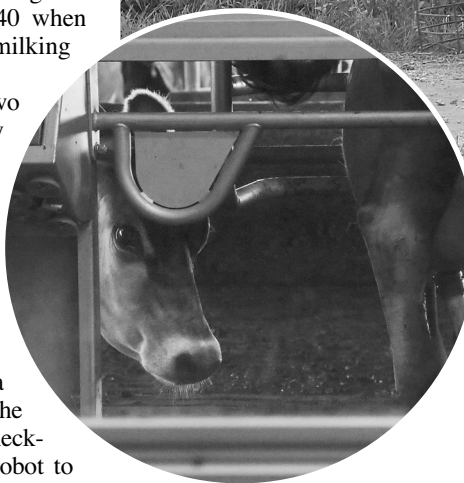
If the cow is ready to be milked, an iodine solution dip will be sprayed on the cow's udder. Then, a laser maps out where the cow's udder is in order to effectively squeeze it. If there are any problems with finding the udder, it continues to remap until it gets it right.

The milk that is taken from the



CRISTINA THORSON / PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

**Above,** Dore Baker sets up cages for Chaney calves on Monday, June 12. With the addition of the new robotic milking system, Baker and Carl Chaney run all the farm operations. **Left,** a cow waits to be milked by the automated milking system at Chaney's dairy farm. The system increases milk production by nearly 30 percent.



percent increase on milk production because our cows are now more comfortable than they've ever been in their whole life."

Besides the milk, tourism accounts for a significant amount of the farm's revenue.

"We started in 2004 doing farm tours and we would have bales of straw...I would get Ms. Glimmer, the cow, and I would bring her in and actually milk her for them. They'd be able to see her, they'd be able to get to pet her. Things have changed," Chaney said.

Now the farm offers self-guided tours with a video to accompany them. The Chaney family has also built a new facility totaling \$600,000.

Hayley Watson, a rising WKU sophomore from Louisville, went on a tour of the farm two summers ago, before the new facility was constructed.

"When I went there two years ago, we went into this little barn and there weren't any doors.

Instead of bleachers, we had little hay bales that we sat on and then he would bring in the cow, Miss Glimmer, and he would tell you how they milk a cow," Watson said.

E. Streeter, a rising junior at duPont Manual High School in Louisville, went on a tour of the farm one year after Watson, still before the completion of renovations.

"We were the first people actually to go in that building and see what would become later on. I got to see the end of a period and the beginning of a period all in the same day," Streeter said.

Community events are another way the farm brings in tourists. Every other Friday and Saturday night the Chaney family put up a screen and show a family movie on the side of the barn.

"Last Friday night, there were almost 800 people out here on blankets and lounge chairs watch-

ing the movie," Chaney said.

The farm is holding another community event June 19. It is a day to honor Miss Glimmer. Last year at this event, the Chaney family handed out 900 free single scoops of ice cream.

A playground at the farm also attracts families. It was put in on April 25 and on that day there were 600 more transactions at the family business than there were on that same day the previous year.

"We just have a blast working with the community. We've been blessed," Chaney said.

Although the farm is run quite differently than it was a few years ago, Chaney is confident that he is maintaining how his father, grandfather and great-grandfather wanted the farm to be run.

"My dad would love this," Chaney said. "He would love to be able to watch this and see how these cows are being taken care of today."

# Residence hall construction to modernize campus housing

BY JAY WHITEHEAD  
Memphis University School

Starting in the fall of 2018, students will have the chance to experience a new, modernized living experience on the WKU campus. WKU Housing and Residence Life created a 10-year plan that will optimize the on-campus living experience for current and future students.

Mike Reagle, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and executive director for Housing and Dining, said the construction of Hilltopper Hall, in the "Valley" parallel to College Heights Boulevard and next to the Kentucky Museum, will allow "swing space" to destroy the Barnes-Campbell and Bemis Lawrence halls while still allowing the same number of students to reside on campus.

Hilltopper Hall will have a 24/7 cafeteria, Reagle said. In addition to the 400 beds and a 24/7 cafeteria, it also will have more space for studying, social encounters and recreational space for fitness.

"It ends up being kind of like a mini hotel," Reagle said.

Northeast and Southwest halls are also undergoing reconstruction that will include more space for common areas like a large kitchen and dedicated student success spaces.

The Northeast and Southwest halls were originally constructed in 1957 as four separate halls. The rooms that were created fit the life experience that most college students had at that time.

"A number of students in the '60s and '70s came from homes where they usually shared rooms and bathrooms," Reagle said. "At that time, those types of dorms were normal to them."

"Most kids going to college are coming from homes where they have always had their own room and bathroom. Now you send those kids to these residence halls where they would have to walk down the hall and share a room with about 25 to 50 of their closest friends. It's a whole other world for them."

Most universities have reconstructed their residence halls to fit this modernized way of living.



CRISTINA THORSON / PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

A construction worker balances on the framework of Hilltopper Hall. The structure will be a new residential building for incoming WKU students around the fall of 2018.

"In order for universities to keep up, you have to continue to build these types of things because otherwise students will choose other universities instead of yours," Reagle said.

A part of modernizing the residence halls of WKU campus will be the introduction of pod-style housing.

"Pods are similar to suites where you have a shared bathroom between two rooms with a small kitchen," Reagle said.

Pod-style housing will answer the students' complaints of the community bathrooms and showers. Instead of sharing a bathroom and showers with 25 to 50 people, students now will share a bathroom with four to six students.

"What I've found from students living in that condition is that they didn't like it," Reagle said. "But what I have heard from most students is that they wouldn't trade it for anything because they got to know everybody from their floor."

"The challenge with pod-style housing is that you won't get to meet and build relationships with

people on your floor," Reagle said.

Even though pod-style housing is what the students want, the connection between students on the floor will be different.

"As you build this type of environment, which is what the students want, you limit the ability to have that community that you really want," Reagle said.

Despite a slight increase in rates, WKU residence hall and apartment annual rates will remain more affordable than the average rate for similar residence halls and apartments in Kentucky universities, according to the WKU housing website. The construction projects will not increase the tuition cost for the students. The housing rates will increase to align with the Kentucky system average and will contribute to housing operations, programming and future projects.

WKU provides different types of housing options depending on a student's desires and financial stability.

"We can build whatever we need to build as long as we can

bill out the students who want to live there," Reagle said. "As the cost of higher education goes up, you've got to have this balance of providing people what they want and what they have the ability to pay for."

WKU has many different living options based on gender, class exclusives or other features like single beds that will be more available in the future.

"Your best system gives the most amount of choices for students," Reagle said.

WKU will also be adding a semi-suite, 200-bed annex to the Bates Runner Hall in 2024 and a conversion from traditional to semi-suite style rooms in the McCormack Hall in the fall of 2025.

"It's an exciting time. It's exciting to see new things coming up. It's exciting to see what we can provide for the students," Reagle said. "A lot of what we do is actually preparing students behind the scenes to actually be able to go to class and get an education. We are the infrastructure behind that."

# Ogden Hall is last phase

BY DONOVAN RADFORD  
Ballard High School

Completion of the construction of the new Ogden College Hall is the last phase of a multi-year, multi-million dollar plan to upgrade a number of outdated buildings on campus spanning back to 2005.

Bryan Russell, chief facilities officer at WKU, said Ogden College Hall, a \$32.2 million project, is scheduled for completion in December. Classes begin in January of 2018. It is replacing Thompson Complex North Wing.

"They will have the latest and greatest technology to work with," Russell said.

The building, which will house the Ogden College of Science and Engineering, includes four stories with 36 laboratories for the departments of chemistry, physics and biology. It also has an auditorium that will seat 300.

"It is a little over 80,000 square feet," Russell said. Students will also enjoy a student success center and student lounges. There will also be a Dean's Suite.

At a groundbreaking ceremony in April, Cheryl Stevens, the dean of Ogden College, talked about the impact of the new facility.

"It is a very significant event for Ogden College," Stevens said.

"We are so thrilled to have this kind of space and a state-of-the-art facility."

Russell said Ogden will offer a comfortable and environmentally friendly facility. Students will not have to worry about breathing in chemicals from lab work either, he said.

As for the construction of the building, it is made of cast and concrete. "It's a very robust building," Russell said.

According to a press release by the Ogden College website, outgoing President Gary Ransdell said improving the sciences facilities has been a priority since he returned on campus in 1997.

"I'm delighted this is now under way," Ransdell said.

Kentucky House Speaker Pro Tem Jody Richards, who was also on hand for the groundbreaking, said in the newsletter he couldn't wait for it to open.

"An academic building is truly exciting," Richards said. "It's an exciting day and we look forward to coming back for the opening."



# Louisville using new technology to combat shootings, violence

BY OLIVIA BROTZGE  
duPont Manual High School

Yvette Gentry, chief of Community Building in Louisville, said the Louisville Metro Police Department's new ShotSpotter technology will help with the early intervention of criminal youth so that officers can put them on the correct path.

