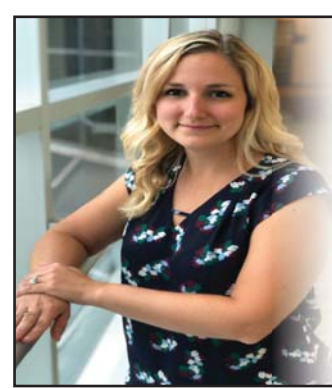




Lady Blackcats knock off Huntington

■ Sports, 11A



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Mon.-Wed., Dec. 31-Jan. 2, 2019

FLOYD COUNTY

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year 2018 in REVIEW



Floyd Chronicle and Times File Photo

Prestonsburg business owner Robbie Williams, pictured here while campaigning in October, ousted Floyd County Judge-Executive Ben Hale and will replace him on Jan. 1. He's the first Independent candidate ever elected to that role.

Changing of the guard



Floyd Chronicle and Times File Photo

Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton honors Roy Roberts and Mike Lafferty during a Dec. 27 meeting. Lafferty and Roberts, who did not win re-election, will be replaced by Rick Hughes and Josh Turner.



Floyd Chronicle and Times File Photo

Attorney Larry Brown waves at the crowd during the Jenny Wiley Festival. He was ousted by voters the following month.

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Floyd County has seen numerous changes in 2018, and, with leadership changes and projects underway, it appears the changes will continue in the New Year. The following stories highlight some of the most prominent events of the year, arranged in no particular order.

New leaders elected

The 2018 election brought significant changes to Floyd County, including its first-ever Independent judge-executive, Robbie Williams, who will take his seat in January, and a switch of the county's representative in the state House from Republican to Democratic control.

Voters ousted Judge-Executive Ben Hale, magistrates Randy Davis and John Goble, Prestonsburg City Council

See NEW YEAR, Page 7A

P'burg to buy property for trail

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Prestonsburg City Council moved forward with plans for the rail-to-trail project that is set to stretch from West Prestonsburg to David last week.

During a special meeting on Dec. 27, the city council gave Mayor Les Stapleton authority to buy the properties for the trail from CSX.

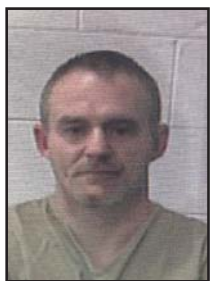
He reported after the meeting that the city is paying \$395,000 for 159 acres of property from CSX.

The city received preliminary approval in Aug. 2017 to

See TRAIL, Page 8A

Police: Drugs found at hotel

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT



CAMPBELL

Local law enforcement officials report that they seized more than 300 grams of crystal meth, cocaine and other drugs while executing a search warrant at a Prestonsburg hotel.

According to a press release and documents filed in Floyd District Court, the Floyd County Sheriff's Department and the Martin Police Department executed a search warrant at Super

See DRUGS, Page 4A

P'burg seeks lease for horse park

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Prestonsburg City Council is seeking a new partner for the city's equine center.

During a special called meeting on Dec. 27, the city approved seeking proposals from individuals and companies that are interested in operating the facility, located on StoneCrest.

The Prestonsburg Equine Center offers two barns, two riding rings with bleacher seating, an office building, restrooms, a

See HORSE, Page 9A

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Prestonsburg
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Knott County
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2018 in Pictures



Prestonsburg Tourism shortened the Paddlefest route, ending it at the Combs Airport, after Paintsville Tourism decided not to participate, in 2018.



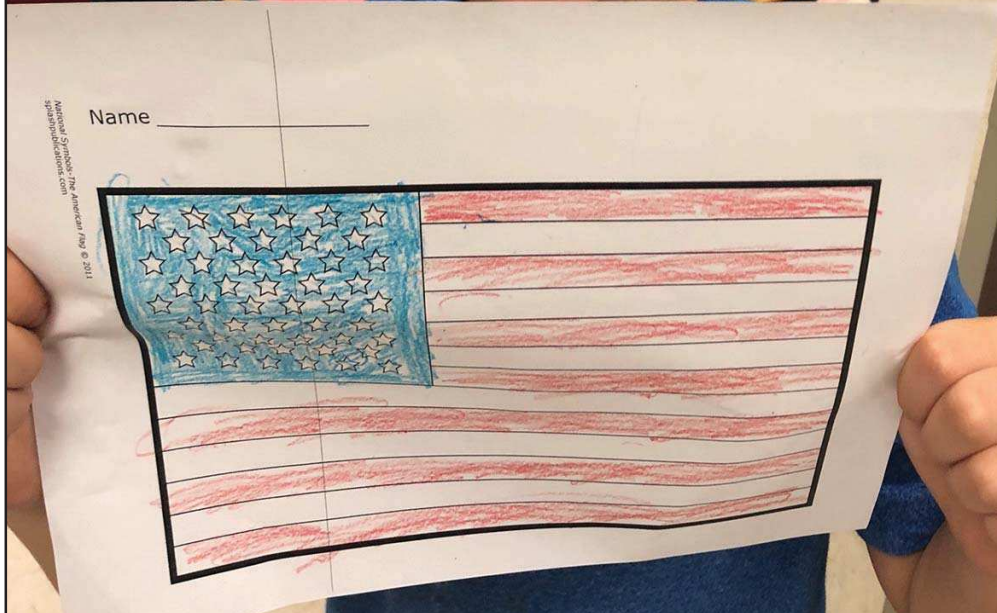
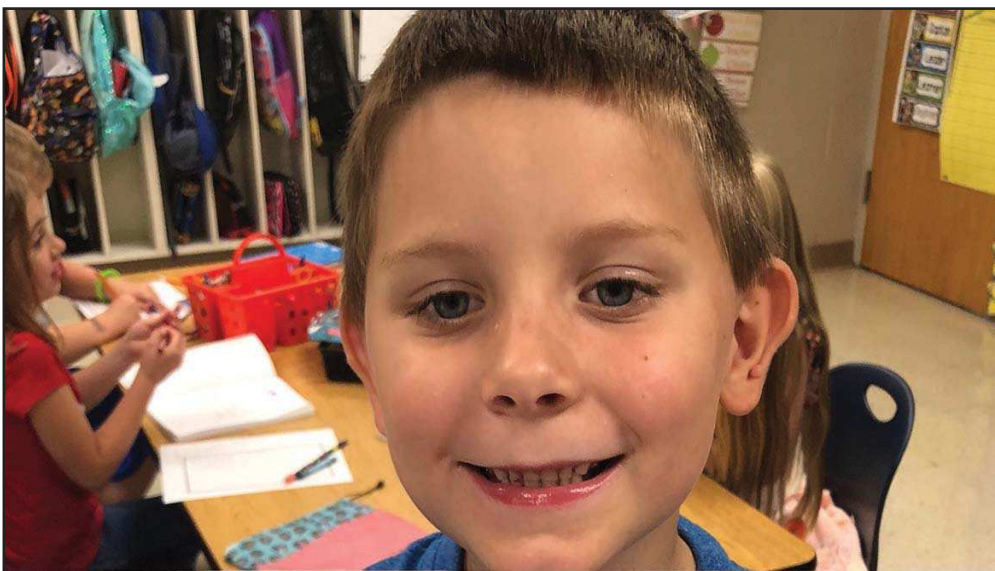
Prestonsburg firefighters escort former firefighter Larry Adams during a special ceremony at the Jenny Wiley Festival Powwow in October.



Auxier Fire Department members toss out candy during the Jenny Wiley Festival parade in October.



Judge Executive Ben Hale, magistrates Randy Davis and John Goble lost their bid for re-election in 2018. For the first time, Floyd County will be led by an Independent judge-executive in 2019.



Students in Patty Dye's first grade class at Stumbo Elementary recognized Patriot Day on Sept. 11 by learning about the American flag.

NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING APPLICATION OF SOUTHERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT FOR AN ALTERNATIVE RATE ADJUSTMENT

In accordance with the requirements of the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("PSC") as set out in 807 KAR 5:0001, Section 9(2)(b), notice is hereby given to the customers of the Southern Water and Sewer District that a hearing has been ordered by the Kentucky PSC to investigate issues related to water loss and indebtedness but not limited to these purposes.

