

# LIMITED EDITION

\*PROOFED BY CHUCK LOGSDON AND HENRI ABOAH



KENNEDY GAYHEART/ PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

The horse, Sadie, getting groomed by camper Noah Cason while having a big yawn. The horse had a long day of activities with the campers.

## E-cigs spark problems for teens

BY CHUCK LOGSDON

Henry Clay High School

AND MAKAI O SMITH

Atherton High School

Thomas, a recent high school graduate from St. Louis, is a habitual vaper. Like most teens, he took his first puff on an e-cigarette at the urging of a vaping friend.

[She] "asked if I wanted to hit it," Thomas said. "I hit it and I got really buzzed."

Thomas' next step into the world of vaping was purchasing his own, which he bought from that same friend. His preferred brand is the Juul, the most popular e-cigarette among teens. Juul dominates the vape market, accounting for 75% of the market share, according to the Nielsen company.

(Limited Edition, a product of Western Kentucky University's Xposure Journalism Workshop for high school students around the country, is using only the young people's first names to protect their privacy.)

Juuls have a sleek USB-like design that makes them easy to conceal and use in places where they are not typically allowed, such as schools. Other popular vape brands include Phix, Smok and Boulder.

Juuls, like many other e-cigarettes, are often seen by smokers as a safer alternative to cigarettes. What smokers, especially teen smokers, are less likely to know is that the Juul company is financially linked to the nation's leading cigarette manufacturer, Altria. Altria owns many of the top cigarette brands, including Marlboro, and the top chewing tobacco companies, Copenhagen. Altria owns 35% of Juul after investing \$12.8 billion in the company.

Atria and the companies it owns are considered a part of "Big Tobacco," which is the term used to refer to the top producing tobacco companies. Big Tobacco has been accused of intentionally making their products more addictive, and marketing to more vulnerable consumers such as teenagers and lower-income, less-educated adults.

Although laws differ state to state, most restrict vape purchases to those 18 years old and up. In Kentucky, the legal age to purchase e-cigarettes is 18.

SEE E-CIGS, PAGE A5



RONALD WAGNER JR./

CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
An e-cigarette product on display at D&J Vapor in Bowling Green, KY.

## MISSION POSSIBLE: SUMMER FUN

Camps promote unity, acceptance of differences

BY CHUCK LOGSDON Henry Clay High School

Deep in the backwoods of Fountain Run in southwest Kentucky, a 45-minute drive from Bowling Green, is a 110-acre plot of land with ropes for tree climbing, a lake for swimming, a venue for horse riding, a gym and areas for art and music.

It is populated by children of all races, genders and socio-economic status.

Barefoot Republic Camp hosts summer camps and retreats, focusing on spreading the message of unity in diversity, vulnerability and acceptance of differences. The focus of this camp is to provide students with a summer camp experience who might otherwise not be able to afford one. More than 50% of the students attend on scholarships.

“Without my faith there is no way we'd be where we are today.”

**Tommy Rhodes**  
Barefoot Republic Founder

The founder of Barefoot Republic, Tommy Rhodes, was in his third year at Vanderbilt University, on track to get a Ph.D. in biomedical science, when he realized something.

"The more success I had as a young scientist, the more empty I felt on the inside," Rhodes said. "I finally took that leap of faith based on what God was stirring up inside of me."

He realized he was not obeying his religion in his line of work. Rhodes grew up in a lower-income household and was never able to pay for summer camp.

SEE BAREFOOT, PAGE A2



ABBY ADAMS-SMITH/BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

The lake at Barefoot Republic acts as the hub for several different activities, including canoeing and water sports. Many of the cabins overlook the lake, and the equestrian field is nearby.

## WKU Freshman Village opening delayed to fall 2021

BY HENRI ABOAH  
Louisville Male High School

Despite what WKU had projected, the first new residence hall in the Freshman Village won't open until Fall 2021, the university's top housing official said.

A 400-bed building replacing Bemis Lawrence Hall had been scheduled to open in Fall 2020, but will be delayed a year and will open at the same time as a second building, which will replace Barnes-Campbell Hall, said Mike Reagle, WKU's assistant vice president for student affairs.

"We had hoped we would begin construction about six months ago," Reagle said. However, the project will not be given the go-ahead by the Student Life Foundation, which owns WKU's residence halls, until next week, he said.

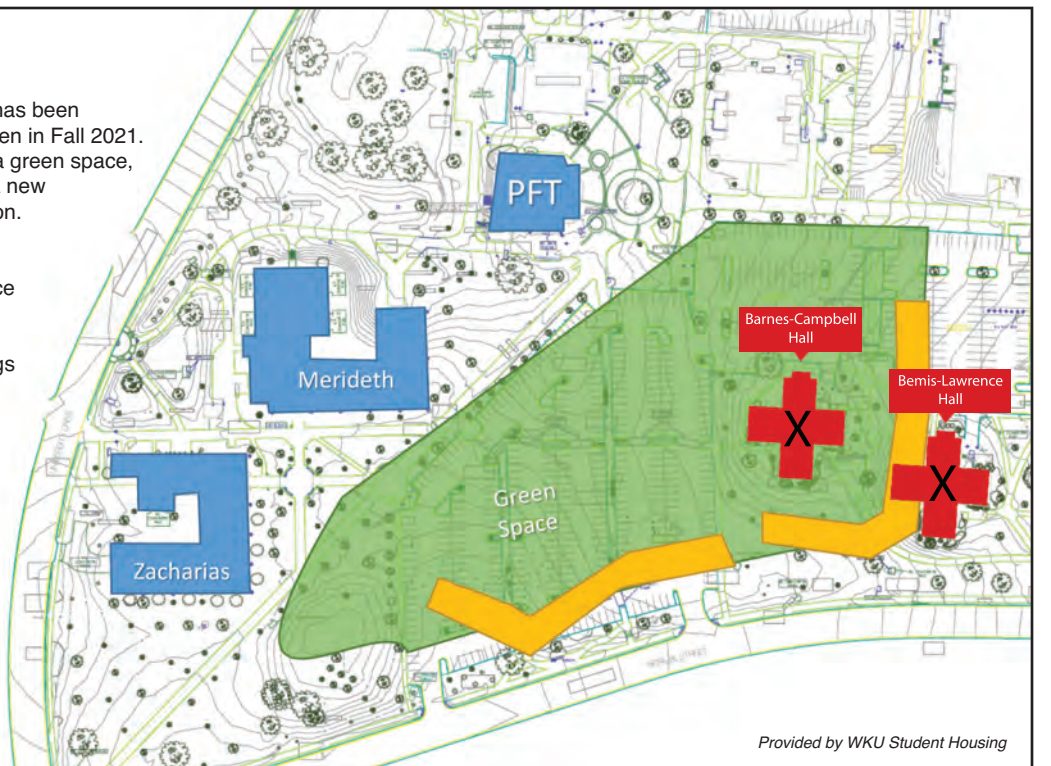
With the project behind its initial timetable, he said, the first building will take about 18 months to construct and cannot be completed by the time classes start in August 2020.

SEE VILLAGE, PAGE A6

### Freshman Village

WKU's plans to open a new dorm has been delayed and is now expected to open in Fall 2021. The entire project, which includes a green space, two new residential buildings and a new parking lot will cost about \$50 million.

- New green space will replace parking lots
- Two new residential buildings will have 400 beds each
- Dorms that will remain
- Dorms that will be demolished



Provided by WKU Student Housing



# Workshoppers see media evolution

BY PRESTON ROMANOV  
Trinity High School

Inside Louisville TV station WDRB's control room, WKU Xposure journalism students stood at full attention with their eyes and ears focused on the action around them.

It was one of the places the 11 students journeyed to in Louisville, Kentucky June 12 to live the day in the life of journalists.

From newsprint to radio and digital to broadcast, the students learned how news organizations are finding new ways to disperse their stories to the public.

While at WDRB, the students got an up close look at a live newscast and saw the behind the scenes action.

In what could only be described as controlled chaos, the students listened as the director gave commands to camera operators. The technical director pushed buttons and the producer sat on the back row making sure the show went smoothly.

"It was awesome," said Kennedy Gayheart, an Xposure student from Dunbar High School in Lexington.

"It was very eye-opening to see what it actually looks like, and to see what goes on behind the scenes that you don't think about, checking out all the TV screens and what they were doing.

I was mesmerized and impressed by how smoothly it was going."

Throughout the field trip, the students received advice and tips from professionals, including several Western Kentucky University alumni.

They stressed to the students the importance of good writing, interning in all areas of media, and staying engaged on social media.

"It was very informative and nice to see the inside of all these different news agencies for the first time," said Sydney Madry, a workshop student who attends Male High School in Louisville.

At InsiderLouisville.com, students heard from WKU alum Darla Carter, a health writer for the non-profit online news site.

She talked to the students about her job and said, "The writers really feel a sense of ownership and are very grateful to work here."

InsiderLouisville editor Mickey Meece, who worked at the New York Times for 13 years, told the students the non-profit news site receives its funding from sponsored content, grants, corporate companies and monthly programs, including a monthly coffee where members of the public can sit in on news staff meetings.

Carter said it was "very unusual" to go into a budget meeting and the members of the public just sitting there and want-



The control room at WDRB TV buzzes as people prepare to broadcast the news on live television. GWEN HATCHER/BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

ing to know what stories reporters were writing.

Meanwhile, during the students' visit to the Courier Journal, Rachel Aretakis, senior digital producer, showed the students what their focus on digital looked like through a popular analytics program called Chartbeat.