The advantages of ShotSpotter, a system that has been live for two weeks in high crimes areas of Louisville and has reported 89 gunfire shots that wouldn't have otherwise been reported, were outlined in a press conference June 14.

Major Josh Judah said the technology works to pinpoint exact locations of gunfire in the city as the incident occurs. Because of the real-time characteristic of the software, officers can arrive at the scene in 60 seconds to collect evidence, find suspects or intervene before a crime is committed.

"It's one thing to give someone a phone number when they're going through all these things," Gentry said. "Sometimes you just have the moment of clarity in a young man or woman's mind who is about to make a poor decision and you have got to be available ... and take them by the hand and show them a different path."

Gentry said that this technology will not only allow officers to interfere at a scene as soon as possible, but also inform her of locations that need more officers patrolling that area. Because of that crucial information, more youth-involved criminal activity will be stopped before it actually occurs.

"I've always been against conflict because of it being romanticized when I was younger," E. Streeter, a 15-year-old Xposure Journalism Workshop assistant and duPont Manual High School student, said. "I saw that happen before my eyes of people trying to kill each other and it's terrifying. I, personally, think ShotSpotter will allow for accuracy when it comes to keeping tabs on the public."

Last year, the LMPD reported more homicides than the department has managed in 14 years – 118. In the first six months of this year, 61 homicides have been reported, putting Louisville on track to surpassing last year's record.

These numbers have an impact.

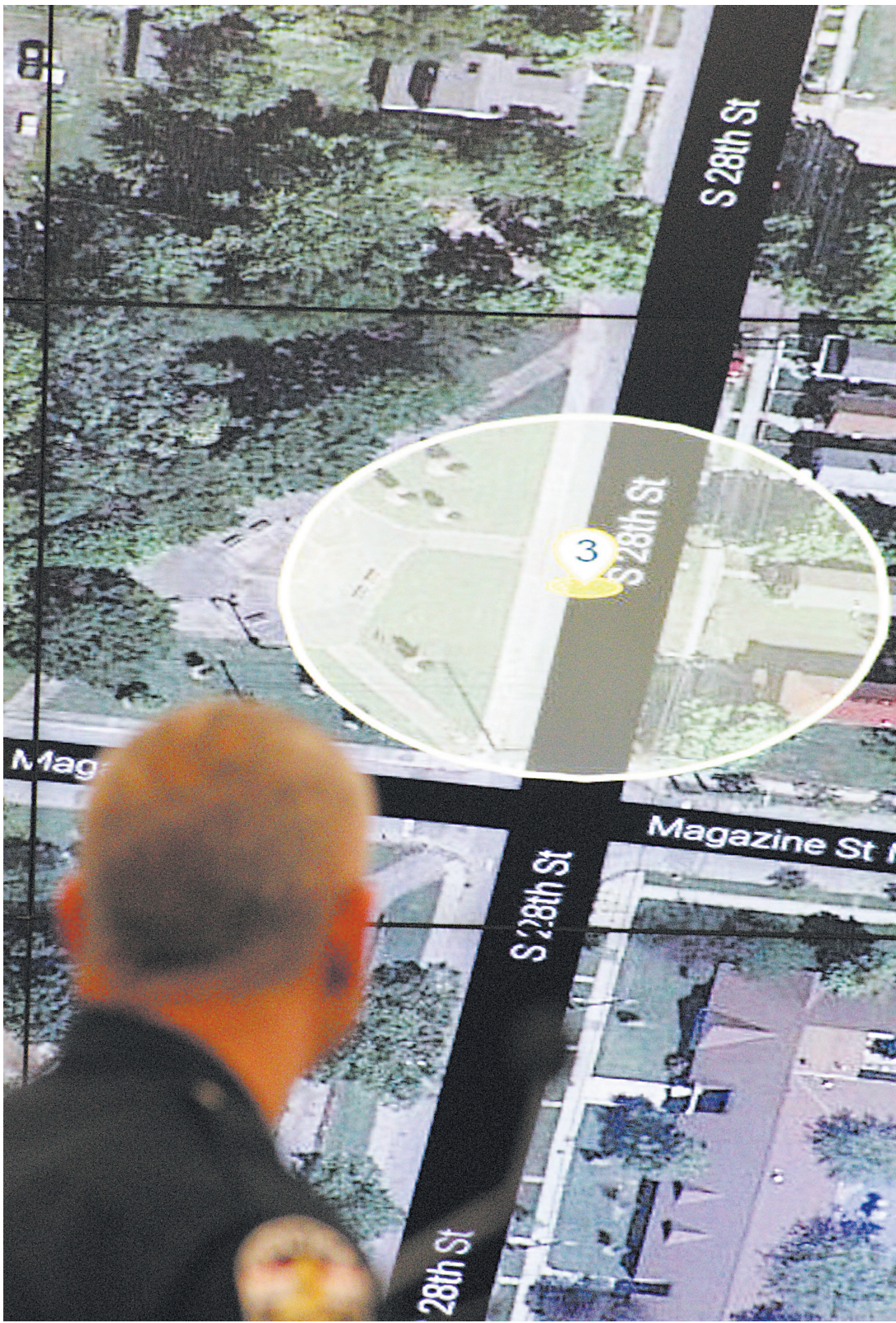
Streeter now attends regular therapy sessions due to his brother's involvement in gang violence and drugs.

"Beyond that, my concept of a healthy relationship was slightly skewed," Streeter said. "Having that sort of influence taught me some lessons but at the same time it ingrained things into my head that aren't healthy about myself."

Austyn Frazier, a 19-year-old University of Louisville student who lives in downtown Louisville, said the violence surrounding his home has prevented him from going out late at night and going to places he thinks are hotspots of violence. Other than that, he believes Louisville's high violence rates haven't affected him as much as they should.

"I was already desensitized to violence from hearing about it at a young age," Frazier said. "I would just hear about shootings on the news all the time and after a while, I thought it was normal."

Elijah Eke, 16-year-old Newburg native and Youth



PHOTOS BY KEILEN FRAZIER / FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Major Joshua Judah of the Louisville Metro Police Department discusses the new "Shot Spotter" technology during a press conference at the MetroSafe office on Wednesday, June 14.



Major Joshua Judah shows Xposure students state-of-the-art technology that allows police officers to find exact locations where gun shots are fired.

Performing Arts High School student, distances himself from any sort of activity that tends to turn violent, including parties and other sorts of fun with his friends.

"It shouldn't be a normal thing to see someone murdered on whatever street and not care, but that's the way it is now," Eke said.

Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin announced his plan to prevent more violence in Louisville on June 1. Bevin asked faith leaders from around Louisville to host prayer walks a couple times a week.

Since Bevin's announcement, many adults, such as Louisville West End resident Calvin Brown, have disagreed that this is an effective way to combat Louisville violence and called for more action to be taken in terms of developing a stronger economy in the West End through more state funding. Others believe in the power of prayer and think this is a great first step in helping the community.

But what do Louisville youth think?

"From my experience, most violent people don't care about religion so doing prayer walks

is only gonna help the people who have been victims of violence, which is good; we want to help those people," Streeter said. But also, you're splitting up people based on religion and when that happens it just causes more conflict."

Streeter wants Bevin to take more action through education, especially with using restorative action over punitive.

"When you punish people instead of helping them understand right from wrong, you ruin their ability to rehabilitate," Streeter said.

Frazier wants the establishment of more recreation centers around Louisville, but especially in the West End.

"Most kids fall into street life at young ages when they're very impressionable," Frazier said. "If they have something to do, they won't have time to commit crimes."

Unlike programs the city has organized in the past, ShotSpotter allows officers to take action before or during an incident instead of just cleaning up the aftermath.

"We have to do some things to disrupt a cycle and have transformational change and that's what we're trying to do," Gentry said. "This is just another tool for us to see the scope of what's happening."

# HOTEL INC. provides assistance for needy

BY ANGELO PERRY JR.  
Cordova High School

Thirteen dollars an hour. That's what the average Bowling Green resident needs to earn to afford an apartment by Rhondell Miller's calculation. The director of HOTEL INC. works with those who live on that narrow margin.

HOTEL INC. is a faith-based nonprofit that provides Warren County residents with pathways to stable housing. The organization has many programs that help homeless individuals, including a drop-in center to take a shower and access to a phone and washers.

This program aims to help people get a job by making the homeless have a more professional appearance. HOTEL INC. services include a Manna Mart, a local food pantry, to provide nutritionally balanced foods and gives the clients a list of foods to practice real food shopping.

Based on the number of people in a client's household, volunteers assist in gathering, packaging meals and educating households on the experience of financially smart and healthy grocery shopping.