The hearing will be held January 8, 2019 at 9 AM in Hearing Room 1 of the Public Service Commission offices at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, KY.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov

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- Bridget McCoy

2018 in Pictures



The Battle of Middle Creek attracted thousands of participants and spectators in September to view live reenactments of the Civil War battle, mingle with reenactors at several events and buy items in the living history camp.



Senator Johnny Ray Turner dances to "Do You Love Me" with instructor Mary Slone at "Dancing for Shelter." The event raised more than \$30,000 for the county's new homeless shelter, the East Kentucky House of Hope.



Prestonsburg Tourism hosted its first Night Market in the city this year, encouraging artisans and up-and-coming businesses to participate. Hundreds of people attended these events.



Regina McClure of the Big Sandy Area Development District answers questions for Wayland residents during a meeting about a voluntary buyout of properties in the city.



Big Sandy Area Development District Director Sandy Runyon speaks to US Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers in April. Runyon retired from the BSADD in August, and will be replaced by Ben Hale. Rogers was re-elected in November.



Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton and Fire Chief Mike Brown present Darrell Ousley, center, with a certificate of appreciation for his dedication and service in November, fulfilling what officials said was his lifelong dream.



Floyd County School Board Member Dr. Chandra Varia, pictured here during a meeting in August, donated funds through her family foundation so students can visit the East Kentucky Science Center, free of charge, for years to come.



Munroe, the house comedian for the Billie Jean Osborne Kentucky Opry, made thousands of people laugh in 2018. The MAC ended the fiscal year in the black for the first time in years.

Tonya and Tiffany Johnson, center, laugh during a ribbon cutting at PürLux in November. It was part of a celebration of the business' expansion. The multi-million dollar "mega spa" project brought one of only five Himalayan salt rooms available in Kentucky to Allen, as well as med-spa services that were previously only available in other areas of the state.



DRUGS

Continued From Page 1A

8 on Dec. 27.

The search resulted in the discovery of crystal meth, cocaine, "molly," numerous prescription pills, drug paraphernalia, a stolen firearm and \$200, the sheriff's department reported.

Sgt. Oliver Little arrested Shawn M. Campbell, 40, of Summer Shade, charging him with two counts of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, one count of second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first- and third-degree possession of a controlled substance, receiving stolen property

(firearm), possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Little reported in the arrest citation that officials were following up on a tip about meth being sold from the hotel. The room was registered to another person, he reported.

Little reported that deputies found 161 grams of a crystal-like substance believed to be meth in the hotel room and another 146 grams of the same type of substance in Campbell's vehicle, as well as a plastic tube with what appeared to be cocaine, pills, drug paraphernalia and the gun, which was registered as stolen.

The sheriff's department reported in the press release that the investigation continues, and more arrests are expected to follow.

Campbell pleaded not guilty to the charges during an arraignment on Dec. 27. District Judge Jimmy Marcum placed him under a \$10,000 full cash bond and ordered him not to leave the state if he is released from custody. Marcum scheduled a preliminary hearing for Jan. 2.

In a separate case, Campbell was charged with being a fugitive from Indiana.

He waived extradition in that case during a Dec. 28 hearing.



Submitted photo
The Floyd County Sheriff's Department seized these items while executing a search warrant at a hotel in Prestonsburg on Dec. 27. Shawn Caudill was arrested and charged with drug trafficking and other charges.

No shows at Floyd tourism

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Floyd County Recreation, Tourist and Convention Commission canceled its last official meeting of the year on Thursday.

No commission mem-

bers turned out to attend the meeting, and the cancellation was not announced prior to the meeting.

The agency's meetings are scheduled to be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the county courthouse.

Floyd BOE sets new school calendar for 19-20

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Floyd County Board of Education recently adopted the district's school calendar for the upcoming school year, and there aren't many changes expected.

Students are scheduled to start school on Aug. 7, 2019, and the final day for students is set for May 8, 2020, barring inclement weather closures.

As it has done for years, the school district will "bank" seven instructional days into the calendar to cushion the number of days missed if inclement weather arises. As presented, the 177-day calendar would allow students to miss up to 20 days for inclement weather and still start their summer in May, the district reported.

For the past 10 years, the district has lost an average of 19 days annually for inclement weath-

er closures.

The calendar was developed by the district's calendar committee. It must be approved by the school board prior to May 15 each year.

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EDITORIAL

Teacher raises could impact district, taxpayers for years to come

The Floyd County Board of Education has a tough decision to make in regards to whether the district can afford to give pay raises for teachers.

At a recent board of education meeting, Superintendent Danny Adkins told Floyd County Education Association President Angela Coleman that officials are looking for funding to give teachers raises.

Coleman asked the board to consider raises, citing salary changes approved this year for classified workers in

Floyd County and given to teachers in Johnson County.

Adkins told her that officials are "running some numbers" to determine whether teacher raises will be possible.

We understand why he said that work will take several months.

Teachers in Floyd County and across the nation have one of the hardest jobs around. They're educating our future and they deserve to be paid well for that critical service they provide to us, day in and out.

We also understand that without a good wages, the district can't attract good teachers, which is imperative if we want to live in a county where children get the education they need and deserve.

But therein lies the dilemma.

The district employs hundreds of teachers, all of whom have various skills levels and expertise, and officials continually emphasize the need for them to grow and gain additional certifications, like the district's

goal to have half of all of its teachers earn National Board Certification by 2020.

In making this decision about raises, board of education officials must be cognizant that the decisions made this year will impact district budgets for years to come.

It's not just a question of whether teachers deserve raises, because we all know they do. And it's not just a question of whether the district can afford raises this year.

It's a matter of wheth-

er the district will still be able to afford these raises years down the road, and that concern is lying bare at the base of this issue because our economy is struggling.

When the board chairman asked whether the district can sustain the salary increases for classified workers earlier this year, the district's finance director told her, "It's unpredictable. I say right now, we can, but it's like, is it going to rain next week?"

In making this decision, the board must

weigh all possibilities and uncertainties about the region's economy. They'll be weighing their decision about this raise with the burden that will ultimately be placed on Floyd County taxpayers, who'll be paying for it.

Balance is necessary.

If the numbers work out and the district becomes fully convinced the raises can be more a benefit than a hindrance to the school system's future, then we say that it's absolutely a deserved move.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Health ranking shows Kentucky has a lot to work on

THE ADVOCATE-MESSENGER

Kentuckians are among the least healthy people in the country.

Kentucky ranked 45th for overall health outcomes — down three spots from 2017, according to an annual report from America's Health Rankings.

The states that rank worse than Kentucky are Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

The top ranked states were Hawaii, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and Utah, respectively.

In the report, 35 markers of health associated with behavior, community and environment, as well as policy and clinical care are measured

and ranked.

The report found Kentucky leads the nation in physical inactivity among adults, preventable hospitalizations and cancer deaths.

Additionally, Kentucky ranks 47th for rates of drug-related deaths, 49th for rates of smoking, 43rd for children in poverty and rate of obesity, 48th for frequent mental distress, 49th for frequent physical distress and 47th for premature death.

Some key positive highlights from the report included:

- In the past five years, the percentage of uninsured decreased 65 percent from 15 percent to 5.3 percent of the population, ranking Kentucky eighth in the nation.
- In the past 10 years,

air pollution decreased 41 percent from 13.8 to 8.2 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter.

- Kentucky has low rates of violent crime, ranking fifth in the nation for rates of such crimes.

- Kentucky ranks seventh for high-school graduation rates, with 88.6 percent of people graduating.

Some key negative highlights from the report included:

- In the past two years, frequent mental distress increased 17 percent from 13.8 percent to 16.2 percent of adults.
- In the past four years, diabetes increased 22 percent from 10.6 percent to 12.9 percent of adults.
- In the past three years, excessive drinking increased 27 percent

from 13.6 percent to 17.3 percent of adults.

- The rate of children living in poverty is 22.4 percent, ranking Kentucky 43rd in the nation.

- Since 1990, cancer deaths increased 11 percent from 211.6 to 234.9 deaths per 100,000 population.

