

STUDENT FOUND DEAD IN TELFORD HALL

MADISON COUNTY CORONER SAYS CAUSE OF DEATH REMAINS UNDETERMINED, PENDING TOXICOLOGY REPORTS

By **WESLEY ROBINSON**
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An Eastern student was found dead in his dorm room late Monday night. Benjamin Fish, 24, was pronounced dead Sept. 23 in his residence hall room in Telford Hall at approximately 10:45 p.m. Fish was an environmental science senior from Prestonsburg. Madison County Corner Jimmy Cornelison said no foul play is suspected. He said Fish was found sitting in a chair in his room. Fish lived in a private room. Marc Whitt, university spokesman, said hous-

ing staff in Telford Hall was contacted to check on Fish. The staff then called EKU Police for assistance after finding Fish's body. Cornelison said no cause of death has been determined and it will take two weeks for the toxicology report to return. He added that he has spoken with Fish's family to obtain medical records to determine whether the deceased had past medical history that could have led to his death. "Until I get the tests back I don't know," Cornelison said. "I wish I could do like they do on TV, but I can't." Diane Fish, said she talked to her son around 6:30 p.m. Monday. She said she had just spent the weekend with Fish, which was her birthday weekend. She said the other family members went to dinner Saturday and that the two spent Sunday watching his favorite football

team, the Tennessee Titans. "It's not supposed to happen this way," Fish said of her son's death. "This is not what I want for my son right now." Fish said her son was very outgoing and had lots of friends. He attended Eastern since graduating from Prestonsburg High School in 2007. He enjoyed football, golf and fishing. He was also a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. Fish is survived by his father, Jimmy Fish of Inez; mother, Diane Blankenship Fish of Prestonsburg; his daughter, Annason Taylor Fish of Prestonsburg,; Sister; Ashley Fish Bowling of Lexington; Grandmother Wanda Fleming Blankenship, Prestonsburg. Visitation is today after 10 a.m. at the Prestonsburg Church of Christ. The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Benjamin Fish, found dead Monday night, is pictured here with his 8-month-old daughter, Annason Fish.

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JACOB BLAIR/PROGRESS

Even with the pedestrian bridge, students still risk their own safety and cross illegally across Lancaster Avenue.

Jaywalking still a concern at pedway

POLICE ISSUE CITATIONS FOR ILLEGAL CROSSING AT LANCASTER AVENUE

By **JACOB BLAIR**
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Even with the new pedestrian bridge linking Lancaster Lot and the Grand Campus apartments to Eastern's main campus, students are still jaywalking across Lancaster Avenue, putting themselves and drivers in danger. Eastern's Police Chief Brian Mullins said the most complaints about jaywalking on campus were from the area where the pedway is located. "People have always talked about a pedway being there," Mullins said. "I see a lot of people using it." University Police officers have the authority to issue citations for jaywalking across Lancaster and other streets on or adjacent to campus. Police Lt. Brandon Collins said for three weeks at the beginning of the semester, police officers were verbally warning jaywalkers. After the three weeks had passed, Collins said officers began to issue citations for illegally crossing the street. As of press time, he said that 32 citations had been issued for jaywalking by the pedway on Lancaster Avenue. "In the past, the argument was that it was too far to walk [to cross at Barnes Mill Road

or Crabbe Street]," Collins said. "Now there's this overpass, they [students] have an alternative." The pedestrian bridge was built during the construction of the Grand Campus at Yorick Place apartments. Grand Campus partnered with the university and paid for half of the bridge across a 15-year lease. Construction was complete in July giving students a safe way to get on campus from the Lancaster Lot as soon as classes started. But students continue to cross the street. Clayton Carson, 21, middle grade education major from Louisville, said he uses the bridge frequently. "I live in the new apartments so I use it every morning and every night," Carson said. Carson does not understand why people aren't using the new bridge. "I think it's senseless to be honest," Carson said. "You have a newly built pedway and you're not going to use it?" Erica Ellis, 19, psychology major from Danville, said it's typically not people from the apartments that are jaywalking. "People from the [Lancaster] parking lot are the main ones," Ellis said. "It seems to be illogical since there's a safe way to cross without dodging" SEE JAYWALKING, PAGE A3

Banner provides opportunity for free expression

By **STACIE LAWRENCE**
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Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) hosted a free-speech wall Thursday at City Fest in honor of Constitution Week. "We thought it would be a really good change to come to City Fest and allow students to promote and act on their First Amendment rights," said Darryl Hearn, YAL president. "We wanted students to come out and have a good time. It's a great way to show students that the constitution actually does matter." Students wrote anything they wanted. The wall contained hundreds of students' statements ranging from their religious and political views to what they thought of their roommate,

a particular movie, or Miley Cyrus. "Free speech is important," said AJ Jeck, a 20-year-old philosophy major from Berea. "There's a lot of different opinions, values, beliefs, and groups on campus. It's important that everybody has a place where they can feel comfortable saying whatever they want and expressing themselves." "I see many people putting up what they believe in, which is a really great thing to see," said Sebastian Torres, an 18-year-old freshman history and political science major from Miami, Fla. "That's the number one thing this group is about. It's about liberty. It's about freedom." YAL is a national organization with more than 380 chapters and 125,000 active members.. SEE SPEECH, PAGE A3



COURTNEY TUNER/PROGRESS

Brenna Rowan, 19, a American sign language sophomore from Shelbyville, adds a few words to the free-speech wall at City Fest last Thursday, Sept. 19.

Paperwork now required to change degree programs

By **TOPHER PAYTON**
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The Office of the Registrar has changed their policy in the way students change their majors throughout their college career. The office changed the method that students used to change majors from online to paper forms. The Registrar's Office also changed how frequent students can change their major and when students have to apply to graduate. "The change puts Eastern on par with most other schools that have had restrictions for changing majors in place for years," Registrar Tina Davis said. The first substantial change to the policy is that students can no longer go online to EKU Direct to change their major.

"The self-serve system is completely gone away with," Davis said, "It was found that it was becoming a disservice to the students." The objective of the new policy is to make students realize that picking your major is one of the most important decisions they will ever make, Davis said. This was conceptualized out of concern for students, Davis said. She wants to make this a more careful and thoughtful process than this has been in the past. The change is meant to involve the student in conversations with appropriate people in the department in which they want to change their major. Another change to the policy is that students can only change their major once a year. "Just last year I would have students

change their majors four or five times a year," Davis said. "Now that's just horrendous to the amount of time and money they will spend here." With many students using financial aid, it is expected that you use that money to get your degree in a timely manner, Davis said. The student will end up paying a lot more money for any extra time they have to spend here. The last big change to the policy affects those applying to graduate. Students now with more than 90 credit hours will have to apply to graduate. And once students apply, they have to stick with that degree program. "This will force students to look at their DegreeWorks audit, sit down and make a plan that will guide them through their col-

lege career," Davis said. Davis wants to encourage students to have good working relationships with their advisers and use them to help you look at their DegreeWorks audit, assess it and guide them through taking the right classes to get them out of here in time. There are always avenues for exceptions for students who have encountered any form of trouble in their current major and wish to get out, but Davis said that these would be extreme circumstances with this new change. "Our main goal with all these changes is to make the change of major policy a more thoughtful, efficient, and cost effective process that will ultimately benefit the student into helping them pick the right choice," Davis said.