"Chartbeat allows us to see if a feature that did well or spiked up... we will look into it and give the topic more coverage."

The Xposure students saw large TV displays posted in the Courier Journal newsroom that showed graphs and data that reported the number of readers online; as well as which headlines trended the most.

"We're not really print anymore," said Mike Trautmann, news director and director of investigations for the Courier Journal. "We now have digital producers and when we plan a big project, we focus on how are we going to produce and present this digitally."

Courier editor-in-chief Richard A. Green reiterated that fact via speakerphone.

"Right now, we are focused on the digital responsibilities and the accounted strategy to elevate the caliber of leadership and coaching in the newsroom," he said.

Green admitted it's never been tougher to be a journalist, but said it's never been more important to be a journalist.

At Louisville Public Media, students learned first-hand about the impact a single journalist can make.

Caitlin McGlade, a reporter for Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting told the students about a story she wrote involving a woman from Iran battling a mysterious brain illness.

Due to President Donald Trump's travel ban, the woman was not allowed to come to the U.S. to seek an experimental treatment, McGlade said.

"(Her son) had this city guy in Louisville that could still (do) experimental (treatments). We didn't really know what would happen."

Since the treatment was experimental, no one knew for sure if it would work, but they were willing to take the risk.

However, the travel ban made it impossible.

"I wrote a story about it. Within five hours, the Embassy released her (to travel) and now she is a new person. That's the kind of impact on journalism today," McGlade said.

It was at WDRB that assistant news director Jennifer Keeney imparted final words of advice to the high school students.

"No matter what you do, writing is at the heart of it," she said. "That's what you have to concentrate on first is good writing."



ABBY ADAMS-SMITH/BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

A Barefoot Republic camper takes a break from a group Bible study in their cabin. An inter-denominational Christian camp, Barefoot Republic includes several different faith-based events in the mornings and evenings.

## Barefoot

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

He sold his baseball card collection for \$17,000, along with some other possessions, to make a down payment on the campground. He then worked the next 10 summers making the land usable with the help of landscapers.

Today, Barefoot Republic operates on an annual budget of about \$1.8 million. Funds are raised from events and donors, such as the Cal Turner Family Foundation, as well as the fees collected for the camp programs from those who can afford to pay.

Barefoot Republic also rents out its camp to private groups.

Rhodes credits the achievement of Barefoot Republic to his Christian faith.

"Without my faith there is no way we'd be where we are today," Rhodes said. "I'm a firm believer that God will only give you what you can handle."

Barefoot Republic is a Christian organization. Each morning the campers have a morning church session as well as a small-group Bible study with the other campers in their cabins.

Operations Director Charlie Payne said his job is an opportunity to help children to worship in a different environment.

The camp keeps a database noting campers' ethnic diversity, whether they are from single-parent homes and if they attend church.

"As a society, one of the most segregated days of the week is church," Payne said. "We're intentional about putting kids of different backgrounds together."

Later in the day, campers participate in activities, called "specialties," including basketball, watersports and horseback riding.

Staff member Kendreya Lee-Pointer leads the vocal performance specialty.

Lee-Pointer has attended for the past eight years as a camper and a staff member. As the main instructor for vocal performance, Lee-Pointer uses her position to help the campers relate to one another.

"They all can connect through a song they all heard growing up," Lee-Pointer said.

Lee-Pointer, who experienced a rough childhood, is a first-hand example of the mission of the Barefoot Republic.

"I have never paid to go to camp," she said, "and even outside of camp there was always someone ... pouring into my family whether it be mentorship or financial aid. They were always there."

Other specialties include paintball, rock climbing and water-sliding. There's also harness-based tree-climbing, where climbers use a system of ropes, and the blob, a large inflated platform in the camp's pond where one child bounces on one side to propel another child in the air and into the lake.

Former high school science teacher Matt Black has



SYDNEY MADRY/LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL

Three Xposure students, Noah Grebe, Gwen Hatcher and Kennedy Gayheart, are having a blast trying to climb this huge tree.

worked at Barefoot Republic the past 10 summers and runs the low-ropes course. He still fills in as a substitute teacher and has blended his skills to improve at both occupations.

"I have to be able to use my classroom skills to get the campers' attention," Black said, "But I can then take my team-building skills to a classroom and I can then do different things other teachers wouldn't."

Black tries to make Barefoot Republic a place where kids feel comfortable.

"It provides a safe place that (the kids) can come to and feel welcome," he said. "We establish rules that if you have a different opinion you're allowed to share your opinion and talk about it, but we don't want to come down on people."

Program director Kat Murphy learned about Barefoot Republic after meeting a staff member at a church ministry fair in Nashville. After attending with kids from her church, she liked what she saw and joined the staff.

"I really loved the mission," Murphy said. "I think it's important that people of all different backgrounds can see and experience God's love."

While Barefoot Republic is designed to help the campers, staff members said they also benefit. Rhodes especially benefits from working at his camp.

"Our campers and staff have helped me grow exponentially through the years, through their faith," Rhodes said. "The fact that these kids will come out to camp and share their stories helps all of us understand that we're not alone"



# DAIRY DIARIES: It's all about the ladies

**BY KENNEDY GAYHEART**  
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

As the scenery on Nashville Road changes from suburban to country, a big red barn looms off the side of the road. This is Chaney's Dairy Barn where the Chaney family has been milking cows every single day for 79 years. Holidays aren't on a dairy farmer's calendar.

Inside, visitors can buy sandwiches, ice cream and tickets to tour the farm. The family created the agritourism business when they realized the farm couldn't survive on milk sales alone.

At the farm you can treat yourself to lunch and top it off by choosing among 30 flavors of ice cream. This includes the popular "Bourbon Crunch," made with Kentucky's famous Maker's Mark.

Dore Baker, 26, is the herd manager, a key player in the farm's daily operation. She is one of a large group of family members who have made Chaney's what it is today, a popular destination for tourists and locals.

Baker, who considered career paths in history, photography and veterinary science said she always knew she would wind up working with animals.

"None of those things fulfilled my life like working with cows does," said Baker, who knows every one of the 54 milking cows by name. She also knows their habits and personalities.

Some of the cows have simple names like Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Other names are more whimsical, such as Pokey, Hokey, Artichokey and Okie Dokie. Baker comes up with a lot of the names but sometimes asks for input from the community by having a naming contest on the dairy barn's Facebook page.

She lovingly refers to all the cows as her "ladies."

After two years of college at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Baker said she received a job offer she couldn't pass up. "My uncle needed me," Baker said.

Her grandfather originally owned the farm until Baker's uncle, Carl Chaney, bought it in 1986. "They said they had a position for me here and I said, 'Absolutely.'"



RONALD WAGNER JR./  
CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
Dore Baker of Chaney's Dairy Barn talks to Xposure students about how the farm works. Baker, a member of the extended Chaney family, has worked at the farm for about five years.



Cows on the Chaney farm are able to get their backs scratched by a rotating brush during the milking process. The farm has gone to an automated system to milk its cows.  
SYDNEY MADRY/  
LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL

Herd management is not a simple task. The farm is home to 128 cows, including the 54 milking cows. When Baker first started, she and a coworker did all the milking by hand. If the coworker couldn't make it to work, Baker would sometimes have to herd and milk the cows alone.

"You can only imagine what kind of position that put me in to have 55 to 60 cows to milk," Baker said.

Baker and her uncle considered other options for efficiency, eventually deciding to invest in a \$260,000 milking robot. The robot is a modern marvel of farming, allowing the cows to walk into the large machine when they choose. Each cow ends up being milked four times per day. The robot also keeps tabs on the cows' statistics to track herd health.

"Our facilities were so out of date," Baker said. "We knew we needed an upgrade."

While the robot is extremely helpful, Baker wasn't always a fan of the idea.

"That's for lazy people who don't want to milk their cows," Baker said she once thought.

Over time, she's grown to love the robot's reliability and efficiency. It's also given her the time and the freedom to spend more time with her bovine charges.

"This allows me to not be in a milking parlor and not seeing just the udders and the legs," Baker said.

The health and happiness of the cows are paramount.

"We have to make sure these ladies are taken care of," Baker said. "They are our top priority."

## WKU Confucius Institute closed; questions still loom

**BY SYDNEY MADRY**  
Louisville Male High School

The Confucius Institute at WKU is officially closed.

On WKU's campus for nine years, the institute promoted the understanding of Chinese language and culture, and was aimed at building partnerships between WKU and China.

The WKU Confucius Institute was a partnership called Hanban, the Chinese education ministry.

The decision to shut down the Confucius Institute came from WKU President Timothy Caboni and followed President Trump signing a bill that would have ended funding for WKU's Chinese Language Flagship program, a separate language program funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, if the institute had continued to operate on the Hill.

WKU sought a waiver to keep both the flagship and the institute open, but it was denied. Keeping the Confucius Institute could have disrupted other Department of Defense funding WKU receives, such as research grants.

Under a deal struck by former WKU President Gary Ransdell, the Chinese government provided \$1.8 million for the Model Confucius Institute building on the WKU campus, which opened in 2016. The agreement between WKU and Hanban gave the program the right to occupy the building for 50 years. The contract with Hanban, which was criticized by WKU's student government and faculty senate, said that the building lease would be for 50 years.

"A contract is a contract... they (WKU) breached the contract, and because of the decision to close it, I feel that, if they decide not to pay... there will be legal, potential ramifications from that," said Terrill Martin, who was direc-

tor of the Confucius Institute.