The full report can be accessed at americashealthrankings.org.

State legislators and health officials should develop and implement policies with these figures in mind.

One critical aspect of improving the state's health will be ensuring residents maintain access to health insurance, which will continue to improve access to care. Kentucky has made great strides in recent years in this area, evidenced by

this report.

Without access to health care, Kentuckians will continue to fall behind the rest of the country in areas of health and wellbeing.

The health of the state's residents is critical to our success in many ways. A healthy population means a healthier workforce, which can attract more businesses and industries to our state. Healthier children will be able to take better advantage of education opportunities. Improved health will reduce medical costs for individuals and the state.

Improving our state's health rankings will not be an easy task. The state will need to continue taking a multi-faceted approach to fighting the drug epidemic, working

with public health agencies, hospitals, schools, law enforcement, churches and treatment programs.

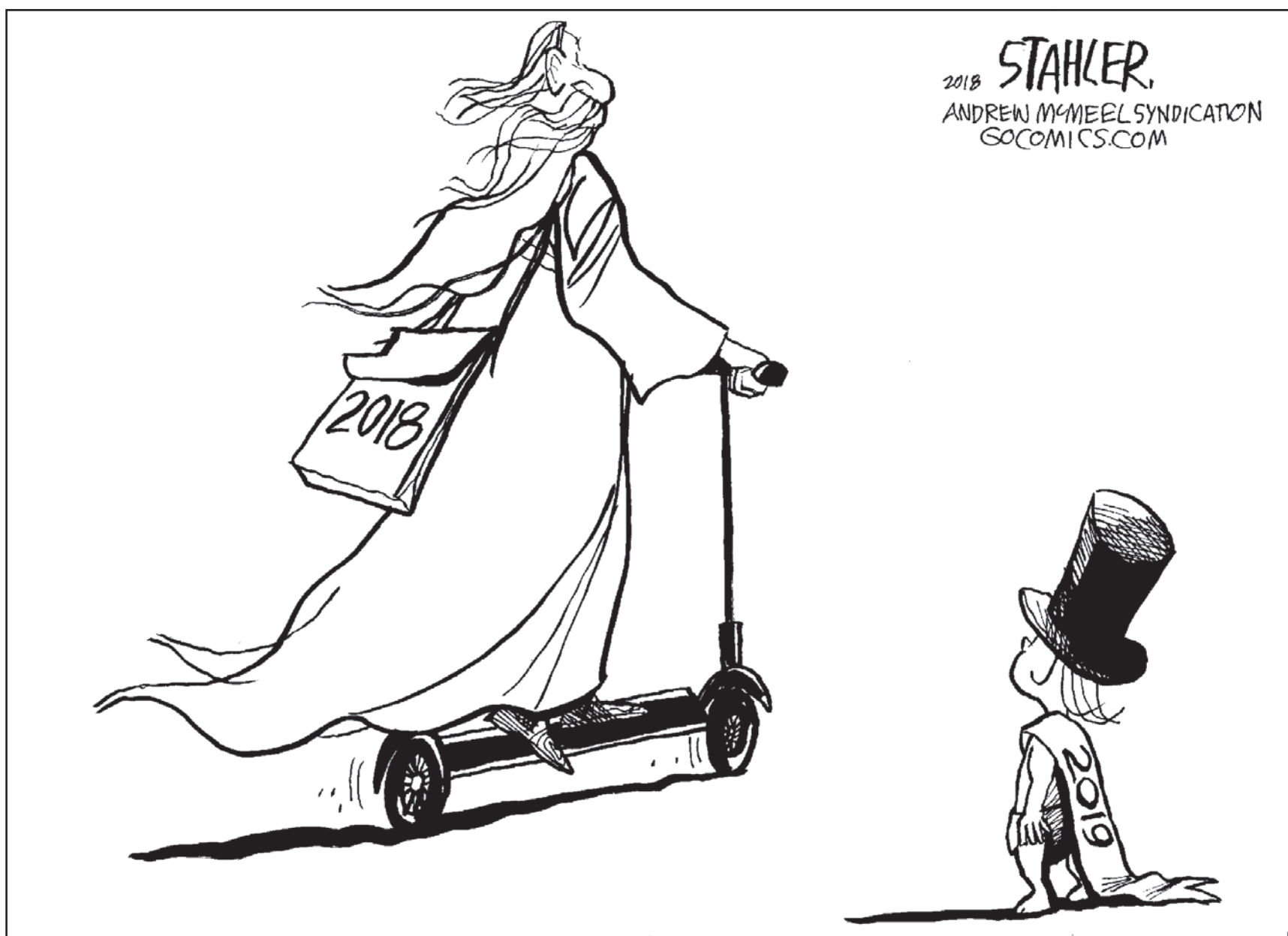
We will also need to continue looking at policies and legislation that will reduce tobacco use.

It is past time to find ways to improve access to care for diabetics. Education about how to live with diabetes and prevent it will also be critical.

Likewise, improving access to mental health care and removing the stigma about mental illness with education campaigns will also be critical.

Most importantly, we want to see our community and our neighbors healthier in all facets — physically, mentally and financially.

Kentucky is a beautiful place to live and is full of potential. Our state can't reach its greatest potential if its people are dying too early, suffering mentally and physically and falling behind in so many other ways.



CHRONICLE & TIMES

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FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES OBITUARIES

Marriages, property transfers filed in Floyd County

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The following marriages and property transfers have recently been filed in the Floyd County Clerk's office:

Marriages

Sheila Sparkman, 43, of Langley, to Ronald D. Ousley, 49, of Langley
Donald Ray Goble Jr., 36, of Prestonsburg, to Savannah Harris, 33, of Prestonsburg

Darlena Lashae Hall, 29, of Teaberry, to James Nicholas Blankenship, 37, of Teaberry

Donna K. Johnson, 65, of Virgie, to Garrie R. Caudill, 64, of Minnie
Vernon Brian Johnson, 48, of Hi Hat, to Elizabeth Crawford, 50, of Hi Hat

Rachael Renee Caudill, 34, of Prestonsburg, to James Wesley Laferty, 41, of Prestonsburg

Property transfers

Michael Hall to Barbara Mature (Deeds Book 642; pg. 250)

LJ Hampton, Nancy Hampton to Ben Hampton (Deeds Book 642; pg. 253)

Paula Smith to Jordan Caldwell, Morgan Caldwell (Deeds Book 642; pg. 257)

Dewey Bentley, Ma-leaha Bentley to Louis C. Bentley (Deeds Book 642; pg. 260)

Maggie Banks, Tim Banks, Beverly Branham, Curtis Branham, Eugene Branham, Mary Branham, Rhonda Branham, Roy Branham, Connie Estep, Steve Estep, Belinda Risner, Henry Risner, to Maggie Banks, Tim Banks, Matil-

da Hinchman (Deeds Book 642; pg. 263)

Clifford Tackett to Carmel Hall, Melinda Hall (Deeds Book 642; pg. 270)

Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance to Amy Burgess Smith, Levi Travis Smith (Deeds Book 642; pg. 274)

Krista Cole, Robert Cole to Leonard Cieslak, Patricia Cieslak (Deeds Book 642; pg. 279)

Leonard Cieslak, Patricia Cieslak to Harry Greene, Patricia Greene (Deeds Book 642; pg. 283)

Nationstar Home Equity Loan Trust, The Bank of New York to CR 2018 LLC (Deeds Book 642; pg. 287)

Donald Hansford, Cheryl Hansford, James Webb, Nodga Webb to Tyann Hansford (Deeds Book 642; pgs. 295)

Donald Hansford, Cheryl Hansford, to Tyann Hansford (Deeds Book 642; pg. 299)

Charles E. Johnson to Shelby J. Branham, Terry L. Hays (Deeds Book 642; pg. 302)

Master Commissioner Gregory Isaac, HSBC Bank USA, Teresa Moss, Teresa Pigman and unknown spouse, Barbara Slone and unknown spouse, estate of Barbara Slone to Anaconda Holding Inc. (Deeds Book 642; pg. 305)