Manna Mart also offers detergent, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, shaving cream, razors and toilet paper, according to the HOTEL INC. website.

HOTEL INC. served 963 people last year -- 235 of them children, Miller said. The program is supported by donations and volunteers.

HOTEL INC. connects homeless people with partners who specialize in specific areas. Victims of domestic violence, for example, are referred to the Barren River Area Safe Space. BRASS provides housing and counseling for victims of domestic abuse. HOTEL INC. also provides financial assistance for rental and medical needs.

"Well, I believe that we continue to see different variables of times of the year when homelessness population increases," Miller said.

HOTEL INC. provides a safe place where the homeless are able to express themselves and talk through the issues that may be causing their problems. Some of the common issues are relationship changes, unemployment, substance abuse and mental illness.

They offer "Life Classes" for people who need to earn their GED or learn skills such as cooking.

HOTEL INC. has six staff members and an average of 175 volunteers a year, Miller said.

Mary Adams, a WKU student who frequently volunteers at HOTEL INC., said she has learned many things concerning homelessness and poverty in the Bowling Green area. Her motivation came from a friend who formerly volunteered at HOTEL INC. Volunteering at the organization interested Adams and she learned about the homeless community in a class at WKU.

While volunteering, she worked at Manna Mart. Every week she helped clients pick items from a list so the clients get what they need, Adams said.

Adams recalled helping one man who was homeless and unable to carry the number of bags he was provided. Adams adapted to the situation and assisted the man. This moment stuck with her for each of the following times she visits HOTEL INC.

One simple action opened her eyes to the real world and helped her notice "how real homelessness is," Adams said.

# Talisman transitions to magazine, website

BY OLIVIA BROTZGE  
duPont Manual High School

Seeing the front cover in person wasn't the only thing that made Dec. 1, 2016, the best day of Helen Gibson's year.

Touching the newly printed pages, bending the spine for the first time, finding little errors she never saw from her seat behind the computer screen – all of these moments made the day the first Talisman magazine arrived at the Adams-Whitaker Student Publications Center the best day.

The Talisman staff announced the previous March 15 the end of its award-winning yearbook and the beginning of a student lifestyle magazine. The yearbook had won 17 Pacemaker awards, the highest award given to a student-run publication. The magazine – none, yet.

The students on the Talisman staff made the proposal to end its run as a yearbook because uni-

versity budget cuts left the book without reliable financial support, said Charlotte Turtle, the adviser at the time.

While the book had been distributed free to students, the budget cuts required that students be charged \$20 for a copy starting with the 2015 book.

"They were only \$20 each but it's still hard for college students to come up with \$20," Turtle said.

Distribution declined quickly. While 5,000 books had been distributed under the free model, sales fell to 300 copies for the 2016 edition. That led Turtle and the editors at the time, Tanner Cole and Naomi Driessnack, to see the need for change.

While the 2016 book was in production, the Talisman editors pulled together a committee to look at alternatives. That group included Gibson, then a copy editor and now the 2017-18 editor-in-chief; Kylee Kaetzel, who would become the 2016-17

"We wanted the Talisman to remain as the long-form storytelling document on campus, but also evolve into something that the campus community would be interested in."

Kylee Kaetzel, 2016-17 editor-in-chief

editor; and Sally Wegert. The group recommended making the 2016 Talisman yearbook a highlight of its legacy, and relaunching Talisman in fall 2016 as a life and culture printed magazine and a companion website.

"We wanted the Talisman to remain as the long-form storytelling document on campus, but also evolve into something that the campus community would be interested in," Kaetzel said. "We thought a magazine would be the next best thing because of the length, creative freedom and our ability to create something brand new."

However, changing from a format that's been done since 1924

brings about a lot of new worries. Staffers had to decide types of coverage, what would be covered, what the structure of the new staff should be, how long the magazine should be, when the new deadlines should be now that there will be two issues instead of one.

The day the first Talisman magazine was officially released to the WKU community, Kaetzel's worries were set aside.

"We ordered 2,500 copies of the first issue of the magazine, and they were fully distributed within a week," Kaetzel said. "That's when it hit me that the campus community knew what the Talisman magazine was and that they wanted to be a part of it."

The new product has continued its tradition of collecting national awards. In October, the new Talisman website, WKUTalisman.com, received the 18th national Pacemaker award given under the Talisman name. It had been designed to create a stronger presence before the magazine's launch.

The second printed issue of the magazine was distributed in May.

Next year, many changes will be made to the magazine and the staff. Turtle has stepped down from her position of adviser to become a full-time mom and Sam Oldenburg, a Talisman alumnus, will be her replacement.

Kaetzel remains excited about the Talisman's transition.

"My biggest regret is not getting the magazine into the hands of more students and the website on more computer screens," she said. "College students are an extremely hard demographic to reach, so that will always be something the Talisman should strive for."



# Museum brings black history to campus

BY KEILEN FRAZIER  
Fern Creek High School

The African American museum on the WKU campus is a beacon of background to remember the struggles the black community in Bowling Green has been through, particularly the loss of the Jonesville community.

"I hope the museum can heal some old wounds; they're still some lingering hurt feeling from being 'disposed' from the Jonesville housing area in the early '60s to open Diddle Arena in 1963," said Dr. John Long, who was one of the founders, in an interview with the Bowling Green Daily News.

As the chairman of the museum's board of directors, Long worked with the board on building an African American history museum since 2011.

The African American Museum recently moved to its new location at 1783 Chestnut St. It originally was on State Street.

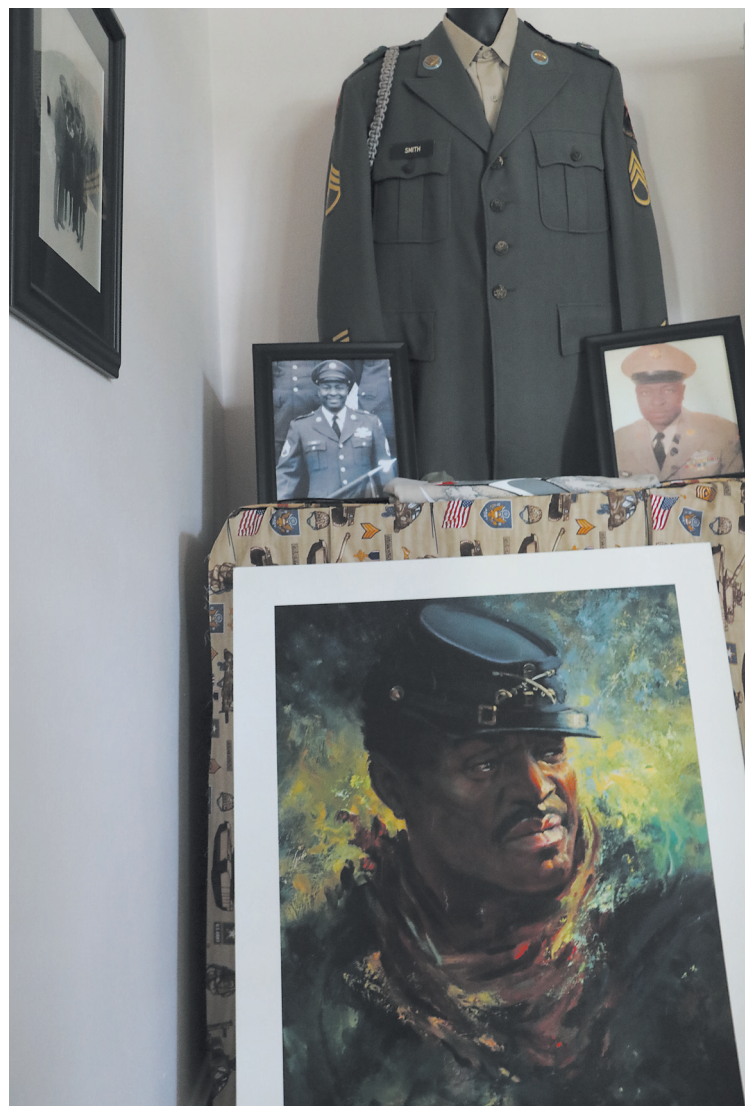
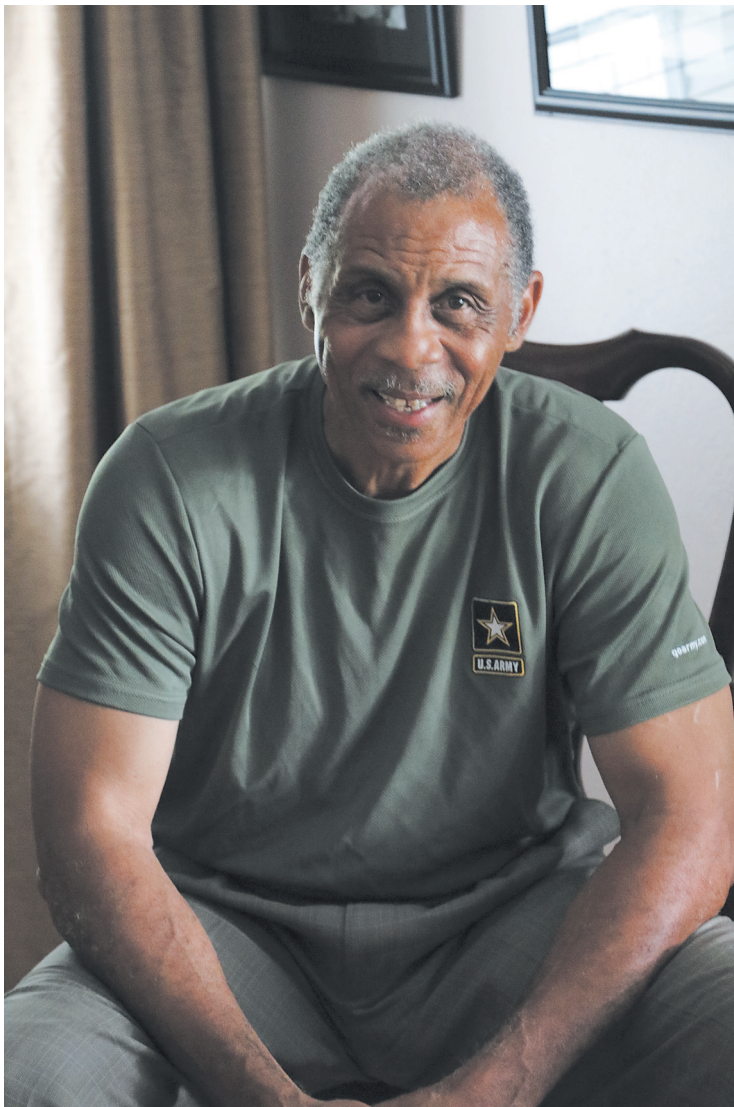
In a video presentation at the museum, Long said, "It's important to recognize the contributions blacks made in this city's history -- the good things and accomplishments have just gone unrecognized."