Bob Skipper, director of WKU media relations, said Caboni and his administration are working with Hanban about this issue. "WKU is working with Hanban on the disposition of the Model CI building," he said. "That discussion is still ongoing and plans for the use of that building will come once that issue is settled."

Martin said he was shocked when the institute closing was announced. "Considering I have been with the program for the last nine years..., I was taken aback...It happened so fast," he said. "There was no previous conversation."

The six graduate students from China who moved to Bowling Green to attend WKU, because of this institute, are troubled by the announcement.

According to Skipper, the students should be able to complete their degree programs. "We have committed to making it possible for students to complete their degrees," he said.

In addition to the college students, the Confucius Institute was connected with K-12 public schools around the area. The institute assisted teachers from China who were teaching their language and culture in Kentucky schools.

"Without offering these classes next year, the K-12 students will be impacted," Martin said. "Many students take dual credit Chinese... Now they will have to choose another foreign language."

The teachers that were placed within these public schools through the institute will not be attending that school or any other school to teach.

Martin said he hopes for a future with the former Confucius Institute building. "I'm not sure what Western's long-term plan is for it," he said. "It's a nice building so I'm sure they will re-purpose it for some function."



SYDNEY MADRY/MALE HIGH SCHOOL

A bell with Chinese writing is on display outside the Confucius Institute on WKU's campus



RONALD WAGNER JR./CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
Gary Jones arranges a television in his downtown repair shop, Harold's TV, on June 14. The business has been repairing TVs in the Bowling Green area for 65 years.

## Harold's TV evolves as business changes

**BY RONALD WAGNER JR.**  
Crossroads College Preparatory School

Harold's TV, one of the longest surviving businesses in Bowling Green, is much more than just a place to bring an old television.

Established in 1954, Harold's TV has repaired television sets in Bowling Green and the surrounding areas for 65 years, said Gary Jones, the current owner and operator -- and son to original owner, Harold Jones.

"Back in 1952, television was just really becoming more popular," Jones said. Just two years later, after leaving the U.S. Air Force, his father opened for business. It was the same year "The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin" debuted on America's TV screens.

The shop, located at 729 College St., has been in business ever since, though the shop has moved to different downtown spots over the decades.

Jones says he doesn't fix many TVs these days. New ones are so cheap that folks typically opt to buy new when a television breaks.

From 1954 to 2017, the price per square inch on a television decreased by 98.9 percent, and will continue to decrease yearly, according to CNET.com.

Jones doesn't sell new TVs either. "We haven't sold a new television set here since 1974," Jones said. "The big box stores can sell them cheaper than we can buy them."

Instead of selling and repairing, the Harold's TV of 2019 is offering a number of new services.

Under Gary Jones, Harold's TV repair has grown to include antenna installation, satellite installation, DVD transfer, and warranty satellite maintenance for DirecTV.



RONALD WAGNER JR./CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

An antique television is on display at Harold's TV store.

Satellite installation has generated the most business for Jones in the past two years.

With television repair work almost extinct, it's hard to believe the city of Bowling Green is home to similar shops. But Jones said he does not consider those establishments his competition.

"There's three shops, but growing up here, there were seven," Jones said. "We kind of help each other out," he said, sending each other customers that they can't help.

Confidently, Jones confirmed his position in the Bowling Green community.

"Oh yeah, we're a staple," he said. "After 65 years, we still service people, the great-grandchildren of people that my dad knew in my community here when he first came back from the Air Force and set up this business."

# Successful coach loves life, his players

BY NOAH GREBE

duPont Manual High School

The summer before the 2018 college volleyball season, life took a turn for Travis Hudson when he had to face his toughest opponent yet — a widow-maker heart attack.

After suddenly feeling pain in his chest, the WKU volleyball coach drove himself to a nearby hospital. He was in the middle stages of a severe heart attack, one that has a survival rate of 12%.

After a week in the hospital, the coach was back on the court, preparing his team to take on the University of Alabama in the season opener.

“I think God left me here for a reason and I don’t think it was to sit at home and feel sorry for myself since I had a heart attack,” Hudson said. “I think it was to get back out and continue to try to do the things that I do.”

Hudson, 47, who is entering his 25th season coaching the Hilltopper team, has no plans of stopping.

In his years as coach, Hudson has accomplished many feats on and off the court. The love he unabashedly expresses for his team has played out on the highway, in hospital rooms and classrooms.

In 2010, the team was on its way to Mobile, Ala., to face South Alabama when the bus unexpectedly shifted. Hudson discovered that the bus driver was unconscious, suffering from a severe heart attack.

Hudson took over the wheel and pressed on the brakes; his quick thinking likely prevented serious injuries among his players. The bus driver later died, the Bowling Green Daily News reported.

“My first reaction was to get that bus stopped and keep everyone on there safe, and so through the grace of God we were able to get that done,” Hudson said.

Although it has been many years since the accident, Hudson said the memory remains vivid.

“Every pothole we hit, every bump in the road is something that still puts that fresh in my mind,” Hudson said.

More recently, Hudson’s devotion to his players was evident when he offered to pay tuition to any student who would serve as a donor for a former player facing a life-threatening illness.



RONALD WAGNER JR./CROSSROADS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

WKU’s Volleyball Coach Travis Hudson listens to a question posed by Xposure19 student Preston Romanov during a press conference in E.A. Diddle Arena.

“To see her have a leukemia diagnosis was absolutely heartbreaking. It was like one of my own children,” Hudson said of Alyssa Cavanaugh, one of his All-American players who graduated last year.

Since the procedure would require a bone marrow donor for a transplant, Hudson offered to pay a semester’s tuition — worth about \$5,000 for an in-state student — for any student who matched and was able to donate to Cavanaugh.

“Offering to pay tuition for a student to be a match sounded like a lot of money to some people,” Hudson said. “But to me it sounded like a no brainer if something like that were to bring a change to save her life.”

While Cavanaugh’s dad eventually became her donor, the coach’s offer brought awareness to the need for bone marrow donors and added many new people to the list of potential donors.

This care for his players is a factor in improving his team’s play on the court.

Before Hudson, WKU hadn’t made it to the NCAA tournament, going 278-275 (50.3 winning percentage) in the program’s first 14 seasons.

Hudson got the job as head coach in 1995, a year after graduating from Western. At 24, he was the youngest head coach in college volleyball at the time.

“I got my job here because nobody had really cared about the sport of volleyball and our program wasn’t very good,” Hudson said. “I was a head coach with zero experience, so the fact that I ended up here was a blessing.”

Hudson, who played basketball and football in high school, had never played competitive volleyball. Coaching women was new for him, too.

“I grew up with brothers,” he said. “I didn’t have any sisters. So, the fact that I was coaching females was different for me. Watching other coaches deal with female athletes and how to coach them and push them and love them helped me learn a lot from them.”

The first three seasons of coaching were a constant process of trial and error for the young coach. The team went 34-65 and finished in the bottom half of the conference in each of the three seasons.

His program took a turn in the 1998

season, and the team hasn’t had a losing campaign since. The Hilltoppers have earned nine conference championships and 11 NCAA tournament appearances with a 610-213 (74.1 winning percentage) record.

“Through the years, I think I’ve become a better coach, but I’ve always tried to maintain being a better person and trying to treat kids a good way,” Hudson said.

While many coaches would be most proud of their team’s wins and tournament appearances, Hudson said he feels the most pride about his team’s academic performance. One hundred percent of his players have graduated.

“It’s something I’m very proud of, but it also means that I care greatly and I care deeply about these kids,” Hudson said.

Hudson takes pride in the fact that only one of his scholarship players has ever transferred out of the program.

“We live in a world in college athletics of transfers and people leaving programs left and right, but this place has been really unique,” he said.

More than anything, Hudson cares most about being a good support system for his players.

“It has very little to do with wins and losses. I love to teach, I love to watch young people grow and improve themselves so they can be ready for life,” Hudson said.

Hudson also aims to help his players with issues off the court. He wants to be someone they can reach in a time of need.

“My goal has always been to be that person who pops into their head when they’re struggling and they need someone to believe in them or tell them that they’re going to make it,” Hudson said.

One thing that will never change for Hudson is his love for the community, as he feels like he should pay forward the blessings that he has been given throughout his career.

“This is the community I love,” he said. “I came here and I found myself as a young man. I feel like this place has given me so much in my career through my student life and into my career.”

“I think sometimes we forget in life that when we’re given a lot, that it’s our job to pay it forward and give it back. This is a place that I love deeply.”



ABBY ADAMS-SMITH/BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

A student walks past Helm Library. Helm Library was once a hub for students to study and socialize, and school officials hope to see that continue once WKU Commons opens.

## Focus changing for Helm Library

BY ABBY ADAMS-SMITH

Bowling Green High School

Helm Library has a rich history of change.

The building got its start as a gymnasium in 1931, nicknamed “The Big Red Barn.” In the late 1960s, after years of renovations, the building was dedicated as a library and named after librarian Margie Helm.

Margie Helm Library closed on May 10, and this summer the old building again began a transition. Its latest reincarnation, called WKU Commons, is scheduled to open in 2021.

“[WKU Commons] will be a space for people to engage with each other on campus,” said Susann deVries, chairman of the project’s steering committee, “where people can meet, discuss, collaborate, and explore ideas.”

DeVries, the dean of libraries, said she hopes to see the repurposed library serve as “an intellectual hub that facilitates engagement outside of the classroom.”

Artists’ renderings released on WKU’s website show a sleek, modern interior, with books stored on the upper floors. Plenty of space is shown for students to eat at the multiple food outlets planned for the building.