Misty Stevens to Patrick Stevens (Deeds Book 642; pg. 310)

Maggie Banks, Tim Banks, Beverly Branham, Curtis Branham, Eugene Branham, Mary Branham, Rhonda Branham, Roy Branham, Connie Estep, Steve Estep to Maggie Banks, Tim Banks, Curtis Hat-

field, Joan Hatfield, Matilda Hinchman, Belinda Risner, Henry Risner (Deeds Book 642; pgs. 332, 342)

Fannie Mae, Federal National Mortgage Association to Ernie Justice (Deeds Book 642; pg. 314)

Gladys Brookhart, Glen Brookhart to G&G Trust (Deeds Book 642; pgs. 317, 321)

Patricia Webb, Paul M. Webb to Sherry S. Robinson (Deeds Book 642; pgs. 325)

Jimmy Harvey to Charles Adkins (Deeds Book 642; pg. 328)

Christina Elliott to Christina Elliott, Michael Shepherd (Deeds Book 642; pg. 349)

Master Commissioner Gregory Issac, Blue World Pools Inc., Branch Banking and Trust Company, Asset Acceptance LLC, April Lucas, Ken- is Lucas, Kennis Lucas, Portfolio Recovery Associates to Estil Stumbo, Matthew L. Wells (Deeds Book 642; pg. 352)

Gary N. Francis, Lisa J. Francis to Lisa F. Hylton, Marcus J. Hylton (Deeds Book 642; pg. 358)

Haskel Prater to Clyde Reed, Tara Lynn Reed (Deeds Book 642; pg. 362)

Johnny McKinney, Charla McKinney to Kevin Newsome, Lakita Newsome (Deeds Book 642; pg. 366)

Elizabeth Martin to Tametha Sparkman (Deeds Book 642; pg. 371)

Deanna Shelton to Jarvie Hamilton (Deeds Book 642; pg. 375)

Floyd County Fiscal Court to Prater Creek Food Pantry, lease

(Deeds Book 642; pg. 379)

Wesburn Inc. to Rental Management Service LLC (Deeds Book 642; pgs. 400, 448)

Marie Blackburn, Shawn Blackburn, Steve Blackburn, Wesley Blackburn to Rental Management Service LLC (Deeds Book 642; pgs. 391, 407, 416, 425, 433, 455)

Master Commissioner Gregory Isaac, Katrina (Lewis) Bartram, Jeffery Bartram, JP Morgan Chase Bank, SWABS Revolving Home Equity Loan Trust to ABN AMRO Mortgage Group Inc., CitiMortgage Inc., Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Deeds Book 642; pg. 385)

Kansas Ousley to Donovan K. Ousley (Deeds Book 642; pg. 441)

Master Commissioner Gregory Isaac, Dickie Branham, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Nationstar Mortgage to Nationstar Mortgage LLC (Deeds Book 642; pg. 463)

Paul Mullins to Jeff Devers (Deeds Book 642; pg. 469)

Dallas Ousley, Dennis Ousley, Sandy Ousley to Michael Kendrick (Deeds Book 642; pg. 473)

Noah Vance Jr. to Noah M. Vance (Deeds Book 642; pg. 378)

Creed Acree, Larry D. Acree to Ashley G. Hunter, Maynard L. Hunter (Deeds Book 642; pg. 482)

Allen V. Turner, Karen L. Turner to Karen L. Turner (Deeds Book 642; pg. 486)

Thelma Allen

Thelma Allen, 87, of Hueysville, died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018.

Arrangements were under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Janet Martin

Janet Marlene Martin, 62, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Rondal Ray Hall

Rondal Ray Hall, 76, of Garrett, died Monday, Dec. 24, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Pearlie Porter

Pearlie Porter, 70, of Grayson, died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018.

Arrangements were under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Donnie McKenzie

Donnie McKenzie, 61, of Garrett, died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Shirley Ann Rose

Shirley Ann Rose, 73, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

All license plates expire in birth month next year

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet announced all personalized license plates will transition to a birth month expiration beginning Jan. 2, 2019, to comply with House Bill 530. This legislative change brings personalized license plates in line with standard issue plates that expire on the last day of the vehicle owner's birth month.

Currently, personalized license plates expire annually on Dec. 31 and all applicants must renew their registration in-person at their local County Clerk's office between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31.

Beginning in January, individuals with January, February or March birth months will renew their personalized plates in person or online (secure.kentucky.gov/kytc/renewal) anytime between their birth month and April 30, 2019. All other birth months will renew by the last day of their

birth month. In 2020, all applicants will renew by the last day of their birth month.

Personalized plate holders who renew between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31 will pay 2019 registration fees for the period of Jan. 1, 2019, through the last day of the individual's birth month in 2019. Online renewal is not available through Dec. 31 but will resume Jan. 2, 2019, for unexpired registration renewals only. The changes only affect the timing of when applicants renew and do not include any fee changes.

When renewing your registration at the County Clerk's office, applicants should bring the following:

- Photo ID
- Kentucky certificate of registration
- Current original (not a copy) proof of Kentucky insurance effective within 45 days
- Appropriate form of payment (check with your County Clerk's office)

Engineering scholarships available

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will award up to 30 scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year for prospective and current college students pursuing civil engineering and engineering technology degrees.

The deadline to apply is Feb. 1, 2019.

As many as 20 competitive civil engineering scholarships will be awarded for students who attend the University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University or Kentucky State Universi-

ty. KYTC and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System teamed to develop an associate degree program in civil engineering technology at two campuses – Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington and Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg.

In addition to gaining tuition assistance, recipients will have the opportunity to work during the summers and are guaranteed post-graduation employment.

"From intern to deputy secretary, the Civil

Engineering Scholarship launched my 22-year career in transportation," said KYTC Deputy Secretary Paul Looney. "I know firsthand the benefits of investing in the education of future transportation professionals and leaders who will shape the industry and build infrastructure that keeps the Commonwealth connected."

Freshmen and sophomores attending universities with these scholarships receive \$6,200 per semester, while juniors and seniors receive \$6,600 per semester, to complete a Bachelor of Science in civil engineer-

ing. Students agree to work one year for KYTC for each year of assistance.

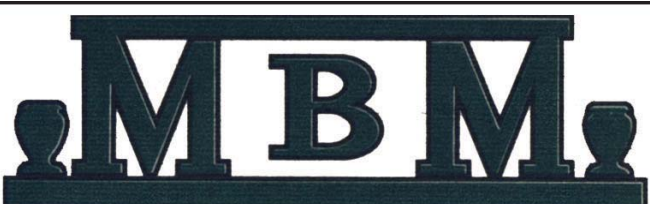
The Cabinet will award up to 10 scholarships for participating community college students, who can choose to attend either campus in Prestonsburg or Lexington.

Each scholarship student will receive \$3,000 per semester plus the opportunity of a summer job and full-time placement with KYTC upon graduation.

For more information, visit, transportation.ky.gov.

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NEW YEAR
Continued From Page 1A

members Mike Lafferty and Roy Roberts, Wheelwright Commissioner Vernon Smallwood and Rep. Larry Brown during the election.

Magistrates George Ousley and Mark Crider, Prestonsburg City Council members Rick Hughes and Josh Turner, Wheelwright Commissioner Dana McCown and Rep. Ashley Tackett Laferty will take their seats on Jan. 1.

In addition to changes brought about by the election, several other influential leaders retired, while others are taking on new roles. One of the biggest leadership changes in Floyd County in 2018 was the hiring of Floyd County Schools Superintendent Danny Adkins in May. The school district changed attorneys the following month, as former district attorney Jonathan Shaw resigned and was replaced by attorney John Earl Hunt.

Sandy Runyon retired from her decades of service at the Big Sandy Area Development District in August, and that board hired Hale as its new director, starting Jan. 1. In April, former Prestonsburg Tourism Director Mitchell Pearson resigned, and Samantha West was hired to replace him. In September, Hale hired Barry Davis as deputy director.

More leadership changes are expected to come, as several county, state and school district employees retired in 2018.

