



Waggener High School



Items of Interest, Obituaries, etc. that may not be in the other PDF's

This is one of many sections that contain information, photos, newspaper articles, internet items, etc. of the St. Matthews area and especially of Waggener High School. Many of the items came from Al Ring's personal collections but many people have helped and I have tried to give credit where I can.

The purpose of this "collection" was to create the history of Waggener and the students and teachers who were there during my time. Being retired I now have time to do many of the things I have always wanted, this project is just one of them. The collection is continuing today, so if you should have old or new information on the St. Matthews area from 1950 to 1962 or Waggener High, please contact Al Ring.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles and photos. Credit to the source of the photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. *The Courier-Journal*, *The Louisville Times* or one of the *Voice* publications. Books that we have used for some information include, *Randy, Cactus, Uncle, Ed and the Golden age of Louisville Television*, *Waggener High School Alumni Directory 1996*, *Waggener Traditional High School Alumni Directory 2007*, *Memories of Fontaine Ferry Park*, *St. Matthews The Crossroads of Beargrass* by Samuel W. Thomas, *St. Matthews, 25 Years a City Two Centuries a Community*, *St. Matthews 1960-1995*, *Waggener Lair's 1958 to 1962*, *The Holy Warrior*, *Muhammad Ali*.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Obituaries , Class of 1960
Brenda Lee Struss Monin, May 13, 2014

Brenda Lee Struss Monin

HARDINSBURG - Monin, Brenda Lee Struss, 71, died Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at Breckinridge Memorial Hospital.

She was born in Jefferson County, KY on June 14, 1942, the daughter of the late William Henry and Willella Vincent Struss. Brenda was a retired teacher having taught many years at St. Romuald Elementary as well as the Breckinridge County School system. She was a member of St. Romuald Catholic Church and involved in many ministries - Eucharistic minister, Altar Society, art and environment and the jail ministry. Brenda was a member of the Breckinridge County Homemakers for over 30 years and was awarded the honor of Homemaker of the Year. She was a Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader and spent many hours tending the flowers in her garden and reading. She and her husband Bill enjoyed travelling.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Sandra Ruth Struss Knight.

Brenda is survived by her husband of 51 years, William R. Monin Sr. of Hardinsburg; four children, William R. Monin Jr. (Jessica) of Irvington, KY, Michael Thomas Monin (Kaye) of Bardstown, KY, Leeann Michelle Monin Hudnall (Jeremy) of Morgantown, KY and Laura Suzanne Monin Boldt (Chad) of Nashville, TN; eight grandchildren, Joshua Kyle, Katherine Ann and Jacob David Monin, Justin Tyler, Jared Bryce and Landon Struss Hudnall, Grayton Lee Boldt and William Connor Ferguson; and brother, William Henry "Sonny" Struss Jr. of Boone, NC.

Funeral services will be held at St. Romuald Catholic Church on Saturday at 11 a.m. CDT with Fr. Tony Bickett and Deacon Mike Wiedemer officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation at Trent-Dowell Funeral Home is on Friday, 3-8 p.m. CDT and after 8:30 a.m. CDT Saturday.

Memorial contributions are requested to: Breckinridge County Animal Friends, St. Romuald School or Catholic Charities. Online guest register: www.trentdowell.com

Obituaries , Class of 1960

Patricia La Foy "Patti" (Cary) Vaughn, 2016

Patricia La Foy "Patti" (Cary) Vaughn

1944 - 2016  Obituary  Condolences



Vaughn, Patricia "Patti" La Foy (Cary).

age 72 of Louisville, passed away Sunday, August 28, 2016.

Daughter of the late Mildred (Roby) and William H. Cary, III, she was born on January 14, 1944 in Louisville. A 1962 graduate of Waggener High School, she attended UK where she met her husband, Patrick Vaughn. She was a homemaker and member of Calvary Episcopal Church where she was a tireless volunteer serving the Episcopal Church Women's Board, the Norton Hospital Gift Shop and the Episcopal Church Home Gift Shop. She was the first president of the South Oldham High School PTA, serving two years during the development of the school programs. Anyone who knew Patti reaped the rewards of her constant love and devotion. Patti was preceded in death by a nephew, Robbie Bryant.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Pat Vaughn of Pewee Valley; daughter, Cary Daugherty (Chuck) of Louisville; son, Will Vaughn (Tracy) of Prospect; sister, Carol Wheaton of Savannah, GA; brother, Will Cary (Kathy) of Louisville; twin grandchildren, Madeline and Andrew Vaughn; cousin and best friend, Karen Bettie (Craig), of Crestwood.

Funeral Service will be 10 AM on Friday, September 2, 2016 at Calvary Episcopal Church (821 South Fourth Street; Louisville, KY 40203), officiated by Rev. Ronald DelBene. Graveside Service: 12:30 PM Friday at New Castle Cemetery. Visitation 5-8 PM on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at the Ratterman Brothers Funeral Home facility (3711 Lexington Road; Louisville, KY 40207). Arrangements are entrusted to Prewitt New Castle Funeral Home (prewitts.com).

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be given to Calvary Episcopal Church.

Published in The Courier-Journal on Aug. 31, 2016

Obituaries , Class of 1960
Frank King Jr., September 10, 2017

Frank King Jr.

1942 - 2017 ▾ Obituary ▸ Condolences ▸ Flowers



King, Frank Jr.,

Frank King Jr., 75, of Midland, Michigan, passed away Sunday morning, September 10, 2017 at the MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland. He was born January 20, 1942 in Nashville, Tennessee. He is the son of the late Frank 'PeeWee' and Lydia H. (Frank) King. Growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, Frank was a Boy Scout and through his dedication was able to become an Eagle Scout, the highest honor a Boy Scout can obtain. After graduating from Waggener High School in Louisville, he was drawn to the J.B. Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville. He graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's in Civil Engineering. Frank and Harriet met while attending U of L and were married in 1969. Soon after marriage, they moved to Midland where both worked for the Dow Chemical Company. During Frank's time with the company, he held multiple patents. After several years with Dow, Frank decided to follow his entrepreneurial passion. He became the owner of Kawkawlin Manufacturing Company which he held for 40 years. With the desire to further his education, Frank returned to the world of academia, earning his Master's in Business Administration from Central Michigan University in 1974. He was a very thoughtful and generous person to which he was known for his contributions to many religious and non-profit organizations. He loved spending time with his family, watching sports, boating, fishing and being innovative.

Frank is survived by his wife Harriet King of Midland; son Frank A. King III of Moran, Wyoming; sister Marietta (Dean) Wuchtert; and brothers Gene (Pam) King and Larry (Shirley) King all of Louisville, Kentucky. He is also survived by many beloved nieces and nephews as well as their children.

A memorial service for Frank will take place 11 a.m. Friday, September 15, 2017 from the chapel at First United Methodist Church in Midland, MI with Pastor Jung Eun Yum officiating. His family will receive friends at the church from 10 a.m. until the time of service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Blessing the Children International (www.blessingthechildren.org, 888-269-2719) or the National Parkinson Foundation.

Published In The Courier-Journal on Sept. 14, 2017

Obituaries , Class of 1960
Samuel Pollitt III., September 11, 2017

Samuel POLLITT III

1942 - 2017 ▾ Obituary ▸ Condolences ▸ Flowers



POLLITT, Samuel, III,

passed away on Monday, September 11th, 2017 at Baptist Health Louisville.

He was born on March 9, 1942 in Elizabethtown, Ky to the late Samuel and Frances Pollitt.

He was President and Principle Broker of First Development of Kentucky. He developed Woodcroft Subdivision, Beckley Woods Subdivision, 10,000 Office Park, and Lexington Square Office Park. He was a member of the Louisville Home Builders Association and Louisville Board of Realtors. As a young man, he had served as a Captain in the United States Army and was a graduate of the University of Louisville.

In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by a sister Mabel Whitted and a brother Michael Pollitt.

He is survived by devoted wife of 46 years, Linda Rumbaugh Pollitt; his children, Leslie Ann Pollitt (Sam Kohn), Beth Pollitt Tinsley (Kyle Tinsley), and Sarah Jean Pollitt (William Powell); grandchildren Adlai, Elliott and Charles Kohn, Zoe, Skyler, and Tuck Tinsley and his brothers Paul and Basil Pollitt (Alyce).

Funeral Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 16, 2017 at Ratterman Funeral Home, 12900 Shelbyville Road, East Louisville. Visitation will be prior, starting at

12 pm until service time at 2 pm.

Memorial gifts in the form of contributions may be made to the Donor's charity of choice.

Published in The Courier-Journal from Sept. 14 to Sept. 16, 2017

Obituaries , Class of 1960
Harry Savells, Sr., May 15, 2019



Harry Savells, Sr.

November 20, 1942 ~ May 15, 2019 (age 76)

[Obituary & Services](#)

[Tribute Wall](#) 13

Obituary

Harry Savells, Sr., age 76, of Edgewater, died Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at Advent Health Daytona Beach. Born in Louisville, Kentucky to Calvin H. Sr. and LaMoyne Savells, Harry came to the area in 2004 from Louisville, KY.

A member of Beargrass Christian Church, Louisville, KY, Harry was a retired Industrial Arts teacher, his most important moments were spending time with his family and he enjoyed woodworking, woodworking and more woodworking. Harry was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Sandra; 2 daughters, Katherine Savells M.D. (Jeff Sosnowski M.D.) and Elizabeth Savells (Chi Phan); 2 sons, Harry Savells, Jr. and David (Jessica) Savells; 5 grandchildren and sister, Dianne (Darryl) Hammond. Harry was preceded in death by a brother, Calvin Savells, Jr.

Private service will be at a later date in Louisville, KY.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest donations to the Salvation Army, Salvation Army, 1555 LPGA Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

Obituaries , Class of 1960

David Brown Simpson, June 22, 2019

David Brown Simpson

1942 - 2019

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David Brown Simpson

Louisville - Age, 77, passed away peacefully June 22nd. Born April 27th, 1942 to Mary Ruth and Jesse Fred Simpson, he is survived by his sons David Brown Simpson Jr., Jeffery Frederick Simpson, Austin Gregory (Tracey) Simpson, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Mike (Elaine) Simpson, his sister Becky (Dave) Jennings and his former wife, Jimmi Jones, who remained a dear friend.

Service will be 12 PM, Saturday June 29th at Pearson's, 149 Breckenridge Ln., with burial to follow at Resthaven Cemetery. Visitation 10-12 prior to service. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Blessings in a Backpack.

Published in The Courier-Journal on June 26, 2019

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Obituaries , Class of 1960

James Eugene (Jim) Grissom., November 2, 2019



James (Jim) Eugene Grissom

Louisville - 77, passed away Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the Nazareth Home. Jim was born September 17, 1942. Jim was a wonderful and loving husband to his wife of 46 years, Randi Pfutzenreuter Grissom.

Jim enjoyed a full life with strong family relationships, as well as fun times with his Sigma Nu friends, rarely missing a University of Louisville sporting event, and bringing music to others by singing with the Thoroughbred Chorus.

Jim is survived by his children Ramsey Grissom (Wendi Griley), Jack Meredith (Shelley), Joe Meredith (Nancy), and Meg Meredith (Lex Latkovski). He was preceded in death by his daughter Suzanne Grissom-Cummings (Neil). Jim is also survived by his brother Andy Grissom (Linda) and grandchildren Savannah Cummings, Cody Grissom, Oliver and Madison Meredith, Lauren and Alex Meredith, Cooper and Ellie Leist, and many special nieces and nephews.

The family would like to sincerely thank the Nazareth Home staff and Dr. Cornett for the loving care they provided to Jim.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at St. Brigid Catholic Church (1520 Hepburn Ave., Louisville, KY 40204). Visitation will be held at the church beginning at 10 a.m. A reception will be held after the services at the Manhattan Project on Frankfort Ave.

In lieu of flowers please make donations in Jim's memory to the St. Vincent de Paul Society/St. Brigid Catholic Church or the Hildegard House (P.O. Box 5613, Louisville, KY 40255).

Published in The Courier-Journal from Nov. 6 to Nov. 7, 2019

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Obituaries , Class of 1960

Albert "Al" Young Jr., December 25, 2019

Albert "Al" Young Jr.

1942 - 2019



YOUNG Albert "Al" Jr., 77, of Lexington, Ky., passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 25, 2019 with his family by his side. Al was a husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many who knew and loved him. Al was born in Louisville, Kentucky on Saturday, June 20, 1942 to the late Albert W. Young, Sr. and Arnie Maynard Young. Al is survived by his wife of 52 years, Gretchen; his children, Marc Young (Donna), Heather Raker (Neal) and Christine Fisher (Terry); and his grandchildren Anna, Laura, Clayton and Oliver, all of whom he loved dearly. He attended Waggener High School in Louisville, and was part of the first graduating class in 1960. He then went on to obtain his undergraduate degree at Western Kentucky University in 1964. Al quickly became interested in performing, which comes to no surprise to those who have had the true pleasure of meeting him. Following college, he obtained a master's degree in fine arts from Southern Illinois University and then worked as the publicity director for Actors Theatre of Louisville. In 1967, following the suggestion of his then-fiancée, Gretchen, who believed that distilling would be more stable than acting, Al accepted a position with Four Roses Distillery in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. Al began his Bourbon career on June 5, 1967, and two weeks later he and Gretchen were married. Al dutifully served Four Roses in a variety of roles over five decades. In 1990, he became distillery manager and in 2007 was named brand ambassador, a role where he crossed the country, and the globe, sharing the story of Four Roses, and sharing his smile with the world. He is also historian for the 130-year old Bourbon brand, having researched archives, distillery records, news accounts, photos and artifacts before authoring the book *Four Roses: The Return of a Whiskey Legend*. Al was inducted into the Whisky Magazine Hall of Fame in 2015 and the Kentucky Distillers' Association Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame in 2011. More than that, Al embodied the spirit of Bourbon. He was a friend to all, always there with a story and ready for a good laugh together. Outside of his notable career, Al most enjoyed building model sail ships, collecting miniature figurines, drawing and painting, traveling, and spending time with his family. A

stalwart in the Bourbon industry, and a loving and dedicated family man, Al's legacy will be celebrated forever. Visitation will be held Friday, January 3, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with funeral service at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Hill United Methodist Church 3600 Bates Creek Rd, Lexington, KY 40517. Kerr Brothers Funeral Home, Harrodsburg Road in Lexington, KY is handling arrangements.

