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Wednesday, January 23, 2019

FLOYD COUNTY

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Williams proposes \$900K budget cut, 4 percent insurance tax

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Fiscal Court entered the fiscal courtroom last week with four poster boards detailing the county's fi-

ancial situation and two scenarios about how to deal with it.

The poster boards basically pointed out that in order to deal with a \$4 million debt that as Williams said, "has been laid

at the fiscal court's feet," the county must either brace for a 7 or 8 percent insurance tax hike that Judge-Executive Robbie Williams said the state would likely propose in 2020, or stop that from

happening by cutting the county's upcoming budget by 5 percent and implementing a 4 percent insurance premium tax.

"Unfortunately, we're having to go back and take a second look at the

insurance tax," Williams said. "No one wants a tax. I mean, obviously, it's not something we want to do."

County Treasurer David Layne said the five
See BUDGET, Page 2A

Trans-Star Ambulance to be sold

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

A Floyd County ambulance service is being sold.

Trans-Star Ambulance, based in Prestonsburg, filed a notice of acquisition with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services on Jan. 15.

The company will be bought by Mercy Ambulance of Evansville, Inc., doing business as American Medical Response in Colorado, the Cabinet reports.

Trans-Star Regional Director of Operations

See TRANS-STAR, Page 3A

Southern water loss costs \$386K a year

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

A hearing held by the Kentucky Public Service Commission this month for Southern Water's rate increase application brought numerous allegations and issues to light.

In addition to allegations that the 2017 transfer agreement of water and sewer services between Southern Water and Prestonsburg City Utilities came about because of "political pressure," the hearing also highlighted allegations of mismanagement.

Southern loses \$386K annually to leaks

With lines in some areas 40 and 50 years old or older, Southern's

See WATER, Page 8A

BSCTC hosts Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity March



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Cody Davis

Marchers sing as they begin to walk past Jenny Wiley Theatre in Pikeville. The march began at the intersection of Hambly Boulevard and Huffman Avenue and ended at Pikeville United Methodist Church. Stops were made along the way for readings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words.



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Austin Blankenship
Pastor Marvin King Jr. with the Kingdom Fellowship Christian Life Center of Lexington, delivered the keynote address during the Big Sandy Community and Technical College Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Solidarity March on Monday. King spoke to the crowd at Pikeville United Methodist Church about how, while dreams may be partially fulfilled, they can never expire.



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Cody Davis

University of Pikeville Black Student Union President William Wheeler III speaks to the crowd at Pikeville United Methodist Church on Monday. Wheeler spoke to the crowd about his family history and how society has changed over time in the way that they address people of color. Wheeler ended his speech with his favorite quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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BUDGET
Continued From Page 1A

percent cut will equal about \$900,000.

The county's six percent insurance premium tax has been riddled with controversy since it was approved in 2017.

The fiscal court voted to repeal it after three members, former Judge-Executive Ben Hale and magistrates John Goble and Randy Davis, were ousted in the primary election in 2018.

The county is currently still collecting that six percent tax for insurance policies sold through July 1, but after that, the tax will disappear unless fiscal court approves adopting a new insurance tax rate ordinance. Williams said the fiscal court must adopt that ordinance by Feb. 15 if it wants to get insurance premium tax revenues after July 1.

He talked about \$4 million in debt the county faces — a \$2.2 million bond the fiscal court approved last year for road repairs and jail improvements and the Southern Water District bond that Prestonsburg was previously paying.

"All I can attest to is we now have \$4 million in debt that we wasn't counting on in June or July this past year when we was looking to do this," Williams said. "It's been laid at the fiscal court's feet and the residents of Floyd County. That's why we're where we're at today and that's why we're having this discussion."

He detailed two scenarios, starting first with the insurance tax.

"If the tax expires, we're ultimately going to be out of cash, February or March of 2020," he said. "The state steps in if we're going to have a budget deficit. What's concerning to me ... is if the state comes back and we have to add the new debt back into the calculation for the taxes, this tax may go to a seven or eight percent. That's my concern is we get to that point. And, if we have a 7 or 8 percent insurance tax put on the folks of Floyd County, it's going to be, it's going to be devastating."

He talked about the services fiscal courts are required to provide residents, specifically mentioning the behind-the-scenes costs like healthcare at the jail.

He called that the worst-case scenario and proposed a second one.

"This is what, tentatively we are looking at is reduce the current tax from a 6 percent to 4 percent. That's a 33 percent reduction in the tax, come July 1 of 2019," he

said. "We're going to attempt to cut the spending five percent across the board. We think we can."

He talked about uncertainties like the cost of employee insurance and said county officials still believe they can cut five percent from the budget.

"We're going to really negotiate with our vendors. We're going to tell them when they come to the table, and you know, they better be ready to negotiate because political favoritism's out," he said. "It's all about saving taxpayer dollars and trying to get the county moving forward."

He said officials are working on a long-term plan to cut costs and mentioned spending caps in the budget.

"This is the money we have to work with, you know, and that's what we have to tell everyone. This is our budget. We're not going over the budget. You have to make it work with what we have," he said. "I mean, it's just like in your household. If you bring home \$100 a month, you have \$100 to spend. You can't spend \$105 and kick your can down the road."

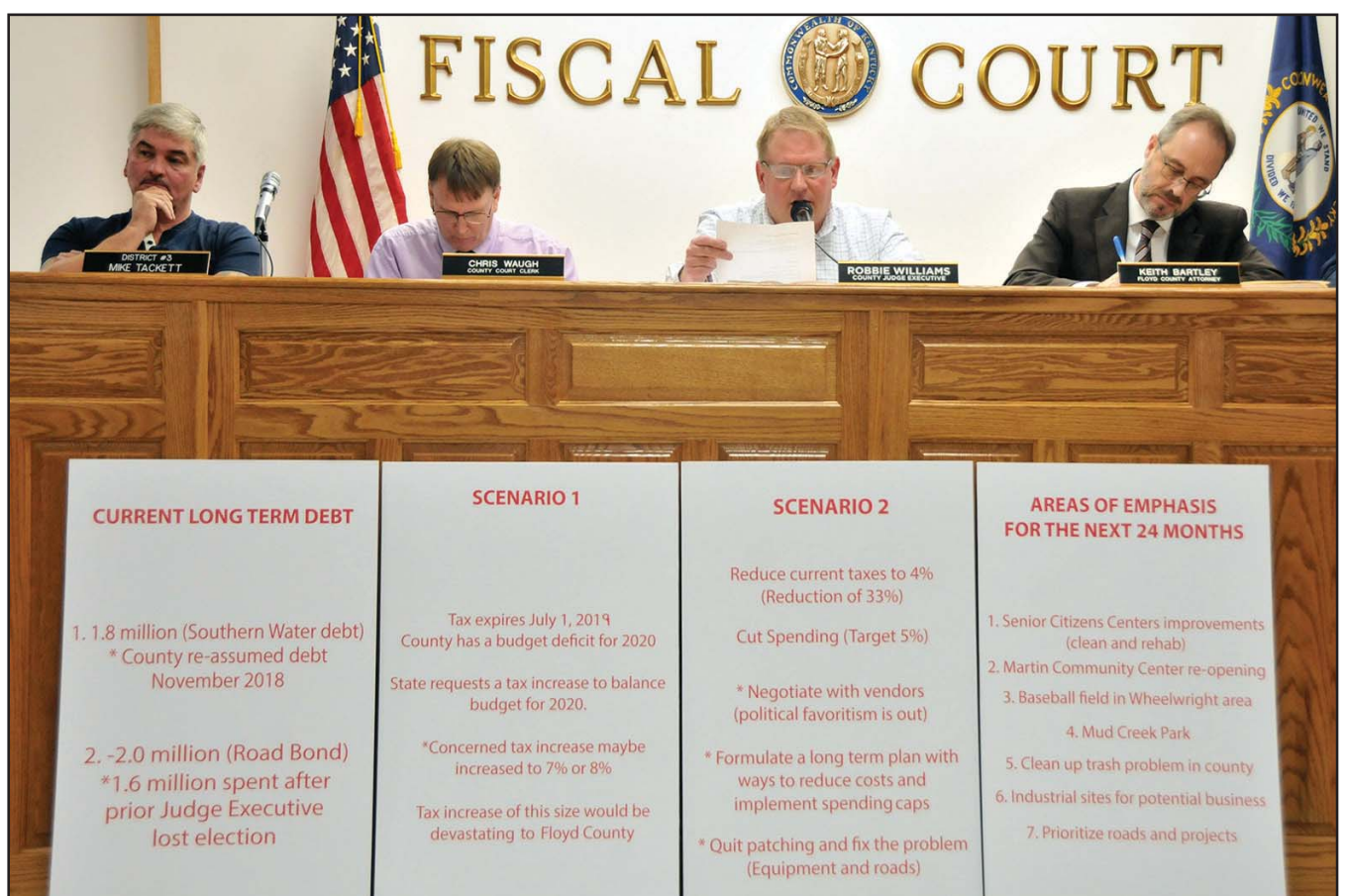
He pointed out the need to prioritize a county road maintenance plan and upgrade county equipment and highlighted his administration's areas of emphasis.

He said workers are already painting, laying carpet and doing other things to clean up the senior citizens center in McDowell and work will continue to clean up other senior centers.

Other priorities including the Martin Community Center reopening, construction of a baseball field at Wheelwright and a park in Mud Creek, trash cleanup in the county and development of two industrial sites.

In closing, he talked about the insurance premium tax again.

He said, "We can pay a little tax today and potentially avert having to pay a much larger tax next year, because when the state comes in, folks, we don't control, at that point, what that tax will be when they start calculating these numbers and they step in when we



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams, center, talks about the financial issues that are highlighted on poster boards during a Jan. 18 meeting. Pictured, left to right, are Magistrate Mike Tackett, County Clerk Chris Waugh, Williams and County Attorney Keith Bartley.

have a budget deficit."

He asked Floyd County residents to provide feedback about it.

"We need feedback from the public. We need you to talk to your magistrates. We need you to talk to us and let us know, you know, what works for you. We're here, like I said, we work for you. We're here to pursue your agenda, not ours. So, talk to your magistrates. Talk to us. Let us know what you think on the taxes and we'll see what we can do going forward," he said.

No magistrate made any public comment about the proposal or the county's financial issues.

Jailer Stuart Bear Halbert talked at length about the jail's financial issues, reporting that the jail has been overcrowded, which costs more money and requires Floyd County to pay to have inmates housed elsewhere. The jail has 108 beds available and 170 inmates, he said, and the jail's healthcare contract was budgeted at \$163,000, but the jail has already paid \$180,000 because of the overpopulation.