Building a brand

It's been a year of "coop-a-petition" for some businesses. The Prestonsburg Business Network has improved the city's small business scene by working together to host block parties, donation drives and other events. Sheena Maynard, owner of Lou's Place for Pets, talked about the importance of this partnership while presenting awards donated by these businesses at the Prestonsburg Christmas parade in December.

"When we came together and we realized that only when you come together and realize it's not about competition, that's when you take a town by storm, and I think that is exactly what we've done here for Prestonsburg Kentucky," she said. "If you haven't noticed, the towns around you are copying us. And, baby, let them copy because that's the best form of flattery ever."

Floyd County welcomed several businesses in 2018, with the grand re-opening of the Pur Lux mega spa and the openings of the Pink Elephant, Hatfield-McCoy Heating and Cooling, Double Kwik, the Rural Medical Group, Prestonsburg Running Company and others.

In 2018, Floyd County also bid farewell to several longtime businesses, including Papa John's, Janie and Lilian's Singers Products shop, Bella Pooch, the Honda Shop and others. Other busi-

ness changes include the purchase of Saint Joseph Martin by Appalachian Regional Healthcare and the merger of First Commonwealth with Peoples Bancorp, which is set to be finalized in 2019.

"Teachers have had enough. We want our voices heard. We're asking for what we've earned, what we deserve, and no more, no less."

-Angela Coleman, Floyd County Education Association

Educational challenges

It's been a challenging year for education in Floyd County.

In March, teachers rallied in Prestonsburg to protest legislative changes to the state's pension system and that protest brought about school closures to allow busloads of teachers to travel to Frankfort.

The pension reform bill attempted to reduce the pension debt by cutting the annual cost-of-living increase in teacher retirement plans and placing new teachers into a 401K-style plan. It passed with Republican approval in the legislature, but the Supreme Court struck down the law on procedural grounds. After that ruling came in Dec., Gov. Matt Bevin called a special session, giving lawmakers a few hours to get to Frankfort. Lawmakers, however, adjourned the session the following day without dealing with the issue.

The frustrations about the state's pension problems has been compounded this year in with other issues that impact education in Floyd County.

As reported in August, the Kentucky Department of Education issued a scathing audit on the school district this year, alleging "systemic" violations of state regulations concerning special needs education, "inappropriate state assessment practices," and other issues. The audit paints the story of a district where special education is a "substitute" for real education so students can get extra help on state tests. The findings prompted the state to require Floyd County to implement a corrective action plan and some of the findings were referred to other agencies for investigation.

Creating a small town vibe

Floyd County has seen much success on the tourism development front this year, a goal that leaders hope will improve the local economy.

Some tourism milestones reached in 2018 include the continued increase in popularity of the SugarCamp Mountain Trails on StoneCrest, Prestonsburg's deal with the state to take over operations of the Jenny Wiley Amphitheatre at the state park, the county's first-ever Russell May Retrospective Arts

Festival and corresponding blues festival at the amphitheater, the city's first-ever Night Market events, among other things.

One of the most memorable tourism-related announcements came when Mountain Arts Center boasted that for the first time in years, it operated in the black, with revenues of about \$45,500.

In October, the MAC debuted "Live from CMH 23," a new television show produced in partnership with a national television network, The County Network, that is being broadcast across the county. The show highlights Eastern Kentucky musicians, performing at the MAC and in other locations.

"Thank you for letting us be here. Thank you for letting us be a part of this dream, because it's not a dream anymore. It's become reality," The County Network CEO Tim Eaton told the crowd at the debut.

More tourism attractions are on the drawing board. Prestonsburg moved forward in December with its rail-to-trail project that will stretch from David to West Prestonsburg and in November, the Floyd County tourism commission started working on a project that would provide boat access on the river in the Allen-Banner area.

Insurance premium tax repealed

The Floyd County Fiscal Court repealed its insurance premium tax — and about \$1.4 million in revenue — on June 15, reporting that county residents will stop paying the tax in July 2019 — when the incoming fiscal court must pass its first budget.

The action came with fiscal court members who were ousted during the election — Judge Executive Ben Hale and magistrates John Goble and Randy Davis — talking about doing "the will of the people," and pointing out that their opponents used the tax to campaign against them.

It also came with County Attorney Keith Bartley and County Treasurer David Layne voicing concerns about how the repeal will impact the fiscal court's budget in 2019.

"So, without that \$1.4 million, in the next fiscal year, am I correct in saying that the next court would be in the position where they'd either have to A., cut \$1.4 million out of the budget or B., find \$1.4 million in revenue just to get back to a balanced budget?" Bartley asked.

"Correct," Layne told him. He said the tax offsets the deficit at the jail — state-mandated expenses — talking about the decline of coal severance tax the county has faced.

Drug problems remain

Floyd County's drug problem has continued in 2018, and there seems to be no end in sight.

Thousands of people



Floyd Chronicle and Times File Photo
Jennifer Kopecky, owner of City Perk, and Heather Owens, owner of the Mountain Muse, pose during the Prestonsburg Merchants Network's Block Party on June 22. The network of businesses hosted numerous events in 2018.



Floyd Chronicle and Times File Photo
The County Network CEO Tim Eaton and Cary Rolfe, vice president for development and artist relations, attended the premiere of "Live from CMH 23" at the Mountain Arts Center in October.



Floyd Chronicle and Times File Photo
Current and former educators and their supporters from Floyd, Pike, Johnson, Martin and Magoffin counties held a rally in Prestonsburg on March 10 to protest Senate Bill 1, which is set to make changes in teacher retirement benefits.

have been arrested for drug related crimes in the county, and county prosecutors, jail officials and others regularly report that drug addiction is involved in 80 or 90 percent of the cases filed in district and circuit courts.

Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner said in an interview in November that the large number of drug-related indictments doesn't mean that illegal drug use has increased, only that law enforcement officials are "very active in pursuing" drug investigations.

"The fact that there may be times where there's more indictments coming is really not an indication that the drug activity's increased because it's always pretty much maxed out and just at epidemic levels at all times," Turner said. "It's just an indication that whatever agency or agencies working were able to get enough evidence to make changes. But it does indicate that the different agencies out there are very active in pursuing drug investigations."

Conn gets 15 years
Disgraced Social Se-

curity attorney Eric C. Conn began 2018 with a 42-page, letter written from jail explaining why he fled custody prior to his sentencing, and detailing his journey, which ended with his recapture in Honduras.

Conn pleaded guilty to escape and other charges in June and he was sentenced in September to 15 years, in addition to another 12-year sentence he had in a prior plea agreement.

His case filtered through the federal court system as the Social Security Administration announced it would conduct redetermination hearings on 2,000 of Conn's former clients, and as his former employee, Curtis L. Wyatt, pleaded guilty to helping him escape.

In November, U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers announced that because files in Conn's office were not available to the clients facing redeterminations, he had worked with the SSA to postpone the hearings 60 days while the files were retrieved and sorted. Later that month, a federal appeals panel sided with the former clients, maintaining that the SSA's method for conducting the hearings

and excluding potentially valid evidence was unconstitutional. The cases are still pending.

Fannin gets probation

Former Prestonsburg Mayor Jerry Fannin received probation and a fine in August, after he was found guilty in a federal case of using city funds to support his semi-professional football team.

US District Judge Karen Caldwell sentenced him to serve six months of probation, with home incarceration, and to pay \$2,000 in fines and restitution of \$8,000.

"This is a serious crime, one that strikes at the heart of the democratic process," she said, adding that it erodes the public's confidence in government.

The case started in 2013, when Fannin "pressured or directed" city employees to use city funds — and a senior citizens bus — to help the Kentucky Drillers football team.

Fannin faced 10 years and a \$250,000 fine, but his attorney Ned Pillersdorf argued for a lighter sentence, citing health problems Fannin has.

More children lack health insurance

By MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

For the first time in nearly a decade, the number of uninsured children in the U.S. and Kentucky increased, according to a report from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

From 2016 to 2017, the number of uninsured U.S. children rose by 276,000, to nearly four million. About five percent of the nation's children were uninsured in 2017, up from 4.7 percent in 2016.

In Kentucky, 6,000 fewer children had health insurance in 2017, for a total of 41,000. That's an increase to 3.8 percent, up from 3.3 percent in 2016.