Obituaries , Class of 1960

Marie Dixon (Van Hoose) Sayre, November 12, 2020

Marie Dixon (VanHoose) Sayre

March 12, 1942 ~ November 12, 2020 (age 78)

[Obituary & Services](#)

[Tribute Wall](#)

Obituary

Marie Dixon VanHoose Sayre, 78, of Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away November 12, 2020. She was born in Frankfort, Kentucky to Richard and Clarice Isaacs VanHoose and grew up in the St. Matthews area of Louisville, Kentucky. She graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1964, married and moved to Dallas. While in Dallas, Marie earned her Master Degree in Art Education from Southern Methodist University. She opened the Art Department at Richardson North Middle School and taught Art to the students there. In 1975 she relocated with her family to Little Rock, Arkansas when her husband, Gene, received an opportunity to open a private law practice. Never

one to sit still for too long, Marie established a career at the Dallas Apparel Mart representing the Vested Gentress clothing company, along with other apparel lines; she owned and operated the popular Additions Maternity Boutique in West Little Rock, and also created and designed her own maternity clothing line. After selling the Boutique she became an independent entrepreneur in several other businesses.

Marie was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, was active in the Alpha Gamma Delta Alumni Association and helped establish Chapters on several college campuses. She was involved with the Waggener HS Class Reunion Committee, spent countless hours finding and organizing classmate contact information, and was an integral part of the planning and execution of many Waggener High School Reunions.

She was an extremely dedicated and devoted mother to her children, Shannon and Blake. Marie loved to travel and visited every state in the United States, as well as many other countries all over the world. She delighted in being a grandmother and spent a lot of time enjoying her six grandchildren and lavishing them with love, gifts and "Granny Adventures".

She was incredibly creative and made the best homemade candy and adorable handmade "Granny Blankets" for any of her friends and family that were lucky enough to be a recipient. She is best known, however, for her innate ability to reach out to people, make a connection, be a wonderful friend and have friends. As her friends from coast to coast, from every aspect and time and place in her life can attest, this was one of her greatest gifts. She loved people well, and they loved her back for it. She was a beloved wife, mother and Granny, friend, neighbor, writer, poet, world traveler, artist and designer.

Preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 50 years, Eugene G. Sayre, she is survived by her daughter, Shannon Marie Sayre Pickrell (Keith Wiedower) of Murphy, Texas; son, Dr. R. Blake Sayre (Helen R. Kelly Sayre) of Pensacola Beach, Florida; brother Warren VanHoose of Louisville, Kentucky; and grandchildren, Makenna Wiedower, Chase Pickrell, Gabby Wiedower, Ty Pickrell, Lainey Sayre and Keely Wiedower.

Obituaries , Class of 1960

Marie Dixon (Van Hoose) Sayre, November 12, 2020

WHS Classmates

It is with sadness that we report that our classmate and "class big sis", Marie VanHoose Sayre passed away on November 12. She had been living in Murphy TX close to her daughter, Shannon Pickrell for several years. Shannon said that her passing was completely due to a degenerative brain disease with which she had been struggling for many months. She told us that Marie fortunately did not contract Covid. As you would imagine it was a very difficult year for both Marie and the family as they had not been able to go in to visit her since her birthday in March. Shannon and the family were able to see her and spend some time with her on Wednesday night just prior to her passing but noted that even when you know it was the inevitable, you still are not ready.

Shannon thanks all who reached out to Marie directly, or through her in latter months. "She loved the Emails that I read to her, the cards that were sent and just knowing that her friends were thinking of her and checking on her". Not being able to connect with her friends was one of the hardest things on her. Shannon helped her stay as connected as possible. With so much being taken away from her it was much comfort to know that her friends cared.

The Reunion Committee wanted you to know that although our postponed 60th Reunion will be the first that Marie will not have helped to plan, host and document, she will be with us in spirit. If you wish to send a note to the family, Shannon Pickrell's email is shannon.pickrell@verizon.net

[waggener] Marie VanHoose Sayre

To waggener@groups.io <waggener@groups.io>

The following is a tribute to Marie written by her daughter, Shannon Sayre Pickrell - Just thought I'd share - I believe it speaks to a lot on this email list:

It is with an unbelievable amount of sadness in my heart to say that my sweet, adorable, loving, kind, generous, thoughtful, fun, adventurous, smart, beautiful on the inside and out, amazing mom has passed away. She was the most wonderful mom and Granny that anyone could have and she was ours and we adored her. Mom fought a very long and hard battle with her disease in these last years and though it was a long road for us, her family, I know it was a million times longer for her... and yet she kept her grace, smile, wit and charm even through the hardest of days. We were able to make some cherished memories with her since moving her to Dallas in 2017 and we are so thankful that we had that time to spend with her. She loved every card, Email, phone call, text message and FB comment, and I know it made her so happy and was such a comfort to know that her friends and family were checking on her and sending all their love. Anyone who knew my mom for more than 5 minutes knows that reaching out, making a connection, and being a good friend were just a few of her gifts... her friends and family were everything to her and she loved you all so much. We are heartbroken, but we know she is so happy to be free of the prison that her earthly body became for her and is skipping across the stars as we speak. When Keith and I posted that hospice had called I saw that so, so many of you commented with love and with prayers... I know that my mom felt your prayers and that God heard your prayers and that you prayed her straight up into Heaven, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. If it is true that after death we continue to live on in this world in the hearts and minds of those whose lives we touch and through the people that we love and that love us, then my mom, Marie Dixon VanHoose Sayre is going to live for a very, very, very, very long time. I know that for most people your mom is your best friend, and I can say that my mom was 100%, unequivocally my best friend... and I will miss her every day until I can someday skip across those stars with her...

Fidèle H. Fuller, '62

Obituaries , Class of 1960

Benjamin Franklin Cundiff, November 21, 2020

Benjamin Franklin Cundiff

1942 - 2020



Benjamin Franklin Cundiff

Louisville - Benjamin Franklin Cundiff, 78, of Louisville, KY passed away surrounded by his family on November 21, 2020. He was born on April 28, 1942 in Louisville to the late Dora and Milton Cundiff. He is preceded in death by his brother, Gary Cundiff; sister-in-law, Judy Hahn; and sister-in-law Mary Lynn Cundiff.

Ben attended Western Kentucky University and the University of Louisville. He also served in the United States Navy. He retired from Belden Wire and Cable. He was an avid golfer, UK football and basketball fan, and enjoyed working in his yard. His favorite thing to do was to spend time with his family, especially with his two granddaughters.

Ben is survived by his wife of 56 years, Wanda Cundiff; one daughter, Christi (John) Young; two granddaughters, Reilly and Bailey Young all of Lexington, KY; one brother, Ronnie Cundiff, of The Villages, Florida, and a brother-in-law, James Hahn, of The Villages, Florida. He is also survived by two nieces, Kelly Cundiff of Florida and Susan DiFlora of Indiana; two nephews, Gary T. Cundiff of Mississippi and Jim Hahn of Texas, 2 great nieces and 4 great nephews.

Private funeral services will be held on Friday, November 27, 2020, at 12:00 Noon, at Ratterman Funeral Home, 12900 Shelbyville Road. Burial will be in Lebanon National Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11:00 am until time of services at the funeral home.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Hosparus of Louisville or [American Cancer Society](#).

Obituaries , Class of 1960

Linda Ann (Hollingsworth) Reagan, August 16, 1921

Linda Ann (Hollingsworth) Reagan



▶
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[Allen Funeral Home and Crematory](#)

Obituary

Linda Ann (Hollingsworth) Reagan

Ellettsville - Linda Ann Reagan, 80, of Ellettsville, Indiana passed away on Monday morning, August 16, 2021 at the Richland- Bean Blossom Nursing Home.

She was born on October 8, 1940 in Rutland Vermont the daughter of Homer August and Mary Belle (Richardson) Hollingsworth. Linda was a 1958 graduate of Bloomington High School and attended Indiana University. She spent most of her working life as an office manager for a utility office in Greenwood, Indiana. Linda was also a supreme pie maker winning many County Fair pie contests for her famous lemon merengue and pecan pie recipes. Linda also had a passion for raising basset hounds, both breeding and showing them at regional dog shows.

Linda is survived by her husband, Kyle Reagan of Ellettsville; her daughter, Cheri Frushon of Bloomington; her son, James Foster of Southport; her granddaughter, Jenna Frushon; two grandsons, Jordon Frushon and Cody Foster; her sister, Kathryn Hollingsworth of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Homer August and Mary Belle Hollingsworth, and her brother, Ken Hollingsworth.

A private service was held for the family with Rev Robert Sharp as officiant. She was laid to rest at Valhalla Memory Gardens in Bloomington.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at

www.allencares.com

Posted online on August 20, 2021
Published in The Herald Times

Obituaries , Class of 1960
Albert W. Pence, September 3, 2021



Albert W Pence

May 31, 1942 - September 03, 2021

Albert Wilburn "Bert" Pence, who had a storied career in radio, film and television for more than four decades, died on September 3 at his home in Naples, Florida. He was 79.

In his thirty years as a voice over personality, he was that familiar voice you knew from national networks; including NBC, Discovery, NatGeo, Nature, Meet the Press, Dateline, FOX and FOX News. His charismatic voice was featured on the television series House of Cards and in narrative, documentary and animated films, including Once Upon a Christmas Village and SpongeBob SquarePants. Mr. Pence's voice was also a fixture on television commercials for iconic brands like Ford, Coca-Cola, Miller Lite, Dunkin' Donuts, AT&T, Verizon and numerous state lotteries.

Prior to becoming a voice over artist, Mr. Pence was the Creative Director for New Line Cinema from 1981-1991, and held the same or similar positions at traditional advertising agencies, including Grey Advertising; Doyle, Dane, Bernbach; Mary Wells; and Carl Alley. During the golden age of advertising in New York City, he founded and ran the creative hot-shop Think Group, Inc. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Mr. Pence attended The University of Kentucky where he studied broadcasting. Bert was an SO-PB in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and a member of The Explorers Club. He was also a skilled painter, an avid boater, fisherman and founder and president of the Gotham City Riders motorcycle club in New York City.

A distant cousin to former Vice President Mike Pence, Mr. Pence is also survived by his two sons, Glenn and Daniel, and eight nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by two older brothers.

Obituaries , Class of 1960

Karen Carter Borho, December 4, 2021

Karen Carter Borho



[Listen to this obituary](#)

Obituary

Karen Carter Borho

Louisville - Karen Carter Borho

On December 4, 2021, Karen (79) lost her battle with the Parkinson disease she'd fought for 15 years.

A lifelong Louisvillian, Karen taught in the public school system in Jefferson County following her graduation from University of Kentucky. Karen's struggle with her disease was made easier by the love and attention she received from her devoted husband, Carl Borho, her "sister" Johnie Lynn Romine, her neighbor Vivien Keane, and care giver Lee Ann Dougherty. She was predeceased by their only son, Michael Carter Borho.

Karen is also survived by her brother, Jack Carter (Jennette) and sister Connie Becker (Alex), sister-in-law Patsy Albert (Charlie) and a number of nieces and nephews.

Karen was a lifelong Kentucky Wildcats fan and was especially interested in following their basketball team. She was a devoted mother, had a great memory and a dry wit that kept friends and family laughing to the end of her life.

Karen's life will be celebrated with a private, family gathering in the near future.



Obituaries , Class of 1961
William Grinstead Duncan Jr., August 2019

William Grinstead Duncan Jr.

1943 - 2019

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William Grinstead Duncan Jr.

Louisville - William Grinstead Duncan, Jr passed away peacefully on Friday August 16, surrounded by his loving family at Baptist Palliative Care.

Bill was born on April 1, 1943 in Louisville, Kentucky to William Grinstead Duncan and Alice Feik Duncan. He attended Waggener High School and graduated from the University of Louisville with a Bachelors of Science in Commerce. He was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity.

He began his professional career at Liberty National Bank, and retired in 1991 as Senior Vice President and Manager of the Trust Department. Along with his colleague, Barrett Birnsteel, Bill co-founded the Investment Division of Kentucky Home Trust in 1991, and then First Bankers Trust in November of 2000. Bill's clients were like family to him; he was equally devoted to the wider Louisville community through his service to the Bellewood Home for Children and the Gheens Foundation.

Barry Allen, the President and Treasurer of the Gheens Foundation, described Bill's nearly 20 years of service in a way that resonates with the dedication he showed in all his earthly endeavors: "Bill demonstrated at all times a sensitivity and unfailing commitment to his work."

Bill is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Stuart English Duncan, II. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Pamela Stone; his daughter, Julia Clements; sons, Will (Allison) and Robert (Becky); cousin, Sally Ross; nieces, Anne Duncan Matthews and Mary Duncan Baer; and 5 grandchildren: Kate, Mary Clare, and William Duncan; Van Clements; and Vaughan Duncan.