Long said the move closer to the Jonesville area was significant since the area used to be a black community before the civil war.

Most of WKU's athletics facilities were built on the former area of low income housing in the Jonesville area. Students once had a close relationship with the families in the Jonesville area. Families in the community helped students with laundry and Jonesville became home to the first black students on campus.

Don Offutt is a part time worker at the African American History Museum. When he isn't in Lexington spending time with his grandson, Offutt is on campus educating on black history. Offutt works at the museum to inspire, motivate, encourage and to provide a background for uneducated youngsters.

Offutt explained that the museum was moved from State and Third Streets and put on campus by request from WKU President Gary Ransdell. Offutt is a graduate from the last class at the all black high school in Bowling



PHOTOS BY JAY WHITEHEAD / MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

Left, Don Offutt, a part-time museum employee, educates visitors of the museum with the historical artifacts, as well as his own experience. Right, the Bowling Green African American museum recognizes African Americans that have served in the armed forces with a collection of artifacts.

Green, "which was one of the last schools to desegregate as the school never closed until 1965 while other schools started closing in 1963," Offutt said.

Offutt, a Bowling Green native and WKU graduate, is a part of a generation that experienced the start of desegregation. He remembered a time when he had to buy a movie ticket and by law had to sit in the balcony and then shortly afterward experiencing a period where he could buy a ticket and sit on the main floor if he wanted to.

Offutt uses his experience to tell inclusive stories and educate on the African American presence in the community. Offutt never uses the term "integration" but rather believes at that time they weren't fully integrated.

Offutt thinks of history as a

"It's important to recognize the contributions blacks made in this city's history -- the good things and accomplishments have just gone unrecognized."

Dr. John Long, Chairman of museum's board of directors

religion.

He broke down religion into three sections. "RE is a prefix, as in go back and reflect. LIG in latin means to connect, bind like a ligament that has connections all throughout our bodies. ION is a suffix, it's attached to something that means whatever it's attached to it's in the act of doing," Offutt said. The word religion in this context is the reconnecting, retying or rebinding.

The African American Museum is a place where all of

these things take place to rebuild and influence the community, he said.

Offutt uses the Sankofa bird to try to imply certain thoughts in the minds of their visitors. The concept of Sankofa is derived from King Adinkera of the Akan people of West Africa. Sankofa is expressed in the Akan language as "se wo were fi na wosan kofa a yenki."

Translated, this means: "It is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot," according to a

University of Illinois website.

Offutt sees history as two parts – Historiography and history.

"History is the facts this happened, this happened and this happened. Historiography is a little different, it's a few facts and the folks who may have given the facts. Historiography is half the story; I teach history," Offutt said.

Offutt presents the untold facts left out from historiography. He is constantly in search of artifacts that help bring the past to life.

"It's just things folks have in the storage. If I go to retrieve an artifact, I'm not going to take to take and be on my way," Offutt said. "I sit down with them and listen to their stories."

To get more information about the museum's hours or to donate artifacts, call (270) 745-5753.

## WORKSHOP SNAPSHOTS

Clockwise from top left:

The sun sets on Guthrie Bell Tower, silhouetting the buildings and trees and washing the sky in soft hues of purple and orange.

One of the cows at Chaney's Dairy Barn bites the fence, keeping it closed. The animals are so comfortable in their enclosure that they are often reluctant to leave it.

A number of white squirrels can be found scaling trees on WKU's campus. Contrary to popular belief, these squirrels are not albino, but naturally white in color without genetic mutation or recessive trait inheritance.

Angelo Perry, left, shows Heath Virgin a picture during a photo class on the second day of the workshop. After getting camera instruction, students photographed assignments around WKU's campus.



VERONICA CLEPHAS / FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



CRISTINA THORSON / PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL



KADEN GAYLORD / PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL



MAYA JOSHI / DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL





Back row (from left): Robert Adams, Jay Whitehead, Heath Virgin, Chuck Clark, Angelo Perry, Maya Joshi, Toni Mitchell, Sarah Yaacoub, Keilen Frazier, Gary Hairlson. Front Row: E. Streeter, Kate Neal, Cristina Thorson, Kaden Gaylord, Olivia Brotzge, Veronica Clephas, Hayley Watson, Donovan Radford.



HEATH VIRGIN / MADISON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

## JAY WHITEHEAD

**BY HEATH VIRGIN**

*Madison Central High School*

From east Memphis, Tennessee, to Horn Lake, Mississippi, back to Memphis, then to Southaven, Mississippi, to Germantown, Tennessee, finally returning to Southaven.

Jay Whitehead, a rising junior at Memphis University School, has moved a lot.

Whitehead's mother wanted her children to go to the best schools to receive the best education.

The moving made it difficult for Whitehead, 16, to maintain friendships as he moved from place to place before seventh grade.

"I guess you could say that I used sports to develop relationships," Whitehead said.

With all that moving around, his best friends were his cousins because they were constantly by his side, move after move. Trying to develop new friendships at new schools has helped Whitehead deal with adversity when it comes his way.

He now lives in Southaven, Mississippi, and plays basketball and football and runs track at MUS. In addition to athletics, he makes his education a priority as he heads into his junior year.

"During school, I'd be in the building from 6 [a.m.] to 10 [p.m.]," Whitehead said, going to school in the morning for his studies, then staying at school until the evening for athletics.

A 16-hour school day didn't stop Whitehead from completing homework assignments, although he often wouldn't go to bed until midnight.

"It was stressful, man," he said. "I'd be sore after practice and everything."

Whitehead said moving to MUS, a private school with "an average of a 31 ACT score," in seventh grade "was a smack in the face" during his first year. His grades had dropped after switching to a more challenging school.

He still worked hard to rebuild his grades and now maintains at least a 3.5 GPA.

Since the age of 6, Whitehead has played football.

"It's basically a religion for me," he said.

He won Little League MVP during his sixth-grade year. The excitement was "for real."

After seeing Whitehead's talents, MUS' football coach persuaded him to come and play football for the school.

"I started playing for the seventh-grade team then the eighth-grade team," Whitehead said. "Then I made the varsity team during my sophomore year."

Right now, his dream is to play football for a career. He is exploring other professions and was also recently accepted to the Xposure High School Journalism Workshop at Western Kentucky University.

"So far I've learned to be organized," Whitehead said about what he's learned. "You got to be on top of it."

Whitehead connected football with what's he's learned from Xposure.

"In [football] you can't be quiet or shy," he said. "You have to have your voice heard."

Whitehead said when he hears the word inspiration he thinks of his mom. She is currently enrolled in college at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.

"There would be times where she would write a 20-page essay while cooking me dinner after a long work day," he said.