The renovations will cost \$35 million, financed by WKU’s dining contract with Aramark.

That contract, enacted by former President Gary Ransdell, requires all students taking classes on the main campus to either purchase a dining plan or pay



SUBMITTED

An artists’ rendering of the planned interior renovations for WKU Commons. Alongside current library services, dining options, study areas and improved technology are planned.

into a declining balance fund from which they can pay for food at campus outlets. Those without a dining plan will pay \$300 a semester into a declining balance fund starting this fall.

Nancy Richey, a former reference librarian at Helm and the Kentucky Museum’s current visual resources coordinator, said she had mixed feelings about the project.

“It was a little sad, in a way, because I’ve worked over there for a long time,” Richey said. “Even though I left in 2008, I have wonderful, fond memories. ... It was sort of like a maze, and it was a wonderful place to work.”

But Richey emphasized the importance of serving modern students with the library.

“The idea behind the renovation of Helm is to meet the needs of today’s students,” she said. “They want places to

study, they want access to refreshments, they want to work in communal groups. They want a different library than I would have grown up with.”

The specific dining options WKU Commons will offer are up in the air, as is how the new building will honor the library’s history. The jump circle from the former basketball court will stay in the same location, but no other method of commemoration has been specified in statements or released schematics.

WKU students have been active in commemorating the old space and contributing ideas for the new one. The steering committee has one student representative, Glasgow sophomore Will Harris. Two online surveys also requested input from students.

Meanwhile, WKU’s magazine, Talisman, published several tributes to Helm Library at the end of the spring 2019 semester. These included “An Early Elegy to Helm,” Noah Powers’ poem in honor of the old building, and “Growing Up With Helm,” Emily Falica’s essay on her childhood at the library.

Richey recalled her fond memories helping students at the reference desk during the time she worked there.

“Some students were frightened to approach a reference desk, and then once they saw that you were willing to help them, they’d open up, and you could create sort of a relationship there to further their career,” she said.

She added, “We have seen the artists’ sketches and renderings, and what’s to come is absolutely beautiful. I’m excited to see what it’s going to become.”

## Film growth prompts renovations

BY MAKAI O SMITH

Atherton High School

It’s crunch time when it comes to completing the School of Journalism and Broadcasting’s renovation project at WKU.

The idea for renovation occurred about a year ago, said Teresa Jameson, office manager of SJB. The actual work started May 17 with a deadline for the main changes to be finished by Aug. 1.

She said the renovations are mainly geared toward the film and broadcasting majors, which reside on the third floor of Jody Richards Hall.

For just that one floor, the estimated cost is about \$158,000. This includes all of the equipment, electronics, planning, design and construction.

“Right now, for this section here, we estimated around \$118,000 just for the renovations,” Jameson said. “We’re still working on all of (the equipment) costs, but it’s going to be closer to about \$40,000.”

After the film program started about five years ago, enrollment has steadily increased. As interest goes up, the cost for the program and the faculty have also risen, Jameson said.

“We have a very dynamic faculty,” Jameson said. “They will blow your mind because they are really good and know what they’re doing. There are about 200 students in the broadcasting (program) — film is close behind. Photojournalism is at a little less than 100 and journalism is at about 140 enrollment.”

As for the increased interest in film study at WKU, the office manager attributed it to the lack of options for students “this side of the Mississippi.”

“There’s one down in Florida and there’s a couple of other smaller ones, but none that can do what we’re going to do.”

In an email, Jameson said the renovations will help WKU’s film program position itself in the Commonweath “as the only comprehensive 4-year film curriculum focused on the scripted storytelling offered at a public institute.”

The equipment will include RED cinema cameras, 4k televisions, a DaVinci Resolve board, Avid mixing boards, Avid ProTools and a recording booth.

The SJB’s third floor will also include completely new editing bays, a production studio and final suites.

“What we are doing is putting in equipment that they are going to be able to walk out there and use that same equipment,” Jameson said. “We’re not talking about using old antiquated equipment anymore. It is up to date, with the latest boards, cameras and computers.”

Other renovations will include repurposing some spaces with presentation rooms and new technologies that will include updated radio equipment, scanners, computers, soundproof doors and soundproof panels. The school changes its computers every five years to keep the program up to date.



# Vandy expert: E-cigarette health risk higher for teens

BY CHUCK LOGSDON  
Henry Clay High School

As a certified tobacco treatment specialist, Julia Steed has studied teenagers developing addictions to e-cigarettes through an expert lens.

Steed, a nurse practitioner at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, did her dissertation research on tobacco cessation methods. She also has extensively studied both tobacco products and e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes, she said, are dangerous and likely to create lifelong health problems.

The risks are especially high for teenagers, she said.

“Most significantly, (medical journals) show that although (e-cigarettes) are less harmful than smoking traditional cigarettes, they aren’t harmless,” Steed said.

“Teens and even adults sometimes will go to the e-cigarette first or they have been smoking cigarettes and decided that they want to use e-cigarettes thinking they are avoiding the risk related to cancer and COPD and other lung conditions.

“That’s just not true,” she said.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD is a term used to describe lung diseases that block airflow and make it difficult to breathe.

After struggles with FDA approval or even FDA interest, Steed and other researchers have just recently been able to put out their research.

As a relatively new trend, e-cigarettes have been difficult to study. Underage students who vape often feel uncomfortable when asked about it by an adult for a survey. Statistics for percentages of teens who vape are likely lower than actual numbers.

E-cigarettes, though not producing smoke, use electricity to heat up the liquid inside and then produce an aerosol.



Steed



RONALD WAGNER JR./CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
Vape juice assortment available at a Bowling Green establishment.

Inhaling it can still cause many of the same problems seen in inhaling smoke, Steed said.

“(Vapor) can cause mouth and throat irritation,” Steed said, “or breathing problems like shortness of breath or dry cough.”

Another danger of e-cigarettes is the nicotine content. One Juul-brand pod contains the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. Nicotine can affect your cardiovascular system as well as cause various other health problems, Steed said.

Feelings of anxiety, upset stomach and irregular heartbeat are all common side effects of nicotine seen in those who smoke e-cigarettes and conventional cigarettes, Steed said.

Along with other dangers, nicotine is a stimulant, meaning it affects your brain function. This is why people use nicotine products, but it is also one of the most dangerous parts, she said.

“(Nicotine) affects your brain chemicals and changes the way your brain

responds to everyday emotions, everyday habits and everyday things that you do and enjoy in life,” Steed said. “Nicotine changes that experience and you don’t enjoy that as much unless nicotine is associated with it.”

Teens, she said, are also more susceptible to e-cig advertising, which directly appeals to a younger crowd.

Like any product, advertising of vapes aims to promote consumption. The uptick in underage vapers can be linked to these advertisements, according to Steed.

“There are clear associations between marketing of e-cigarettes and use,” Steed said. “Advertisers started using really cool and trendy commercials, billboards and things like that.

“They changed the shape and size of e-cigarettes so now you’ve got the Juuls that are really small, and cute, and kind of look cool for young people that want to use them,” Steed said.

Teens also are most at-risk when it

## HEALTH RISKS

While e-cigarettes have helped almost 1 in 5 people quit smoking, according to multiple research studies, public health officials say they still pose serious health risks, especially to young people. These health risks include:

- Nicotine addiction, which can harm a developing brain
- Nicotine exposure at an early age, which increases the risk for future addictions
- Harm to the lungs, caused by inhaling ingredients such as diacetyl.
- Gateway substance, which may lead to the use of other tobacco products, such as traditional cigarettes.

- Defective batteries known to explode, causing burns to skin

Source: Surgeon-General’s Advisory for E-Cigarette Use Among Youth

comes to using nicotine, she said.

“I’m very concerned, more so with young people than with adults,” she said. “That’s mainly because of the nicotine part that’s associated with it. I mean, I don’t want young people to have lung conditions and this chronic dry cough they can’t get rid of. It’s miserable and lowers their quality of life.”

Because young people’s brains develop into their 20s, she said, the nicotine can do more damage.

Serious action needs to be taken, she said.

“It’s going to take campaigns and initiatives and interested folks in the community that are really going to be able to be outspoken about the dangers of e-cigarettes to really make a difference in stopping the youth.”

## E-cigs

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Like cigarettes, Juuls are sold in gas stations. Traditional vapes are only sold in licensed vape stores. Josh Polson, who works in a vape store in Bowling Green, said this is a large part of the problem with underage vaping. (Limited Edition is not identifying the store since Polson is not authorized to speak on behalf of the company.)

“The biggest problem comes down to Juuls not being sold in actual brick and mortar vape stores,” Polson said. “You have so many gas stations that don’t ID and don’t check and also don’t care where the products are going.”

Many brick and mortar vape stores including the one where Polson works have more strict procedures for preventing vapes from getting into the hands of minors. Apart from checking ID, stores have other methods for keeping their products away from teens.

“We can tell (if an adult is purchasing a vape for a minor) by the way they walk in. They’re unsure of what they’re getting, they’re checking their phone a lot, they come in with a list, Polson said. “We take as many precautions as we can to try to prevent it from going to someone underage.”

With vapes and cigarettes both being vehicles for delivering nicotine, the biggest topic of discussion is usually comparing the two.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center nurse practitioner and certified tobacco treatment specialist Julia Steed has expertise in both cigarettes and vapes. She sees underage use of both being problematic but sees different problems arising in teen use.

“The biggest difference between the two is that, if you can keep someone away from nicotine until their mid to late 20s, then they will tend to avoid it for life,” Steed said.