The report, based on Census Bureau data, found that no state saw its number of uninsured children decline from 2016 to 2017. The rate did drop in the District of Columbia.

In six of the previous seven years, the percentage of U.S. children with health insurance in-

creased, first due to the Children's Health Insurance Program (K-CHIP in Kentucky), then with the 2014 implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

"Having health insurance is important for children because it improves their access to needed preventive and primary care such as well-child visits, immunizations, and prescription drugs. Insured children are also less likely to miss school, and they are more likely to have better economic and educational outcomes when they grow up," said Joan Alker, co-author of the study and executive director of Georgetown's Center for Children and Families.

The report says the declines are likely the result of influences that have created an "unwelcome mat" effect, including: efforts to repeal the ACA; an "unprecedented delay" by Congress to fund CHIP; repeal of the law that required most

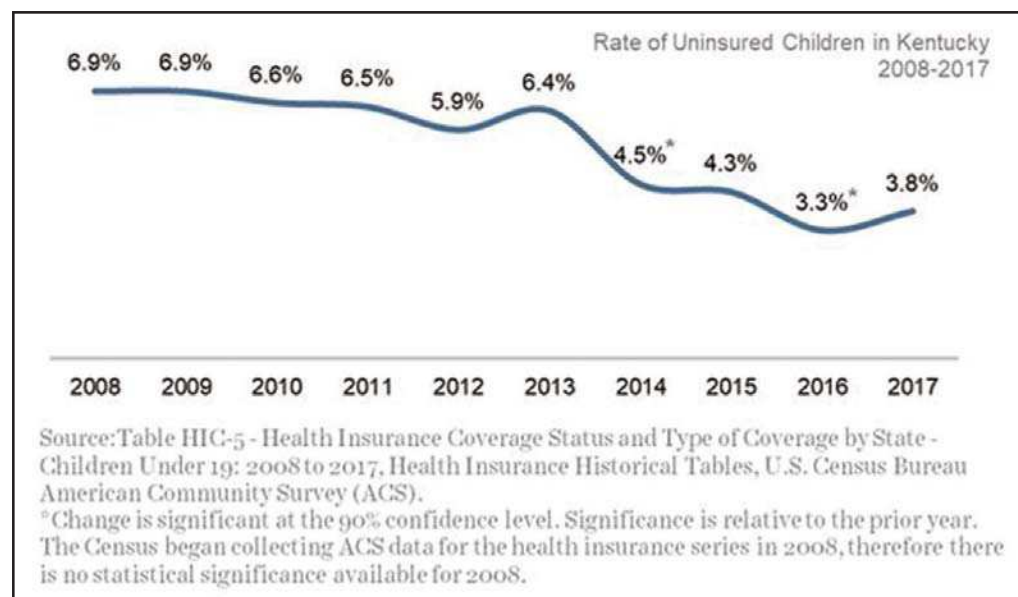
peoples to have health insurance or pay a fine; huge cuts in outreach

and enrollment programs for ACA insurance; a shorter open enrollment period for that insurance; and changes in state Medicaid systems that may have tightened verification procedures.

In addition, the report says that several new Trump administration policies deter parents who are immigrants from enrolling their children, even if the child is a U.S. citizen. One-quarter of all children under 18 living in the U.S. have a parent who is an immigrant.

"Declines in child coverage rates occurred in 2017 despite an improving economy and low unemployment rate, strongly suggesting that federal actions contributed to a perception that publicly funded health coverage options are no longer available or, in the case of an immigrant parent, created concern about enrolling their child in public coverage for fear of reprisal," says the report.

The report adds that while the largest source



of coverage for children in 2017 was through employer-sponsored insurance, the increases made in this market were not enough to compensate for the decline in publicly-funded coverage.

The report also shows that states that expanded Medicaid to people with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, as Kentucky did, had fewer uninsured children. For example, of the 276,000 children who lost coverage in 2017, three-fourths, or 206,000, lived in non-expansion states.

Research shows that children whose parents

are insured have considerably higher rates of coverage than those whose parents are not

"We've made so much progress in Kentucky since 2014," said Emily Beauregard, executive director of Kentucky Voices for Health. "By getting parents covered under our Medicaid expansion and health insurance marketplace, we've seen a dramatic decrease in the number of children who were uninsured. It would be a shame to allow all that we've achieved for Kentucky's children fall by the wayside."

The report concluded with a dire warning: "Barring new and serious efforts to get back on track, there is every reason to believe the decline in coverage is likely to continue and may get worse in 2018."

Kentucky Health News is an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, based in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

TRAIL

Continued From Page 1A

receive \$1.95 million as part of the 2016 Abandoned Mine Lands Pilot Program for this project and officials report that about \$63,000 has been spent to date on engineering, surveying and deed work.

Stapleton said the city received the authority to proceed on the project from the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in November and CSX has already started removing the rails along the proposed trail. He said the end of this project, however, is still not in sight. He referenced it as still being in the "infancy" stage.

Council members discussed the project at length during the meeting, starting with discussion about potential opposition from Stapleton.

He told the council, "The closing agreement with CSX. You all have a copy of it and just today at about 2 o'clock, I received the paper in front of you from Marty Osborne. Basically, what he says is there is state law that may give them some rights, but because this is handled through the Surface Transportation Board, which is a federally-mandated board and it's federally-mandated transportation, that it overrides the state's authority. If they're going to sue anybody, they don't have to sue us, they can sue the federal government. Hurrah. They can stand in line for it."

City Attorney Jennifer Elliott said that assertion is what city officials believed, but they wanted to make sure.

Stapleton continued, "We have, you all actually gave me the permission to go through and get the monies and everything. We've got the monies. They're sitting in an account. All of

the attorneys' money will come out of the funding we receive, and the closing agreement, the payment for the properties will also come out of that. Everything is in order as far as the state's concerned, as far as the AML's (Abandoned Mine Lands) concerned. All I need is your all's authority to go ahead and close on the properties and pay them their money."

Council member Harry Adams raised concerns about the future costs of the project.

"What's your estimate on maintenance on this once its up and running? What's it going to cost us?" he asked.

"It's going to be one guy, traveling through on a daily basis, looking for problems, picking up garbage and stuff, maybe rolling it a couple of times a year," Stapleton said. "That will be the most. That will be as bad as it's going to get. Once it's put in, it's, we're going to asphalt as far as we can."

Adams asked the question a couple of times during the meeting, as Stapleton explained that the cost would be "minimal."

"Luckily, we ended up with an arts center that was given to us and it's been kind of tough on us. We've got a golf course that was given to us and it's kind of tough on us. I was wondering if there's a way out on this. If the bleeding's too bad, can we get out?" Adams asked.

Elliott explained that a trail is different than businesses.

"And the difference between this and, let's say, StoneCrest or the MAC is that it's not an ongoing business," she said. "This is a trail. This is something we're doing for economic development for adventure that once it's done, it's done. It's like the mayor says if you don't use it and people don't want it, it's just there."

Council member Don Willis asked whether the city will have a way to keep vehicles off the trail.

"Yes, we are," Stapleton told him. "... We're going to put some posts in. There's different ways of doing posts, short gates, two short gates in succession. There's all kinds of different ways. We've got to find out what's going to work the best for us, where it's at."

Council member Shag Branham talked about the use of the trail during flooding.

"It is an emergency corridor, too. That was also a part of the Abandoned Mine Lands, that's why we were able to get the grant. It's an emergency corridor. That was something that we made real clear right off the bat. If we put the two short gates up, they're like this," Stapleton said, holding his hands up to demonstrate. "So you can't get a vehicle in. So, when you open them both up, they can, a vehicle can travel. We may do it with poles. We may do it with lockers. There's all kinds of different ways of doing it."

Stapleton said the trailheads will be located at Archer Park and at the David School and the trail would be open for hikers, horses and bicycles.

Stapleton said the city doesn't know how far the city will pave the trail. Paving will be determined by the cost of the work required to build the trail, he explained.

"We know we have enough to build the trail. We know we have enough to fix the bridges. We know we have enough to get it in place," he said. "How far the asphalt will go? We don't know yet. The asphalt is gravy. It's just gravy on what we're doing now."