The fiscal court approved a resolution allowing Halbert to spend \$31,700 to replace an old truck that needs maintenance, reporting that \$30,000 will come as a sign-on bonus from Se-

curus, a technology company that offers a system to control contraband telephones in the jail. The funds will come from the jail budget, Halbert said, and he submitted a quote of \$31,700 from Pop's Chevrolet, saying it was a "state quote."

County Code Enforcement Officer Joe Reynolds also reported that officials are combing through delinquent garbage bills to determine how many people are not paying each month. He said they are driving to homes to see if residents with delinquent bills are still living there.

Reynolds reported that the total amount delinquent is \$680,000 in Floyd County. He point-



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
The county's new Code Enforcement Officer Joe Reynolds tells the fiscal court that officials are identifying homes with delinquent solid waste bills in the county. He said \$680,000 is owed county-wide and some of those bills are from homes that are empty.

ed out, however, that treasurer report shows some of those bills are for homes that have fallen in.

The fiscal court paid nearly \$423,000 in bills at the meeting. The county

treasurer report shows the county ended Dec. 2018 with a cash balance of more than \$3.5 million in its general fund and nearly \$4 million in all funds.

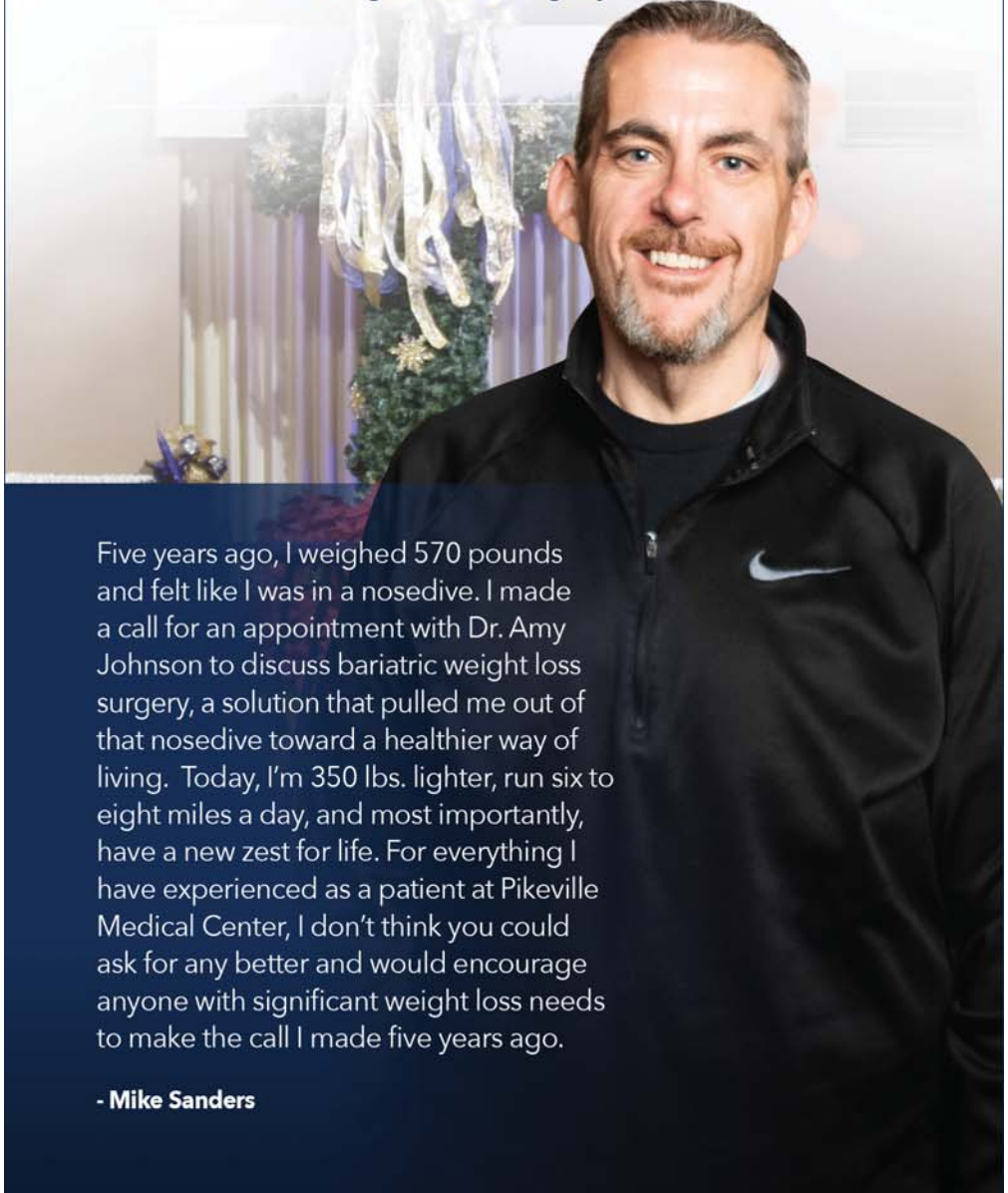
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- Mike Sanders

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TRANS-STAR
Continued From Page 1A

Bert E. Absher would not comment about the ongoing negotiations, saying details regarding the sale will be issued at a later date.

"At this point in the purchase agreement, we're notifying our employees, our healthcare partners and our creditors and suppliers, and then once we do that, we'll do a joint release with the acquiring company and we'll make sure that we'll have all of that available," Absher said.

Trans-Star, the only ground ambulance service in Floyd County, also serves residents of Pike and other counties. It expanded operations into Wheelwright and other areas of the southern end of Floyd County in 2017, following the closure of the Left Beaver Ambulance Service. Several complaints have been

made by officials in the Wheelwright area since that time, alleging that residents have to wait an hour or longer for ambulance response at times.

The topic arose during a Jan. 18 Floyd County Fiscal Court meeting, after Jason Moore asked court members for help.

"Judge, I'm Jason Moore, and we'd appreciate it if you can do anything to get us ambulance service up Left Beaver," Moore said. "I know that other one is supposed to, but if you call one, four or five hours later, it might be there. So they promised that they'd keep one up there, but that's not happening."

Judge-Executive Robbie Williams told Moore that the county has been working to address the situation.

"What we hope to do is get them in that Left Beaver Rescue Squad building. I'm trying to, that's something we're

working on," Williams said. "It will make it a little more accessible, to keep it staffed full time ... The county, we can't get back in the ambulance business. It's too much, but we have to hold these people's feet to the fire and we got to have our residents taken care of. I understand that."

After the meeting, Williams said he has spoken with the CEO of the company that plans to attempt to work out a deal with the Left Beaver Rescue Squad building.

"We're going to try to work something out," he said. "We have to address the ambulance situation in Left Beaver. That's priority."

He continued, "We recognize we have to address this. There's a transition going on currently and we're waiting on when the new company steps in, and we'll address it with them."

He said he does not want to "throw Trans-Star under the bus" in regards to complaints that have been made.

"I don't think that it was Trans-Star not doing a good job," he said. "I think there's just some hiccups, you know. We went back and we pulled run sheets and other things. We had a situation in Wheelwright a few weeks ago and we went back and the response was there, but they (Trans-Star) didn't



Floyd Chronicle and Times file photo

get the call. The call was late coming in."

Trans-Star owner Allen Lafferty did not respond to a request for comment prior to print

deadline. CEO Brandon Spencer said the company would elaborate on the deal in a joint statement to be released later.

Akers in jail again

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County woman is behind bars following orders handed down by Floyd County Circuit Judge Johnny Ray Harris last week.

On Jan. 17, Harris revoked a \$50,000 cash/property bond for Kimberly Akers, 44, who was indicted in June on charges of first-degree murder, first-degree assault and driving under the influence.

Akers is accused of murdering Heidi Ann Hamilton, 38, of Craynor, and assaulting her fiance Chris Hamilton, 37, in a Dec. 14, 2017, crash that police claim was caused because Akers was driving under the influence of drugs.

She pleaded not guilty during her arraignment in July 2018, and Harris reduced her bond from \$250,000 cash to \$50,000 cash or property, following a recommendation from pre-trial services that month.

Since then, Akers has undergone two revocation hearings that were prompted by alleged positive drug screens. Harris reinstated Akers' bond after obtaining medical records following the first revocation hearing in December, and she was released from custody.

That Dec. 20 order from Harris required Ak-

ers to get prior approval before taking any new prescriptions and it asked pretrial services to place her under the "highest level of testing" available.

On Jan. 12, at the order of Harris, Akers was arrested in Grethel by Floyd County Sheriff's Sgt. Kevin Shepherd. The citation references "drug screen" and Akers was listed as a "danger" to the public.

Akers was ordered held without bond until a Jan. 17 revocation hearing in the case.

That day, Harris set a new bond for Akers' bond at \$500,000 full cash, and he revoked the previous bond of \$50,000.

Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner said, "When he let her out last time, I think he made it real clear that if she had any violation at all, she was going to jail. He warned her pretty sternly, and then when she did this, I don't think he was going to wait around and hear what she had to say at least initially."

Akers is being held at the Floyd County Detention Center. She is ordered to appear in Floyd Circuit Court for a status hearing on March 14.

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- Ryan Lester

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- Janet Everage

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Appalachian Hospice Care salutes Prestonsburg for Veterans Day support

By **ELAINE BELCHER**
STAFF WRITER

Appalachian Hospice Care recognized the city during the Jan. 21 Prestonsburg City Council meeting for the city's support of the Veteran's Day luncheon and visit from the traveling Kentucky Vietnam Memorial Wall in October.

Appalachian Hospice Care President/CEO Sharon Branham and Charlie Wise, AHC volunteer and special events coordinator, presented Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton, Fire Chief Mike Brown and Chief of Police Larry Woods with plaques of appreciation for their work to help AHC to host the fifth annual Veteran's

Appreciation Day Dinner at the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park Lodge.

"As many of you know, we have outgrown the space at the National Guard Armory and had to move it to the park convention center. Every veteran within the five county area is welcome to come and bring a guest for free," Branham said. "While it happened pretty quickly, we were able to bring the Kentucky Vietnam Memorial Wall as part of our veteran's day dinner. Kentucky is one of only three states that has their own Vietnam Memorial to honor the 1,032 service members who fought and died during the war."

Branham said they

felt blessed as a small program to be a part of the community and to have the support of the city, not only during a special event, but everyday.

"Thanks to our mayor and the first responders, it was quite the event bringing it through town. If it wasn't for our little community, our star city, we would have had a lot of difficulty putting this all together," she said. "People lined the streets to see the wall as it came to town and those who lost family members during the war and have not been able to visit the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. were able to see the names of their loved ones."