In addition to his cousins and his mother, Whitehead is the youngest of his siblings. He has three older brothers and two older sisters. His oldest brother formerly served in the military, and he also has an older brother in the U.S. Air Force who is stationed in New Mexico.

"I guess you could call me a spitting image of my brothers," he said, adding that the way he talked, acted and the things he wore were "similar" to his brothers.

His shoe collection, which has grown to about 40 pairs, started as he wanted to be like his older brothers.

"Every time there was a new Jordan out, my brothers got that shoe," Whitehead said. "I guess you could call me a sneaker head."

After moving nearly year after year, Whitehead said he was thankful to have his family through it all.

"With all the moving going on, the only thing constant was my brothers and my family," he said.

But moving and athletics weren't the only driving forces.

"My parents taught me to always be respectful," Whitehead said. "And work hard."

There were other lessons, too.

"My mom said that you have, especially born as a young black male, you're born with two strikes," Whitehead said. "So you can't get that strike three. You have to be respectful at all times no matter what."



ANGELO PERRY / CORDOVA HIGH SCHOOL

## DONOVAN RADFORD

**BY ANGELO PERRY**

*Cordova High School*

On a hot spring day in May, Louisville resident Donovan Radford went outside only to find his basketball missing. The next day, he stumbled upon his neighbor dribbling the basketball in front of his house.

"I was mad and frustrated when I first saw him with my basketball," Radford said.

The week after, Radford found the basketball on his neighbor's lawn and returned it to his own house. The next day, Radford's next door neighbor came looking for the basketball.

Instead of arguing, Radford decided to gift the basketball to him because he felt his neighbor wanted it more, he said.

Chevette Radford, Radford's mother, said this was just one tale showcasing Radford's kind personality, calling him a sweetheart. Rather than going by sweetheart with his friends, Radford goes by "Scotty."

Radford is a sophomore at Ballard High School in Louisville, but is from Hoover, Alabama. He moved to Louisville in kindergarten.

He describes himself as a calm individual who likes to have fun and learn new things.

Radford is a multisport athlete who balances his time playing soccer for two teams including Ballard Bruins and the Ohio Elite Soccer Academy.

He also spends his spare time swimming, golfing or traveling. Radford said these hobbies are his safe place and always make him feel comfortable. Not only did Radford grow up playing sports, but he also watched ESPN and SEC commentary, mostly about his favorite football team, the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Starting this year, Radford tried golf and took a liking to the sport. He said golf makes him feel "free and focused," and golf helps him shake off negative vibes.

"Playing with my friend in the backyard is one of the best things to do in the summer," Radford said.

He said he also enjoys listening to Drake's music, calling him his favorite rapper. Drake and other celebrities drive Radford to become successful because of the way the music makes him feel inside. It drives him before a game, and calms him down when he is mad or frustrated. His

parents also inspire him by pushing him to improve in school and to focus on his education. They know when to give criticism and when to praise him.

"His greatest strength is that he goes 100 percent when he's focused," Chevette Radford said. "The only problem is that if he's not, the energy goes away."

Radford's carefree personality makes it difficult for him to focus. Most of the time, he doesn't stick to schedules or organize his plans. Instead, Radford's motto is to live free and have fun.

However, his carefree personality has consequences.

"Sometimes I'm late to practice because I'm unorganized," Radford said.

Even running six extra laps haven't changed his last-minute tendencies.

Radford dreamed of becoming a sports anchor since he was a young boy. Ultimately, this dream led him to journalism.

Radford said he plans to attend the University of Alabama for broadcasting, and focus on sports journalism. He said he hopes to land an internship with the SEC Network.

"Being an anchor for the SEC is my dream job," Radford said.

Meanwhile, Radford goes to workshops and records football games to prepare for SEC. After recording the games, he edits small clips of the games to prepare for his future. Radford shares the videos and commentary on the games with his friends.

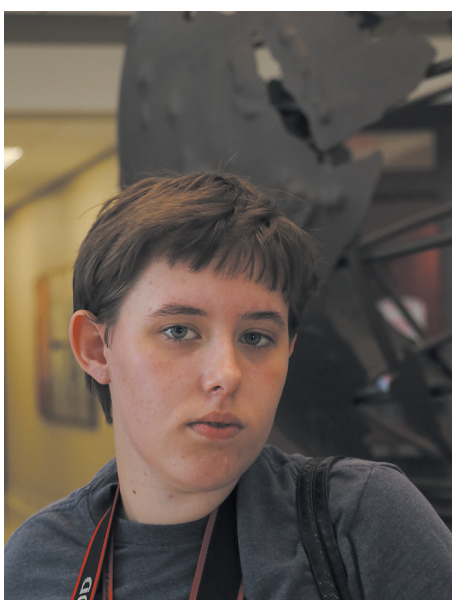
Radford is following in his mother's footsteps by attending the Xposure High School Journalism Workshop. His mother attended the workshop 30 years ago and encouraged Radford to apply. Radford said he plans to improve his writing and gain new skills, getting him one step closer to his dream.

Radford has an outgoing personality, which made him think that he could be a great anchor. This could create connections with people who could get him an internship to SEC.

A friendly personality would also guide him to any job he wants, making it easier for people to relate and understand him, his mother said. Radford has the potential to become an anchor for SEC because of the experience he is getting now, she said.

"He will fit in good, he's nice and joined the broadcasting club at school to help," Chevette Radford said. "He's just a natural fit for the SEC."





OLIVIA BROTZGE / DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

## VERONICA CLEPHAS

BY OLIVIA BROTZGE  
duPont Manual High School

Veronica Clephas entered Fern Creek High School's telemedia class with one mission: to leave. As soon as the bell rang, she had a hall pass in hand and was on her way to the school counselor.

As she walked down the halls of her school, Clephas remembered writing the application to attend Fern Creek for the sole purpose of taking art classes. She had even sat through meetings with the office administration that promised her an art class toward the end of her freshman year.

After a discussion with the counselor, she realized that was no longer an option. Due to schedule conflicts, she had to stay in Steven Boros' broadcasting class for the rest of the year.

Once the note-taking was over and the "real work" began, Clephas was hooked. After being exposed to the lights, the cameras, the studio, etc., she decided to not only stay in the class for a single trimester but for the rest of her time in high school.

Now a senior in high school, 16-year-old Clephas plans to study journalism in college.

While researching Western Kentucky University, Clephas found the school's Honors College and eventually the Chinese Flagship Program. She said she hopes to be accepted into both programs so she can pursue journalism while also focusing on language.

"I want to learn a lot of languages because I feel they'll be helpful someday, especially if I'm a journalist," Clephas said. "If I'm a reporter that interviews different people in different places, then knowing their language would be an advantage."

Clephas is entering her third year of advanced Spanish and also started to teach herself German in her free time by watching YouTube lessons and putting her entire phone in German.

"Every time I tell someone I'm self-teaching myself German, people always respond by being in shock and I just say 'NEIN,'" Clephas said, laughing.

Clephas attempted to teach herself Japanese, specifically the hiragana writing system, during her freshman year of high school.

"It's a very complex language," Clephas said. "I like the challenge."

Along with teaching herself new languages and studying broadcasting, Clephas enjoys playing video games and educating herself on the politics of other countries.

"Even if it's not happening here, it still affects me," Clephas said. "World politics affects everyone."

Though she obsesses over other cultures and politics, the self-described "language fanatic" had never ventured outside the state of Kentucky until the summer of 2017. Clephas visited Daytona Beach, Florida and all the states in between.

The experience, however, wasn't quite enough. Clephas wants to travel all over the world. She said she wants to "see other cultures and not just be stuck in this bubble of America."

But for now, she's just enjoying her time at the Xposure High School Journalism Workshop at WKU.

"I joined not only because it's a good opportunity to learn more, but because it's the only thing I really miss about school during the summer," Clephas said. "I want to have an experience here that's special."

## CRISTINA THORSON

BY MAYA JOSHI  
duPont Manual High School

At the beginning of her junior year, Cristina Thorson seriously considered quitting cheerleading because it took up so much of her time. She didn't have much room for anything else, she said, and she didn't want her grades and relationships to suffer for it.

"Five minutes before the last day of tryouts ended, I was sitting on my bed in full cheer uniform, staring at my phone and desperately wondering if it was worth it," Thorson said.

But her coaches and teammates came through for her by sending messages of support and reassurance. Thorson decided to try out and that year her team won second place in the national competition.

Thorson is a cheerleader, an older sister, a Wisconsin native, a Lexington resident of Norwegian descent and a staffer on her school student publication The Lamplighter. She attends Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington, where she will be a senior and the co-broadcaster-editor of The Lamplighter in the fall.

Thorson said she hopes to write a screenplay and attend Boston University to study communications. She said that she works to accomplish these goals by experiencing as much of life as she can, taking every opportunity that comes her way and working hard to be the best in everything she does, from grades to cheer to journalism.