“So with e-cigarettes it’s easier to get away with it at a younger age than even 17 or 18... although the harm is less (with e-cigs) younger people are putting themselves at risk by using those e-cigarettes.”

The increase in teen vaping is commonly attributed to the trendy nature of the vapes or the sleek design of the Juul. However, this is not always the case. Unlike Thomas, some teens are often drawn to vapes due to serious underlying issues.

“I was struggling with some really terrible anxiety, panic attacks, just anxiety altogether, said 18-year-old Jake Anderson of Evansville, who started vaping without smoking cigarettes first.

“I went to the doctor and I got prescribed anxiety medication for it and it didn’t help,” he said. “I decided to just try whatever I could...so I ended up getting (a vape) with the lowest amount of nicotine juice and it helped me and it still helps me a lot.”

Thomas, who started vaping for fun, said the habit has helped him with his attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

“I have ADHD so I’m always doing something,” he said, “and it’s given me a really good way to calm the nerves and sort of calm me down.”

Despite the calming effects, Steed said,



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY RONALD WAGNER JR./ CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
David Morgan, manager of D & J Vapors, vapes outside the Bowling Green shop.

## KENTUCKY LAWS ON E-CIGARETTES

Despite the risks e-cigarettes have been proven to pose, Kentucky leaves them mostly unregulated.

- E-cigarettes aren’t defined as tobacco products.
- E-cigarette packaging isn’t required to have childproofing or safety warnings.
- No non-sales tax is placed on e-cigarettes.
- No license is required for stores to sell e-cigarettes.
- No one under 18 is allowed to buy or own e-cigarettes.
- E-cigarettes are forbidden on state property.
- Child-care workers aren’t allowed to smoke indoors or around children.
- E-cigarettes aren’t allowed in underground mines.

Source: Public Health Law Center

vaping can lead to a plethora of lung diseases that restrict airflow, mouth and throat irritation, cardiovascular issues such as raised blood pressure and increased heartbeat. The nicotine in e-cigs can also cause anxiety.

That being said, vaping does help many people quit cigarettes. A study conducted by Harvard Medical School found that vaping is 8% more effective than nicotine replacement therapy such as nicotine patches or nicotine gum. However, vaping is not help-

ful in quitting nicotine as 80% of those who quit with vapes continued to vape after the study. Only 9% of those in the nicotine-replacement group continued to use their nicotine products.

“(Vapes) can be an alternative to help people stop smoking,” Steed said. “It can be a benefit. It’s one of our harm reduction techniques when we’re counseling people to stop smoking cigarettes. It is less harmful than cigarettes.”

David Morgan, manager of D&J Vapor

in Bowling Green, used e-cigarettes to quit smoking cigarettes. He attributed vaping to becoming healthier.

“I’ve smoked for 15 years, I’ve been off cigarettes for almost four,” Morgan said. “I feel 10 times better than I did when I smoked.”

Jake Finer, a St. Louis high school graduate, does not vape. Although many of his underage friends do, he tried it but decided it was not for him.

“I don’t like the way nicotine makes me feel,” Finer said. “It makes me feel nauseous, it gives me a headache and it increases my anxiety.”

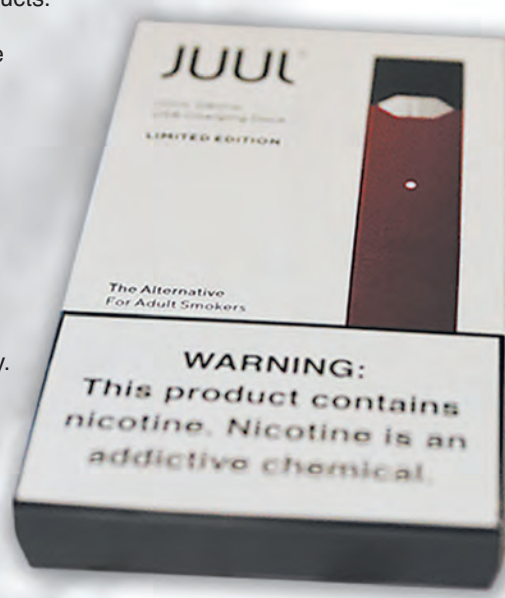
Finer does not approve of his friends’ vaping habits and feels they do not fully understand what they are doing to their bodies.

“I think (my friends) are naïve,” Finer said. “I feel like (vape companies) are taking advantage of the lack of knowledge and are providing false advertising.”

This is the reality for many teens. Awareness is low, and sales are high. Finer said he doesn’t see any significant health problems or mental problems among his friends that vape but the dependence on nicotine vaping develops.

“I see a lot of withdrawals if they don’t have their nicotine,” Finer said. “I see a lot of my friends becoming agitated, becoming nervous and super tense if they don’t have their nicotine.”

Ronald Wagner Jr. of St. Louis, Noah Grebe of Louisville and Abby Adams-Smith of Bowling Green contributed to this report.







GWEN HATCHER/ BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

Alison Lee, one of the nation's top-rated car tuners, works on "Great Expectations III" at the Holley National Hot Rod Reunion.

# OFF TO THE RACES WOMEN SHOW SKILLS ON TRACK

BY GWEN HATCHER  
Bowling Green High School

Drag races such as the Holley National Hot Rod Reunion at Beech Bend Park have always been male dominated events. Mendy Fry, a drag racer, and Alison Lee, a car tuner, prove that women in the racing world can be just as successful as the men.

Fry, a dragster from Southern California competing in the NHRA, began driving at 4 years old. Now, 46 years later, Fry participates in high-level drag races frequently, and even won the 2018 NHRA Hot Rod Heritage Series Nostalgia Top Fuel Points title.

"I always say I was my dad's only boy," Fry said. "He wanted a boy but he got me, so he stuck me in a quarter midget when I was four and I was working in his shop growing up."

Fry's racing lifestyle began with dirt car racing from the age of 4 up to 12 and then took a turn for the rest of her life when her dad introduced her to drag racing.

"I don't know what I would do if I didn't drag race," Fry said. "I have a pretty involved day job [as a CPA] and this really keeps me centered and sane. It keeps me connected to a part of my childhood that I never want to lose."

Even with the fame of being an NHRA champion, Fry still lets everyone know that winning a drag race is a team



GWEN HATCHER/BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

An array of vintage cars lined up with engines exposed at the Holley National Hot Rod Reunion.

accomplishment.

"I just want to acknowledge how hard my team works," Fry said. "Drag races are won in the shop, right? You execute out here, but all of the preparation is in the shop."

Just a few trailers down from Fry was another car called "Great Expectations III" being quickly worked on by Alison Lee. Lee, in her mid-70s, is a native from a town called The

Plains, Virginia, and has been named one of the best car tuners in the nation. Her name appears in multiple halls of fame, being described as a "piece of history" by Malcolm Miller, a six-year attendee of the event.

"Someone asked, 'Do you have great expectations for that car this weekend?'" and I thought that might be a good name," said Lee, describing the name of the hot rod.

Lee began tuning cars back in 1963 with her husband, Jim Lee, and they haven't stopped after 56 years except to send their kids to college. Their fame quickly grew, and their car "Great Expectations II" was the main attraction of a car show hosted by President Richard Nixon at the White House in 1971.

Of the 56 years tuning cars, Lee hasn't gotten tired of her passion at all, and it shows through the dedicated work she puts into her "Great Expectations" cars. Her determination to compete is the main reason she has seen great success throughout her years.

"All of us have our competitive nature I think," Lee said. "It's just whether we're able to do it or not."

Lee, like most other attendees of the Holley National Hot Rods Reunion, believes that the people are the best part of the event, and that they keep the event exciting and refreshing.

"It's fun seeing all of our friends, you know," Lee said. "I don't feel 75, 76, whatever I am, I still feel about 50."



HENRI ABOAH/ LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL

Sidewalks are being replaced in downtown Bowling Green near Fountain Square.

## Fountain Square project moves toward completion next spring

BY ANIYA JOHNSON  
duPont Manual High School

Construction on downtown Bowling Green's Fountain Square project is on schedule as workers focus on sidewalk and lighting improvements this week.

On Friday, crews demolished sidewalks and poured new ones on State Street and Park Row. The five-phase \$3.9 million project, which began in February, is scheduled to be finished no later than the spring of 2020.

Vehicle traffic was not disrupted, but pedestrians are being rerouted as the sidewalk work is done.

Ultimately, the project's goal is to increase downtown Bowling Green's walkability and make the area more urban. Scott and Murphy Construction is the contractor on the project.

Sixteen weeks into the project, businesses are making the best of the disruption.

Shops, restaurants, banks and other storefronts all remain open during construction, according to [www.bgdowntownsquare.com](http://www.bgdowntownsquare.com).

Nate Settler, an employee at Spencer's Coffee, said customers have talked about the inconveniences but are still

coming in for their caffeine fixes.

"I don't think (construction) would stop anybody from coming in here," Settler said. "But we did get a lot of complaints like, 'Business is slowing down.' and 'It's so hard to get into this place,'" Settler said.

When all is said and done, the coffee shop will have more nearby places for customers to park.

"We did lose a couple (spaces) right in front of our store, but we're going to get some more after all," Settler said.

In addition to the area becoming more walkable, the historic Fountain Square Park, dedicated in 1872 and the site of many of the city's celebrations and protests through the decades, will be made larger.

"We are right now making a bigger park area," said Dylan Elmore, a construction employee. "More grass, more trees, I love it down here," Elmore said.