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Elaine Belcher

Appalachian Hospice Care President/CEO Sharon Branham presents Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton, Fire Chief Mike Brown and Chief of Police Larry Woods with plaques of appreciation for their work to help AHC to host the fifth annual Veteran's Day Dinner at the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park Lodge.

Branham said it is "humbling" to see how this event has grown from 75 veterans and their families the first year to an estimated 500

this year. Appalachian Hospice Care is a non-profit organization with locally owned and operated hospice centers dedicat-

ed to providing quality, compassionate comfort care to the people of Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike counties for over 25 years.

McDowell man sentenced in sex abuse case

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

A Floyd County resident was sentenced last week in a circuit court case in which he was charged with four counts of first-degree sexual abuse.

During a Jan. 17 hearing, Floyd County Circuit Judge Johnny Ray Harris sentenced Don Harrison, 58, of Short Branch in McDowell, to five years, with that sentence sus-

pending and followed by five years of conditional discharge. As part of the sentence, Harrison is required to register as a sex offender.

Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner said his office recommended that sentence because the mother of the victims in the case — two children — did not want it to proceed to trial.

"The mother's desire was not to have a tri-

al. She didn't want the children to have to go through anything else, as long as he had to admit what he did and would be a registered sex offender for life, and be under supervision for years," Turner said.

Turner said the conditional discharge means that Harrison will be subject to monitoring for the next 10 years.

"He's basically going to have, like, 10 years of time that he's subject to

for the next 10 years, in addition to the registration, and if he has any other issue or violation or conviction or anything, not just sex stuff, he would have to serve 10 years," Turner said. "And part of it is, obviously, is he's to have no contact with these children, which he won't, and then the registration part would limit, quite a bit. He'd be subject to all of those restrictions in anywhere in the nation that he

were to go. The bottom line is that the case, he could have been forced to serve some time, but based on the desire to serve the victims, the family, we agreed to this because that was their preference."

The case has been sealed since Harrison was indicted on Jan. 24, 2018.

Turner shared information about the crimes and sentenced in an interview on Jan. 18.

He reported that Harrison was indicted on four counts of first-degree sexual abuse for inappropriately touching two children in 2017, and an adult reported that Harrison sexually abused her in 2000 and 2002.

Harrison was dating a family member of the victims, Turner reported, and the mother of the victims in this case had also been sexually abused as a child.

Police: Woman arrested after 3-county pursuit

A **FLOYD CHRONICLE**
AND **TIMES STAFF REPORT**

The Prestonsburg Police Department arrested a Floyd County resident last week following an alleged high speed chase through three counties last week.

The department reports that Patrolman Bradley Calhoun observed a vehicle with invalid registration allegedly driving erratically on Ky. 80 when he was conducting a "High Intensi-

ty Patrol" of the area on Jan. 16.

Calhoun attempted to arrest the driver, Jessica Gayheart, 44, of Slick Rock, but she sped off, nearly hitting Calhoun," the department reported, and driving through Knott and Perry counties at speeds of up to 115 mph.

"I advised her she was under arrest. I told her to put her hands behind her back. She then jumped back inside of her vehicle taking off at a

high rate of speed almost striking this officer with her vehicle," Calhoun wrote in the citation.

Officials from the sheriff departments in Knott and Perry counties, and Kentucky State Police posts in Hazard and Pikeville assisted in the chase.

Officers deployed stop sticks in Perry Coun-

ty to stop the vehicle, Prestonsburg Police reported.

Gayheart was charged with driving under the influence, first-degree fleeing/evading police, first-degree wanton endangerment, resisting arrest, reckless driving, speeding 26 mph or greater over the limit, failure to maintain insur-

ance and no valid registration.

"We'd like to give a huge shout out to our pals from the west, Troopers with KSP Pikeville and Hazard Posts, Knott and Perry County Sheriff's offices and the dispatchers for all those agencies who kept us all informed," Prestonsburg Police said in a state-

ment.

Calhoun was arraigned on the charges in Floyd County District Court on Jan. 17 and District Judge Eric Hall placed her bond at \$2,000 cash. He overruled a motion to reduce her bond on Jan. 18 and the case was referred to the grand jury for consideration.

Community Events

- Jan. 23; 6 p.m.: Watch party begins for residents who want to watch Garrett resident Shirley Hamilton on the Wheel of Fortune, Zion Deliverance Church, Wayland
- Jan. 24, 5 p.m.: Floyd County Tourism meets, county courthouse. (606) 886-9193
- Jan. 24, 5:30 p.m.: Basics of Home Vegetable Gardening, session 2, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668
- Jan. 24, 8 p.m.: Screening of the documentary film "Chico," Gearheart Auditorium, Big Sandy Community & Technical College, featuring an acoustic storytelling performance by the Laid Back Country Picker. \$5.
- Jan. 26; 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Buffalo Night, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park.
- Jan. 28, 5 p.m.: Southern Water meets, Southern offices, McDowell.
- Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m.: Floyd County Board of Education meets at May Valley Elementary School. (606) 886-2354
- Jan. 29, 5:30 p.m.: Basics of Home Vegetable Gardening, session 1, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668
- Jan. 29, 7 p.m.: Tuesday Night Songwriter's Scene, Brickhouse. (606) 886-1341
- Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m.: Floyd County Board of Education announced that it plans to call a special meeting, May Valley Elementary. (606) 886-2354

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Are we the enemy now?

By **JEFF VANDERBECK**
PUBLISHER



JEFF VANDERBECK

Forget about the Russians, ISIS, the Chinese or North Korea, we are becoming our own worst enemy.

Sometimes President Trump makes statements in haste. He said ISIS has been defeated and is no longer a threat. The only way that will happen is if all terrorist cells are wiped off the face of the earth and every domestic terrorist is captured or killed. I have no issue pulling out of Syria, we trained them, sup-

plied them with weapons and helped rebuild the infrastructure that was destroyed.

President Trump ran his campaign on building a wall and locking Hillary up, neither of which have happened or may happen during his term. What is happening is a stalemate between two pig-headed parties where the American people are pawns. The government shutdown will have a residual effect for years to come, and I'm not liking the art of this deal.

This stalemate where

Americans are losing over a damn wall is becoming a national travesty. Government workers at airports, health inspectors, treasury employees and other essential employees are off. Some have been called back to work without pay, which, in itself, should be illegal. I can't force my employees to work without pay. I get the whole argument that at least they have a job to go back to and will get back pay and all that, but it goes deeper.

These employees facilitate commerce, which creates jobs, tax revenue and keeps this country going. Say what you want about the employees, but

the services they provide are the start of business. Try to get a permit now for a massive project, stand in line at the airport or wait on your tax refund and you will understand. There are several local projects waiting on permits to move forward to create jobs that are being held up over this mess.

What we need is a plan for security and a legal path to immigration. Trump wants a wall and Schumer and Pelosi want no barriers. It's an impossible situation that is becoming petulant. Pelosi wants to cancel the State of the Union address and Trump wants

to cancel her flight to see the troops. I wish he would cancel the return flight.

A wall will help but will not stop the criminals from entering. Chicago has very strict gun laws and heroin is illegal, but people are getting shot and shooting up; criminals always find a way.

So far, there have been no compromises. If Trump bends, he looks weak and a bid in 2020 is gone.

If the Democrats don't get their way, government will be shut down until 2020. Whichever side wins this battle, wins in 2020.

Someone in D.C.

needs to approach this with common sense. We need border security, which can be established in many ways, including a wall. So far, we have no starting place, just a country divided and unable to solve problems because of political jockeying and egos.

Give the American public a plan to keep us safe and provide legal entry into this county. Open the government so we can stop self-inflicting damage. And don't pay one politician a penny until the government is reopened.

Thanks for reading the Floyd County Chronicle and Times.

GUEST COLUMN

Eyes on House lawmakers as they ponder future of \$13.5M perk

By **ROGER ALFORD**
KENTUCKY TODAY



ROGER ALFORD

Most Kentuckians may not realize it, but they are picking up a \$13.5 million tab to ensure that 100 state representatives don't have to risk their seats if they run for higher offices.

Individually, it's quite the perk — \$135,000 for everyone serving in Kentucky's House of Representatives.

That hefty expense would go away under legislation that has already cleared the Senate. Lots of eyes are watching to see if House lawmakers can look beyond their own self-interests and pass Senate Bill 5, a measure that Georgetown Republican Damon Thayer has been trying to get through the Legislature for years.

The problem seems to be that the legislation is less than flashy. In fact, it's one of those bills that, on the surface, causes most people's eyes to glaze over.

It calls for moving Kentucky's elections for governor, attorney general, state auditor, secretary of state, treasurer and agriculture commissioner to even-numbered years, so that they appear on the same ballot as the presidential race.

The measure calls for an amendment to the state Constitution to move the elections. Too many Kentuckians yawn at that point and lose interest. After all, they think, why does it matter?

Well, it matters ... in many ways.

Sen. Chris McDaniel,

the Taylor Mill Republican who sponsored the bill this year, talks a lot about how much money such a move would save. But his colleague, Sen. Wil Schroder, R-Wilder, said the rationale for the legislation goes far beyond the financial savings.

Schroder predicts moving the state races would almost double voter participation. The numbers support his prediction, considering only 31 percent of Kentucky voters turned out for the last governor's race while 60 percent cast ballots in the last presidential election.

Thayer has made strong arguments for the change for at least a decade, and has been able to get similar proposals through the Republican-controlled Senate in the past, only to have them die in the House.

Democrats used to get the blame for that

when they held majority control of the House. The fear was that moving the elections would put Democratic candidates at a disadvantage, given Kentucky voters' proclivity to vote Republican in federal races.

Now, with the GOP controlling the House, the proposal's passage still is anything but assured. Here's why: The way things stand now, if House lawmakers want to run for governor or any other constitutional office, they can do so without having to give up their legislative seats. That's a benefit that's hard for politicians to surrender.

To be clear, the change also would affect half of the state's 38 Senate lawmakers who would run in years when presidential candidates are on the ballot. Still, they approved it overwhelmingly, 31-4.

If the measure ends up getting through the House, it would then be put on the ballot in 2020 for Kentucky voters to ratify or reject.

The question that would appear on the ballot would ask: "Are you in favor of holding the election of all statewide constitutional officers in even-numbered years beginning in 2028, which will save substantial state and local funds?"

If approved by voters, elections for Kentucky's constitutional officers would move from 2027 to 2028, far enough into the future so that the change would affect no one currently running for any of the state offices.