After the meeting, Stapleton talking about the possibility of the city annexing the rail line in the future.

He said the city will



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

The Prestonsburg City Council voted on Dec. 27 to start buying property for its rail-to-trail project. CSX has already started removing rail for the project, which will stretch from West Prestonsburg to David. Officials said the trail heads will be at Archer Park and the David School.

annex the rail line because it will own the property, but he also noted that the city owns property that has not been annexed into the city limits, such as property in Wayland that Prestonsburg recently leased to that city.

He said he is excited to see the project move forward.

"It's been proven that the rail-trail projects have so many benefits," he said. "One is tourism. It brings people in. If they've got something to do, they'll do that. They'll spend money in your restaurants. They'll go to the Mountain Arts Center. They'll do all of that stuff. It all adds together."

He said marketing the trail would be key to its success.



Community Events

- Dec. 31, Midnight: Prestonsburg to host New Year's Eve celebration with Star Raising, fireworks, Mountain Arts Center
- Jan. 7, 6 p.m.: Allen City Commission meets, Allen City Hall. (606) 874-2953
- Jan. 6, 1 p.m.: Battle of Middlecreek Commemoration to be held at the battlefield, followed by Old Christmas at the historic Samuel May House
- Jan. 8, 12 p.m.: Prestonsburg Tourism meets, Mountain Arts Center. (606) 886-1341
- Jan. 8, 1 p.m.: Freedom from Smoking class begins, Big Sandy Health Care's Physicians for Families location. (606) 886-8997
- Jan. 8, 5:45 p.m.: Wayland Tourism Commission meeting, community center
- Jan. 8, 6 p.m.: Wayland City Commission meets, community center
- Jan. 8, 6 p.m.: Floyd County Beekeepers meet, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668
- Jan. 9, 5 p.m.: Wheelwright City Commission meets, city hall. (606) 452-4202
- Jan. 10, 12 p.m.: Floyd County Communities Against Drug Addiction meets, Prestonsburg First Presbyterian Church
- Jan. 10, 5:30 p.m.: Floyd County Extension Board meets, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668



Prestonsburg man sentenced for trying to lure minor to perform sex act

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

ousness of the charges against Roberts.

A Floyd County man was released from custody this month after being formally sentenced to using an electronic device to lure an underage female to perform a sexual act.

Eric D. Roberts, 23, of Prestonsburg, was sentenced to serve 12 months on an amended charge in the case, and was then released from a custody because he has already served that sentence.

Roberts was indicted in January on one count of using an electronic communications system to procure a minor to commit a sexual offense in November 2017.

His attorney requested a lower bond during a hearing in August, reporting that he had been incarcerated for eight months and couldn't afford to post bond. Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner opposed the motion, and Circuit Judge Johnny Ray Harris agreed, citing the seri-

After the hearing, Turner reported that Roberts is accused of using an electronic device to lure an underage female to perform sexual act. Roberts did not know, however, that he was speaking to the child's father when he committed the alleged crime, Turner said at that time.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Amy Turner filed an offer on a plea of guilty for Roberts in November, agreeing to recommend 12 months in jail if Roberts pleaded guilty to an amended charge of attempting to use an electronic device to procure a minor to commit a sexual offense, a Class A misdemeanor. The victims were in agreement with that recommendation, she reported.

The judgment and sentence on Roberts' guilty plea was filed in Floyd Circuit Court on Dec. 28, as was the order requiring his release from the Floyd County jail.

The Prestonsburg City Council is seeking proposals from individuals and companies interested in leasing the Prestonsburg Equine Center on StoneCrest.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows



HORSE

Continued From Page 1A

shower house, a gazebo, two announcer booths, a concession building, six picnic tables, a shed at the front gate, dumpster and trash bins, and the person or company that leases it will be responsible for maintaining those areas.

The city's proposed lease calls for payments of \$1,000 per month, and the person or company that leases the facility agrees to offer boarding, training, camping, trail riding, shows, lessons, sales, auctions and charity functions there.

The lease requires at least two shows per month, weather permitting, between April and September, four trail rides annually with at least 12 horses involved and three trade days.

The lease also requires the winning bidder to pay all taxes and utilities at the property and maintain a \$2 million personal injury insurance policy and a \$2 million property damage insurance policy.

The previous lease, held by Heather and Chris Moore of Mountain View Stables, ended on Oct. 31, and the city council has discussed the issue at several meetings, with officials deciding to change the lease agreement to add more amenities and services there.

In October, officials

reported the couple owed \$6,700 for unpaid utilities at the equine center. The council created a committee to draft a new lease in November, and the council accepted a letter of refusal from the

couple, during its regular meeting in December.

Council member Harry Adams and Shag Branham requested the bids be opened 30 days after the request for proposals is published. Council

member Don Willis asked if the Moores have started moving out yet.

"Yes," Mayor Les Stapleton said.

"Are we watching them?" Willis said.

"What do you think?"

You know me. What do you think?" Stapleton said.

During the meeting, the council also approved allowing Stapleton to spend up to \$6,500 for attorney Linda Ain to

complete the city's franchise contract with Sudenlink.

They also approved allowing Stapleton to sign a letter of engagement with Ain.



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Floyd County Chronicle • Monday - Wednesday, December 31, 2018 - January 2, 2019 • Page 10A

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toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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The *Floyd County Chronicle and Times* reserves the right to edit, properly classify, cancel or decline any ad. We will not knowingly accept advertising that discriminates on the basis of sex, age, religion, race, national origin or physical disability.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Revelation Energy, LLC, P O Box 189, Lackey, KY 41643 intends to apply for a phase 1 bond release on increment 1 of its permit 836-5641, which was last issued on 2/5/2015. This application covers an area of approximately 3.30 acres, located 3.8 miles southeast of McDowell in Floyd County. The operation is located 3.8 miles southeast of McDowell in Floyd County. The operation is approximately 0.7 miles east from KY Route 1929's junction with Neds Fork Road and located in Neds Fork. The operation is located on the McDowell U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The total bond now in effect for increments 1 is \$75,000.00. Approximately 54.40% (\$40,800.00) of the original bond amount on this increment is included in this application for phase 1 release. Reclamation work performed includes backfilling/grading/topsoiling/seedling, completed in the Summer of 2018. Results thus far achieved include backfilling, grading, seeding, and topsoiling of the disturbed areas. Written comments, objections, and request for a public hearing or

LEGALS

informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement, 300

LEGALS

Sower Blvd. 2nd Floor Frankfort, KY 40601 by February 22, 2019. A public hearing has been sched-

LEGALS

uled for 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, on February 25, 2019 at the Prestonsburg

LEGALS

Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive Suite 6, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. This hearing will be can-

LEGALS

celed if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by February 22, 2019.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A MERGER PURSUANT TO SECTION 18(c) OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT

In accordance with the publication requirements under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, notice is hereby given that Peoples Bank intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board and the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions for permission to cause The First Commonwealth Bank of Prestonsburg Inc., to merge with and into Peoples Bank. Peoples Bank has its principal place of business located at 138 Putnam Street, Marietta, Ohio 45750. The First Commonwealth Bank of Prestonsburg Inc., has its principal place of business located at 311 N. Arnold Ave., Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. It is expected that after the completion of the merger, all of The First Commonwealth Bank of Prestonsburg Inc.'s banking office locations will continue to be operated as branch locations of Peoples Bank.

The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the application, including the record of performance of the applicant banks in helping to meet local credit needs.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this application to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, OH 44114, or via e-mail: comments.applications@clev.frb.org. The comment period will not end before **January 28, 2019**. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262. Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the application, contact Allen M. Brown, Banking Supervisor, at (216) 579-3091. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

Lady Blackcats get two wins in classic

By **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

RACELAND — The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats picked up two big wins in their first two games of the Mr. Micro Computers Ohio River Classic. Prestonsburg came up with wins over Huntington and host Raceland.

Prestonsburg 72, Huntington 67

Prestonsburg notched an impressive win on the opening day of the Mr. Micro Computers Ohio River Classic on Thursday, topping Huntington (W. Va.) 72-67.