Marie Wilson, a frequent visitor to Fountain Square Park, said she, too, likes the changes. "It's pretty down here. At first, I thought Bowling Green was just a small city, but we've grown a lot," she said.

To keep tabs on the project, visit [www.bgdowntownsquare.com](http://www.bgdowntownsquare.com) or text "BG" to 313131 to receive push notifications on construction updates.

## Village

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Reagle said crews will demolish Bemis Lawrence starting in August because a portion of the existing building stands in the footprint of the first of the new Freshman Village halls. Barnes-Campbell, he said, will remain in use until after both new buildings are complete and then will be torn down.

The new residence halls on the south end of WKU's main campus have been in the planning stages for five or six years, Reagle said.

"The original plans had the buildings open at different times. Because we are delayed on this, there is no way we can complete construction that quickly," he said. "Both buildings will open in the fall of 2021. We're looking at about two years of construction."

The entire project will cost about \$50 million, Reagle said. "That will include everything in the project from the demolition of both Bemis and Barnes, the construction of the two new buildings, the tearing out of the parking lot (near Pearce-Ford Tower), as well as building a new parking lot to replace that parking on the north end of the campus," he said.

Few will miss Bemis Lawrence or Barnes-Campbell, both of which opened in 1966.

"Throughout the year the bathrooms were so bad," Drake Watson, a former Bemis resident, said. "There was mold growing on the walls and the ceiling. It was bad."

The new Freshman Village buildings will be "pod-style" residence halls, with small groups of rooms sharing a common area and restroom facilities.

While Reagle said he understands that students prefer suite-style rooms that share bathrooms of hotel-style, where each room has its own facilities, he said WKU chose to build the pod-style dorms to both save money and encourage students to interact.

"We know that's what students want but [we] also know that students don't want to take Biology 101 or English Literature, but we know that to develop mentally that's what they need to do," Reagle said. "So it's balancing what students want with what as professionals we know are the things students need to be successful."

"Students interact better with one another when there are public restrooms rather than if they just have restrooms built into [their] room."

Building suite-style rooms, he said, would have added \$5 million to \$7 million to the price tag of the project.



Inside Bemis Hall, WKU students left their mark before the building is demolished. PRESTON ROMANOV/ TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL



# 2019 WKU XPOSURE WORKSHOP



SAM UPSHAW JR./ XPOSURE PHOTO COACH

2019 Xposure Workshop students and staff pose for a group photo near Van Meter Hall. Back row, Bob Adams, Toni Mitchell, Lily Burris, Ronald Wagner Jr., Brody Rexing, Preston Romanov, Gwen Hatcher, Michael Casagrande, Henri Aboah, Noah Grebe, Chuck Logsdon, Chuck Clark. Front row, Hayley Watson, Amy Galloway, Kathy Williams, Sydney Madry, Aniya Johnson, Abby Adams-Smith, Kennedy Gayheart, Makaio Smith, Kayla Golliver, Gary Hairlson.

## NOAH GREBE DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

BY CHUCK LOGSDON  
Henry Clay High School

Camera in hand, Noah Grebe documented the teacher protest that disrupted Kentucky's state capitol last spring.

Instead of learning from his teachers in the classroom, the sophomore from DuPont Manual High School got on-the-job training in videography, photojournalism and state politics.

On March 12, more than 1,000 Kentucky teachers called in sick to protest certain education bills that were before the General Assembly.

Many of these teachers gathered at the capitol to make their voices heard, and Grebe, 16, was there to document it for his school magazine, *On the Record*.

This was not Grebe's first experience with videography, but it was the first time he realized he could combine his two passions — journalism and film.

"It was really cool to be able to film the teacher sickouts," Grebe said. "My teacher asked me to find a ride to Frankfort in order to get some videos and pictures. I was honored to be called upon to do that. It was really cool because it was a really big event."

For Grebe, film has played an important role in his life. He attributes it to helping him overcome certain challenges, espe-



CHUCK LOGSDON/ HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

cially being shy.

"[Film] is how I first made friends," Grebe said. "It allows me to meet people, and it brings people together."

Part of Grebe's love of journalism stems from being a sports fan. Attending sporting events with his family, he got the opportunity to see sports from a journalistic standpoint.

"When I would go to games I would see photographers with press passes and really big cameras," Grebe said. "It would be really cool to see the pictures in the newspaper the next morning. I thought it was really cool to see the pictures being taken first hand."

University of Kentucky football and basketball games have had a major influ-

ence on Grebe.

"Going to games is what got me interested in sports journalism," Grebe said. "I think there is a lot of interesting stories besides just reporting the score... I think it's interesting to tell stories about the players or stuff off the court that shakes things up."

Grebe's passion for videography has grown as he has developed his skills for video production.

"I've always just enjoyed editing stuff," Grebe said, "but I didn't really take it seriously until recently."

Grebe's drive is rooted in the human side of filmmaking. He wants his work to touch people on a personal level.

"My proudest moments are making videos and seeing how they affect people," Grebe said. "Making people happy is really cool, like seeing them say, 'Wow, I really like this,' about one of my videos."

In his upcoming junior year, Grebe will work for the CSPN sports-based journalistic publication at his high school. He also has begun to organize shooting music videos.

"I found out, in Louisville, there are tons of struggling musicians and one thing that all of them want is music videos," Grebe said. "I'm already planning to do one with a kid from another high school, I sent him some stuff I edited and we are just trying to figure out a date."

## ANIYA JOHNSON DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

BY GWEN HATCHER  
Bowling Green High School

Life became challenging for Aniya Johnson in the eighth grade when her mother was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

"I'm not gonna lie, I was scared," said Johnson, now 16 and a rising senior at duPont Manual High School in Louisville.

Johnson had been in this position before — she had previously seen a grandmother and grandfather die, one of them from cancer.

"I was honestly just thinking, 'I hope she doesn't die,'" Johnson said.

"I hoped one day that when I came home from school I didn't get news that she had passed away."

Despite the challenge of these events, Johnson applied to go to duPont Manual.

Her mother, now cancer free, was a big inspiration.

"She was always like, 'Just go for it, just go for it, you never know,'" Johnson said. "I also looked up to people who came from my city and made it big, like Jennifer Lawrence and Diane Sawyer."

With all of the inspiration from her mother, teachers and even local Louisville celebrities, Johnson was accepted into duPont Manual's magnet for journalism



GWEN HATCHER/ BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

and communications.

"I just always doubted myself," said Johnson. "I couldn't believe it when I got in."

Attending the magnet, Johnson said, sets her up for success.

"The environment is very different from any other high school in my county,"

Johnson said. "The teachers are very passionate about what they teach, and there's always a place for everyone at duPont Manual."

Johnson wasn't completely sure what she wanted to pursue as a career before being accepted to the school. Now, after attending duPont Manual for three years,

the school has inspired her to pursue a career in journalism. Johnson looks forward to participating in internships, working with local news organizations and even becoming a freelance writer.

Johnson has fond memories for an earlier passion for theater. She started in theater in third grade, ultimately setting up a path for her interest in the arts.

"I was 7 or 8 years old when we would all do theatre for about an hour a day," Johnson said.

This early exposure to the world of acting opened Johnson's eyes to her beloved hobby and simultaneously sparked early inspiration for her future dream of pursuing journalism.

In middle school, she got even more exposure to theater.

"We would do small performances each class," Johnson said. "We did a bunch of improvisation, and I would even perform in front of 700 people, playing villains and stuff like that."

"Pretending to be reporters with my friends in theater class in sixth grade was my first memory of journalism becoming an interest to me," Johnson recalled.

Johnson's art imitating life would become her life imitating that art, and set her on her career path.



# RON WAGNER JR. CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**BY KENNEDY GAYHEART**  
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

He started with a mobile phone, then moved to higher quality Canon cameras. Then Ronald Wagner Jr. created his own photography business. He was 15.

Wagner, now 17, believes that photography is an essential part in creating memories and being able to cherish them.

His first experience with photography was through a class at school.

“But the rest is self-taught,” said Wagner, a rising senior from Crossroads College Prep in St. Louis, Missouri.

He started with the basics, taking pictures using his iPhone. When his interest in photography kept growing, he asked his dad, Ronald Sr., for his old camera, a Canon Rebel T2i. Now, the camera he uses most is a Canon 80D.

Wagner has no problem working by himself. He even prefers it. He learns most of his skills on his own through experience and trial and error.

“Anything that I can pick up and try and learn that’s physical, I’m going to try and do it,” Wagner said, “Luckily, photography and a camera has just been that thing.”

As he developed more skills in capturing special moments, he considered making it a career. He created his own



KENNEDY GAYHEART/PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

photography business, Ronald Wagner Photography, shooting weddings, senior portraits, landscaping and real estate.

“I don’t see myself wanting to ever have to start my first job being at Schnuck’s (supermarket) or McDonald’s,” Wagner

said. “I don’t want to work for people. I want to work for myself. I can pay myself, I can employ myself, and I can’t ever fire myself from my own job.”

He has been working for himself for about two years and plans on going to the

University of Memphis to study photography and further his skills.

He said he’d also like to start advertising his business. At present, he hands out business cards and advertises by word of mouth. Wagner said he has an event to shoot about once a week.

Wagner added that he also makes twice the money that his friends make at other part-time jobs at fast food restaurants.

The thing Wagner likes the most about having his own business is “telling people that I have my own business,” Wagner said, laughing.

Wagner also enjoys being able to combine a hobby and a career. Editing his own photos is cool, too.