A fiscal statement prepared by the Legislative Research Commission put the savings at \$13.5 million for local governments. The bill's sponsor offered an even higher estimate on over-

all savings — \$15.5 million.

This election bill was the first to pass the Senate this year, a sign of the importance leadership in that chamber places on it. While they talk up the financial savings, they're even more excited about the prospect of having twice as many voters going to the polls, especially considering the historic voting trends of those voters when choosing a president.

Out in the state, local officials, especially county clerks, favor the proposal, realizing they'd not only save big money but would also avoid the headache and hassle of the additional election. The fact is, elections aren't easily orchestrated, and being able to consolidate two major elections into one makes great sense to the people at the local level who actually get it done.

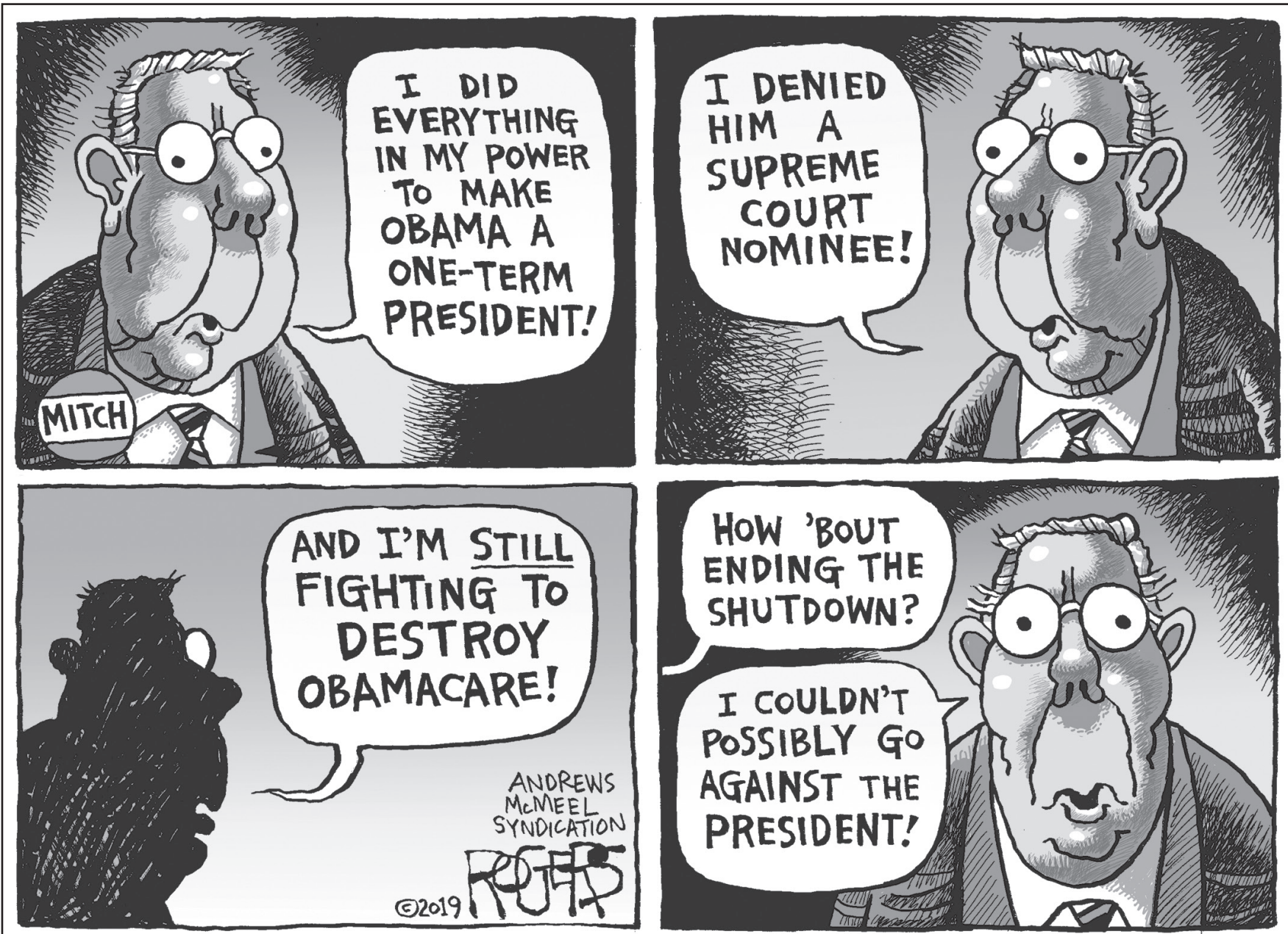
All this hinges on whether House lawmakers are willing to put the interests of Kentuckians ahead of their own.

Roger Alford is editor of Kentucky Today and a longtime political writer.

CHRONICLE & TIMES

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Dixie Adkins

Dixie Adkins, 93, of Eastern, widow of Orville Adkins, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, at Our Lady of The Way ARH Hospital, Martin.

She was born January 20, 1925, in Hueysville, a daughter of the late Claude and Biddie Ousley Prater. She was a retired self employed business-woman and member of the Hueysville Church of Christ.

She is survived by one son Adam (Sally) Adkins of Eastern; three sisters: Lila DeRossett of Allen, Maggie (Bill) Allen and Claudina (Jerry) Rice both of Hueysville; one grandchild: Shirley Renee' (David) Smith and two great grandchildren: Sydney (Casey) Camargo and David Brodey Smith.

In addition to her husband Orville, she was preceded in death by her daughter Shirley Adkins; one brother Taylor Lloyd Prater and one grandchild Heath Adam "Buddy" Adkins.

Funeral services for Mrs. Adkins were conducted on Sunday, Jan. 20, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel with Chester Varney officiating. Entombment followed in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, Ivel.

Arrangements were under the direction of Hall Funeral Home of Martin.

This is a paid obituary.

James Ramon Childers

James Ramon Childers, 95, of Allen, died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

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

Darrell Edward Combs

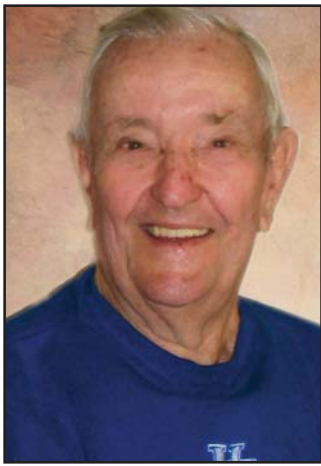
Darrell Edward Combs, 62, of Blue River, died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

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

Millie Ward Dye

Millie Ward Dye, 71, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

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



Elmo Green

Elmo Green, 88, of Hueysville, husband of Edith Patton Green, passed away Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. He was born November 11, 1930, in Garrett, the son of the late Albert and Amy Allen Green.

He was a member of the Hueysville Church of Christ, a 1950 graduate of Garrett High School, 1954 graduate of Greer Shop Auto Mechanic School, Staff Sergeant in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, a Kentucky Colonel, a Past Master (1977) and 54-year member of the James W. Alley Masonic Lodge, No. 869, Wayland. He was retired from Inland Steel/ Island Creek Coal at Price and as a state mine inspector.

In addition to his wife, Edith, he is survived by one son Steve (Jane) Green of Hueysville; one daughter Myra Green (Freddy) Handshoe of Leburn; one sister Betty Green (Johnny) Chadwell of Urbana, Ohio; three grandchildren: Justin L. (Jennifer) Handshoe, Tyler (Emily) Green and Megan Handshoe (Lucien) Kinsolving and one great-grandchild Madeline Claire Kinsolving.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Norma Jean Green Ratliff.

Funeral service were conducted Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel with Chester Ray Varney officiating. Burial followed in the Green Family Cemetery, Hueysville, visitation was after 6 p.m. Sunday and all day Monday with a Masonic Service Monday evening at 7 p.m.

Arrangements were under the professional and dignified care of the Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

This is a paid obituary.

Earl Amos Hall

Earl Amos Hall, 87, of Banner, died Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

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

Brenda Faye Kidd

Brenda Faye Kidd, 53, of Drift, died Saturday,

Jan. 19, 2019.

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

Glen Howard Lykens

Glen Howard Lykens, 80, of Langley, died Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019.

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

Kay McDonald

Kay McDonald, 62, of Melvin, died Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019.

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



Ballard Lee Shepherd

Commander of Auxier Chapter 18 DAV, Ballard Lee Shepherd, age 79, of Auxier, passed away Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Ballard was born July 6, 1939, in Floyd County, son of the late Brice and Lula Shepherd. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by siblings, Arnold, Brice Jr., Richard, James, Aaron, Sylvia, Lillian and Ann.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Ann Fulton Shepherd; three sons: Daryl Shepherd of Sitka, Tim Shepherd of Indiana and Danny Shepherd of Van Lear; three daughters: Glenda Sue Stone of Farmville, Va., Rhonda Goble of Hager Hill and Sheena Leigh Samons of North Carolina; one brother Arvill Shepherd of Indiana; one sister Eva Jean Sybol; and 15 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the Jones-Preston Funeral Chapel with Frank Buskirk and Dallas LeMaster officiating. Burial followed in the Gethsemane Gardens, Prestonsburg. Full military honors were conducted by Auxier Chapter 18 DAV.

Jones-Preston Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Jones-Preston Funeral Home is both honored and privileged to be entrusted with all funeral arrangements Mr. Ballard Lee Shepherd.

This is a paid obituary.



Novaline Patricia Stratton

Novaline Patricia "Pat" Stratton, 76, of Elizabethtown, died Friday, Dec. 28, 2018, at Baptist Health in Lexington.

She was a native of Cow Creek.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Craft Stratton and parents Alton and Georgia McGuire Campbell.

She is survived by two daughters: Rhonda (Richard) Staley of Nicholasville and Kimberly (Timothy) Hamm of Elizabethtown; her twin sister Norma Jean Centers of Prestonsburg; a granddaughter Tina (Marty) Anderson of Nicholasville; three great-grandchildren: Destiny Anderson, Maile Boots-Anderson and Tyden Anderson; niece Rita Fleenor of Prestonsburg; great nephew Craig (Tabitha) Fleenor of Lexington and two great-nieces, Katelyn Ann and Rylee Claire Fleenor.

The funeral was held on Jan. 2 at Brown Funeral Home in Elizabethtown. Burial followed in Elizabethtown Memorial Gardens.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.brownfuneral.com.

This is a paid obituary.

Eugene Skeens

Eugene Skeens, 70, of East Point, died Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019.

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

Helen Ruth Tackett

Helen Ruth Tackett, 85, of Hi Hat, died Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019.