With the win, Prestonsburg improved to 6-5. Prestonsburg claimed its third straight victory.

"I was so proud to see the way our team responded against a great Huntington team," said Prestonsburg coach Brandon Kidd. "We were outsized at almost every position, but won the rebounding battle."

The Lady Blackcats showed improvement throughout the matchup against Huntington.

"Huntington made a great run in the third quarter and two to three weeks ago we would have probably given up and gotten beat," Kidd added. "Instead, these girls came out of the timeout and competed and they never quit. This team is starting to come together and it's a blessing to see. I'm excited to continue this journey with them."

Senior guard Kaitlyn Keathley scored a game-high 24 points to lead Prestonsburg to the win. Keathley was named the

Player of the Game.

The Lady Blackcats led at the conclusion of each quarter. Prestonsburg started strong, outscoring Huntington 17-11 in the opening period. The Lady Blackcats led 24-27 at halftime and outscored its West Virginia opponent 22-18 in the third quarter.

Three Prestonsburg players reached double figures in the scoring column. Alivia Slone scored 15 points while Caroline Ariaz added 14 points in Prestonsburg's triumph. Ariaz recorded a double-double, pulling down 11 rebounds for the Lady Blackcats.

Prestonsburg thrived offensively, shooting 63.4 percent (26 of 41) from the field. The Lady Blackcats were four of 14 (28.6 percent) from three-point range.

Prestonsburg shot 59.3 percent (16 of 17) from the free-throw line.

Faith Lazar (eight points), Celina Mullins (five points), Reesce Endicott (five points) and Alison Campbell (one point) accounted for the rest of the Lady Blackcats' scoring.

Ravyn Goodson paced Huntington with 17 points. Accompanying Goodson in double figures for Huntington, Madison Slash scored 13 points, Katie Swann netted 12 points and Lathia Jackson posted 11 points.

Prestonsburg 60, Raceland 50

Prestonsburg remained in the win column on Friday night, defeating host Raceland 60-50 in the Mr. Micro Computers Ohio River Classic.

Fresh off a victory over Huntington (W.Va.) one day earlier, Prestonsburg claimed its fourth straight victory.

With the win, Prestonsburg improved to 7-5.

Raceland dropped to 5-5 with the loss.

Prestonsburg shot 40 percent (22 of 55) from the field. The Lady Blackcats were four of 22 from three-point range.

Prestonsburg shot 60 percent (12 of 20) from the free-throw line.

Reesce Endicott paced Brandon Kidd-coached Prestonsburg, scoring a team-high 15 points for the Lady Blackcats. Prestonsburg featured four scorers in double figures as Caroline Ariaz and Alivia Slone added 11 points apiece and Kaitlyn Keathley contributed 10 points. Ariaz recorded a double-double, pulling down a game-high 11 rebounds.

Visiting Prestonsburg took control early, outscoring Raceland 23-10 in the first quarter. The Lady Blackcats led 31-20 at halftime.

Alison Campbell (six points), Faith Lazar (six points) and Makayla Ousley (two points) accounted for the rest of the Lady Blackcats' scoring.

Chloe Collins and Emilee Garvin paced 16th Region member Raceland with 15 points apiece. Collins led the Lady Rams inside, securing eight rebounds.

Raceland was 16 of 18 from the free-throw line in the setback.

Prestonsburg is scheduled to host 15th Region rival Magoffin County on Friday, Jan. 4.



photo courtesy of Prestonsburg Girls' Basketball
Prestonsburg senior guard Kaitlyn Keathley was named Player of the Game following the Lady Blackcats' victory over Huntington (W.Va.) in the Mr. Micro Computers Ohio River Classic at Raceland High School on Thursday.

Lady Jaguars back in action on Wednesday

Floyd Central eighth grade guard Kennedy Harvell is pictured. Current 58th District Girls' Basketball frontrunner Floyd Central is scheduled to face Belfry in a non-district game on Wednesday.



Floyd Chronicle and Times
photo by Steve LeMaster

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Blackcats edge Williamstown, 53-50

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

WILLIAMSTOWN - Prestonsburg returned to the win column on the second day of the Williamstown Holiday Tournament. The Blackcats halted a two-game losing skid on Friday, edging the holiday tournament host Williamstown 53-50.

With the win, Prestonsburg improved to 6-5.

Williamstown dropped to 5-9 with the loss.

Three of Prestonsburg's five starters reached double figures in the scoring column. Graham Burchett paced Prestonsburg with 16 points. Accompanying Burchett in double figures for the Blackcats, Blake Slone scored 14 points and Adam Slone added 12 points.

Prestonsburg clung to a 26-25 lead at half-time but added to its lead shortly after the intermission period. The Blackcats outscored disciplined Williamstown 17-12 in the third quarter.

"Williamstown is a well-coached young team that really sticks to its gameplan," Prestonsburg coach Brent Rose commented, following his team's victory. "We did a good job of grinding out the victory. Our execution at the end of the

game was good. We are trying to expand our bench during this tournament and we had some guys really step up today. That's a positive sign going forward."

Will Gullett (six points), Josh Hall (three points), Jake Rainey (two points), Clayton Smith (one point) and Jacob Martin (one point) accounted for the remainder of Prestonsburg's scoring in the victory.

Prestonsburg managed to return to the win column following a loss to Thomas Nelson one day earlier. Thomas Nelson topped the Blackcats 49-37 in a game played on Thursday in the Williamstown Holiday Tournament.

"It was a good comeback from our game on Thursday," added Rose. "We didn't play well and I felt like we gave the game away. Like most young teams we have some games and even periods within the game that we just lose focus. We are working hard on limiting those going forward."

Cole Kighlinger led Williamstown with a game-high 19 points. Bryant Henson was the only other Williamstown player to reach double figures in scoring, adding 13 points for the Demons.



Prestonsburg's Adam Slone goes up for a shot over Shelby Valley defender Orbie McPeck in action earlier this season.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Bobcats fall in Mountain Schoolboy

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

BELFRY — Betsy Layne faced a single digit deficit at the conclusion of each quarter and couldn't make a run late as Morgan County pulled away to win 58-49 in the opening round of the Mountain Schoolboy Classic at Belfry High School on Thursday.

With the loss, Betsy Layne dropped to 5-4.

Morgan County improved to 8-2 with the win.

Junior guard Jake Helton scored a game-high 22 points to lead Morgan County to the victory. Joining Helton in double figures for the Cougars, senior guard Blake Evans added 15 points.

Morgan County managed to edge Betsy Layne 14-13 in the first quarter. The Cougars forced Betsy Layne to play from behind in each period. Adding to its lead early, Morgan County outscored the Bobcats 13-10 in the second quarter to lead 27-23 at halftime.

Finishing strong, Morgan County outscored the Bobcats 21-17 in the fourth quarter.

Morgan County shot 45.5 percent (20 of 44) from the field. The Cougars

were six of 18 (33.3 percent) from 3-point range.

Morgan County shot 70.6 percent (12 of 17) from the free throw line.

Garrett Adkins (seven points), Garrett Wright (six points), Zach Gilliam (four points) and Cameron Bush (four points) accounted for Morgan County's other scoring.

Sophomore guard Jordan Frazier paced Betsy Layne with a double-double, scoring 19 points and pulling down 10 rebounds. Accompanying Frazier in double figures for the Bobcats, senior guard Zack Bentley added 10 points.

Narrowly missing double figures in scoring for Betsy Layne, Brady Robinson scored nine points for the Bobcats.

Betsy Layne shot 37.7 percent (20 of 53) from the field. The Bobcats were 4-of-14 (28.6 percent) from three-point range.

Betsy Layne finished four of six (66.7 percent) from the free-throw line.

Inside, Betsy Layne outrebounded Morgan County 24-20.

Additional scorers for Betsy Layne were Nate Mims (seven points), Chase Mims (two points) and Davy Bentley (two points).

Special Holiday Delivery Dates
In observance of the holidays, we will have special delivery dates!

Wednesday, Jan. 2nd Edition
Will be available and delivered on **Monday, Dec. 31st**

2019

Happy New Year

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