Funeral service will be 11 AM Tuesday, August 20 at Second Presbyterian Church 3701 Old Brownsboro Road, with a reception to follow.

Visitation 4-7 PM Monday, Aug. 19 at Pearson's 149 Breckenridge Lane.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be given to the Cabbage Patch Settlement House 1413 S. 6th Street Louisville, KY. 40208, Crescent Hill Ministries 150 State Street Louisville, KY 40206, or Second Presbyterian Church 3701 Old Brownsboro Road Louisville, KY 40207.

Obituaries , Class of 1961
Sam “Jerry” Willis Jarvis Jr., July 13, 2020

Sam “Jerry” Willis Jarvis Jr.

Jul 13, 2020



Sam “Jerry” Willis Jarvis Jr., 76, of Owensboro, died Friday, July 3 2020, under the care of Hospice of W. Kentucky. Born Oct. 23, 1943, in Louisville, to the late Sam and Margy Kiper Jarvis, Sam graduated from Waggener High School and the J.B. Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville. He was employed as an Electrical Engineer with L.G.&E, UofL, G.E. and Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation until his retirement in 1989.

Those left to honor and cherish his memory include his wife of 40 years, Linda Mattingly Jarvis, of Owensboro; brothers, Dr. David Jarvis and wife Tandy, of Nashville, Tennessee, and Dr. Craig Jarvis and wife Debbie, of Maryville, Tennessee; nine nieces and nephews; 10 great-nieces and nephews.

There will be a private graveside service with burial in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the Kentucky Humane Society, 1000 Lyndon Lane, Ste. B Louisville, KY 40222.

Memories and condolences for the family of Sam Jarvis may be left at www.glenncares.com. _____

Obituaries , Class of 1961

Thomas Morgan, August 21, 2020

Thomas Morgan

CRESTWOOD - 77, passed away on Friday, August 21st, 2020. Born 2/22/1943, Tom had been an Oldham County resident since 1975. A graduate of Waggener High School, Lindsey Wilson College and Western Ky University, Tom devoted most of his 27 year Career in



education to Louisville Eastern High School. An assistant principal known to all affectionately as "Mr. Morgan", Tom touched all who knew him. No where was he happier than being outside on the lake, in his boat, or hiking on a trail. A prolific bass fisherman, he lived a life as large as some of the fishing tales he told. He has been an active member of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church since 1975. His greatest source of pride, upon which he continuously bragged, was his family. Tom is preceded in death by his parents, the late Elmer and Lucille Morgan of Louisville. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Janice Branstetter Morgan; Sons Matt (Kelli) and Jason (Emilee); Brother Pat (Linda) and Sister Judy McGarvey (John); Grand-daughters Lili, Maia, Madison and Camryn; as well as many beloved nephews and nieces; and many great and treasured friends. He enriched the lives of all who knew him, and though his walk here with us has ended, we find comfort knowing he is held in the arms of our Heavenly Father. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, August 26th from 10 AM- 2PM at Stoess Funeral home in Crestwood with Funeral service to begin at 2PM. Expressions of sympathy can be made to Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church and Parkinson's Foundation.

Stoess
FUNERAL HOME
ESTABLISHED IN 1912

Obituaries , Class of 1961

John Sherman Henderson III, December 23, 2020

John Sherman Henderson III



John Sherman Henderson, III

Louisville - Sherman, 78, of Louisville, passed away Wednesday evening, December 23rd, at Baptist Hospital. Sherman was a graduate of Waggener High School and Florida State University where he was Team Captain of the Varsity Swim Team and President of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

Sherman began his storied 55 year business career working at Procter & Gamble in Winston-Salem, North Carolina & Houston, Texas. Sherman returned to his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky in 1969 to become the President of the Henderson Company and eventual President of the HBAL for 8 years. Sherman continued his career by becoming a leader in the telecommunications space for 32 years where he was the President & CEO of Charter Network, UniDial, and Lightyear Network Solutions and served as Chairman of the Board for TRA, Beacon, and U.S. Network. He was also named by Ernst & Young as the Entrepreneur of the Year for the State of Kentucky in 1996. In 2012, Sherman co-founded the Derby Agency where he served as the CEO until his death.

Sherman was an avid sports fan cheering on both the University of Kentucky and Florida State University, where he served as President of the Seminole Boosters. Sherman also served as a member of the board and was part of Core Vitae Society for the American Heart Association. Sherman was a passionate follower of Christ and worshipped at Southeast Christian Church with his wife, Judie. He was also a spokesperson for Baptist Hospital.

In his free time, Sherman celebrated life by playing an active role in the lives of all his children and grandchildren where he frequently attended their extracurricular activities and served as mentor. He was also a member of Big Springs Country Club and a passionate golfer.

Sherman is survived by his wife of 55 years, Judie; two children Kelly Henderson Duggins and Josh Henderson; Son-in-law David Duggins; 5 Grandchildren, David Lee Duggins, Andrew Steven Duggins, Natalie Anne Duggins, Julia Belle Duggins, and Kate Elizabeth Henderson; 3 Sisters, Sandra Henderson Moss, Melissa Henderson Vogt (John Vogt), Pamela Henderson Fleck; 1 Brother-in-law, Frank Wylie (Suzanne Fife Wylie); Sister-in-law, Anne Wylie; 15 nieces and nephews; and many great nieces and nephews. He is also survived by many wonderful friends.

Sherman was preceded in death by his 2 parents, John Sherman Henderson Jr. and Joan Briegel Henderson; and 1 sister, Jessica Gray Henderson.

Drive-by Visitation will occur at Ratterman Brothers Funeral Home in East Louisville on Tuesday, December 29th, from 10am - 12pm. There will be a private family service and burial following the visitation.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of donations in memory of Sherman to the American Heart Association or Southeast Christian Church.

Obituaries , Class of 1961

Thomas Noonan Ryan III, May 6, 2021

Thomas Noonan Ryan Iii



Thomas Noonan Ryan III

Louisville - Thomas Noonan Ryan III, 77, of Louisville, KY passed away suddenly on May 6th, 2021. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky to the late Thomas and Lyda Ryan.

As a young man in Louisville, he excelled at sports, especially football and baseball. He played baseball with the Babe Ruth team in St. Matthews. He was a graduate of Waggener High School and Western Kentucky University.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his brother, Douglas Ryan of Louisville, Ky, his daughters, Elizabeth (Ben) Nearn and Erin (Scott) Caldwell both of Memphis, TN and his beloved grandchildren, Anna Kate Nearn, Clayton Nearn, Miller Caldwell, and Eliza Caldwell.

Tom worked as a banker in his early career at Citizens Fidelity in Louisville and then in Memphis, TN at Union Planters. He later began an independent mortgage company with partners called Commonwealth Mortgage Associates that had branches in several southern cities. He left the banking world to pursue residential development and was very successful with his company, Delta Realty and Investments.

Once retired, Tom spent much of his time in Naples, Florida and at his beloved Barkley Lake house. He loved to fish, especially with his kids and grandkids. He had a great sense of humor and could talk his way into our out of any situation. He loved to entertain, always had a good joke, and was an especially good story teller. He enjoyed traveling and exploring new areas. Boats were a passion of his and he always had one but never the same as before. His generosity and thoughtfulness were some of his best qualities. All you had to do was ask and he would be there to help. He was loved by many but especially his family who were blessed to spend many wonderful special times with him.

A memorial service is planned for 10:30 a.m. May 15, 2021 in the chapel at Christ Church United Methodist in Louisville where Tom was a member. Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Church United Methodist or St. Matthews House in Naples, FL.

Ratterman and Sons, 3800 Bardstown Road, has been entrusted with arrangements.

Obituaries , Class of 1961
Marilyn T. Seitz Utley, October 12, 2021



BROUGHT TO YOU BY BARLOW FUNERAL HOME

Marilyn T. Seitz Utley

Bardstown, Kentucky

October 25, 1943 - October 12, 2021

Marilyn T. Seitz Utley, 77, of Bardstown, passed away Tuesday October 12, 2021 at Flaget Memorial Hospital. She was born October 25, 1943 in Louisville, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Phillip and Cecil Seitz; and sister, Peggy Clayton.

She is survived by her husband, James Utley; son, Phillip (Dianna) Williams; daughter, Michelle (Charles) Carrico; two step-sons, Bill Utley, and Jimmy Utley; two grandsons, Zach Utley, and Nathan Beaver; granddaughter, Hannah Jenks; and five great-grandchildren, Braxton Jenks, Evie Jenks, Scarlett Jenks, Haylie Beaver, and Nathaniel Beaver.

Her funeral service will be 7:00 pm Monday October 18, 2021 at Barlow Funeral Home, with cremation to follow. Visitation will be 3 - 8 pm Monday October 18 at Barlow Funeral Home.

Obituaries , Class of 1961
Roiana C. Powell, February 3, 2022

Roiana C. Powell

JULY 15, 1943 - FEBRUARY 3, 2022



IN THE CARE OF

Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services

Roiana Cox Powell died peacefully at home on Thursday, February 3rd, 2022. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim & Bernice Cox. She is survived by her husband Charles, her brother Kim (and his wife Alice), her brother Lance (and his wife Leslie), her nieces Kara, Sara (and her husband Mel), her nephew Jason (and his husband Vance), and great nephew Austin. Due to health concerns, there will be no public service at this time. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.AdvantageHoustonFunerals.com for the Powell family.

Obituaries , Class of 1961

Gary Houston Morris, February 15, 2022

Gary Houston Morris

NOVEMBER 19, 1943 - FEBRUARY 15, 2022



Morris, Gary H., age 78 passed away surrounded by family on February 15, 2022.

Gary grew up in St. Matthews, graduating from Waggener High School, class of 61 and the University of Louisville School of Business, class of 65. He was a proud army veteran serving six years in the 220th C.I.D. Following his active duty, he went to work for WAVE television where he produced television commercials for the local sales department, eventually becoming a sales executive in local and national sales.

He later became a partner in Excelawn Corporation which became the fifth largest lawn company of its kind in the country. After a short retirement, Gary joined Commonwealth Commercial Real Estate group as an associate for the purchase, development and management of industrial properties in the Louisville area. He was still actively involved up until his death.

Gary had a lifelong love for Harley-Davidson Motorcycles and on most weekends you could find him on the open road, just him and his Harley. He also loved muscle cars, playing golf and spending winters on the beach with family and friends and his sweet fur baby Bailey.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and dear friend to so many. He lived selflessly, lifting those up around him with a kind word, compliment or even just a humble ear. He was a man of integrity and in our eyes, he was immeasurable.

He was survived by his wife Karen L. Morris, whom he was married to for 28 years, his two daughters Tawnya Hysinger (Lyle) and Tara Pate (Scott), his grandchildren, Jordan (26), Zach (19), Will (16), Blake (16), and great granddaughter Jadeyn (3).

Preceded by his parents Estle L. and Mildred L. Morris.

Memorial service is Friday February 25 at Resthaven Funeral Home, 4400 Bardstown Rd. Louisville Ky.

Obituaries , Class of 1961
Alan J. Zemon, August 11, 2022



ALAN J. ZEMON, 79



August 11, 2022 - 14 Av 5782

Alan J. Zemon, 79, died on August 11, 2022 in Louisville, Kentucky. He was preceded in death by his parents Harry and Gladys Zemon, and his sister Helene Zemon.

After his graduation from Waggener High School, Class of 1961, he attended Indiana University. He was owner/CEO of Zemon Jewellers. Alan like the gems he sold was multi-faceted with his strong sense of giving of himself to his community. He was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun. As a volunteer of over 30 years with Hosparus, he kept the patients company when they had no family of their own. He was a reading tutor with Every 1 Reads. Alan was also an entertainer as a bass singer in the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, a member of the Kentucky Opera Guild, and a member of the Louisville Ballet Partners. His friends at Beehive of Goshen enjoyed his piano playing and singing.

Alan is survived and missed by his daughter Betsey Geller and her husband David; his granddaughters, Sydney, Abigail and Hannah, his niece Nikki Russman and his nephew, Eric Welenken and his wife, Rhonda.

He was buried at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery during a private service on August 12, 2022.

"In Memory of Alan J. Zemon" donations may be made to Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 2401 Woodbourne Ave, Louisville, KY 40205, or Hosparus, c/o Development Department, 6200 Dutchmans Ln, Louisville, KY 40205.

Famed Louisville singer Cosmo Cosdon dead at 69

Written by Jeffrey Lee Puckett The Courier-Journal
Sep. 06

courier-journal.com

Tommy "Cosmo" Cosdon, widely considered to be the greatest singer to emerge from Louisville's first wave of rock 'n' roll bands in the late 1950s, died early Friday morning. He was 69.

Cosdon was also a veteran of the thoroughbred horse-racing community as a trainer, jockey agent and bloodstock agent. He trained Rae Jet, last-place finisher in the 1969 Kentucky Derby.

"He had two great interests: music and horses," said longtime friend and band mate Wayne Young. "I'm not sure if horses weren't first."

Cosdon battled cancer last year and was diagnosed cancer-free in January, said lifelong friend Jim Harbolt, but the chemotherapy weakened his immune system and led to cerebral histoplasmosis, which causes lesions on the brain.

Harbolt said Cosdon requested no visitation nor funeral, but a celebration of his life is being planned. A concert to raise money for Cosdon's medical bills will be Oct. 6 at Jim Porter's Goodtime Emporium.

Cosdon's legacy in Louisville will be as a singer and showman, said Marvin Maxwell, who remembers Cosdon galvanizing audiences as a member of The Sultans in the early 1960s. Maxwell later performed with Cosdon in the Shufflin' Grand Dads, which began in 1992, and the current incarnation of Soul, Inc.

