



PARK CITY

# BOWLING GREEN DAILY NEWS

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SINCE 1854

## Students' readiness rates rise

COLLEGE, CAREER READINESS INCREASES BY 50 PERCENT IN SOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS

By JACKSON FRENCH  
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Five years ago, every school district in Kentucky signed the Commonwealth Commitment to College and Career Readiness, which tasked districts with increasing their rates of college and career readiness by 50 percent over the course of five years.

Now, 112 districts have reached or surpassed their goals, including Glasgow Independent Schools, Warren County Public Schools, Caverna Independent Schools and the Simpson, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Monroe and Metcalfe counties systems.

Glasgow High School raised its CCR rate from 36

percent in the 2009-2010 school year to 78.4 percent in the 2014-15 school year, according to Kentucky Department of Education data.

Glasgow High School Principal Keith Hale said the school's staff has been dedicated to getting students ready to enter the workforce.

"They have opened their doors for professional development," he said. "We have an aggressive professional development plan."

In 2012, the district adjusted scheduling to allow students to take classes at the Barren County Area Technology Center, which is part of Barren

See **READINESS, 6A**

## Home Cafe owner to open downtown restaurant in Vue

THREE-BUILDING RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS GROUNDBREAKING WITHIN 60 DAYS

By CHARLES A. MASON  
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The Vue, a planned \$5 million downtown Bowling Green residential and commercial development, will include a new restaurant operated by a veteran of the city's restaurant community.

Josh Poling, who will celebrate five years as owner-operator of Home Cafe & Marketplace, 2440 Nashville Road, will establish Hickory & Oak restaurant in The Vue. His restaurant's covered patio will overlook Circus Square Park.

The Vue is in Block 4 of the Bowling Green downtown Tax Increment Financing district. The location is on State Street bounded by Seventh and Eighth avenues. It will consist of three buildings, each three stories tall with the restaurant space, office, gym and common areas.

The Vue's detailed development plan was given the green light by the City-County Planning Commission of Warren County in December.

The new restaurant is still in the planning stages, Poling said.

"We're not telling too much. It will be Southern food and bourbon," he said, adding he expects a dinner clientele.

"It is a great opportunity. It's great to be part of downtown," Poling said.

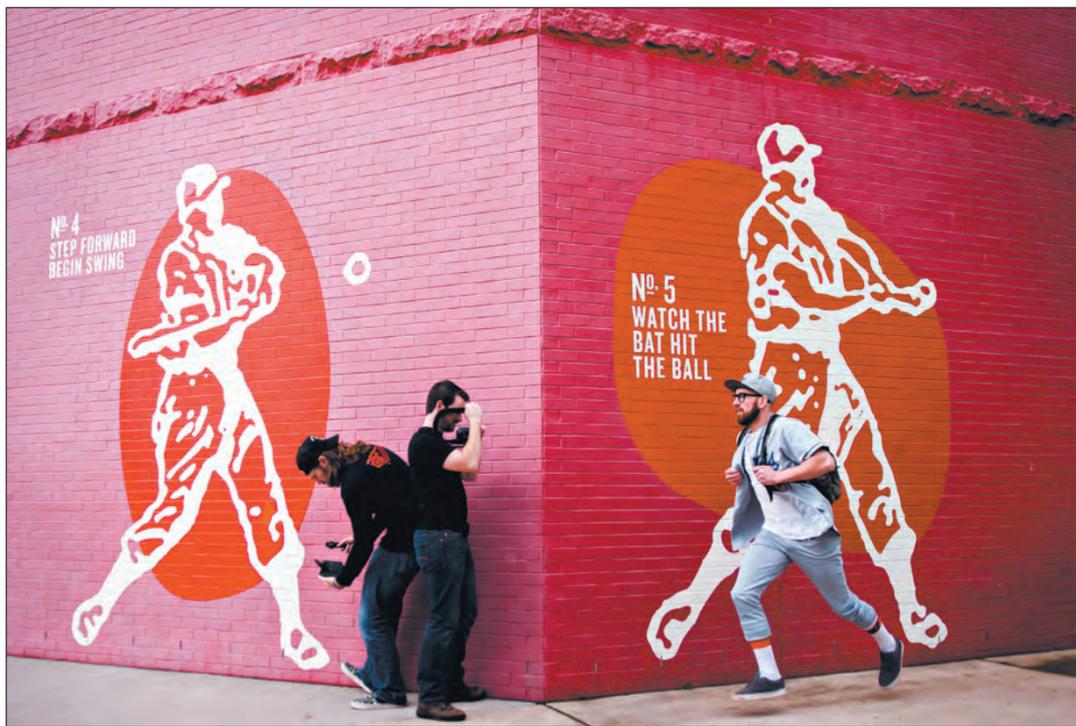
Poling said it will be great to join the efforts of other longtime and new downtown restaurants. Steamers Seafood, inside the revamped Mariah Moore House just across the street, continues in the construction phase and is conducting interviews for employees.