Thorson and her family moved to Lexington from Middleton, Wisconsin, when she was in sixth grade for her father's new job. At first, she said, she had a hard time adjusting because of the drama and difficulties she faced her first year after the transition.

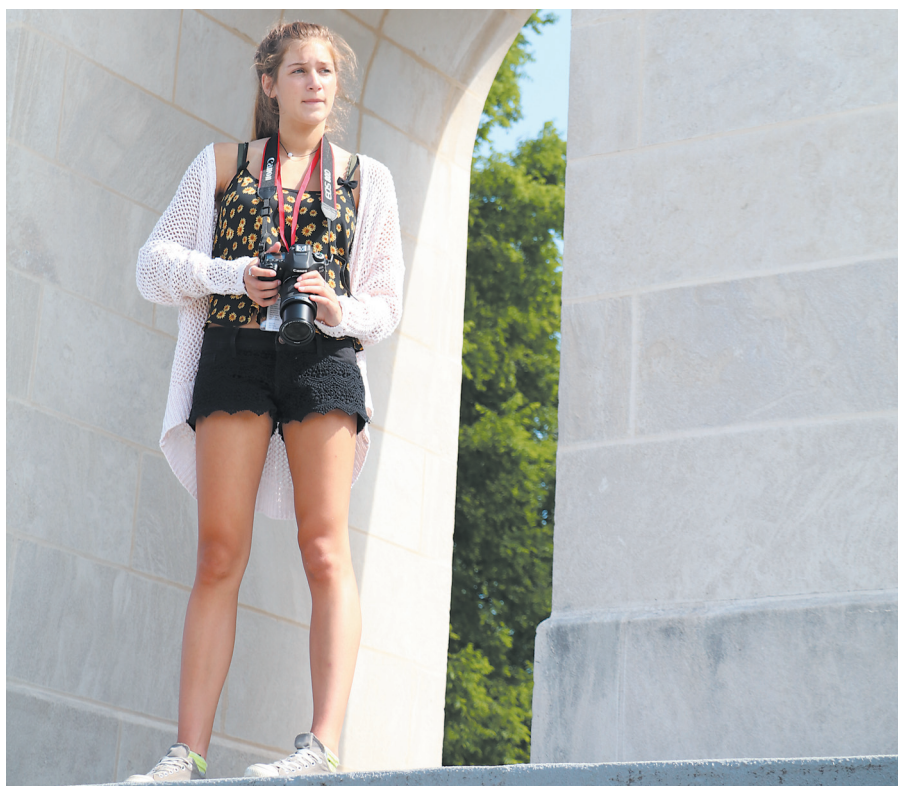
"I don't think it was intentional," Thorson said about the social difficulties she had. "But it wasn't the best thing for my self-esteem."

Thorson called her experiences "character building." Because of her status as the new girl, she was an easy target.

Moving away from home just in time for the start of middle school was hard, Thorson said, and signaled the end of her childhood.

"I was very blissfully ignorant, no problems," she said, describing her life in Wisconsin.

And when she moved, she couldn't forget all her friends, memories and traditions back home in Wisconsin. She couldn't forget going to football games



OLIVIA BROTZGE / DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

with her best friends and all the "dumb kid fun" they had.

But she adjusted, in large part due to cheerleading and found her niche.

"If you asked me a few years ago if I wanted to move back, I would've said yes," Thorson said. "But now I'm happy that I ended up where I ended up."

Thorson had been doing gymnastics since she was 6 years old and wanted to continue tumbling in Lexington but didn't want to continue gymnastics in a new place. She didn't know what to do until a friend told her about cheerleading, which combines elements of dance and gymnastics.

During her freshman year of high school, Thorson picked up her first pair of cheer shoes, tried out for her school's cheerleading team and made the team.

"I was really happy," she said. "I didn't think I was going to make it."

Thorson said that she hadn't known any cheers and couldn't stunt at the time.

"I just stood there during the cheers," she said. However, thanks to years of gymnastics, Thorson could tumble with the best of them.

"That's why I made the team," Thorson said.

Over the next two years Thorson acquired the knowledge, training and

practice to become a truly skilled cheerleader, but it was mostly "trial and error," said Thorson, who was accepted onto the varsity team in her sophomore year. That year Thorson's team didn't do so well.

"It was a 'building year,'" Thorson said, complete with air quotes. "But it was for the best, I think, because the next year we did a lot better. We never wanted to be that bad again, so we worked harder."

Through cheer Thorson has managed to find her place in a community that she has an invaluable role in, both metaphorically and literally. Thorson is a back spotter in cheerleading stunts, meaning she stabilizes and balances the cheerleader that performs jumps and spins at the top of a four-person stunt, known as a flier.

Thorson receives the support and friendship of her cheer community in return. She never had a nickname until a junior on the JV team started calling her Tina in her freshman year, and the name stuck.

"I love her. I miss her a lot," Thorson said of the girl, who had since graduated and now attends the University of Louisville. "She visits sometimes."

While she may not like how much of her time it takes up, she said, the bond of trust she shares with her teammates is priceless.

## ANGELO PERRY

BY DONOVAN RADFORD  
Ballard High School

When Memphis high schooler Angelo Perry Jr. saw his high school classmate, Gabriel, sitting by himself, Perry felt compelled to approach the young man and start a conversation with him.

"I feel that he should get treated how I would like to be treated" Perry said.

Perry, nicknamed AJ, said he tries to be friends with everyone, a result of his "big heart." He said he aspires to treat everyone with fairness, equality and kindness.

However, Perry's cousin Jay Whitehead said it might take a while for Perry to open up.

"Angelo is a very shy person, but once he warms up to you he will talk your head off," Whitehead said.

Perry is also not afraid to step out of his comfort zone and try something new such as tasting clams or trying out for a sports team.

"Angelo really tried something new when he went out for the school basketball team," Angelo Perry Sr., Perry's father, said. "It was his first ever tryout, and it was something new."

The tryout turned out well. He made the Collierville Dragons freshman team as a shooting guard.

Perry decided to give up basketball and is now a backup cornerback on the Cordova High School football team.

Perry said he has a close relationship with his father, and calls himself "a huge family person."



DONOVAN RADFORD / BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL

"My father gave me the opportunity to work, and I work with him at Zodiac Grill on Wheels," Perry said.

Perry helps his father raise his 2-year old sister, Addison. His family is rather large, he said, including his four sisters, two nephews and one recent niece.

Perry said he plans to attend a good college and maintain good grades so he can choose any career he wants. Perry is currently a rising junior at Cordova High

School, so he expects to look at colleges this year. He said he is considering attending the University of Alabama.

Perry said he wants to be a lawyer so that he can give back to people who are struggling. He said he plans to donate money to charities when he becomes successful.

"I see people struggling in Memphis and they need help but no one is helping them," Perry said.

## X17

WKU XPOSURE 2017  
HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

Limited Edition | Volume 34  
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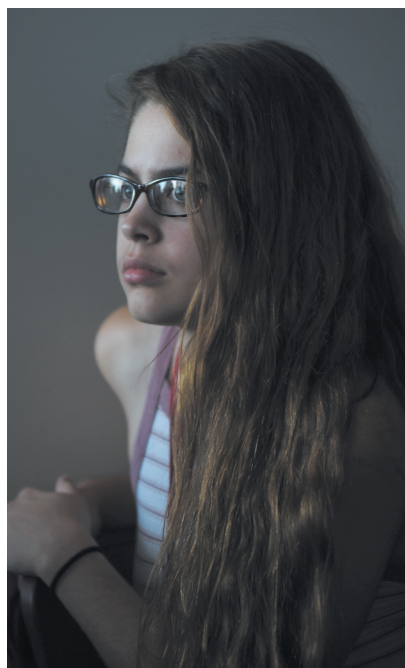
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CRISTINA THORSON / DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

## KATE NEAL

BY SARAH YAACOUB

Lafayette High School

One of Kate Neal's dreams came true when she was accepted to duPont Manual High School in the Journalism and Communications program. It provided the rising senior and Louisville native the opportunity to explore journalism and a school culture that was different from those of her previous schools.

She appreciated the motivation she saw in her peers at her magnet school: They raise their hands in class. They actively participate. They care about their grades. They share a common interest in reporting as well as a drive to try hard and do well.

Neal also enjoyed the benefits of a varied student body not seen in traditional district-based schools — its minority population was large compared to many area schools, comprising 34 percent of the total composition, according to a document on the US News and World Report website, and she found the diversity a key part of the culture she's experienced throughout her high school years.

When asked about the origins of her love for journalism, Neal explained that it went back quite a while, to elementary school and even before.

An avid reader as a child, her literary interests gradually grew to include writing, and she began to write and illustrate stories in her spare time.

With her move to Manual, her focus shifted more toward nonfiction and reporting, a field in which a number of her relatives have found success. Now, she said, she's considering a major related to journalism, although she remains undecided on what she wants to study after high school and where she plans to attend college.