"He was Mr. Showman," Maxwell said.

Maxwell said that in 1992, the Shufflin' Grand Dads, which also included Young, performed at a festival in Mainz, Germany as part of a sister-cities program.

"You can see on the video that it was pretty ho-hum, but when we brought Cosmo on the people got to their feet and he got them so wound up that we had five encores," Maxwell recalled, "and I swear before the last one I heard the stage manager say, 'We'd better let them go on again or the crowd's gonna tear the stage down.'"

"And it was Cosmo who got them up and going."

Cosdon debuted in 1959 as singer of The Sultans, and the band's 1961 single, "It'll Be Easy," was the first by a local group to reach No. 1 on Louisville radio stations. He broke away to start a solo career in 1961 and immediately scored a No. 3 hit with "I'm A Little Mixed Up," a raw slice of blue-eyed soul.

Young met Cosdon on the recording session for "I'm A Little Mixed Up" and was briefly a member of Cosmo and The Counts, which was formed shortly after "I'm A Little Mixed Up" was released. Cosmo and The Counts became Cosdon's most well-known group, performing off and on for decades.

Cosdon's voice had crossover appeal, Young said, with a strong rhythm & blues feel. He frequently sang at The Cherry Club in Lebanon, Ky., a successful black nightclub, and was a regular at clubs throughout Kentucky and Indiana.

"He was a natural entertainer and he could just light people up — it was amazing," Young said. "He could still do it. His voice had gotten better over the years, but it was the energy that he brought that was so impactful."

"All he had to do was get up on stage and he had the audience in his hands," Maxwell said. "He did that better than anybody I know of in this area."

Contact Jeffrey Lee Puckett at (582) 582-4160, jpuckett@courier-journal.com, and on Twitter [@JLeePuckett](https://twitter.com/JLeePuckett).

Cosmo — Unknown

It is a summer night somewhere in Louisville, sometime in the 1960s or '70s, and a party is in progress. A rock n' roll band – the Sultans? Epics? Monarchs? – is working through its set of dance music, and young couples are working up a sweat doing whatever the current dance craze happens to be. Love is in the air, thick as the cigarette smoke and sweet as the cold beer, and then comes the moment everyone has been awaiting:

“And now put your hands together and let's welcome...Cosmo!”

And there he is, our very own king of rock n' roll, already wiping the sweat off his forehead with a white towel as he turns loose that incredible whiskey voice on “High-Heeled Sneaker” or “Hold On, I'm Comin',” or maybe even one of his hits, something like “You Got Me Gojn,” or “I'm A Little Mixed Up” or one of the others that topped the local charts but never went national.

Say what you will about J.T. “Cosmo” Cosdon – and everybody who ever met him has a story or two or three – the boy could flat sing. He was a white guy who sounded black, which is why he was the only white entertainer allowed to perform in The Cherry Club of Lebanon, Ky., the black nightclub where Little Richard, Tina Turner and others made stops on their way to international fame.

Of course, he was equally welcome at the Golden Horseshoe and the Club 68, the low-budget nightclubs down the road that competed for the hearts – and the spending money – of college kids from Louisville and Central Kentucky. But he was a hit everywhere he performed, from Gypsy Village at Fontaine Ferry Park in Louisville to Joyland Casino in Lexington to the dim little joints in small towns in Saturday Night America.

Cosmo was a consummate showman, a natural entertainer who could work a room with the best. He sang sweet love songs for the ladies and hard rockers for the guys. In his early days, when he was fronting The Sultans, he wore a gold lame Nehru jacket. But in his later years, he would usually just show up in a black shirt. No costumes or tricks for him. Just good ol' rock n' roll, soul, and rhythm n' blues.

As rock singers go, Cosmo was not what you would call a pretty boy. He wasn't tall and his body expanded, through the year, where he couldn't really get mad when somebody would call him “the round mound of sound.” He also grew a beard that turned from gray to white as the years went on. But looks never mattered when it came to Cosmo. It was all about the music and the show. Nobody ever left a Cosmo performance unhappy.

Truth be told, a lot of guys wanted to be like Cosmo. He saddled a horse in the 1969 Kentucky Derby, for heaven's sake. The noble steed's name was Rae Jet, and he finished last, far up the track from the victorious Majestic Prince, but he was *there*. That's what mattered. And woe be the journalist who ever spoke ill of Rae Jet, as my

Cosmo — Unknown

friend Jim Bolus once did in a story about the worst horses ever to run in the Derby. You want hot? Cosmo was hot.

After he gave up training, he still hung around the horse business. He was a fixture on the backstretch at Churchill Downs the week before the Derby. He worked awhile as a jockey's agent, then spend some time as a bloodstock agent. For a guy like Cosmo, the gypsy-like lifestyle of the racing game was perfect. He loved the action and the hustle. He identified with people looking for a way to get a little edge on this tough proposition known as life.

But, mostly, the reason a lot of guys secretly envied Cosmo was that he always was his own man. Unlike the majority of us, he rejected the 9-to-5 life so he could be his own boss, beholden to nothing except the sometimes erratic beat of his own drummer. He never got rich, or even close to it, and he didn't care. All it took to make him happy was a pretty woman on his arm, a wad of cash in his pocket, and some good whiskey to wash down the laughs.

The closest he came to the business world was when he owned and operated The Head Rest on Frankfort Avenue. It was a refuge for musicians, hippies, street people, jaded journalists, and lonely hearts. You could always count on finding some great jukebox music there, and, if you were lucky, maybe somebody who could share your broken dreams, at least for a night.

Nobody had more fun than Cosmo. On the golf course, he acted like Titantic Thompson, the legendary hustler who would bet anybody on anything. This wasn't necessarily the smart thing to do, considering that his game never reminded anybody of Jack Nicklaus. But Tommy didn't care. Win some, lose some – so what? All that mattered was the fun of it.

Being a local rock icon and saddling a horse in the Kentucky Derby is a pretty good exacta for one lifetime. But there was more to Tommy. He had a serious side that he was loathe to reveal to even his closest friends. Behind the façade he presented to the outside world – a little rough around the edges, irascible, jaded – Cosmo was a softy. He was a sucker for underdogs and for people who were down on their luck. He also loved cats, horses, and little kids.

No telling how many wedding receptions and private parties he did for little more than beer money. He was kind and generous, but just didn't want anybody to know it. His whims had to drive Tommy Jolly crazy. For years, Tommy was Cosmo's business manager and a horn player in his band. He shared Cosmo's love for music and for performing. They never thought about getting rich. The fun and the love was reward enough.

When Cosmo began his career in the late 1950s and early '60s, every town in the nation had a kid or a band that wanted to be the next big thing. To become a national celebrity, to get an invitation to appear with Dick Clark on his "American

Cosmo — Unknown

Bandstand" TV show, all you needed was one song, one sound. The "one-hit wonders," as they were known, were the meteors of the music world, blazing brightly for a short time before vanishing back into the nothingness from whence they came. Does the name Phil Phillips ("Sea of Love") mean anything to you?

Cosmo deserved at least that much national fame simply because he was a legitimate talent. He had the pipes and the presence to hit it big. But he never got that one song, that one break, that's essential in the cruel and whimsical world of pop music. He got close, ever so close, but something always happened to keep him in Louisville, where he was the darling of WAKY and WKLO back when those stations were playing the local artists over and over.

But nobody should feel sorry for Tommy because his story is not a sad one. There is something to be said for being a local star. When you think about all the senior proms, sock hops, reunions, and weddings that he played over 50-something years, it's possible to make the argument that he brought happiness to more people than any single Louisvillian of his generation.

Even when he was fronting for the Sultans, the Counts or another group, there was no question that Cosmo was the star. All he had to do to kick a party into high gear was hit the first note. He was equally at home strutting under the bright lights of a big stage or getting down in a dark and sweaty club where the beer flowed in a golden river and the parking lot was as good a place as any for a fight.

Louisville will not see his like again. Society has changed too much. Much of what passes today for music is an affront to Cosmo's version of "Summertime" or "Unchained Melody." Kids and young adults don't go dancing anymore, so there's no Gypsy Village or Colonial Gardens. Nevertheless, good ol' rock n' roll is hardly dead. It's just on Medicare, that's all.

As Tommy became progressively ill, his body shrank and his voice was reduced to a barely audible croak. It was difficult to for his friends to imagine that the good times were over because Cosmo, throughout hundreds of concerts, had promised us they would last forever.

But, in a sense, he was right. They'll last at least as long as there's anybody still around who can remember what it was like when Cosmo was in the house and it was showtime and here came that voice, sending us off on another night of fun and love and good ol' rock n' roll.



Greathouse — Unknown

360 Pupils to Parade to New Greathouse School Monday



The new Greathouse School building which has just been completed in St. Matthews, Tommy Kampfmüller, Larry Lodewick

- Steffen Mary Lotze
- Geyer Jean Faye Smith
- Noland Jack Read
- Priest Vernon Shallercross
- Albrecht Jimmy Lee
- Bowles Jimmy Sanderson

**New Building
On 4-Acre Tract
Cost \$75,000**

- Pro W. J. Dunn, Billy Beck
- Sta Jack Fravert, Charles Blumer
- Pro Roy Finnegan, Jack Webb

Monday will be a happy day for some 360 pupils of the Greathouse grade school in St. Matthews, for that is the date set for the beginning of classes in their new, modern building which was just completed Saturday.

The new structure, built at a cost of approximately \$75,000, is located on a four-acre tract of land on Grandview Ave. just east of Breckinridge Lane, about four blocks west of the old building, which is on the east side of Shelbyville Road. At 8:30 o'clock Monday morning the Greathouse pupils will gather together their belongings at the old building, form a parade, and march to the new school, led by a boy carrying an American flag.

The Schoolboy Patrol will cooperate with a special detail of County Police in guiding the marchers safely through traffic.

Friday night an "open house" will be held at the new building. Visitors will be shown through the cafeteria, kitchen, library, boiler room, two-story auditorium and twelve classrooms.

Friday evening.
Delta House, one week later.
the next evening.
**SHED BY THE
SCHOOL ORCHESTRA**

Greathouse — Unknown



When Waggener Was Young (And So Were We)

While I was out walking in a daytime so fair
I chanced upon a building that caused me to stare.
A name was affixed in faded old red:
“Mayme S. Waggener High School” it read.

A kindly looking man was seated nearby,
He seemed quite friendly, so I asked for a reply:
“Do you know what the ‘S’ in this name so stately
Does signify to all, I would like to know greatly.”

“Oh, yes,” he responded, “I knew her quite well,
For I was her student once and therein did dwell.
Her name was chosen to honor our school,
A distinguished educator, she was certainly no fool.

“Mayme S. Waggener is a name often mentioned,
With few ever wondering how the ‘S’ was intentioned.
I’ll leave that mystery for the ending’s sake,”
He said as he began his story to relate.

“This school was born in a time of dire need,
When children were springing up like wildflowers and weeds.
A graceless outward form of concrete quite grim,
Her beauty was born from what happened within.

“The sin of graffiti was not yet sanctified,
So our clean-faced building showed an innocent side.
The halls were all shiny, glistening with polish,
Just waiting for us to come forward and demolish.”

“Young teachers like Schourek, Whitten and Harris
Challenged us in class, but not to embarrass.
Old stalwarts like Kirwan and Annie Laurie Jenkins
Rattled our brains and got us to thinkin’.”

Unknown date—Bill Bowden, Class of 1961

“‘Better Red than Dead?’ was a question contemplated,
Thank goodness that fate was never highly rated.
Into our classrooms came those ubiquitous TVs,
Whose black-and-white images to knowledge were key.

“We marched and we fought the bold gridiron battle,
We huffed and we puffed on clarinets and bassoons.
Our practice was raucous, heard far and wide,
Thank goodness the band room was separate, we sighed.

“Way down the hall in those offices mysterious
Lurked our leaders, quite dignified and serious.
The Arthur of Draut, the Earl of Duncan
Kept us from trouble, is what we were thunkin’.”

Born into a world aflame with war,
These children grew up with hope at their core.
In cap and long gown they graduated with flair,
Then left dear old Waggener for a world filled with care.

“That lone initial ‘S’ still puzzles,” said I.
“You’ve hemmed and hawed with no answer in reply.
Is its meaning lost to the passage of time,
Or can it be saved by this question of mine?”

“Many have wondered why this school was so blessed
And its children so grand,” my kindly friend stressed.
“The answer rings true in her middle name, like a choir,
For Mayme Sweet Waggener was sure to inspire.”

I thanked this old man for his words so keen,
As I went on my way with a feeling serene.
It warmed me to know that faded old sign
Held memories so “Sweet” and feelings sublime.

Bill Bowden
Class of 1961

2017

First Annual Waggener High School Alumni Tailgate Party
Pre-Game Ceremony Dedicating the WHS Veterans Memorial



Half-time Ceremony Honoring Our WHS Alumni Veterans

Friday September 8th

Front Lot

Tailgating 4:30 pm - 6:45 pm

Live Music by The Monarchs

**Concession and WHS Gear sales benefiting the
Athletic Dept.**

\$5 Game Tickets for Alumni and Family Members.

Alumni March to field begins at 6:45 pm.

CATS vs. Eastern (Kickoff 7:30pm)

Go to www.waggeneralumni.com, join and get further details and other Alumni
Updates!!!! ONCE A WILDCAT! ALWAYS A WILDCAT!

No reviews for bus for 2 years

BY BRUCE SCHREINER

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — A bus loaded with students returning from a college campus visit that veered out of control and crashed on a Kentucky interstate had not undergone a state safety inspection in at least two years, a vehicle enforcement official said Wednesday.