“Editing is about 60% of the fun to me, shooting is actually 40%,” Wagner said.

“I like giving clients their pictures and watching their face light up.”

Photography gives Wagner a way of expressing himself in a way that words can’t.

“There’s so much power in a picture and I like having that power,” Wagner said, “kind of strokes my ego, but whatever.”

The love of expression has driven Wagner to find a possible career path. Photography is a universal art that everyone can relate to at some point.

“At the end of the day,” Wagner said, “I think everyone needs a photographer.”

# SYDNEY MADRY LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL

**BY MAKAI O SMITH**  
Atherton High School

Sydney Madry is a no-nonsense kind of young woman.

She owes it, at least in part, to her father.

“My dad has like a tough exterior,” Madry, 17, explained. “He taught me that if somebody ever says something to you, just don’t even pay attention to them.”

Madry, now a rising senior at Louisville’s Male High School, first took his advice to heart back in the third grade when she began wearing glasses.

“When I first got them, people would tease me and call me ‘four eyes,’ but it didn’t really affect me,” she said.

“I guess you could say that I’m not really that sensitive to what people say to me because I just brush it off, like it’s not going to affect me in any way.”

As she’s gotten older – and life’s lessons have gotten tougher – Madry’s no-nonsense approach has continued to serve her well.

When considering a career in broadcast journalism, she saw a lot of women of color such as herself, but they mostly wore their hair straightened.

Then one day, she said, she noticed Renee Murphy, then an anchor at WHAS-TV in Louisville, had changed the way she did her hair.

“When Renee Murphy went from straight hair to natural hair, it really impacted me a lot,” Madry said.

Her doubts about pursuing a career in journalism were erased. “It shows that there will be change in the future and after she did that, many other news broadcasters went natural,” Madry added. “Before that, I rarely saw any diversity in this career.”

“If the broadcaster was a black woman, they would have to straighten their hair to fit to European standards and I don’t want to be the one that has to fit to their standards,” Madry said. “She completely inspired me.”

Soon after, Madry took a journalism class and joined the school newspaper, the



MAKAI O SMITH/ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Brook n’ Breck.

Even when the adversity is personal, Madry maintains her poise and positive attitude.

Madry has fond memories of growing up with her three older brothers. “When we all used to live together, we did the normal things,” she said. “We were all very close. We played video games, built forts with blankets and stuff.”

Two of her brothers remain close, but one has virtually disappeared. Madry said he “just went MIA for some reason. He just never calls me, never sees if I’m OK.”

Madry is at a loss to explain the disappearance. “I don’t know if he and his current girlfriend are still together. I don’t even know where he lives.”

“I still have two other brothers that help me,” she said.

But that strong exterior, instilled by her dad long ago, continues to serve her well. And she’s determined to keep that no-nonsense attitude going forward.

“In the future I’m going to do something,” Madry said. “I’m not going to be emotional and cry over something irrelevant and ignorant.”

# PRESTON ROMANOV TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

**BY RONALD WAGNER JR.**  
Crossroads College Preparatory School

A child of immigrants, Preston Romanov is determined to give himself a better life than his parents had. Part of his plan to do that includes becoming the first person in his family to attend college.

Preston’s parents, Andre and Lana, came to the United States from the former Soviet Union in 1991 with the country in turmoil.

“Communism in Russia was a time where maybe you didn’t get food, or maybe there was sickness, and all the education was doctored; they were learning that Stalin was a great leader,” Romanov said.

While Romanov doesn’t speak Russian, he understands the language and has inherited a slight accent from his parents.

Though his immediate family is small with just three of them, it’s perfect for him, he said.

“They have been great parents to me,” Romanov said.

Having a perfect home life wasn’t enough though.

“You’re in high school, Preston,” he recalled thinking to himself. “You should be out there doing something. You should find your passion.”

After his freshman year at Trinity High School in Louisville, Romanov worked on figuring out what his passion was by packing his schedule with social, academic and extracurricular activities.

Debate was one of the first new things he took on. International news is one of the 18-year-old’s best sources of new information for debate ammunition.

He attended the Governor’s School for Entrepreneurs, Kentucky Youth Assembly, and Kentucky United Nations Assembly.

Now a rising senior at Trinity, Romanov will edit the school newspaper, the ECHO, in the coming year.

Romanov is a fan of politics and foreign affairs, and helped create thenewvoice.co, a student-run, news website.

“I just love politics in general because I find them kind of fascinating to watch, to look at, to observe,” he said. “I find it so



RONALD WAGNER JR./CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

entertaining. They’re really never boring.”

The site deals mostly with politics, with content written by about 30 students.

“The whole idea is in the name (of the website),” Romanov said. “We want our generation to be heard. Our voices matter. They are important.”

The website has been a huge part of his development.

“Coming into high school, and especially after freshman year, I have just really matured,” Romanov said. “My vocabulary is better. ... I am more talkative — more informative. What I love about high school is the activities that I am involved in. I am always challenging myself, to just do more, be more and to do something different.”

At the heart of all that he has accomplished are his parents — his No. 1 supporters, he said.

They are also the reason he wants to attend college and pursue journalism.

“I need to be the one to start the trend in the Romanov family,” he said, “to get a college education, and an increase in a better career, and to find a better financial standing and gain stability.”



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## THANK YOU

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Private funds and your generosity allow Xposure to continue giving aspiring journalists an opportunity that can change their lives. You can mail a check, made out to WKU Foundation, to WKU Student Publications, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #11084, Bowling Green, KY 42101, with “Xposure Workshop” as the note. To give with a credit card, go to WKU.edu and click on “Make a Gift” at the top of the page and follow the steps; please type in “Xposure Workshop” in the designation field. Every dollar helps.





PRESTON ROMANOV/ TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

# KENNEDY GAYHEART

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

BY PRESTON ROMANOV  
Trinity High School

As incoming editor-in-chief of the school newspaper at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington, Kennedy Gayheart, 17, is taking over just months after the paper made national news.

The PLD Lamplighter, an award-winning publication, has for many years had a solid reputation in scholastic journalism circles.

But she and her fellow student journalists never expected to be caught in the middle of a news story involving both Kentucky's governor and the U.S. Secretary of Education — a story that even captured the attention of the Washington Post and other national news outlets.

"It was very crazy to think that a little public school like us from Lexington here in Kentucky made it on to multiple national news sources," Gayheart said. "It was such a big deal for the school and our journalism program."

Kennedy, a rising senior, said the story began when three of her fellow student journalists showed up to cover a roundtable discussion on education and charter schools being held at a local public community college. This event saw numerous notable attendees, including Gov. Matt Bevin and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Despite showing proper identification, however, the students were refused entry and sent home.

They were told they had not sent in an RSVP, though the event had been advertised as open. They walked back to their car disappointed, angry and confused.

Reaction was swift. The students wrote about the experience in an editorial, which Gayheart helped write.

Titled "No Seat at the Roundtable," the editorial read, "It was heartbreaking to us, as young journalists fired up to cover an event regarding the future of education, to leave empty handed."

The piece received 12,000 hits just days after publication. "We reached an audience wider than we ever imagined," Gayheart said.

The students' work was supported, Gayheart said, by PLD journalism adviser and former reporter for the Lexington Herald Leader, Wendy Turner.

Gayheart and several classmates were soon after invited to an event called "Moving Public Education Forward" in Columbus, Ohio, for public school teachers and administrators. They were asked to attend by Diane Ravitch, a former assistant U.S. Secretary of Education and an outspoken advocate for public schools.

Gayheart said Ravitch had read the Washington Post piece about them, as well as the student-written editorial.

"She contacted us and said she was really inspired by all of us and was calling us young heroes of journalism," Gayheart said.

Outside of journalism, Gayheart enjoys singing, playing golf, and participating in her school's cultural fair. She also plays the violin. This past spring, she pushed herself out of her comfort zone by joining the school musical.

Gayheart is looking for a small college that has a great emphasis on journalism. She is considering Western Kentucky University and Asbury University. Gayheart said her dream job would be executive producer on a comedy TV show.

The overwhelming support the Lamplighter staff received was "really motivating," Gayheart said. It also made her realize that even student journalists can make a big impact.

"It's important for all young people and students to have a voice in society," she said, "especially when we're discussing the future of children's education and moving forward."



RONALD WAGNER JR. / CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Former Xposure student and College Heights Herald editor Ashlee Clark Thompson, culture editor at Louisville Public Media, gets a hug from Bob Adams, a longtime workshop adviser.

# GWEN HATCHER BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

BY ANIYA JOHNSON  
duPont Manual High School

Gwen Hatcher knew singing would play a big role in her life as early as the fourth grade. She recalls a moment when she won a coveted spot in a choir, despite stiff competition from a rival.

"The student and I have always competed against each other. Once I won, I was proud that I had finally beat her at something," Hatcher said.

Now, as a 16-year-old rising senior at Bowling Green High, she continues to sing choir and a cappella.

"It's really fun. Sometimes we'll just break out and sing and it's really funny," Hatcher said.

Hatcher has especially taken a liking to her a cappella group and the people she has befriended through it.

"The people are outgoing and willing to be your friend," Hatcher said. "They make everyone feel welcome; that's probably the reasons why I have been doing it for so long."

Singing has played a major role in Hatcher's life, but she has deliberated over other career paths, especially journalism.

Her dad was a photojournalist and a Western Kentucky University alumnus, so she grew up hearing about journalism.

"He had me start at an early age," Hatcher said.

Both of her parents encouraged her to



ANIYA JOHNSON/ DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

take a journalism class in the sixth grade, but scheduling conflicts kept her from going any further in journalism until high school.