The new Patent Pending Curious Eatery & Bar off

See **VUE, 6A**



JOSH POLING



PHOTOS BY BAC TOTRONG/photo@bgdailynews.com

ALLEN WITCHER (from right) and 254 Productions' Ryan Murphy and Brandon Taylor film Witcher's music video Saturday at Bowling Green Ballpark.

## 'THESE DAYS'

SCOTTSVILLE MAN USES MUSIC TO TELL HIS STORY



ALLEN WITCHER appears Saturday during filming of his music video at the Bowling Green Ballpark.

By SIMONE C. PAYNE  
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After serving three years at Northpoint Training Center for first-degree robbery, Scottsville native Allen Witcher is making an effort to turn his life around and using music as an avenue to tell his story.

Witcher started doing drugs and dropped out of college from Western Kentucky University. In 2012, when he needed money, he tried to do a quick fix instead of getting a job, he said.

"It was the whole downhill slide," Witcher said. "I was selling drugs and then I just decided to rob somebody, which is stupid, but I definitely learned a lot. I think I learned more in prison than I did in college. I read entirely way more books."

Witcher now produces and writes his own music. He filmed his first music video Saturday using locations around downtown such as Bowling Green Ballpark, Fountain Square and the steps at State Street United Methodist Church.

"I know there are a lot of young kids that have dreams of doing stuff and people tell them that they can't do it, or they try to do it the wrong way like by selling drugs ... instead of actually working really hard and actually earning it," Witcher said. "That's what I'm doing this time around. I just want to kind of be a positive influence in that direction."

Witcher sought help with his music video from WKU film student Brandon Taylor, who along with his roommate Ryan Murphy, formed 254 Productions.

See **WITCHER, 6A**

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## TALK OF THE TOWN: Q&A with Stuart Foster

Stuart Foster is a professor in the geography and geology department at Western Kentucky University. He received his doctorate from Ohio State University. He is climatologist for the state of Kentucky and director of the Kentucky Mesonet. His research interests are in quantitative methods, location analysis and geographic information systems.

How remarkable or unremarkable has this winter been in south-



STUART FOSTER

central Kentucky?

Two highlights of this winter were the record warmth of December and the heavy snowfall of January. December, with temperatures reaching as high as the low 70s on several days over the Christmas holiday, was the warmest on record in our area going back more than 120 years. The 12 inches of snow that fell in Bowling Green on Jan. 22 was most ever recorded in one day during the month of January.

What do we have to look forward to for the remainder of winter – any more snow?

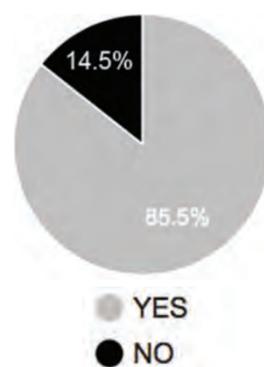
Historically, some of our heaviest snows have occurred in March. However, we anticipate warm weather over the next couple weeks as spring inches closer and closer.

What got you interested in weather and the climate?

Both of my parents grew up on small family farms in Appalachia, and my family was very nature-oriented.

See **TALK, 6A**

## DN POLL



LAST WEEK'S online poll question: Do you think the #OscarsSoWhite issue was overblown at the 88th Academy Awards?

...

THIS WEEK'S online poll question: Do you think Donald Trump will become the Republican Party's presidential nominee? Results will be published March 14.

TOMORROW

76 58

Mostly cloudy

KENTUCKY LOTTERY: SUNDAY

Pick 3: 3-8-7  
Pick 4: 7-5-5-9

IN NATION 7A

Nancy Reagan remembered for her forceful, private style.

IN OPINION 4A

Hillary Clinton's pledge to remove all lead from the U.S. in five years is not possible, columnist Philip Bump writes.

INSIDE

Classified 6B  
Crossword 8B  
Deaths 5A  
Sports 1B  
Sudoku 9B  
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