Thirty high school students from Louisville along with four adults aboard the bus were taken to hospitals after the vehicle veered left across three lanes of traffic on Interstate 64 and hit a concrete median Tuesday in eastern Jefferson County. Several people remained hospitalized Wednesday.

Louisville police continued to investigate Wednesday, looking into possible mechanical failure as a cause — which could include tire trouble. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration was assisting in the investigation.

Charter buses on Kentucky roads can undergo random roadside inspections by state vehicle enforcement officers, but the bus that crashed Tuesday hadn't been stopped for such a check in at least two years, said state Commercial Vehicle Enforcement spokesman DeWayne Koch.



Associated Press

Emergency crews respond to a crash involving a bus carrying students on a college visit on Interstate 64 on Tuesday in Louisville. The charter bus had 42 students aboard, said Jefferson County public schools spokesman Ben Jackey. All the students — sophomores and juniors from Waggener High School in Louisville — were taken to hospitals, he said. Some remained hospitalized Wednesday.

"It may have just gotten under our radar and never been stopped," he said.

The agency was trying to learn more about the damaged bus on Wednesday.

It could have been much longer than two years since the bus had been pulled over for a random state safety

check, and it's possible it was never singled out for such a roadside review, Koch said.

Koch said charter bus operators are required to conduct their own annual safety inspections, done by certified mechanics. State officials want to review those records for the crashed bus.

It was leased to Commonwealth Bus Service & Transportation Inc., Koch said.

Company officials did not return calls seeking comment Wednesday.

The owner of the bus met with vehicle enforcement officers Wednesday and was cooperating, Koch said.

TALKS NEW COACH, GOALS AND HOBBIES

When Alex Peden arrived at Waggener High School as a freshman in 2011, the girls' basketball program hadn't enjoyed a winning season since going 17-8 during the 1997-98 campaign. Now a senior, Peden has helped Waggener post three straight winning seasons and reach the Seventh Region Tournament last March. A 6-foot-2 center, Peden has posted double-doubles in all three games this season as the Lady Wildcats are off to a 1-2 start. She is averaging 14.7 points and 12.0 rebounds and scored a season-high 19 points in a 62-49 loss to Presentation on Dec. 1. Waggener will return to action at 6 p.m. Friday at Central.

How did you get your start in basketball?

My mom and my stepdad took me to a park when I was about 6 years old, and they were shooting together. I was like, "Let me try. Let me try." I made my first shot as soon as I got on the court, and after that I just started liking basketball. I started playing AAU in the fifth grade with Go Hard in the Paint with my cousin, Kevin Kirby.

You're 6-foot-2 now. When did you hit your growth spurt?

When I came in as a freshman I was about 5-10, and I kept growing and by the end of my freshman year I was 6-2. I've pretty much stayed there since then.

How would you describe your game to someone who hasn't seen you play?

I mostly just go the paint and shoot some mid-range shots sometimes. I like to post up and play with my back to the basket.

What's the transition been like this season with Kevin Glenn replacing Maurice Ponder as the Waggener coach?

It's different with a new coach, but I like him. He's a good coach, and we're just trying to learn more about him.

What are the goals for you and Waggener this season?

We want to win 15 or more games, and I want to become a better leader and have more chemistry on the court.

What was it like for you all to get to the Seventh Region Tournament last season?

That was my favorite memory. It had been a long time since we went to the regional, so I was pretty happy that we got there.

Your AAU coach, Armond Wilson, said several NCAA Division II and NAIA schools are showing interest. What are your college plans?



JASON FRACK/THE COURIER JOURNAL

Waggener girls' basketball player Alex Peden

I'm going to pick soon. I have some schools that are planning to come and watch me play. I'm probably not going to grow anymore, so I'm probably not going to be a (center) in college. I'll have to play (small forward) or (power forward).

What do you like to do away from basketball?

I like listening to music, and I like to cook. I like baking. Just chilling with my friends and family. I like all kinds of music.

What do you want to study in college?
Criminal justice. I want to go into law enforcement. When I was little I liked to watch "NCIS" and "Law and Order" and all that.

ALEX PEDEN UP CLOSE

School: Waggener.

Year: Senior.

Sport: Basketball.

Student-athlete: Basketball takes up most of Peden's time. She recently worked at Wendy's but had to quit when basketball season started. She has a 2.8 GPA and enjoys her psychology class. She was involved with track and field for a while, throwing the shot put. She attended Zachary Taylor Elementary and Maupin Elementary and Western Middle School. Last summer she played on the Kentucky Lady Retros AAU team.

Family: Peden lives with her mother, Terr, stepfather, Jamie, three younger brothers and one younger sister. Her cousin Kevin Kirby is a junior on the Waggener boys' basketball team.

Coach Kevin Glenn: "Alex is what I like to call a gentle giant. She's a very soft-spoken kid but works very hard and cares. She is very passionate about the game and works a lot of time by herself. You don't find many post players at this age who are as skilled offensively as she is." She can handle the ball pretty well for a girl her size."

May 22, 2014, Courier Journal



Biology teacher Tom Kupper leads a class in a renovated classroom at **Waggener High School** in 2012. More than 90 percent of teachers use their own money in classrooms. COURIER-JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

ST. MATTHEWS

Missing money at Waggener investigated

By Allison Ross
aross@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

About \$3,900 in cafeteria vending machine sales vanished from Waggener High School this past school year, an internal Jefferson County Public Schools audit has found.

JCPS, following up on anonymous complaints, found that chips, waters and other vending machine inventory had come into the school, but that the amount of money being deposited from the sales of those items was significantly short of what it should have been.

"It was a huge concern to me as a school administrator," said Waggener High principal Katy Zeitz. "We're talking about items that are very low in cost ... that converted to thousands of dollars of missing money."

JCPS investigators did not find the money, and the internal audit did not discuss what may have happened to it.

The school's cafeteria manager, Lisa Fried, was suspended in relation to the missing money; she retired before JCPS officials moved forward with a recommendation to fire her, said JCPS spokeswoman Stephanie Bateman.

Fried's discharge recommendation said she was responsible for the proper handling of vending machine profits. It also noted that she "on multiple occasions" offered free Papa John's pizza leftovers from students' lunches to adults in the school, something that is against federal food service guidelines, JCPS said.

Fried, in a letter to the district in May that was included with her discharge recommendation, acknowledged she was in the wrong on the handling of the Papa John's pizza but said she was innocent of mishandling or stealing the missing vending machine money.

"I have no idea how to explain the missing funds because I have not been able to see where the auditors have come up with the amount that is missing," she wrote, saying that she worked hard for 24 years.

Julia Bauscher, JCPS' director of school and community nutrition services, said her department is reviewing "all of our vending procedures to make sure they are strict enough and broad enough to prevent it from happening again."

"Did we see that money walk out of the cafeteria? No. But there was that gap (between how much was sold and the profits deposited)."

Bauscher said a few JCPS schools have cafeteria vending machines where students can purchase a la carte food during lunch. Proceeds from those vending machines go back to the district's nutrition services department, unlike other school vending machines, whose profits can pay for a school's athletics and other extracurricular activities.

Zeitz said that, regardless of where the money goes, it was money that was meant to support students.

"It's a loss of student funds. Any money is generated to support kids," she said.

Louisville native Perry Metz wins Murrow award

One of Louisville's favorite broadcasters, **Milton Metz**, has reason to be proud. His son, **Perry Metz**, the general manager at Public Broadcasting stations WFTU and WTIU at Indiana University have won their third national Edward R. Murrow Award in as many years.

Kirby Adams
The Buzz



iversity, deferred credit to his newsroom staff.

Milton says, "my wife, Miriam, and I swelled with pride at the notice."

Science Center Harry Potter movie marathon

Alright muggles — wands at the ready. The Kentucky Science Center is holding a Harry Potter movie marathon.

The marathon will take place Sept. 26-27 and will showcase the entire Harry Potter movie collection in consecutive order on the Science Center's 4-Story Digital Screen.

There will be short breaks between the showings to allow for concessions, trivia contests, science demonstrations, bathroom breaks, costume competitions and more.

Moviefgoers can enjoy the Science Center's concessions available on their first floor — including themed items like jelly slugs and chocolate frogs.

Tickets for the marathon, including a seat in all eight movies, are \$65 for non-Members and \$50 for members. They can be purchased in advance by calling the Science Center's main line at (502) 560-7128 or online at KYScienceCenter.org.

Your chance to paddle and race on the Ohio

Don't get left in the wake. Sept. 30 is the deadline to register if you're interested in taking part in Riverthon 2015.

As the paddling community in



GITTY IMAGES

Harry Potter Movie Marathon at the Kentucky Science Center Saturday and Sunday.



PROVIDED
Louisville native Perry Metz is the general manager of Public Radio stations WFTU and WTIU at Indiana University, which have won their third national Edward R. Murrow Award



Riverthon 2015 to be held October 3 offers four different paddlesport races on the Ohio River. The deadline to register is September 30.

Louisville and Southern Indiana continues to grow, so a does an annual day of racing on the Ohio River. Riverthon 2015 is Oct. 3 and is expected to attract paddlers from several states.

The races include either a 50- or 22-mile (kayak or any human powered craft) race, a seven-mile stand-up paddle board course and an 11 person team challenge in the Voyageur canoe (a seven-mile race).

Registration for each race is \$25.

There will also be an awards ceremony and dinner from 6-8 p.m. at

Louisville's Community Boat House. Awards and prizes include: \$3,500 new Epic 16x kayak, \$300 Epic carbon wing kayak paddle, a Greenland Style Paddle donated by Skipping Fish Boat School and more.

For more information and registration details visit: www.riverthon.org or <https://www.facebook.com/Riverthon>.

Celebrity Birthdays

Singer **Sonny Turner** is 76. Singer **Barbara Alibut** is 75. Singer **Phyllis**

"**Jiggs**" **Allbut** is 73. Singer **Gerry Marsden** is 73. News anchor **Lou Dobbs** is 70. Actor **Gordon Clapp** is 67. Actor **Kevin Sorbo** is 57. Singer **Cedric Dent** is 53. Actress-writer **Nia Vardalos** is 53. Drummer **Shawn Crahan** is 46. Drummer **Marty Mitchell** is 46. Singer-guitarist **Marty Mittron** is 44. Guitarist **Juan DeVevo** is 40. Actor **Kyle Sullivan** is 27.

Reach reporter Kirby Adams at kadams@courier-journal.com or (502) 582-4336.

HARPER CATCHING ON

Steve Bittenbender
and Jason Fraikes
@kyhigh

Larry Harper III has missed three games for Waggoner High School's football team this season, and the Wildcats' new quarterback is only just starting to get comfortable with the team.

In the last three weeks the junior has thrown for 628 yards and seven touchdowns, and his presence comes while the Wildcats (6-4) are in the midst of their most successful season in a decade.

That comfort level began to show late in the game at Valley (6-4) on Friday night as the Wildcats trailed the Vikings 24-21.

After an intentional-grounding penalty on Harper moved the Wildcats back to the Vikings 26 with 2:52 remaining, the former Trinity player, who had been sacked five times in the game, finally found an opening. Harper's 17-yard scamper set up the winning score on the next play, Frank Bryant's 9-yard run with 2:04 to go that gave the Wildcats a 27-24 win.

"I checked my reads, and I saw the middle (of the field) wide-open," said Harper about his run on the second-and-21 play. "I took what the defense gave me."

As the Wildcats were driving for the winning score, Harper said he kept reminding himself that he needed to finish for the team. It's that kind of leadership coach Jordan Johnson likes most about his new player.

"He's getting used to the offense, getting used to the reads (and) making the right decisions," Johnson said. "But the one thing about him, he doesn't quit. He just keeps the kids going."

Bryant, a senior who ran for 63 yards on 15 carries in the win, said he was impressed with Harper's decision-making ability.

"That's a big plus for the offense," he said.

Waggoner, which had won a total of six games the last five seasons and last won five games in a season in 2005, will travel to Boyle County for a first round Class 3-A playoff game this Friday.



ADAM GREEN/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER JOURNAL

Waggoner High School quarterback Larry Harper hands off the ball to running back Frank Bryant.

Power five

Each week Jason Fraikes will provide his ranking of the top five teams in the state, regardless of class.

» **No. 5 St. Xavier (6-4):** Tigers couldn't get ground game going (26 carries, 79 yards) in a 20-10 loss to Cincinnati St. Xavier. **Up next:** hosts Eastern (5-5) on Friday in first round of Class 6-A playoffs.

» **No. 4 Simon Kenton (10-0):** Dillon Powell and Will Parks both ran for two touchdowns in a 44-13 victory over Scott. **Up next:** hosts Butler (2-8) on Friday in first round of Class 6-A playoffs.

» **No. 3 Scott County (9-1):** Noah Hughes (138 yards) and Kendrick Hamilton (123 yards, three TDs) had big games on the ground in a 56-35 win over Covington Catholic. **Up next:** hosts Clark County (0-10) on Friday in first round of Class 6-A playoffs.

» **No. 2 Trinity (9-1):** Did not play. **Up next:** hosts Pleasure Ridge Park (5-5) on Friday in first round of Class 6-A playoffs.

» **No. 1 Male (10-0):** Zackery Smith and Ethan Britt both topped 100 receiving yards in a 56-0 rout of Western. **Up next:** hosts Jeffersontown (2-8) on Friday in first round of Class 6-A playoffs.

Valley ends drought

For the first time in four years, Valley is going to the playoffs.