While Neal, a self-described homebody, doesn't want to go too far from home, she wants to experience life outside her hometown of Louisville, thus ruling out schools like the University of Louisville. Neal is considering a smaller liberal arts school in the state, with Transylvania University in Lexington and Centre College in Danville currently holding the top spots in her college search.

Neal's writing led to the discovery of other passions. She described a lengthy research paper she authored over this past school year on the impact of animal agriculture on the environment and how writing about agriculture sparked an interest in environmentalism after seeing *Cowspiracy*, a Netflix documentary that prompted her topic selection and inspired her to delve more into science.

Of research-based academic writing, Neal said: "It's different than anything I've ever done before... It requires you to actively research, use databases and synthesize facts and statistics."

Neal, an AP student with a heavy course load, excels outside the classroom as well. A member of the National Honor Society, a service organization for students with high GPAs and a desire to improve their communities, she logs volunteer hours with local organizations and attends regular meetings, in addition to being a part of her school's broadcasting program.

She also plays field hockey for both her school and a select club, Bluegrass Premier Field Hockey Club. The sport, she said, keeps her active and she has made some of her best friends through it. When she's not on the field with a stick in hand, she's there refereeing and coaching hockey to elementary-aged children in the community.

Neal's talents and interests have evolved throughout her childhood and adolescence, but writing has remained a consistent part of her life. Although she hasn't made any certain plans as to her future, she wants to continue to pursue journalism and writing.

## SARAH YAACOUB

BY KATE NEAL

duPont Manual High School

Sitting at a table facing a panel of three judges who had the power to determine the rest of her life, Lexington resident Sarah Yaacoub answered the question of what motivated her: perfection.

Her answers to that and other questions, she learned in March, apparently were persuasive.

Yaacoub, a rising junior, will enter the Carol Martin Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science at WKU in August.

Yaacoub said she has always been a perfectionist, striving to push the limits of being a great student. She said she was a starter on Lafayette High School's varsity academic team, secretary of her school's chapter of Young Democrats and a service member of the Math Honor Society.

Yaacoub is also a learning instructor at Mathnasium, an education center for math in Lexington, where she can share her love of math with other students.

"I thought about my interests and skills, and most of them lay in academic areas," Yaacoub said.

She said she is passionate about math and writing and enjoys writing memoirs and vignettes that describe her growing up. Not only does she write from experience, but she also likes writing fictional stories.

"I've always enjoyed writing short stories and novels for my writing class," Yaacoub said.

At only 12 years old, Yaacoub got an invitation to apply to the Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth, or VAMPY, program at WKU.

While she turned that down, Yaacoub discovered another program that she felt would be worth the wait: Gatton Academy. Gatton is a high school designed for academically advanced high school students in which students take college courses at



KATE NEAL / DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

WKU for credit.

Although Yaacoub's parents forbade her from attending Gatton if she was accepted, she said she began the application process the summer after her freshman year.

Of the 400 students who applied, only half of them made it to the final round, which involved an interview. Yaacoub was one of those students.

She attended the interview and answered questions about her interests, why she wanted to attend Gatton, what she could give to the program and what she was currently giving to her community.

"It was nerve-racking because it felt like it could define my future," Yaacoub said. "I don't normally get nervous in social situations, but I felt like they were judging me because they were taking notes as I spoke."

When she came out of the room, feeling relieved to have gotten it over with, one of the students helping that day told Yaacoub that hers was the longest interview of the

day so far. Yaacoub felt conflicted, she said, asking herself if that was a good thing or a bad thing.

On March 6, Yaacoub got the news that she was one of the 95 applicants to get in. The only obstacle left, she said, was to convince her parents to allow her to take the opportunity.

After much persuasion about how Gatton could help her grow as a student more than her current high school could and a talk with her high school's college and career counselor, Yaacoub's parents finally said yes.

Yaacoub said her goals for her next couple of years at Gatton include going deeper into math and science and furthering her Arabic language skills.

Faced with the uncertainty of being away from her family, friends and home for a long time, Yaacoub said she is confident that whatever life throws at her, she can take it on and continue to excel, both inside and outside of the classroom.

## MAYA JOSHI

BY CRISTINA THORSON

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

Most can claim that their religion has a lot to do with family, but few can say their kin transcribed the holy book from which they worship.

Maya Joshi is one of the few.

Her distant relatives translated and recorded some of the Parsi teachings of Zoroastrianism. Joshi accepted the faith as her own in a process called navjote — an induction ceremony to Zoroastrianism — at age 8. Zoroastrianism is one of the world's first monotheistic religions, originating in Persia (modern-day Iran) around 600 BCE.

Many Zoroastrians worship in the light of the open flame, in temples called Agiaries. In such temples, a fire is kept eternally burning. A core mantra of Zoroastrianism — often used during prayer — is "Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds."

"The idea is that good thoughts, and good words will lead to good deeds, and I really like that concept," Joshi said. "When I was young, I would hold the door for people, compliment them if they looked down."

Coming across a member of this religion is rare, as it now has fewer than 190,000 members, according to an article in *The New York Times*. Neither of Joshi's parents are devoutly religious. They did not impose Zoroastrian traditions on her. Rather, she took it upon herself to do so.

Joshi aims to discover her history, roots and culture by delving deeper into the



CRISTINA THORSON / DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

religion.

Pursuing this knowledge presents challenges, as Zoroastrianism is written in the Avestan language. According to *The Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies (CAIS)*, while not technically a dead language, Avestan is "extinct from popular communication" and difficult to learn.

Difficulty does not deter Joshi. Her passion for learning burns as brightly as the eternal flame kept alive by her ancestors, Joshi said. She aims to learn Avestan as well as many other languages including Hindi, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Joshi is also invested in history and science. She said she believes historical patterns are important, and people are

"doomed unless we understand the mistakes of the past."

Joshi did not always enjoy school, though. From third to eighth grade, she attended Walden School in Louisville. Walden is a private school, and there were 30 children in her entire class.

"It wasn't all bad, but...none of the other kids really cared a lot about school, or about anything besides social media," Joshi said. "I felt very isolated."

After eighth grade, Joshi had the opportunity to attend public school.

"My school was going through a turmoil," she said. "They were struggling to find a new principal, and my parents were trying to save money to send my brother to college, so it wasn't much of a decision."

At first, duPont Manual High School did not suit Joshi's wants, especially in math, science and technology.

"My mom dragged me to open house kicking and screaming," she said, "but then I found out about the journalism and communication program. They had all these resources that I'd never dreamed of and I just kind of fell in love."

In 10 years, Joshi said she wants "to be happy." For now, she's happy as an upcoming junior at Manual, mentioning her friends as a contributing factor.

"Without them," Joshi said, "I don't think I'd be so happy at Manual."

"They give me stuff to laugh at. We lean on each other. We support each other. Even if we don't always agree, they treat my thoughts as if they have merit... I guess you could say we're kind of like a family."

## OLIVIA BROTZGE

BY VERONICA CLEPHAS

Fern Creek High School

When Louisville resident Olivia Brotzge was a child, she would curl up on her bedroom floor with a notebook in her lap and a pencil in her hand, ready to write down everything that happened in the latest episode of *Dora the Explorer*.

"I started writing before I started going to school," Brotzge said. "I would watch an episode of *Dora* and write down what happened. I would make little books with stickers and drawings, and that's how I first started learning to write."

Her mom always laminated the drawings and made little books, Brotzge said.

However, the WKU High School Journalism Workshop participant didn't always have a passion for journalism. Brotzge actually dreamt of a career in theater when she was in middle school. She either wanted to attend the Youth Performing Arts School or duPont Manual High School in Louisville, Kentucky.

As she got older, Brotzge realized there was too much competition in theater and maybe it wasn't for her.

During English class her eighth grade year, Brotzge and her classmates had to write essays for entrance into Manual. Although she knew she wanted to attend Manual like her sister, she wasn't sure about her academic path. Eric Schmidt, Brotzge's English teacher at the time, noticed her confusion and suggested Brotzge look into Manual's journalism and communications program. After researching more about the program, graphic design piqued Brotzge's curiosity. Her interest in journalism grew



after she took a journalism class taught by Manual's communications teacher James Miller. Now, journalism is one of the most key factors in her life.

"Journalism is one of the most important careers in the world," Brotzge said.

She said she believes journalism gives the voiceless a voice and that without journalism, people would be left in the dark.

Brotzge said she doesn't have much time outside of work and school but spends what free time she has on photography. She bought her first camera in October 2016 after saving up the money she earned from her job as a cashier at Paul's Fruit Market in Louisville.

Brotzge set up a photography studio in a spare bedroom in her house with sheets hung as backdrops. Her parents also gave her a studio light last Christmas, and she said she now is saving up for a second one.