Arrangements were under the direction of Hall Funeral Home of Martin.

Edgar Forest Wright

Edgar Forest Wright, 70, of East Point, died Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019.

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

Suspicious package sent to local IRS office

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Floyd County Emergency Management Director Tim Fields reported that someone sent a package of incoherent paperwork and two pennies to the IRS office in Prestonsburg last week.

The incident occurred at the IRS office, located in the First Commonwealth Bank in Prestonsburg. Fields said the office has been closed because of the federal government shutdown, and an IRS employee found a suspicious package outside the door when she stopped by to check the mail on Jan. 17.

Fields said the package had already been open when emergency responders were contacted. He said it was filled with papers covered with incoherent "scribbles" and two pennies.

"It was somewhat random. There was a couple of sheets of,

like, some kind of index of designations of what they could possibly mean," Fields said. "It had SMS listed, and then it had all the things listed about what SMS could mean, what all of the abbreviations could mean, which what offices it could be or what acronyms it could be. There were scribbles around the page that were rally nonsensical. You couldn't really make anything of it."

It appeared the package may have had a return address for the Harold area, Fields said, but it appeared to have also been mailed through Mexico, which made local officials worry about its contents.

Fields said he ordered the removal of the package to Archer Park in Prestonsburg where it could be inspected, so officials would not have to evacuate the bank. After the contents were cleared, the package was returned to the IRS office, he said.

Restaurant owner faces theft charge

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Prestonsburg Tourism Director Samantha West filed charges last week against a business owner accused of not paying taxes.

According to documents filed in Floyd District Court, West, doing business as Prestonsburg Tourism, charged Bobby Blackburn, 59, owner of Giovanni's in Prestonsburg, with one count of felony theft by unlawful taking.

The criminal summons, served by the Floyd County Sheriff's Department on Jan. 16, alleges that Blackburn committed the offense of felony theft by deception for allegedly writing a check for more than \$880, knowing the check would bounce.

City officials refused to provide details about the allegations. Blackburn is scheduled to be arraigned in Floyd County District Court on Wednesday.

West reported that the matter has been "taken care of."

"I'll be honest. We're not able to really say much because we've

passed everything in terms of taxes to the city attorney, so she's able to answer everything, but I will say everything's been amended and taken care of," West said.

She confirmed the debt has since been paid. City Attorney Jennifer Burke Elliott refused to comment.

In September 2018, Prestonsburg officials reported that Giovanni's was one of five Prestonsburg businesses that collectively owed the agency more than \$90,000 in back taxes.

The restaurant is owned by Blackburn and managed by BJ Blackburn. At the time, the Blackburns talked about a miscommunication between the city and the restaurant regarding how taxes were calculated.

Prestonsburg Tourism's budget is \$870,000 and the majority of its revenue comes from its transient room tax and hotel tax. The proceeds from the tax are split with the Mountain Arts Center, Prestonsburg Parks Commission and StoneCrest Golf Course, as well as the City of Prestonsburg, which receives a fee for collecting the tax.

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Enerblu delayed until 'at least 2021'

By Chase Ellis
Appalachian Newspapers

PIKEVILLE — Enerblu President and CEO Daniel Elliott spoke at the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce luncheon this week with a promise “to speak candidly” about the work being done to bring a 1.5 million square foot manufacturing facility to the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park in Pikeville.

Elliott told the chamber the construction of the facility “is a lot harder than we thought,” and said the facility is the hardest thing he has ever done.

“Hindsight being 20-20, this is a lot harder than we thought,” Elliott said. “We set out to build a very large facility at Marion Branch. When we first talked to the city, we understood this land to be very beautiful and to a degree, it is. What we didn’t realize, and in going through this process now, with the geotechnical work — this last year has been an eye-opener.”

Elliott said the land is buildable for “smaller, individual facilities,” citing that “SilverLiner is building a very beautiful facility up there.”

“When we are trying to lay out a building that is approximately 1.5 million square feet, roughly. The dirt, I look at it and see a nice piece of land, but what is underneath it, ... we discovered that well, over here it is 70 feet deep, over here it is 40 feet deep and over here it is 400 feet deep,” Elliott said. “The engineers, they told us, ‘Well

if you build on this land, the building is going to crack into three pieces, like the Titanic.’”

Elliott said he told the engineers that he wanted to build at Marion Branch, and that, “in today’s modern world, there has to be a way to build here.”

“They said, ‘Well you can drive pylons down 450 feet.’ No, we can’t. I mean yes, we can, but financially, no, we can’t,” Elliott said. “So we are trying to figure that out. Are we saying that we are not going to be building up there? I am not saying that. I don’t know what we are going to do yet, we are trying to figure that out. What we found is that, putting the building there would cost us \$30 million in soil work. That is before we get to the building.”

Elliott said the project “could not stomach” \$30 million for soil work. “We are looking at all options. There are all sorts of things being discussed. We are dealing with companies right here in Eastern Kentucky that have built on these types of soils. First, we started with people who hadn’t and they don’t know,” Elliott said.

Additional problems

He said the problems facing the construction in Eastern Kentucky is the hardest thing he has ever done. Elliott is the former president and CEO of a technological startup in China, but the problems facing the construction in Eastern Kentucky are more difficult.

“It was strange to have an American run a

Chinese company, but I did. I left to come back to the United States to do (Enerblu). I thought doing business in China would be the hardest thing I ever did,” Elliott said. “It turns out that doing that here is the hardest thing I have ever done.”

Elliott said while in China, he saw “a lot of, what we would call, corruption,” but that government entities, from “the local community, their city, their county, their province, the federal ... central government in Beijing ... were all in alignment.”

“Not everything here is in alignment. Even when the government is operating, there are all sorts of different factions and arguments and things that go on,” he said. “I didn’t even speak the language (in China) and was able to build a facility in three years, because they were all lined up. They were all in agreement and that is not what we find here.”

With some of the problems facing the company, Elliott said the decision had been made to move forward with a smaller building, 60,000 square feet, to produce the cells in Lexington, before moving those cells to Pikeville, and begin training and production in Lexington.

“Well, the government shut down. I can’t even get permits. We were supposed to get the permits in November, but that got delayed and then we heard February. Now, I have no idea because I don’t know when the government is going to



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Chase Ellis
The Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce welcomed Enerblu President and CEO Daniel Elliott for its keynote speaker at the chamber luncheon this week. Elliott spoke on the problems and delays in bring an anticipated 1.5 million square foot, 1,000 employee manufacturing facility to the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park in Pikeville.

get back to work,” Elliott said. “It is what it is. Now we are being told maybe April, if the government starts back up.”

Elliott said that despite the setbacks, “we are in this and we are trying like hell.”

“I love the area, I relocated my family from Southern California and the only reason I live in Lexington is because I need an airport. Unfortunately, I don’t have a private jet,” Elliott said.

He said he anticipates completion to be delayed until at least 2021.

“We are working hard to do this. One thing that would help is to get more local investment in our project. The big banks, like in New York, they go, ‘Oh, the local investors, community is putting in,’ then they feel better about it,” Elliott said.

A needed, unique technology

Elliott said the technology and lithium titanate batteries which Enerblu plans to manufacture would be high-cycle batteries which can operate in extreme temperatures, with a focus on high heat areas.

“These batteries last an extremely long time in term of cycles — charging and discharging. They also work in extreme temperature ranges. You could take them out into the desert of Arizona and they will work. You can take it out (in freezing temperatures) and it will work,” Elliott said.

He said the batteries to be manufactured are made for “power grid-type applications, military application, server farms, trucks and buses.”

“(This is) something that is going to sit out in a field for the next 30 years ... and it’s going to do its job. It is going to do a job and no one has

to come out and service it, babysit it, take care of it,” Elliott said.

He said Enerblu is currently targeting high-heat areas of the world, because that is where human populations tend to gather and live.

“Two-thirds of the world’s population lives where it is hot. Countries like India, think about South America, these are places that cannot afford to have battery tech that won’t function in extreme temperatures,” Elliott said. “I spent time in India and North Africa (in 2018). There are more than 300 million people in India without electricity. If you don’t have electricity, you have diseases, you don’t have education, you don’t have healthcare, you don’t have clean drinking water.”

Elliott said that is the technology that is going to be produced.

Floyd resident, others file lawsuit over Medicaid work requirements

A FLOYD CHRONICLE
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County resident is joining a list of 16 Medicaid enrollees who are once again suing the state and federal government for re-approving controversial work and community engagement requirements in the Kentucky Medicaid program.

Under Gov. Matt Bevin, Kentucky implemented changes to its Medicaid program that, among other things, would require Medicaid recipients to work or volunteer for 80 hours a month. But that effort was thwarted last year when a federal judge sided with Kentucky residents — several of whom were from Floyd County — in a class action lawsuit alleging the new requirements violate federal law. The judge called it “arbitrary and capricious” because, in approving the program, the federal government didn’t consider whether Kentucky HEALTH would help the state actually give medical help to people who need it.

The Bevin administration changed Kentucky HEALTH in response to that court ruling, and the Trump administration recently re-approved it.

On Jan. 14, 16 Kentucky Medicaid recipients represented by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Nation-

al Health Law Program and the Kentucky Equal Justice Center, filed an amended complaint in the class action lawsuit in the US District Court for the District of Columbia against officials with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Kentucky.

The complaint claims new program still violates federal law by mandating work requirements, community engagement requirements, premium requirements and by setting other limitations for Kentucky HEALTH enrollees. It asks the court to declare that the re-approval of the Kentucky HEALTH violates federal law.

The list of plaintiffs in the complaint includes Randall Yates, 48, of

Martin, a former roofer, coal miner, caretaker and home health care worker.

The complaint claims Yates would be subject to work requirements under Kentucky HEALTH waiver approved by the federal government, and he “risks losing his health coverage under Kentucky HEALTH due to his inability to consistently locate and maintain employment of 80 hours per month.”

It claims he would risk loss of coverage because he doesn’t own a telephone, have access to the Internet or know how to use a computer — issues that make it difficult for him to meet reporting requirements in Kentucky HEALTH.

The original lawsuit also contained Floyd County residents as plaintiffs.

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WATER

Continued From Page 1A

water loss rate is 60 percent, significantly higher than the 15 percent allowed by the PSC, and PSC officials made sure Southern Water officials knew that at this hearing.

Andrew Bowker of the PSC asked whether projects highlighted in a letter from Southern's former chairman are done, including the creation of a leak detection crew that the letter said was created years ago. PSC officials asked why Southern's water loss grew from 20 percent in 2012, when the letter was written, to 60 percent currently.