Despite losing 27-24 to Waggoner on Friday, the Vikings (6-4) capped off their most successful season since 2009, which is also the last time they hosted a playoff game. Collins will come to Valley Friday night for a Class 4-A first round match.

"I think it's huge," coach John Spiva said. "It just shows the hard work that the boys put into it."

The Vikings have just 10 seniors on the roster, and several key players are underclassmen. Quarterback Brayden Campos, who threw for two scores Friday, is a sophomore. Receiver Devious Brooks, who caught both touchdowns, is a junior, as is running back Brandon Noely, who ran 116 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries.

One thing Spiva would like to see from his squad is to not dwell on mistakes. Valley led 18-7 at halftime, but two fumbles early in the third quarter led to Waggoner touchdowns and helped the Wildcats mount

their comeback.

"We had the momentum, and when you have little mistakes you got to have short-term memory," Spiva said.

Dragons' Thompson 'fine' after concussion

South Oldham could be without one of its top players in the playoffs after senior running back Starr Thompson suffered a concussion during the Dragons' 28-21 loss to Shelby County on Friday.

Thompson was injured during the first quarter, and the game was delayed for 15 minutes as trainers worked to get Thompson in an ambulance.

"He's at home and doing fine," South Oldham coach Jamie Reed said Saturday morning.

Thompson ranks second on the team in rushing (563 yards, nine touchdowns) and receiving (13 catches, 307 yards, four touchdowns). His 13 total touchdowns lead the team.

Thompson must go through a concussion protocol in order to be able to return to action. The Dragons (8-2) will host Southern (3-7) on Friday in the first round of the Class 5-A playoffs.

"We really don't know if he'll be able to come back at all," Reed said.

Friday night lights

» Oldham County snapped a 10-game losing streak with a 31-26 victory over Jeffersontown. The Colonels got defensive touchdowns from Isiah Kelly (46-yard fumble return) and Chase Lanham (12-yard interception return).

Oldham County (1-9) did not qualify for the Class 5-A playoffs.

» Logan Holbrook (eight carries, 106 yards, three touchdowns) and Branden Leff (two carries, 111 yards, one touchdown) had big games on the ground as Spencer County whipped Henry County 41-6 to complete a 9-1 regular season.

Spencer County will host Western on Friday in a first-round Class 4-A playoff game.

Jason Fraikes can be reached at (502) 582-4046 and jfraikes@courierjournal.com.

Photos sought for Vietnam Wall of Faces

BY MARTHA ELSON
THE LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL

LOUISVILLE — Steve Gillespie and Jack Koppel went to Central High School on West Chestnut Street in Louisville recently and found a former student's photo that has special significance to them.

It was of Pfc. Willie Lee Lowe, a Marine who died in the Vietnam War April 5, 1969, in Quang Nam province.

Lowe's photo is now posted on the national virtual "Wall of Faces" on the website of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, set up in conjunction with the Vietnam Wall memorial in Washington, D.C.

Gillespie, a Vietnam veteran, and Koppel, a retired city emergency management employee, are continuing to search for photos for the "Wall" to go with the names of 200 or so service members from Jefferson County who were killed in Vietnam.

The "Wall" is intended to include the names and photos of all 58,286 U.S. troops who died in Vietnam, and they're to be displayed digitally at an education center planned next to the Vietnam Memorial on the National Mall in Washington D. C.

Last year around Veter-



Louisville Courier-Journal via Associated Press

This undated screen grab shows the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Wall of Faces Web page.

ans Day, Gillespie and Koppel had 84 photos to go and were down to 23 recently, after Lowe's photo was posted.

"I think it's the least I can do," Gillespie said, choking up, when asked about his effort. "These boys gave their lives."

The "Wall of Faces" already has written information about the troops who died. But many photos are still missing, and there's an ongoing national effort to find and post them.

Among the others from Louisville/Jefferson County who died in Vietnam are six former Waggener High School students, five of whom were pictured in a Jan. 31, 1990, Courier-Journal story about a memorial planned for them

with books, a plaque and other memorabilia in the library at the school, 330 Hubbards Lane in St. Matthews.

They were Bill Duncan, '61, who died in 1967; Thomas Hamilton, '65, 1969; Wayne Hokenson, '66, 1968; Robert Pfeister, '66, 1968; and Kirk Woolley, '61, 1969.

The main organizers were two Waggener alumni, Ken Draut, who served in the Navy on active duty in Guam from 1973 to 1975, and Mark Fenzel, both 1973 graduates.

Current Waggener librarian Kristen Heckel said recently that the memorial site was created and that the plaque also includes a sixth name, that of William G. Cox, who was in the class of '67.

Koppel said his high school, Holy Cross (formerly Bishop David) in South Louisville, also placed a picture of the men in uniform who "gave their lives for freedom" on a school wall.

Gillespie, who spends about half the year in Florida, goes on Sundays when he's in town to spruce up the Jefferson County Vietnam Memorial at the Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy. The names of those who died from Jefferson County also are inscribed on a stone wall there.

"Many years have passed since the Vietnam War, but we shouldn't forget it," Koppel said in an email. "We should honor our heroes."

Other local tributes include a flagpole that was dedicated to Vietnam veterans Nov. 19, 1983, on the Belvedere in Riverfront Plaza downtown by the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program of Kentucky.

Petty officer Frank Ulery, Sgt. Eugene Hendrix and Sgt. Douglas Howard, who represented the Navy, Army and Air Force at the event, were shown in a photo in the Courier-Journal as a flag was raised on the pole.

JCPS names alt schools superintendent

ALLISON ROSS
@ALLISONROSS

Jefferson County Public Schools is tapping Waggener High Principal Katy Zeitz to oversee the district's alternative schools, the district said Tuesday in a press release.

Zeitz, who has been with JCPS since 2000, will start July 1 as the district's newest area superintendent. Her salary was not immediately disclosed by the district.

Zeitz is replacing retired area superintendent Kirk Lattimore, although she will not be taking over all the schools he used to oversee. Instead, the traditional schools he oversaw will be absorbed by other area superintendents, while Zeitz will focus on alternative schools like the Minor Daniels Academy, Liberty High, Breckinridge Metro High, Jefferson County High and the Phoenix School of Discovery.

She will also "work with a team to help craft and implement a new behavior management system for JCPS that will be responsive to teachers and students," JCPS said in a press release.



MICHAEL DOSSETT/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL
Waggener High Principal Katy Zeitz will be the superintendent for alternative schools.

"Katy is a leader of change," Superintendent Donna Hargens said in a statement. "She is a proven fighter for kids. During her time at Waggener, she helped create the dual certification degrees and lead Waggener's exodus from priority status."

"Katy is a leader of change. She is a proven fighter for kids."

DONNA HARGENS
SUPERINTENDENT, IN A STATEMENT

Waggener High is one of only two JCPS schools that have ever exited the state's dreaded priority status label, doing so in the last round of accountability results last fall.

JCPS said it will begin the search for a new principal at Waggener High immediately.

Zeitz, who has been principal at Waggener since 2011, started with JCPS as a teacher at Ballard High School. She was a principal intern at Fairdale High School and then returned to Ballard as an assistant principal before moving to Waggener, JCPS said in the release.

Reporter Allison Ross can be reached at (502) 582-4241. Follow the Courier-Journal's education team at Facebook.com/SchooledCJ.

Waggener High School names new principal

ALLISON ROSS
@ALLISONROSS

Waggener High School has a new leader to take it into the 2016-2017 school year.

Sarah Hitchings, who was an assistant principal at the school for the past three years, will take over as principal after former Principal Katy Zeitz was tapped to become an assistant superintendent.

Hitchings has worked for Jefferson County Public Schools for the past 15

years. Before coming to Waggener, she was a teacher and later an assistant principal at Valley High.

Hitchings has a big job ahead of her this school year to try to continue to bring up academic performance at her school.

This past fall, Waggener High became the first JCPS school to successfully shed the dreaded "priority status" label from the state, and Hitchings said she knows people will be watching to see how the school will do this school year.

"Research indicates that once you make such a climb as we did, there's often a plateau or dip, but we want to resist that," Hitchings said Wednesday. "We can do it."

Hitchings said the school is going to focus on transitions this year, particularly successfully transitioning ninth graders into 10th grade and also preparing students for college and career readiness.

The school is also moving from a trimester schedule to a seven-period se-

master for the first time this school year, which will be another adjustment for returning students this fall.

"We have an amazing staff and outstanding students," Hitchings said, "and we have a lot of momentum going since we exited priority status."

Reporter Allison Ross can be reached at (502) 582-4241. Follow the Courier-Journal's education team at Facebook.com/SchooledCJ.

November 27, 2016, Courier Journal



Jarvis Dunston, the athletic director at **Waverly** Traditional High School, stands inside the football coach's office in the athletics complex Nov. 16.

PHOTO BY ALTON CHAPMAN/COURIER-JOURNAL



A funding source allowed for a renovation of the girls' basketball locker room at **Waverly** Traditional High School. It now has new metal lockers, benches and painted murals.



Jerry Wigman, director of athletics for JCPS, said Louisville "is one of the lucky communities" that hasn't been forced to eliminate sports. But sports are surviving with reduced resources.

Less cash, more concerns in high school sports

Jason Frakes

Kentucky High
@kntghs



Two years ago, Male High School athletic director John Kelsey called Waggener AD Jamie Dumstorf with a proposal.

Wanting to preserve the surface of the football field for his varsity squad, Kelsey asked Dumstorf if he would host the Male-Butler freshman football game at Waggener's field.

Kelsey would pay all of the expenses and allow Dumstorf to keep the revenue from ticket sales and concessions. Dumstorf jumped at the opportunity and said

he made about \$3,000, the second-highest single-game revenue Waggener had during the 2014 football season.

"We were selling tickets and slinging hot dogs and nachos for a freshman game on a Monday night," Dumstorf said with a laugh. "I gladly took the money because I needed it."

The story illustrates the challenges Jefferson County Public Schools' 21 ADs

have faced in recent years as funding and revenue have decreased.

Male, for example, can count on football games with rivals Marnot or Trinity to bring in more than \$35,000.

Waggener, on the other hand, brought in a total of \$6,965 in ticket sales over its five home football games this season.

See EXPENSES, Page 8A

Expenses

Continued from Page 1A

That money goes back to more than just the football team — it's often the main source of financial support for a school's other programs.

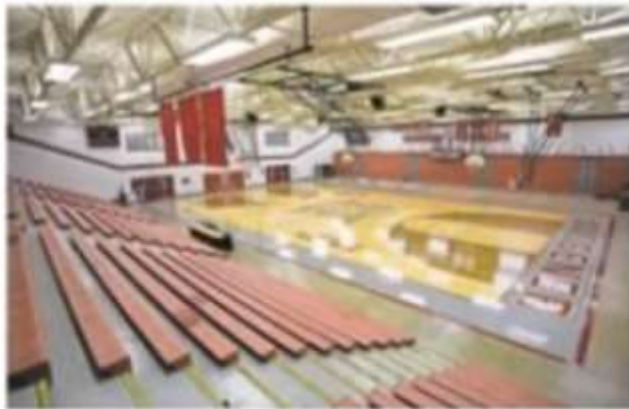
"We're not the cash cows people perceive us to be," Damsdorf said. "Some of us are, but most of us clearly are not."

And where there are fewer or less-profitable varsity programs, schools are limited in the overall number of sports, particularly at the junior-varsity level, they can support and are increasingly reliant on that financial support from parents and the community to operate those. That's a frightening proposition for athletic directors, who cite studies that show participation in high school sports may lead to better grades, higher attendance, lower dropout rates, improved career opportunities and increased levels of mental and physical health.

"I know you're not supposed to take your work home, but I lie in bed and think, 'I don't know how we're going to make this work,'" Wiggins AD Jared Baker said. "You want to be able to give your kids the same things that kids from Butler or Male have, the brand gear like Nike or Under Armour. But we're just trying to make sure we have enough money for officials by the end of softball season."

To cope, ADs have been forced to get creative with the ways they make ends meet as only a handful of JCPS high schools have the fan bases, booster groups and community support needed to fully fund athletic departments that receive little annual support from the district. Even safety is occasionally substandard with grants from Norton Health care providing new football helmets and with Norton, Procter&K, KentuckyOne Health and Baptist Health covering the cost of certified athletic trainers across JCPS.

These struggles and the budget cuts that led to them aren't unique to Jefferson County, which last school year provided athletic opportunities for 8,527 high school and 8,946 middle school students. According to a recent Cleveland.com report, athletics in Parma, Ohio, will be required to pay up to \$250 to join a var-



An overview of the \$18,000 new gym floor installation at Wiggins.

sity squad. Several sports — including golf and tennis — were cut in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, this year. Middle school sports routinely are being eliminated around the country.

Jerry Wyman, director of athletics for JCPS, said Louisville "is one of the lucky communities" that hasn't been forced to eliminate sports and doesn't foresee that becoming an issue. But sports are surviving with reduced resources.

Athletic departments took a hit last year when — as a result of district-wide budget cuts — JCPS eliminated a vending machine supplement it had provided since the 2006-07 school year, averaging more than \$17,000 per high school a year. The supplement was meant to replace revenues that were lost after the district began restricting the sale of junk food and soda on school property in 2006.

Wyman, an AD at Duess from 1993-98, knows the impact of losing that money:

"Without that, I don't know how I would have survived," he said. "It's amazing the work our ADs do. They work miracles. I tell these guys all the time that they're the hardest-working guys in the district."

Making it work

JCPS provides high schools with a yearly travel budget of \$8,700 and pays

stipends — ranging from \$454 for a first-year bowling coach to \$8,065 for a veteran AD — to a limited number of administrators and coaches. After that, it's up to individual schools to figure out how to pay for everything else, ranging from facility maintenance and shoulder pads to athletic tape.