When Brotzge heard about Xposure, she was driven to apply since E. Streeter, a current Xposure counselor and her best friend, had attended the workshop a year ago.

"I knew Olivia would get in out of all the people who applied at Manual," Streeter said.

Brotzge said she has high aspirations for her career in photojournalism.

"My dream is to be photo director of *National Geographic*," she said.





KEILEN FRAZIER / FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Hot Rod fans compete in a dinosaur race in the infield during a Hot Rods baseball game at Bowling Green Ballpark June 16. Fans are selected between innings to compete for prizes.

## KEILEN FRAZIER

BY KADEN GAYLORD

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

Louisville native Keilen Frazier's love for comics and love for sports intertwined when he first saw Spiderman. He was 8 years old, sitting on his couch at home and instantly had an adrenaline rush. The superhero became one of his inspirations.

"When I saw Spiderman capture the moment by taking pictures and being a superhero at the same time, I wanted to be just like him, and he inspired me to be involved a lot with sports and photography," he said.

Frazier, 15, will be a junior at Fern Creek High School. Frazier has an older sister Azariah and a younger brother Braxton. He spent a lot of his childhood traveling across the country and even across the border. Frazier has been to 15 states, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

When he was home he spent most of his time watching cartoons but eventually his friends convinced him to be active and to start playing sports.

Frazier said he wants to play every sport invented so he can experience everything and share moments with individuals.

Another inspiration to Frazier is Jimmy Olsen, the fictional photojournalist in the DC Comics Universe that worked with and idolized Superman.

"Even though he was always in the face of danger, he didn't shy away. He always went to get his story in the face of fear," Frazier said.

Horst Faas, a two-time Pulitzer winner awarded for his combat photography in the Vietnam War, was his real-life photography inspiration.

"During his terrible experiences being in the war, he still got back to his roots, taking pictures," Frazier said.

Frazier said he feels like he is on an island when it comes to his vision in life.

"Nobody understands me," Frazier said. "I always think outside the box, the stuff people think is weird. It isn't weird, it's just different, next level...name one genius that isn't crazy."

The moment that Frazier knew he wanted



CRISTINA THORSON / DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

to be a photographer was his first time being on air in the fifth grade as a field reporter covering the announcements.

"That feeling being in front of the camera was just exhilarating," he said.

Frazier said he is driven by his peers, family and competition.

"Whether it's skipping a football practice or choosing what events are better for me, my career comes first," he said.

He said he treats photojournalism like an athlete treats his sport. Frazier practices daily to make his skills better than everyone else.

"Every event I go to I take about 200 pictures," he said. "It is also a way I can combine my photos while adding an article to go with it."

Frazier is focused on his future aspirations.

Frazier said he wants to be the greatest photojournalist ever, and with every decision he makes, he puts his career first.

As a young photojournalist, it takes a lot to get from place to place to cover an event.

"I have a great support system around me, especially my parents. They encourage

me to take advantage of every opportunity to be a better journalist," he said.

Frazier said being a young African-American male gives him more to prove and gives him the chance to share his viewpoint of life.

"I've seen life from all different lifestyles, the good, bad and worse and I show that in my photos," he said.

In our society, with racial problems increasing, photography gives him the chance to show his talent and be the best he can be. That's why Faas is one of his inspirations for what he did during the Vietnam War.

"If he could do it during a war I can do it while being discriminated," Frazier said.

Frazier said he plans to study journalism and attend Western Kentucky University. Frazier said because he wants to be the best, he wants to attend one of the best schools. WKU is one of the top schools in the nation for photojournalism, according to the Hearst Journalism Awards Program's website.

"My dream is to be a Hilltopper," Frazier said. "No other school comes to mind."



KEILEN FRAZIER / FERN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

## KADEN GAYLORD

BY KEILEN FRAZIER

Fern Creek High School

In a room full of people, Lexington resident Kaden Gaylord is the type of person who approaches and introduces himself to everyone.

Gaylord seems nice, friendly and cool, fellow Xposure student Angelo Perry Jr. said. At the age of 6, Gaylord remembers watching his first football game, the Giants vs. Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

Gaylord said he was inspired by the rag-tag New York Giants team led by Eli Manning and their efforts to upset the undefeated season of Tom Brady and his New England Patriots. "Seeing the underdogs make a game-winning drive inspired me since all my life I've been an underdog," Gaylord said.

Gaylord said he is an under-average height cornerback. He said to prove he was capable, he had to battle for a spot on the football team.

Gaylord started his pathway in sports with T-ball before advancing to the nation's favorite pastime, baseball. Starting football at age 8, Gaylord developed a love for the game and had the best times of his life on the field doing something he loved, he said.

"When playing sports, I felt on top of the world – like nothing can bring me down," Gaylord said. "I felt in my element."

After multiple years and sports later, Gaylord is approaching his senior year at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. Since the age of 13, Gaylord knew he wasn't going to be 6-foot-tall. His best bet for continuing in sports, he said, was to talk about it. With his involvement in sports and love of watching ESPN, he felt this was his best option post high school.

As time went on, Gaylord's classmates kept growing while his growth remained stagnant, creating athletic disadvantages. Gaylord had to elevate his talents to compete at a higher level in high school.

Currently, Gaylord is a sports editor for The Lamplighter, Dunbar's student news organization. Gaylord said he aspires to be a sports analyst like Stuart Scott, a former anchor on ESPN. Scott inspires Gaylord because Scott is a successful African-American journalist.

Cristina Thorson, Gaylord's friend and co-worker at the Lamplighter, described Gaylord as energetic, dedicated, big-hearted and short.

"Kaden works hard as our editor," Thorson said. "He's had the position for the past year and probably will have it this year. He goes to all sports games and is popular among the athletes."

As Gaylord's days at Dunbar come to a close, he is contemplating his college choices. Gaylord is considering attending the University of Kentucky, the home of his favorite college basketball team.

## HEATH VIRGIN

BY JAY WHITEHEAD

Memphis University School

During the summer before fifth-grade, Heath Virgin's life took a turn.

Virgin's father, Von Virgin, had an announcement for Heath and his two brothers.

"He sat me and my two younger brothers down and explained how he got a job transfer," Virgin said. "I didn't know what to think. It was so sudden. I was shell-shocked."

Von Virgin told Heath and his brothers there weren't any opportunities in Chesapeake, Ohio, where Heath was born and raised.

"When I lived there, it was fun, but now when I go back it's just depressing," Heath Virgin said. "You could barely even call it a town."

That summer, Heath and his family moved about two hours southwest of Chesapeake to the mid-sized town of Richmond, Kentucky. Heath said he understood how the move from Chesapeake to Richmond would be better for him, but he also presumed that he wouldn't be able to see his loved ones like he was accustomed to doing.

Virgin said before he moved he would see his grandmother about every other day.

"If I didn't spend the night, we would hang out for two or three hours," Virgin said. "After the move, I would see her every two or three months."

Not getting to see his grandmother as



JAY WHITEHEAD / MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

often was the hardest part of his move, he said. But he said as more time passed "things got a little easier."

"I started to develop relationships mainly through sports," Virgin said.

Virgin's career goals did not change despite being in a new environment with new friends.

"I've always wanted to be a sports anchor," Virgin said. "You sit court side or in the press box and you talk about sports on live TV. I think that's pretty awesome."

Virgin's relationships with his father,

Von Virgin, and his grandfather, Randy Virgin, led him to pursue golf as more than a hobby and ultimately influenced his desire to be a sports anchor.

"A few years back on Father's Day, we went to go play," Virgin said. "I played one of the best rounds that I ever played that day. That's when I knew I wanted to play golf."

Now, he has been playing golf for three years. Virgin said he used golf to become involved at his new school, Madison Central High School.

Watching his grandfather and his father provide for their families and their dedication to hard work have shaped Virgin's understanding of what's important in life.

Even though he's now 73, his other grandfather, Tom Davidson, hasn't slowed down.

"He's been retired for years, yet he still decides to build houses for the people in need," Virgin said.

Following his family's work ethic, Virgin has had a 4.0 GPA throughout his academic career, making only one B. This past school year, Virgin's transcript was in the top 5 percent of his class.

Virgin was accepted to the Xposure High School Journalism Workshop at Western Kentucky University and will attend another journalism workshop in July in Athens, Ohio. WKYT, a news station in Lexington, Kentucky, offered Virgin an internship for later this year, he said.

Virgin said he believes his work ethic and dedication in and out of the classroom will help him in journalism. Virgin said he is opinionated, and his knowledge and passion for sports will help him a lot.

Although being a sports anchor would be hard on his family because he wouldn't see them as often, Virgin still decided to pursue the career, he said.

"My father said, 'Always do what you love,'" Virgin said. "'Whether you make \$10,000 a year or \$100,000 a year.' Always do what you love, and journalism is what I love."