"I kept journalism in my head," Hatcher said, "and in my sophomore year, I applied for the school newspaper and got in."

Hatcher works as a writer on the school newspaper, The Purple Gem. She has been on its staff for two years.

Hatcher said she would like to be a report-

er so she can focus on feature writing. She still finds herself juggling music and journalism, but hopes she can continue to do both.

Inspired by a picture of an Oregon waterfall, Hatcher hopes to eventually live there.

Until then, she has plans to stay in Bowling Green to attend Western Kentucky University to take full advantage of its accomplished journalism program and student publications.

# HENRI ABOAH LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL

BY ABBY ADAMS-SMITH  
Bowling Green High School

For Henri Aboah, family goes beyond blood or borders.

Her parents are from the West African country of Liberia, and much of her family still lives there, including her father and five half-siblings.

"Everybody on my dad's side... and a lot of my mom's side lives there, too," said Aboah, a first-generation American, born just months after her mother's immigration.

Last summer, the 17-year-old went to Liberia and met her father for the first time.

"My mom took me to Liberia... to meet her family," she said. "Then, I went to see my dad... and I met two of the five [siblings]. I met the other three over video chat."

Since her relationship with her Liberian relatives is limited, she said, "I still consider myself an only child."

Instead, Aboah has found her strongest familial connections among Louisville's Liberian community.

"The ones here in the States, they're not blood-related, but we still consider each other family because they're all from Liberia," she explained.

"In our culture, everyone is family." Her mom has made sure her life in America is enriched with Liberian traditions.

"I go to Liberian parties, listen to Liberian music, and my mom always makes sure I know that I'm Liberian even though I was born in the States," she said.

Liberian food is another big part of Aboah's life.

"I've eaten Liberian food all my life. I prefer it over American food," she said.

Her favorite? Dry rice.



ABBY ADAMS-SMITH/ BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

"It has okra, white rice, and then what you guys would call Spam..." she said, laughing. "I know it doesn't sound good, but it's really good. It's kind of like fried rice but better."

Aboah is completely comfortable with her dual upbringing.

"I feel evenly connected to both American and Liberian culture. I've never really felt more drawn to one," Aboah said.

She was born in Johnson City, Tennessee, but moved to Louisville as a toddler so her mother could find work.

Aboah said she doesn't admire a lot of people, but her mother is an exception.

"My mom flips houses, so she buys old, dusty houses that need lots of work, and then she renovates. Even though it's super, super stressful for her, she keeps doing it."

"She's a hard worker, a single parent, and she's always provided everything I've

needed."

Aboah is a staff member of Louisville Male High School's student newspaper, the Brook N Breck.

She was introduced to journalism her sophomore year when she took a class on the subject. She originally saw it as an opportunity for an easy class with a teacher she liked, but began to enjoy the subject over time.

"So I kept with it, and my junior year, which I just got finished with, I realized I really loved journalism," Aboah said.

Running, an earlier interest of hers, has morphed into a way to use her journalism skills. Last year, she created a hype video for the men's track team.

"It took me a month to shoot, film, and edit...It came out pretty well, so that's probably the [project] I'm most proud of," Aboah said.





A setting sun silhouettes trees near Culver's restaurant in Bowling Green.

SYDNEY MADRY/ LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL

## ABBY ADAMS-SMITH BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

BY HENRI ABOAH

Louisville Male High School

Abby Adams-Smith has traveled to seven countries and has already mapped out a future career that includes worldwide travel — and she's only 15.

This daughter of two journalists hopes to take up the family practice and visit many more countries. Adams-Smith was 11 when she first decided she was going to follow in her parents' footsteps and become a journalist.

"I was kind of born into it," the rising junior at Bowling Green High said.

The Bowling Green native went on to say that her middle school journalism program also encouraged her to choose a news career.

"That helped me foster my interest in journalism," Adams-Smith said.

Both of her parents have worked for award-winning news organizations, and met when they both worked at the Chicago Tribune. Adams-Smith's mother is currently a photojournalism professor at WKU, and her dad is retired.

Being the child of journalists has its benefits.

"I don't say this in a bragging way," Adams-Smith said, "but I'm fairly well traveled."

She has visited England, Scotland,



HENRI ABOAH/ LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL

Wales, Germany, Italy, France, and Malta. Her mother has visited 13 countries, while her dad has been to 16 or 17 — he's lost count. Adams-Smith hopes she can beat their records.

Among the seven countries she has visited, Malta and France are at the top.

"I'd probably say the No. 1 place I've been is Malta," Adams-Smith said. "It's this little island off the coast of Sicily. I was there during carnival season so that was in the spring and it was just really nice."

Malta, she said, is also "one of the first

countries to legalize gay marriage, so that was cool."

Adams-Smith said France is a close second on her favorites list. She was among one of the last groups of tourists to see the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris before it was severely damaged by an April fire.

"That was wild," she said.

Afterward, when she heard about the fire, Adams-Smith called it "mind blowing."

"I was certainly glad I got to see it," Adams-Smith said. "But at the same time, all of that destruction... I'm glad they were able to deal with it before more damage was done. I'm glad there's been a lot of effort into funding rebuilding. It will be decades before it's restored."

Adams-Smith is reserved by nature and often leaves the talking to others, but she will put herself out there. She has participated in many school and community activities that interest her.

Adams-Smith sang "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" in a community theater production of Phantom of the Opera. She also performed Mark Antony's speech to the Forum from the play Julius Caesar in a community-based show.

She's also tried her hand at writing poetry, but journalistic writing remains her true passion. Where she lacks spoken word, her written work comes through loud and clear.

## MAKAIO SMITH

ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

BY SYDNEY MADRY

Louisville Male High School

In seventh grade, when Makaio Smith most needed love and support from someone who was close, the darkness grabbed her by the neck. She received endless backlash — especially about her body.

The words were hurtful. Smith's mood darkened, and she ended up cutting herself five times. When her mom discovered what was going on, she immediately sent her to a residential program for help.

Now an outgoing 16-year-old, Smith wants to share her story to help give a voice to other young people who are afraid to speak about their mental health.

"I was flooded with emotions... I was really hysterical. I know I was crying a lot," said Smith, a rising junior at Atherton High School in Louisville.

The harsh comments made her second-guess herself and even question her parents' love. She was forced into a deep, dark hole of nothingness. On the day she cut herself, she didn't even realize what had happened.

"It literally felt like I was out of my body," Smith said. "It didn't hurt... it didn't come to my brain until 20 minutes later. I saw blood and I washed it off and at that point, it did hurt and I cried."

Smith participated in group therapy as well as one-on-one sessions at the residential center. She said it was a fellow teen who helped her the most.

"This one girl who had been there for two weeks," Smith said, "she completely changed my outlook. Every day she would say something positive or just be positive... I thought in my head, 'I can be the same way.'"

Smith battled through her hurt with a love for both books and her caring mother. She reminded herself each day how much her mom loved her.



SYDNEY MADRY/ MALE HIGH SCHOOL

"With books, I can escape, and just get into a world where I'm completely filled with warm blankets and fuzzy feelings," she said.

These days, her high school media arts teacher, Rachel Rice, has provided inspiration to Smith. She credits Rice with helping to create her love and passion for journalism.

When Smith turned in her first article in class, Rice edited them and returned them for corrections. Smith said she was completely satisfied with the final story.

Rice has also been her biggest cheerleader.

"When I told her that I got accepted into the [Xposure] program," Smith said, "she was beyond proud of me."

## CHUCK LOGSDON

HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

BY NOAH GREBE

DuPont Manual High School

Chuck Logsdon's hands were drenched in sweat as he prepared to give a speech written for his first debate team competition. He looked around the classroom at the small crowd, which included several parents and members of the speech teams from both schools.

Having recently joined the team, he had newcomer jitters. "It's pretty nerve wracking," said Logsdon, now a 16-year-old rising junior at Henry Clay High School in Lexington.

The anxiety has eased since that first competition, but it never disappears.

"I've gotten really nervous before competitions because my partner and I have to debate with kids from other schools. Sometimes that's a little bit intimidating."

Logsdon puts in a lot of extra hours — on top of regular school work — to stay competitive in debate. Debating requires Logsdon to be an adept researcher, a sharp public speaker and a fast writer when responding to opposing viewpoints. He often has to think on his feet, leaving him exhausted after competitions.

In the end, Logsdon said, the extra work, nerves and extra perspiration are worth it. He has many memories of personal success that he's achieved with the club.

"One of my favorite memories was from my first competition, because my partner and I had won," Logsdon said. "It was awesome to see our hard work pay off and I felt so relieved from all the stress I had during the beginning of our competition."

Logsdon's speech and debate activities grew out of his interest in a possible career in law. He's also thought about being a business owner or an entrepreneur.

"I think it'd be really cool to own a business in the future," Logsdon said. "I think (law would) be cool to study since it's a



NOAH GREBE/ DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL

very risky and rewarding career."

He's also considered trying his hand at journalism. "I'm really interested in journalism, which is why I came to Xposure," Logsdon said.

His list of possible college destinations includes Western Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Cincinnati — all of which offer journalism programs.

Regardless of the uncertainty, Logsdon isn't worried about finding his niche.

"I'm relatively relaxed and I'm not abrasive at all," Logsdon said. "I'm really easy to talk to and work with, so it's easy for me to get along with others and become friends with them."

No matter what Logsdon chooses to do in the future, he feels confident that he's moving in the right direction to set himself up for success.