Schools such as Male and Ballard — with larger enrollments and long histories of success in athletics — have more resources but also have more expenses. With booster clubs for nearly all of his sports and a large alumni base, Kelsey admits he doesn't have to worry about financing his programs at Male.

"I'm blessed to be at a school that has a long history as one of the oldest schools in the country," Kelsey said. "Everywhere you go, people say, 'I graduated from Male High,' and they're interested in helping Male. And honestly it's a school that's been successful in athletics that it generates revenue to really do some things."

"... I don't get to do all the projects I want, but there's no question I don't fret over it or worry about it. If there's something our kids need, we're going to find a way to get it."

But Kelsey also has to spend more. Male has varsity, junior-varsity and freshman teams for nearly every sport offered, including 150 kids in a fledgling

increase program. That means more uniforms, more equipment, more officials to pay and more transportation costs. By contrast, Shawnee athletic director Dwight Bradford has just three junior-varsity teams (boys' basketball, girls' basketball and volleyball) and one freshman team (boys' basketball) at his school.

Ballard AD Chris Kinsey said the loss of the vending supplement has made times tougher than he can remember in his 13 years on the job.

"I've never been in struggle this much," he said.

Kinsey said he's fortunate to have the support of booster clubs and businesses who help fund his department. A quick drive through Ballard's campus shows the amount of sponsorship support, as advertising signs crowd the fences on baseball, softball and field hockey fields.

But expenses are high, as Kinsey estimates he spends around \$10,000 a year on transportation alone. And as soon as it is when Ballard's boys' basketball team reaches the state tournament, Kinsey estimates the department loses around \$2,000 if the Bruins make a run to the state final.

Kinsey said hiring extra assistant coaches for his programs could prove to be too much of a financial strain in the future.

"We've picked up our advertising revenue, but it's not making ends meet," Kinsey said. "You're putting more stress on the boosters. You're asking them to do a little bit more. Obviously, we're blessed at Ballard to have a good community and good boosters. But I can't afford to put any more stress on them."

"... The misconception is that you have this certain amount of money to run your athletic program. In reality, you don't have anything. You have to go out and do it yourself."

ADs at some of the smaller high schools are getting inventive with their fundraising efforts.

Wiggins will begin installation of a new \$250,000 track next spring after Damsdorf secured funds from the City of St. Matthews (\$225,000) and several other outside sources. Part of the agreement, Damsdorf said, was that the track would be available for use by area residents.

See EXPENSES, Page 5A

November 27, 2016, Courier Journal



PHOTOS BY ALTON STRUP/COURIER-JOURNAL

Wagner Traditional High School athletic director Jarvis Durstorf looks inside one of the shower areas in the sports complex on Nov. 18. Many of the former showers in the sports complex at Wagner have been out of commission for more than a decade.



Inside the football locker room at Wagner Traditional High School.



Many of the shower areas have become impromptu storage areas for athletic equipment.

Expenses

Continued from Page 8A

"I hate to use the word begging, but I've become very strategic in my marketing," Dumstorff said. "I'm in a tricky market in the heart of St. Matthews. I'm a driver and a wedge away from that other green-and-white occupant (Trinity) in St. Matthews."

At Shawnee, which has no booster clubs and little financial support from the community, Bramford joined with Brown AD Just in Leonard to form an elementary-school basketball league.

Bramford said he made around "\$12,000 to \$15,000" off the league last year, a big boost for a department that sold just \$2,700 worth of football tickets for three home games this season. Combining numbers for basketball during the 2015-16 season and football this year, Bramford said he lost more than \$13,000 after paying expenses for travel, officials, security and other game crew.

Shawnee also hosts youth football and dance and step-show competitions to bring in extra income.

"It can be a little bit of a headache ... but it helps financially," Bramford said. "Sometimes there are some long Saturdays or an occasional long Sunday, but you have to do what you have to do."

In his second year as Western's AD, Baker said a beefed-up football schedule helped boost ticket sales this season. The Class 4-A Warriors hosted 6-A schools Butler, Manual and Male in an attempt to bring their larger fan bases to Western's campus.

"Does it hurt our football team? Absolutely," Baker said. "It's tough on our school to play a 6-A schedule. ... But it creates a budget for us."

Dumstorff said an annual arts and crafts fair nets about \$5,000 for Waggoner's athletic department, which used the proceeds to buy new bench chairs for the gymnasium last year.

"I can't be an athletic director who accepts, 'No,' as an answer," said Dumstorff, adding that the school's current booster club consists of six parents. "If I see something that's a critical need ... I'm going to keep asking and keep searching. I've been fortunate that I've had a lot of people say, 'Yes.'"



The new score board at Waggoner was installed just last year.

Indiana programs struggle, too

It's much of the same for schools in Southern Indiana, where fundraising has become a key cog in revenue generation. Other than gate sales and other receipts from spectator sports, fundraising is the only source of income for area public schools.

School corporations cover coaching contracts and facility upgrades in the area, while the remaining expenditures — travel, equipment, concessions, entry fees, officials, etc. — are handled by the athletic departments.

Fred McWhorter, the Chief Business Officer at the New Albany-Floyd County School Corporation, said athletic departments in Indiana and within Floyd County are "self-sufficient" in subsidizing as many as 20 varsity programs.

"It's pretty decentralized," McWhorter said. "Really the only thing the school corporation pays for, as far as athletics go, is we pay for the coaches' salaries, and if we have any facility improvements. ... But as far as running it — the concessions, paying for uniforms, paying for equipment, balls and bats and all that stuff — the athletic department raises those funds by themselves."

Scottsburg athletic director Jamie Lowry remembers a time when fundraising wasn't particularly necessary. When

Lowry was in school, basketball shoes ran "nothing close to \$100." Last season, though, the Warriors' boys basketball team required nearly \$4,000 worth of equipment, which included shoes up to \$200 per pair.

That inflation has forced athletic departments to get proactive in offsetting costs. Prior to many home basketball games last season, Scottsburg's football and baseball teams held chili suppers to help fund the programs' expenses.

"There's a plethora (of fundraising opportunities)," Lowry said. "It just seems like there's constantly a fundraiser by somebody going on at all times. There's something always going on. Recrease, obviously, the school can't fund everything that these kids need. The cost to compete is growing and growing."

The future

Wyman said financial troubles are a bigger concern now than five years ago, but he's confident schools won't have to eliminate money-losing programs. Wyman and JCPSS also are helping schools by securing sponsorships.

But that doesn't allay ADs' biggest concerns.

Dumstorff had to shut down his girls' soccer program this season because of a lack of participation but also is concerned about its cost going forward. In a

regular-season home match against Seneca, he sold six tickets for a total of \$30. After paying three referees \$52.50 apiece, he had lost \$127.50.

Multiply that scenario over several games and several other sports that have little fan support and Dumstorff said he's concerned about the future.

"That's a conversation we're starting to have more and more of: How do we weigh the cost-benefit to a sport that essentially runs the athletic department in the red every year?" Dumstorff said. "It's tricky. ... I can't justify spending the money because I don't have the money."

Kelsey and Dumstorff expressed concern about the high turnover rate of ADs at some JCPSS schools. Dumstorff said his five-year tenure at Waggoner allowed him to develop relationships with potential sponsors, but other schools don't have that advantage when ADs come and go.

"I go to our monthly AD meetings and there are some guys who have been in the room eight, 10, 12 years as ADs and there are some guys who have been in the room for six months and it's safe to say they'll be gone six months from now," Dumstorff said. "In some places, there's such a heavy athletic director turnover that it's difficult for anybody to get their feet stuck in and gain any momentum for their school's athletic department."

As for solutions, ADs say they don't see many as long as budget cuts continue and attendance for basketball and football games stagnates. Many schools are developing alumni associations and calling on parents to become more involved with the hope of bringing in more revenue and having to pay fewer people to run concession stands and scoreboards.

But, Wyman said, he and his athletic directors will do whatever they can to offer opportunities.

"If there are kids who want to play something — so far — we've been able to give them an opportunity to do it," Wyman said. "If there's ever an issue with a school that says we can't afford to start this team because we can't buy uniforms, the district has stepped up. We're going to try to do everything we can to make sure kids have the opportunity to compete."

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Courier-Journal Southern Indiana high school reporter Kyle Williams contributed to this report.

The toll left uncounted

JCPS grief counselors treat emotional wounds when a teacher or student is killed

Allison Ross

Education

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Tangi Jones hadn't made it out of the neighborhood on her way to school when the distinctive clunk of her "Law & Order" text message alert went off.

A middle school student had been shot and killed the night before. The district needed a crisis response team.

Jones had ignored the first call for help; she had so much to do that day, so many students at her own school who needed help.

But as her dark metallic Ford Explorer idled at the stoplight, Jones thought of her favorite student.

What if he was the one who died?

Jones reached for her phone in the car's cup holder and dialed.

"This is Tangi Jones," she said. "I'll help."

Jones, a mental health counselor at Waggener High, is one of about 300 JCPS counselors, psychologists, social workers and others who've trained to be part of the district's crisis response teams. These teams are sent with little notice to often unfamiliar campuses dealing with some of the worst moments a school community can endure.

Sometimes the call for help comes after a student has committed suicide. Other



Jones, left, talks with Takeyah Bell, a senior at Waggener High School.



Jones talks with Tyson, a student at Waggener. Jones is a mental health counselor at the school.

See **COUNSELORS**, Page 8A

Counselors

Continued from Page 1A

times, it's after a car crash, or after a beloved staff member dies.

But with more homicides in Jefferson County this year than any other since at least 1960, recent pleas for help have come more often because a student has been killed.

It has been a deadly year in Jefferson County.

On Thursday, Nov. 24, the homicide count reached 112, according to a Courier-Journal analysis — beating the previous record set in 1971.

Police are juggling cases while they try to figure out how to keep retaliations from adding to the body count.

Mortuaries are busy with the dead and the grieving.

Churches and community centers are working to stem the violence.

And counselors like Jones are forced to deal with the human toll when detectives add another name to the homicide list.

They are the ones who meet with the student who's acting out because an aunt has been murdered. Who comfort the student whose cousin was charged with murder. Who try to provide hope for a child who watched his friend bleed out on the street the night before.

In recent years, Jefferson County Public Schools has hired more mental health counselors as principals and district leaders see how crucial it is to address some of the toxic stress students feel.

Still, it's an ever-losing race, as JCPS Superintendent Donna Hargens said during a recent board meeting.

"The need is outpacing us," she said. "We have headwinds we are fighting against."

Deaths hit home

Jones sees the effect of the killings on her kids every day.

This spring, she counted eight students who'd had a relative or close friend murdered. She had a feeling the summer would be worse.

"We could feel the tension," she said. Jones wondered whether counselors would have to put together a survivors' group at Waggener for those who knew someone who'd been killed.

She was right about the violent summer. In Jefferson County, there were nearly 20 homicides in August alone.

Jones feels her students' grief, sees it play out in the classroom and the hallways.

Students lash out and have emotional

"... I can be sad with you and I can offer some tools to help cope with some of the sadness."

TANGI JONES

WAGGENER HIGH SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR, MEMBER OF JCPS CRISIS RESPONSE TEAMS

outbursts, swearing at teachers or getting into fights. They confide their fears about retaliation. Some whisper that they have guns that they've hidden away before school.

There's a code of strength, Jones said. They don't want to be seen as weak or vulnerable. But they ache to have teachers understand what they're going through. Some quietly ask her to let their teachers know when they're dealing with a death.

"When a kid comes in and puts his head down, it may not be disrespect," Jones said. "It may be that this is the first time in 12 hours they get some peace and some time to think out their thoughts. Their behavior sometimes tells the story of what they are going through."

One student often visits Jones' office. The Courier-Journal is identifying him by the initial J, rather than his full name.

His life is wrapped up in the violence of his community. He's seen friends shot. His own sister was killed.

In May, he was shot three times; a bullet is still lodged in his back. Jones was one of the people J called as he was lying in the hospital.

It's frustrating, especially when Jones knows she can never completely relate. She certainly never had to deal with the murder of a loved one when she was 16-years-old.

"How can we give them answers that I know we don't have?" Jones asked. "I've cried with some students for things I cannot fix. But I can be sad with you and I can offer some tools to help cope with some of the sadness."

After calling in her offer of help that day in August, Jones steered her SUV to Waggener, her home school. She wanted to get a few things in order before she was dispatched to help at Meyzeek Middle.

She was thinking of J when he popped his head in the door.

He knew why she was headed to Meyzeek. He had known Troyvonte Hart, the 14-year-old who had been killed the night before. Troyvonte was a Minor Daniels Academy student but had previously attended Meyzeek.

J, who knew Troyvonte from around the neighborhood, tried to offer his counselor suggestions on what to say and how to help when she got to Meyzeek.

See COUNSELORS, Page 9A

Counselors

Continued from Page 8A

Indeed, as with most crisis responses, Jones had very little information ahead of time about Troyvonte.

When she and the other responders got to Meyzeek later that morning, they were handed a simple fact sheet: His nickname was "Fat Daddy." He liked to play football. He'd been shot and had died in the street.

Troyvonte had been so popular and well-known that when he was gunned down, JCPS dispatched crisis response teams to four different schools.

Handling a crisis

The team members set up in Meyzeek's media center.

Jones waited at a table, a box of Kleenex and a yellow backpack nearby. All the crisis response team members got those backpacks during training. Jones keeps one in her car so she's always ready. It's packed with bottled water and snacks for her, coloring books, stress balls and toys for the students — things to keep their hands occupied as their minds process the hurt.