Southern Chairperson Paula Johnson said it still has the leak detection crew in place and talked about how Eastern Kentucky's terrain makes leak detection difficult, but Southern General Manager Dean Hall said the leak detection plan "had been relaxed a little." The commission approved a new leak detection plan in December, records show.

Johnson said Southern's water loss is not causing its financial problems.

"No, I don't think line loss is our our financial issues," she said. "It attributes. Everything attributes to finances, from customers not paying, to water loss, to, so everything contributes, so it's just one piece of the puzzle."

She could not estimate how much money the district loses because water leaks out of the lines before it hits the customer taps, but PSC Vice Chairman Robert Cicero answered that question for her.

Johnson was testifying about water theft, saying it's hard to track people down when they move without paying their water bill.

"I think everybody understands that is a problem, bad debt is a problem, but I understand when the staff asked you if you thought that water loss was significant, you indicated you weren't sure how much it was a problem," Cicero said. "But would you be surprised if I told you that the value is about \$386,000 annually over and above the 15 percent which is the standard permitted by the PSC for unaccounted for water loss the district is losing because the rate of loss?"

"No I would not," she said.

PSC Chairman Mike Schmitt later emphasized Cicero's point, asking her if she had any idea that Southern's water loss could amount to more than \$300,000 a year.

"No," she said.

Schmitt said, "If you had that water loss down to 15 percent, your money troubles would be over, wouldn't it? If you had an extra, \$380, \$400,000, wouldn't that help out?"

"That would be ideal," she said.

He called Southern's claims that it has taken action to fix leaks "inconsistent" and highlighted a

program through which Southern could get a temporary rate increase to pay for waterline replacement.

Johnson and Hall confirmed that Southern does not have a line replacement plan for its aging system. They defended the agency, though, for its accomplishments.

"We may have debt, and we may be here on the hot seat, as I call it, but I can say one thing about our water. We've got it to 99 percent in a rural area and it's clean, it's drinkable and it's serviceable and we're getting it there," Johnson said. "It's been at a great cost, but the people in Floyd County have decent, running, drinkable, usable water."

Cicero told her, "And you're to be commended for that statistic, but on the other hand, as with Martin County, if your water loss is 60 percent, at what cost to your ratepayers are you delivering that?" He said that Southern's water loss rate equals about the same amount of revenue loss Southern would get from the 1,160 water customers that are pending final transfer Prestonsburg.

He said the system is supposed to support itself on revenues generated by ratepayers, "not operating or making its money that's obtained from grants or loans or whatever."

Schmitt: 'I don't know how you operate'

In his testimony, Prestonsburg Utilities Commission Superintendent Eddie Campbell shed light on the lack of documentation at Southern, saying Southern doesn't have maps of its lines — something Hall confirmed when he took the stand.

Nearly every person who testified answered questions on this topic.

When Johnson was on the stand, Schmitt cited an inspection report that showed Southern had not tested water meters every two years, as required. Reading from that report, Schmitt appeared agitated.

"It goes on for pages, but they're all, 'No,'" he said. "And, if you don't test meters, I mean, as you're legally required to do, and you don't keep any, well I guess you don't have any papers, I don't know how you operate, I guess. I know your job isn't operations, but the commissioner's job is, and it's the commissioner's duty to see that the manager is doing his or her job."

Hall said he didn't believe it was feasible to test old meters because he was seeking funds to replace them. That report also showed that for years, Southern reported 60 million gallons of water lost annually to fire department testing and flushing, but the agency had no documentation to prove it. Schmitt said the average is three million.

Johnson told him that they tried to get usage reports from fire departments, but they didn't send them.

Schmitt asked her,

"Why don't you start charging for the water? I wouldn't let them have the water."

He continued, "All I'm saying is it's the commissioner's job to see that this district is properly run ... In any event, it's no excuse. It's no excuse because ultimately, when somebody says, well, this is all okay, what you don't realize is all your pipes in the ground are rotting and at some point in time it's like your roof. You say, well, I ain't going to fix the shingles. I'll just put a bucket all over the kitchen and the bedroom. But at some point your whole house rots down."

He said that is what is happening with rural water districts across the state.

"It's a hard job, is what I'm saying," he said. "And I don't know with local politicians involved, whether that problem will ever be solved, absent just total rationalization of water district management."

Hall said that number was on the program he uses for those reports and he just never changed it. He has since corrected that issue.

Cicero: 'I just don't know how Southern operates'

Repeatedly, Johnson and other commissioners were asked about Southern's lack of analysis and planning before making significant decisions.

Each of them testified that Southern did not do a cost benefit analysis of the asset transfer before the deal was approved with Prestonsburg, and most of them said that they relied on outside sources for information.

Cicero highlighted the problem during Johnson's testimony about how the loss of the water customers in that deal "financially strapped" Southern. He said he couldn't believe that Southern did not conduct a due diligence report to determine how much revenue it would lose by transferring customers. Johnson told him it was "discussed a lot."

"It was discussed but it was never done in a format that allowed people to make a decision based on actual numbers. That's the problem right now," Cicero said. "And the \$1.9 million that now is contended to be owed to Southern, that number was never even discussed, but now it comes up because R&D has a problem."

Cicero asked Hall if he's done an analysis to replace Southern's outdated water meters, which run slowly and aren't as accurate, and Hall said yes, he presented it to the commission.

But Cicero suggested that if an analysis was done, Hall could show replacing meters could save Southern money.

"There's not been an analysis to that extent presented to my water board," Hall said.

Then, Cicero made the same remark that Schmitt said when Johnson was on the stand.

He said, "I just don't know how Southern operates. There's a lot of

discussion that goes on and good intentions, but without some kind of management direction that says, here's my plan or this is how I'm going to attack or here's- I know it's a small district, don't get me wrong. It's hard to afford professional services or pay somebody on an ongoing basis for that to happen. But there still has to be some, when a decision is made at the magnitude of some of these decisions, there should be something that occurs where the decision is based on numbers on a piece of paper, not on a discussion that says the end result is if I'm going to feel good about what we're going to do."

He encouraged Hall to do an analysis for that meter replacement project.

"It may be financially viable," he said.

"Thank you," Hall said.

The allegations

In addition to all of these concerns, Hall and Johnson were asked about several allegations of alleged wrongdoing at Southern.

At the hearing, Johnson admitted that Southern bought a truck and an excavator without getting PSC approval, as required.

"We dropped the ball. We have to own that mistake," Johnson said.

At one point, PSC officials said changes to a loan package for one of those items "almost looks like the commission was looking to avoid" the PSC.

Campbell reported

that Prestonsburg Utilities workers found about 40 people who received water without meters in the Harold area. Schmitt asked Hall how Prestonsburg found those people within months and Southern couldn't find them in years.

Hall was blunt.

"Sir, we don't allow anyone to steal water," he said. "It happens on a daily basis."

He said Prestonsburg "had more boots on the ground" to find meters and valves that Southern did not know about.

Schmitt brought up an allegation that the Attorney General's office is investigating Hall for allegedly trading free water for services, saying officials received a copy of it.

When Justin McNeil of the Kentucky Attorney General's Office of Rate Intervention asked about it, Hall called it "ridiculous." Hall said he learned the allegation during the hearing.

He denied wrongdoing and said he's not surprised, talking about how customers get angry if "we don't bend over backwards" and do what

they want.

Danny Stinson of Kentucky Rural Water Association testified at length about assistance he has provided Southern. He said he helped Southern write the leak detection plan and he trained employees. They reduced one leak to about 14 percent for several weeks, he said.

He also testified about an anomaly he said he found while running numbers on the leak rates at Southern. He said it could suggest that meters were not being read consistently, but he later confirmed the anomaly could have been caused by old meters and water theft.

Questions about whether Hall uses his truck for personal reasons were also asked. He admitted he used his truck for personal reasons if he's out on a call and has somewhere he has to go. The PSC asked for copies of proof that employees reported their personal miles to the IRS. Southern responded by saying personal use of vehicles is not permitted.



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Submitted photo

Allen Elementary earned first place in quick recall at the District 85 academic competition.

Floyd middle schools earn Governor's Cup honors

A FLOYD CHRONICLE
AND TIMES
STAFF REPORT

Floyd County Superintendent Danny Adkins released a statement Monday announcing the results for Kentucky Association of Academic Competition's District 85 and District 86 Governor's Cup competitions held on Jan. 19 at Duff-Allen Central Elementary and John M. Stumbo Elementary schools.

According to the statement, taking first place overall in competition for District 85 was Duff-Allen Central Elementary School, with James D. Adams Middle School taking second place overall. DACE also came in first place in the Future Problem Solving category and second in the quick recall division, and according to the statement, Allen Elementary took second place in Future Problem Solving and first place in the Quick Recall division.

Duff-Allen Central:

Alex Begley (first, math), Gracie McDavid (third, math), Mason Buck (first, science), Kylie Rae Owsley (second, science), McKinnley Martin (fourth, science; fourth, language arts; and third, composition), J.D. McKinney (third, social studies and first, composition), Kailee McGuire (fourth, social studies), Brody Buck (second, language arts and fourth arts and humanities), Brock Horne (second, arts and humanities) and Kendyll Hall (fourth, composition).

Adams Middle:

Cameron Kilgore



Submitted photo

Duff-Allen Central Elementary earned first place in the District 85 academic competition.



Submitted photo

South Floyd Elementary earned first place in quick recall in the District 86 academic competition.

(second, math), Kaden Lewis (fourth, math), Garret Ousley (third, science), Sage Slone (second, social studies and third, arts and humanities), Allyson Springer (fifth, social studies), Kaitlyn Hager (third, language arts and second, composition), Ethan Walls (fifth, language arts), Sara Springer (first, arts and humanities) and Grace Miller (fifth, composition).

Allen Elementary:

Jayden Hampton (fifth, math), Jacob Roberts (fifth, science), Jada

Reynolds (first, social studies and first, language arts) and Elizabeth Goodman (fifth, arts and humanities).

According to the statement, in District 86 competition, South Floyd Elementary School took home first place in Future Problem Solving and quick recall divisions with John M. Stumbo taking second place in overall, Future Problem Solving and Quick Recall.

South Floyd:

Kiran Thacker (first, math), Emily Spears (second, math; second,

arts and humanities; and second, composition). Johnathan Moore (fifth, math), Chloe Hall (first, science and first, social studies), Ericka Tackett (fourth, science and fifth arts and humanities), Lincoln Slone (fifth, science), Zoey Meyers (third, social studies), Braden Harvel (fourth, social studies), Courtney Moore (second, language arts), Hannah Laferty (fourth, language arts and fourth, composition), Kaylee Johnson (fourth, arts and humanities) and Taylor Stumbo

See HONORS, Page 10A

'Super Blood Wolf Moon'



Submitted photo by Shannon Hall

Sky gazers were treated to a rare lunar eclipse known as a super blood wolf moon on Sunday night, in which sunlight passing through Earth's atmosphere lit the celestial body in a dramatic fashion and turned it red. According to astronomers, the next lunar eclipse won't be until May 2022.

Woodland Stewards webinar series is a "primer for beginners"

APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS
STAFF REPORT

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service will offer a series of free webinars, "Getting to Know Your Woodlands: A Primer for Beginners," on five successive Thursday evenings in February and March. The goal of the web-based series is to empower woodland owners to promote environmental and forest health through increased awareness, experience and access to resources.

Part of Woodland Stewards, a regional extension program for landowners, the series is made possible through a partnership of UK Forestry and Natural Resources Extension with a number of forestry extension units in surrounding states. While this first series is focused on those who are new to forest management, organizers have plans to continue this series over the next few years with the subject matter advancing as clients' knowledge increases.

UK FNR extension

will supply the series to participating county extension offices, with local agents hosting the gatherings. Each session will last from (6 p.m.) 7 p.m. to (8 p.m.) 9 p.m. EST (CST). The technology allows participants at each site to ask questions of the experts. North Carolina State University will host the first four sessions, while the final session will have a Kentucky-specific focus and offer several presenters from Kentucky agencies and organizations that work with woodland owners.

"This is an excellent opportunity for people to receive a significant amount of information in a relatively short time, without having to drive great distances to attend," said Billy Thomas, UK extension forester and one of the coordinators of the series. "With more than 30 county extension agents and offices hosting the series, it will be widely available. Given the numerous high-quality presenters, I know the series will be beneficial

See SERIES, Page 10A



Submitted photo by Stephen Patton

Woodlands in Breathitt County, Kentucky.

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SERIES

Continued From Page 9A

to those who own and enjoy woodlands across Kentucky."

Sessions include:

- Feb. 21—Getting to Know Your Woodlands. Southern forests are among the most diverse and productive in the world. Landowners will learn how natural and human forces have shaped the woodlands and the importance of developing management plans and practices on their forests. These county offices are participating: Barren, Breckinridge, Carroll, Casey, Clay, Edmonson, Elliott, Grant, Harlan, Johnson, Lee, Letcher, Lewis, Lyon, Madison, Morgan, Nelson, Ohio, Oldham, Perry, Russell, Scott, Spencer, Taylor, Trimble and Wolfe.

- Feb. 28—Managing Your Woodlands. Landowners attending this session will learn the basics on pine and hardwood management. Topics covered include growing and managing pines, from site selection to final harvest; basic characteristics of existing hardwood stands, evaluation methods potential, and basic decisions on future management; how to identify degraded hardwood stands, determine acceptable growing stock, and assess options available to make degraded hardwood stands more desirable, profitable and sustainable. Host extension offices include Allen, Barren, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Carroll, Casey, Clay, Edmonson, Elliott, Grant, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Lee, Letcher, Lewis, Lyon, Madison, Monroe, Morgan, Nelson, Ohio, Oldham, Perry, Russell, Scott, Spencer, Taylor and Trimble.

- March 7 — Identifying and Managing Woodland Threats. Disease, insects and invasive plants all pose threats to woodlands. In this session, a team of experts will introduce participants to a few basic pest principles, present a model example of each threat, and offer some simple practices to help ensure woodlands remain healthy and productive. Host extension offices include Allen, Barren, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Carroll, Casey, Edmonson, Elliott, Grant, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Lee, Letcher, Lewis, Lyon, Madison, Menifee, Monroe, Morgan, Nelson, Ohio, Oldham, Perry, Russell, Scott, Spencer, Taylor and Trimble

- March 14 — Wildlife and Woodlands. Managing wildlife is commonly ranked as a primary objective among landowners. This session will introduce participants to basic wildlife management principles and concepts and provide information on habitat requirements of various wildlife. These county offices are participating in the webinar: Allen, Barren, Boone, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Carroll, Clay, Edmonson, Elliott, Fayette, Grant, Hancock, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Lee, Letcher, Lewis, Lyon, Madison, Menifee,

Monroe, Morgan, Nelson, Oldham, Perry, Russell, Scott, Taylor and Trimble.

- March 21 —Forestry and Wildlife Assistance in Kentucky. An overview of the forestry and wildlife assistance available in Kentucky that will help landowners care for and get the most from your woodlands. Host county offices include Barren, Breckinridge, Carroll, Casey, Clay, Edmonson, Elliott, Fayette, Grant, Hancock, Harlan, Johnson, Lee, Letcher, Lewis, Lyon, Madison, Monroe, Morgan, Nelson, Oldham, Pendleton, Perry, Russell, Scott, Spencer, Taylor, Trimble, and Wolfe.

Kentucky Master Loggers can also receive two continuing education credits for each session they attend at a hosting

county extension office.

Interested participants may register through participating county extension offices. More information is available online at https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/webinars_upcoming or by contacting Billy Thomas at 859-257-9153 or billy.thomas@uky.edu or the local county extension office.

UK Forestry and Natural Resources Extension is part of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Jointly with its land-grant partner, Kentucky State University, UK Cooperative Extension brings the university to the people in their local communities, addressing issues of importance to all Kentuckians.

HONORS

Continued From Page 9A

(second, composition).

John M. Stumbo:

Lucas Wolford (fourth, math and second, science), Kylee Hayden (second, social studies and second, arts and humanities), Allison Hamilton (fifth, social studies), Majaia Yates (first, language arts and first, arts and humanities), Alyssa

Betsy Layne

Elementary:

Will Justice (third, math and third, science).

"Congratulations Duff-Allen Central Elementary and South Floyd Elementary for being District Governor's Cup champs and FPS

Tackett (third, language arts), Sophie Slone (fifth, language arts) and Angel Harris (first, composition).

Champs," Adkins said in the statement. "Congratulations to Allen Elementary and South Floyd Elementary on being Quick Recall champs. We applaud the hard work and dedication of these students and wish them good luck in regional competition."

According to the statement, Future Problem Solving and quick recall competition will be held on Feb. 2 at Johnson Central High School.

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CHRONICLE & TIMES
FLOYD COUNTY



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Prestonsburg Coach Brandon Kidd talks to his team during a timeout in the third quarter of the 58th District girls' basketball game against Betsy Layne.

Lady Blackcats pull away from Betsy Layne in second half

BY STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Sophomore guard Caroline Ariaz scored 25 points and pulled down 15 rebounds to lead Prestonsburg past visiting Betsy Layne 89-58 in a 58th District girls' basketball game at Prestonsburg Fieldhouse on Saturday night.

With the win, Prestonsburg improved to 13-7 overall and 1-2 in the 58th District.

Betsy Layne dropped to 3-16 overall and 0-4 in

the district with the loss. Prestonsburg shot 43.2 percent (32 of 74) from the field. The Lady Blackcats were 10 of 31 (32.3 percent) from three-point range.

Prestonsburg shot 55.6 percent (15 of 27) from the free-throw line.

Betsy Layne thrived early, outscoring Prestonsburg 14-10 in the opening quarter. The two 58th District foes were tied 33-33 at halftime. Then, Prestonsburg livened up both offensively and defensively. The Lady Blackcats moved out in

front after intermission, eventually leading 64-46 at the conclusion of the third quarter. Host Prestonsburg put the game completely out of Betsy Layne's reach in the fourth period, eventually winning convincingly.

Finishing directly behind Ariaz in the Prestonsburg scoring column, Reesce Endicott netted 14 points.

Accompanying Ariaz and Endicott in double figures in the scoring column and nearly recording

See BLACKCATS, Page 2B

Bobcats upend Blackcats, 52-46



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Zack Bentley helps to lead Betsy Layne past host Prestonsburg on Saturday night.

BY STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Betsy Layne notched a key win on the road over the weekend, upending host Prestonsburg 52-46 in a 58th District boys' basketball game at the Prestonsburg Fieldhouse on Saturday night.

With the win, Betsy Layne improved to 10-9 overall and 2-1 in the 58th District.

Prestonsburg dropped to 8-10 overall and 2-1 in the district with the loss.

The Bobcats and Blackcats swapped leads throughout the district contest. Prestonsburg doubled up Betsy Layne 8-4 in the opening quarter but couldn't maintain its momentum. The Bobcats battled back to lead 22-19 at halftime.

Sophomore guard Jordan Frazier led a balanced Betsy Layne scoring effort, finishing with 14 points. Accompanying Frazier in double figures for the Bobcats, freshman forward Nate Mims netted 10 points.

Betsy Layne finished 17 of 26

from the free-throw line in the winning effort.

Brady Robinson contributed eight points for the Bobcats while Zack Bentley added six points.

Grant Orsborn, who has returned to the court from an injury he suffered over the summer, tossed in five points.

Davy Bentley added four points, Shawn Howell tossed in three points and Luke Manns provided two points as Betsy Layne won.

Prestonsburg finished 13 of 18 from the free-throw line in the setback.

Adam Slone paced Prestonsburg with a game-high 20 points. Prestonsburg featured two scorers in double figures as Blake Slone posted 15 points.

Finishing one field goal short of reaching double figures in scoring for the Blackcats, Graham Burchett added eight points.

Grant Justice and Will Gullett rounded out the Prestonsburg individual scoring, posting two points and one point, respectively.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Prestonsburg's Caroline Ariaz lofts a shot as Betsy Layne's Kimberly Akers defended.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Prestonsburg's Graham Burchett clears a rebound as the Blackcats hosted Floyd County foe Betsy Layne in a 58th District boys' basketball game.

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Jaguars drop district game to Lawrence County

By STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

LOUISA — Floyd Central remained in the loss column on the road as host Lawrence County pulled away to win 75-54 in a 58th District boys' basketball game on Friday night.

Lawrence County dealt Floyd Central its 13th consecutive loss.

With the setback, Floyd Central fell to 2-17 overall and 0-3 in the 58th District.

Lawrence County improved to 13-5 overall and 2-1 in the district with the victory.

Floyd Central shot 46.8 percent (22 of 47) from the field. The Jaguars were three of 14 (21.4 percent) from three-point range.

Floyd Central shot 70 percent (seven of 10) from the free throw line.

Brandon Little led Floyd Central

with 20 points. Little connected on 10 shots from inside of the arc for the Jaguars during the district matchup.

Brady Conn and Ethan Smith-Mills accompanied Little in double figures in scoring for the Jaguars, adding 11 points apiece.