As the morning announcements echoed in the media center, a school administrator told students the crisis team was waiting.

Within minutes, some began trickling in.

"You felt a sense of a lot of brokenness," Jones said.

Students sat around a table with Jones and told stories about Troyvonte. *He had a magnetic smile. He drew people in. He loved to make people laugh. We had just seen him or spoken with him yesterday.*

Several had been there on the street when Troyvonte died. They'd seen his body as they waited for the ambulance. They'd heard the cries and listened for the sirens.

As they talked, the conversation shifted from Troyvonte to the violence in their own lives.

Many knew others besides Troyvonte who'd been killed. Some knew people with guns. Others knew how to get one.

Throughout the day, teachers wandered by. They struggled in their own way. They spoke of having to go to too many of their students' funerals.

The principal told Jones that, even though Troyvonte had been transferred to Minor Daniels Academy, his bus would pass by Meyzeek every day. Troyvonte would wave to people at the school from his seat on the bus.

The team is usually at a school for only a day or two, addressing the biggest

hurts, discouraging retaliation.

Their role is triage. They are first-responders for the grieving. They can only do so much.

"You feel emotionally drained," Jones said. "You know you left some tools, but you also leave wondering if the other shoe will drop."

Text messages chronicle slayings

Jones can look through her phone to see terse, vaguely worded reminders of how the homicide rate has affected her school community. Troyvonte was the county's 72nd homicide of the year. But there have been so many others.

The fourth homicide of the year: Tyler Russell, 15, shot and killed near 20th and Market streets.

The 10th: Le Truong, had been shot dead in the Southside neighborhood.

And she turned down a call for help for the 45th and 46th killings of the year. That was back in May, when Olmsted Academy North was dealing with the savage killings of two of its students — brothers Maurice G. Gordon, 16, and Larry Ordway, 14.

As much as Jones ached to help, her daughter was graduating high school that week. She knew that helping counsel at Olmsted would take too much emotional energy.

Besides, there are so many calls for help these days that it's good that so many people are signed on as crisis response team members.

"When I get news alerts and check my phone, I automatically think, 'That's one of my students,'" Jones said. "I feel very much out of control, that I don't have control over their situations."

A couple weeks after Troyvonte's murder, J disappeared from Waggener for a couple months.

Jones said he'd been rattled by Fat Daddy's homicide, although that probably wasn't the only reason he stopped showing up.

When J popped back up at school again recently, unexpectedly, Jones said she was hopeful that he would get to see prom and graduation.

But she knows how entrenched J and some of the other students are in the violence.

Jones was sitting at her desk on a recent morning when J peeked through her open doorway.

He offered a shrug and a quiet apology for showing up late to school that day. And then he gave what, to him, was an ordinary explanation: He was tardy because his friend had been shot last night.

Reporter Allison Ross can be reached at (502) 582-4241. Follow the Courier-Journal's education team at [Facebook.com/SchooledCJ](https://www.facebook.com/SchooledCJ).

U of L offers walk-on spot to Waggener QB

The University of Louisville extended a preferred walk-on offer to **Waggener High** School senior quarterback Larry Harper on Friday.

Harper announced the news on his Twitter account, which was confirmed in a subsequent tweet by Waggener coach Jordan Johnson.

“Larry is one of the best players I have been privileged to coach. Tremendous athlete and even better person,” Johnson tweeted Friday.

In his second season starting for the Wildcats, Harper was 138 of 226 for 2,208 yards and 28 touchdowns, with just six interceptions through the air according to stats from the KHSAA. Harper also rushed 85 times for 343 yards and seven touchdowns. Harper joined Waggener in 2015 after spending the first two years of his high school career at Trinity High School.

Waggener High School teen identified as victim in Shawnee shooting

THOMAS NOVELLY
@TOMNOVELLY
AND ALLISON ROSS
@ALLISONROSS

A 19-year-old football player from Waggener High School who had dreams of playing professionally was identified as the victim of a shooting in Shawnee overnight, leaving school staff and friends to grieve for his loss.

Tyson Gibbs, 19, of Louisville was pronounced dead at the scene from multiple gun shot wounds Saturday night, according to Deputy Coroner Jack Arnold. He was shot less than a block from his house.

Allison Martin, JCPS spokeswoman, confirmed that Tyson Gibbs was a senior at Waggener last school year and played on the football team.

Louisville Metro Police Department officers responded to the shooting around 8 p.m. Saturday and found Gibbs' body in the parking area behind an apartment building at the scene in the 400 block of S. 38th Street.

No arrests had been made as of late Saturday night, and LMPD spokeswoman Alicia Smiley said the Homicide Unit is investigating.

Waggener High mental health counselor Tangi Jones was out on a nice date with her husband on Saturday evening, so for once she didn't immediately start thinking the worst when she got a news alert about a teenager shot and killed in the Shawnee neighborhood.

But when she got home

to texts and calls from coaches and family friends of Gibbs, her heart sank. Gibbs had been one of her favorite students — a teen with a large physical presence who was loved by many in his school and community for his generosity and caring.

"I realized how smart, how intelligent he was, so insightful and loyal," Jones said. "I saw him be compassionate to himself and other students.... I felt like there were moments where he'd allow me to see a different side of him."

She said she worried about his safety, and often his name was the first to pop into her mind when she'd hear about a teen being shot in the city. Gibbs had lost a sister to gun violence a few years ago, she said. And she said he'd been shot before, a little more than a year ago, but survived.

"Tyson had so much potential. I saw him working toward healing and trusting me enough to be transparent with me and share his fears, his sadness, his joys and hopes and dreams," Jones said.

Jones said Gibbs — whose nickname was Red — often struggled with attendance in school but had dreams of playing college football outside of Kentucky.

"He wanted to get out of

"I realized how smart, how intelligent he was, so insightful and loyal. I saw him be compassionate to himself and other students."

TANGI JONES
WAGGENER HIGH
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

his situation, but struggled with how to do it," said Jones, who also is part of a JCPS team that responds to crises at schools and offers grief and mental health support. "He wanted to find a way to be successful in life that didn't involve having to do anything illegal and having to be worried about watching his back."

Jones said Waggener will feel the loss of his presence when school starts again in August.

"Red had people who loved him. He had a community, he had values, he had docency about himself," Jones said. "He was so special to me and so many other people."

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He dreamed of escaping violence



MICHAEL CLIVINGER/COURIER JOURNAL FILE

In 2016, Wagoner High School student Tyson Gibbs talked with one of his friends, Targi Jones, a Wagoner mental health counselor and member of a crisis response team that responds when a JCPS teacher or student is killed.

Gibbs never made it, but knew football could be answer

GRACE SCHNEIDER
@GESHNK

Tyson Gibbs, the 19-year-old Louisville man slain in the Shawnee neighborhood late last Saturday night, had confided to his coach and a counselor at Wagoner High School that he hoped he could leave Louisville and start anew.

Playing football always had lifted his spirits. He hoped the game could elevate him from a life where gun violence already had taken the lives of his dad and sister.

He never made it. And that fact seemed to hang over the hastily called press conference at Wagoner Monday afternoon where Gibbs' coach Jordan Johnson and Wagoner principal Sarah Hitchings fondly remembered Gibbs as flawed, but big hearted. An imposing presence with his classmates, and born leader on the football field.

When word of his death circulated among the Wagoner High School football community over the week-

"Tyson had so much potential. I saw him working toward healing and trusting me enough to be transparent with me and share his fears, his sadness, his joys and hopes, and dreams."

JORDAN JOHNSON
WAGONER COACH

end, his uncle, young cousin and several current and former teammates headed to the school Sunday to huddle and grieve together.

After they'd talked and shared stories about Gibbs, the players, Johnson, and Gibbs' uncle Michael and his son Michael Jr. posed together holding two No. 53 jerseys — Gibbs' number — in a photo.

"All of these kids are a victim of circumstance," Johnson said of his players. So it's difficult to convince them there's another side to life. "This isn't the first time they've dealt with the death of a friend ... We've tried to tell them this is not normal."

Louisville Metro police continued investigating Gibbs' fatal shooting Monday. He was pronounced dead from multiple gun shot wounds just a block from his home. His body was found in a parking area behind an apartment in the 400 block of South 38th Street.

See GIBBS, Page 7A

July 18, 2017, Courier Journal



PHOTOS BY ALTON STRUPP/COURIER JOURNAL

"The violence isn't going to stop," said Malik Gibbs, left, the brother of Tyson. "There's no stopping it." Friends and family of Tyson Gibbs sat near a memorial at the crime scene.

Gibbs

Continued from Page 1A

Waggener's Johnson said he'd known Gibbs since he was a seventh grader, and during a particularly troubled time in his life, Gibbs moved into Johnson's home and lived with his wife and children.

They adored him, and he embraced the family as his own, Johnson said.

The coach, however, was guarded about detailing Gibb's tragedies and struggles, except to say that he was with Gibbs when his sister Ty'Sha Spearman was murdered in 2012. Gibbs was 13 at the time.

Spearman, who was 15, was killed in crossfire during a shootout in the Portland neighborhood in June 2012. Gibbs also had lost his father in March 2004 when he was just 5 years old. Gibbs himself was shot a little more than a year ago, but survived, according to Waggener High mental health counselor Tangi Jones.

Johnson said he fought "tooth and nail to get (Gibbs) into Waggener" even though it was not his home school.

"Tyson had so much potential. I saw him working toward healing and trusting me enough to be transparent with me and share his fears, his sadness, his joys and hopes, and dreams," Jones told the Courier-Journal on Sunday.

Gibbs didn't graduate with his class last spring because of problems with attendance. To get his diploma, the school arranged for him to take classes online



Aubrey Williams Jr., right, shakes hands with Waggener High School student Tyson Gibbs earlier this year.

this summer and expected him to return in August to complete final credits.

Even though he'd completed four years of eligibility, they expected when he came back he'd stay involved with football as a student assistant or a manager.

When he spoke to fellow players, Johnson said, they listened. Once, when the team was losing badly to Atherton, a team typically at the bottom of the standings. Johnson called a timeout, and Gibbs, a defensive tackle, asked to speak first.

Gibbs urged his teammates to get it together. There was no way they were going to lose to Atherton. The players got the message, Johnson said, and "we scored 33 straight points."

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Cards, Cincinnati final 2 for Waggener star Brents

Four-star prospect wants to remain close to home

Jason Frakes
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jairus Brents' recruitment has included schools from California to Pennsylvania and several places in between. But as National Signing Day approached, it appears the highly regarded cornerback will end up choosing a school close to home.

Chris Vaughn, Brents' godfather and trainer, said Monday the **Waggener High School** senior will likely sign with either the University of Louisville or the University of Cincinnati during a ceremony set for 3 p.m. today at Waggener.

Neither Brents nor Waggener head coach Jordan Johnson were available for comment.

"I think it will come down to Cincinnati and Louisville, for sure," Vaughn said.

At 5-9 and 160 pounds, Brents is a four-star recruit according to 247Sports.com. He was a first-team Courier Journal All-State selection and was among 11 finalists for Kentucky's Mr. Football award.

Last August, Brents announced a top-10 list that included Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan State, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Purdue, Southern California and Wisconsin.

But two schools not on that list - U of L and Cincinnati - recently shot to the lead as Brents became more interested in staying close to home, Vaughn said.

Vaughn said U of L's recent hiring of Brian VanGorder as its new defensive coordinator was a factor in Brents becoming interested in the Cardinals. Rivals.com first reported the Brents-U of L connection on Saturday.

VanGorder also recruited Brents while at Notre Dame.

"He's familiar with Jairus," Vaughn said of VanGorder. "Defensively, with that scheme, Jairus fits what they're looking to do. They'll use a nickel back a lot more."



As a senior last season at Waggener, Jairus Brents recorded 62 tackles, two sacks and two interceptions.

ADAM CRECH/SPECIAL TO COURIER JOURNAL

Vaughn said Brents also enjoyed a visit to Cincinnati last weekend.

"They jumped in late on him because they didn't feel like they had a shot to get him with all the other offers he had going on," Vaughn said.

Vaughn said two other schools - Mississippi and Pittsburgh - are "long shots" to sign Brents, who visited Pittsburgh on Jan. 19.

"I think he's ready for it be done and over with and move on and go play," Vaughn said. "The biggest thing is he's looking to play right away. He's not looking to redshirt. He's focused on getting better."

As a senior last season at Waggener, Brents recorded 62 tackles, two sacks and two interceptions. He also played multiple spots on offense, passing for 972 yards and 13 touchdowns and rushing for 481 yards. He finished the season with 15 TDs (eight rushing, two receiving, two kickoff returns, two punt returns and one interception return) and scored on 13 two-point conversion runs.

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Hundreds of JCPS students ask to repeat classes after pandemic shutdown; school board to rule on requests

Olivia Krauth Louisville Courier Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Hundreds of students in Kentucky's largest school district want a redo after spending a year learning remotely.

About 770 families in Jefferson County Public Schools requested a supplemental year for their student, district spokeswoman Renee Murphy said Monday. That's around 0.8% of the district's more than 96,000 students.

A state law enacted in March allows all public school students to ask to retake or supplement courses from this school year during the 2021-22 year — essentially allowing them to repeat a grade.

High school student-athletes would also receive a fifth year of athletic eligibility under the measure.

Kentucky families had until May 1 to formally request an extra year. School boards now have until June 1 to decide whether or not to offer those redo years.

See DO-OVER, Page 6A



Students eat lunch in the gymnasium as in-person classes resumed at Waggener High School and across JCPS on April 5 after spending a year learning remotely. ALTON STRUPP/COURIER JOURNAL FILE