Caleb Hager and Hayden Hall contributed four points apiece for the Jaguars while Braden Moore posted three points.

Little and Conn led Floyd Central on the backboards, grabbing six rebounds apiece.

In a 58th District girls' basketball game, Floyd Central defeated Lawrence County 73-50. The Floyd Central girls' basketball team notched its second straight win after falling to 16th Region member Rowan County in a 2A Sectional game in Morehead on Saturday, Jan. 12.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster, FILE

Floyd Central's Ethan Smith-Mills drives by a Magoffin defender earlier this season.

BLACKCATS

Continued From Page 1B

a double-double, Kaitlyn Keathley added 18 points and eight rebounds.

Alivia Slone (four points), Lauren Howard (three points), Alexis Beatty (two points), Faith Lazar (two points), Kylie Stephens (two points) and Alison Campbell (one point) combined to account for the remainder of Prestonsburg's individual scoring.

ual scoring.

Betsy Layne shot 43.2 percent (19-of-44) from the field. The Lady Bobcats were 0-for-5 from 3-point range.

Betsy Layne shot 52.6 percent (20 of 38) from the free-throw line.

Inside, Betsy Layne managed to outrebound Prestonsburg 43-41.

Amelia Blackburn led Betsy Layne with a team-best 15 points. Blackburn finished 5-of-6 from the free throw line and se-

cured eight rebounds.

Madilyn Meade netted 12 points and Lauryn Watkins added 11 points for the Lady Bobcats in the loss.

In the other individual scoring for Betsy Layne, Katie Kidd chipped in eight points while Kimberly Akers and Alexandria Jarvis posted six points apiece.

Akers led Betsy Layne on the backboards, pulling down a game-high 16 rebounds.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Betsy Layne's Madilyn Meade goes for a loose ball during the Lady Bobcats' 58th District matchup at Prestonsburg on Saturday night. Prestonsburg's Caroline Ariaz is also pictured.

Hazard triumphs over Betsy Layne

By CODY DAVIS
SPORTS WRITER

The Hazard Lady Bulldogs pulled out their ninth win of the season after toppling over the Betsy Layne Lady Bobcats 56-50.

Hazard's Hayley Caudill led the team with a game high 19 points and seven rebounds. Caudill was one for two from the line and one of two Hazard players to finish in double figures scoring.

The other, Hazard's Desiree Sturgill ended the game with 10 points and three rebounds. Sturgill was two for seven from three-point range and two for two from the line.

Overall the Lady Bulldogs made 40 percent of their shots from the field and 18.2 percent of their shots from three-point range.

Hazard finished the game with 31 rebounds.

The Lady Bobcats did not do better, making only 37 percent of their shots from the field and 33.3 percent of its shots from three-point range.

The Lady Bobcats did do well from the line though, making 63.6 percent of its attempts.

Betsy Layne finished the game with 25 rebounds.

The Lady Bobcats



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cody Davis

Betsy Layne's Amelia Blackburn attempts to put up a shot under the basket Tuesday night against Hazard.

had three students who ended the night in double figures scoring.

Katie Kidd finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Kidd was 12 for 14 from the line and made 20 percent of her shots from the field.

Betsy Layne's Amelia Blackburn ended the game with 12 points and four rebounds.

Blackburn was one for two from the line and made 45.5 percent of her

shots from the field.

Betsy Layne's final player to make it into double figures scoring was Madilyn Meade. Meade finished with 11 points and 4 rebounds.

Meade was one for two from the line and made 41.7 percent of her shots from the field.

The victory improved the Lady Bulldogs season record to 9-9 while knocking the Lady Bobcats down to 3-16.

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15th Region All 'A' Classic roundup

RANDY WHITE
REGIONAL SPORTS EDITOR

Sunday marked the 15th Region All "A" Classic championship where, Shelby Valley knocked off Pikeville on a last second shot.

15th Region All "A" Classic semifinals were took place Saturday night at the East Kentucky Expo Center. Shelby Valley knocked off Paintsville and Pikeville cruised past East Ridge.

The final games of the first round took place Friday night. East Ridge pulled out a huge overtime win over Sheldon Clark and Pikeville rolled past Jenkins.

Championship Shelby Valley 50, Pikeville 48

The smallest guy on the court stepped up in the biggest moment.

With the game tied at 48-48 and the final seconds running off the clock, Shelby Valley's Keian Worrix drove the length of the court and banked in a layup, drove down the lane right before time expired to give Shelby Valley a 50-48 win over Pikeville in the 15th Region All "A" Classic championship.

"First off, I was just going to look for Cody (Potter) and when he wasn't open, I just drove to the basket and took the shot," Shelby Valley's Keian Worrix said. "It's just an amazing feeling, but I can't take credit because all of the glory goes to God.

"Going to state is going to be exciting."

"I have to give all the glory to God," Shelby Valley coach Jim Hicks said. "Our kids showed so much resilience today. They just refused to lose. Keian Worrix is such a good one-on-one player that it's hard to stay in front of him. He just went and made a play."

With the win, Shelby Valley (18-2) moves on to the All "A" Classic state tournament in Richmond at Eastern Kentucky University's McBrayer Arena. The Wildcats will take on Clinton County at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evening in the opening round of the tournament.

"This is my first time ever making it to a state tournament," Shelby Valley's Cameron Worrix said. "So it's just a great moment.

"Any given night, anybody can score the ball. Cody (Potter) didn't score like he usually does, so everyone else just stepped up."

Shelby Valley standout Cody Potter was held in check to only eight points, 10 rebounds, two blocks and a steal. All eight of Potter's points came at the free throw line as he didn't make a field goal in the win.

"If you'd have told me that Cody Potter would not have scored on a single field goal and we would've won, I'd cashed out all my annuities and placed a bet," Hicks said.

Cameron Worrix stepped up to score a game-high 16 points. Keian Worrix followed with 13 points. Orbie McPeek added six points and five rebounds. John Flanery added four points. Samuel Stanley added two and Peyton Blackburn chipped in with one.

"With everybody guarding me, it just gave the other guys a chance to step up," Potter said.

Keian Worrix knocked down a three to beat the third quarter buzzer and cut the Pikeville lead to 37-36 entering the fourth

quarter of play.

Potter opened the fourth with a pair of free throws to give Shelby Valley a 38-37 lead; it was the Wildcats' first lead of the game.

Rylee Sammons scored to give Pikeville a 41-40 lead with 5:21 left.

Flanery answered with a basket at the 5:12 mark to give the Wildcats a 42-41 lead. Cameron Worrix added two straight baskets to push the Shelby Valley lead to 46-41 with 4:00 left.

Cameron Worrix capped off an 8-0 Shelby Valley lead with a basket at the 3:15 mark to push the lead to 48-41.

Connor Roberts knocked down a pair of free throws with 2:58 for Pikeville to cut the lead to 48-43. Roberts followed with a basket with 1:08 left to cut the lead to 48-48. Laithan Hall split a pair of free throws with 19 second left to cut the lead to 48-46.

Roberts stepped back to the line with 11 seconds left to tie things up at 48-48.

That set up Keian Worrix's game winner.

Roberts and Kyle Watkins each scored 13 points to lead the way for the Panthers. Sammons also reached double figures with 10 points and six rebounds. Christian Billiter added six points; Billiter was also tasked with guarding Potter on the defensive side and he stepped up and played well on defense. Byron Hammond added three points and Connor Byers added two. Hall chipped in with one point.

Pikeville jumped out to a 6-2 lead. Shelby Valley fought back to cut the lead to 11-9 at the end of the first quarter.

Hammond scored late in the second quarter to give Pikeville a 20-14 half-time lead.

Sammons knocked down a three with 56 seconds left in the third to give Pikeville a 37-31 lead.

Potter knocked down two free throws and Keian Worrix followed with the three to cut the lead to just one entering the fourth quarter of play.

Shelby Valley and Pikeville (11-7) are scheduled to play again tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Pikeville in 59th District action. The Wildcats are 2-0 against the Panthers this season.

Shelby Valley 61, Paintsville 55

Shelby Valley's Orbie McPeek and Cameron Worrix gave the Wildcats a second and third scorer Saturday night in the 15th Region All "A" Classic at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

That took some pressure off of Cody Potter as the Wildcats picked up a 61-55 win over Paintsville in the semifinals.

Potter scored a game-high 24 points to lead Shelby Valley the win, but McPeek followed with 13 and Cameron Worrix scored 12 to give the Wildcats a boost to get past the Tigers. Keian Worrix also scored eight points in the win. Samuel Stanley also scored four points in the win.

Cameron Worrix split a pair of free throws to give Shelby Valley a 48-35 lead with 5:31 left in the game.

Paintsville made a push to get back in the game. Colby Fugate split a pair of free throws with 5:21 left to spark an 8-0 run. Keaton followed with a pair of free throws with 4:51 left to cut the lead to 48-38. Fugate came up with a steal and a three to cut the lead to



Prestonsburg's Grant Justice attempts a shot over Shelby Valley's Orbie McPeak Thursday night during the first round of the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance

48-41 and Keaton knocked down two free throws to cap off the 8-0 run.

Potter found Cameron Worrix for a layup to stop the run and push the Wildcat lead to 50-43 with 3:50 left.

Potter hit a big three with 2:41 left to push the Shelby Valley lead to 55-47.

Paintsville wouldn't go away, though. Fugate came up with another steal and found Seth Williams for a basket with 1:28 left to cut the lead to 57-55.

Cameron and Keian Worrix each knocked down free throws to ice the win for the Wildcats.

Williams led the way for the Tigers with a team-high 18 points, five rebounds and three steals. Nick Keaton just missed a double-double with 11 points and nine rebounds. Fugate and Brady Dingess both reached double figures with 10 points each. Braxton Tharp added four points and Jaxon Watts added two points.

Shelby Valley held Paintsville to just 34 percent shooting, while the Wildcats knocked down 44 percent of their shots.

The Wildcats also won the battle of the boards out rebounding Paintsville 38-26.

Shelby Valley turned the ball over 18 times, but the Tigers couldn't take advantage scoring 16 points off turnovers, while the Wildcats scored 12 points off of Paintsville's eight turnovers.

Pikeville 61, East Ridge 25

Pikeville just turned up the defensive pressure and kept it going from the opening tip to the final whistle as the Panthers cruised to a big 61-25 win over 59th District rival East Ridge in the 15th Region All "A" Classic semifinals Saturday night at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

Pikeville jumped out to a 21-9 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Panthers kept the defensive pressure going in the second quarter as East Ridge only scored a single basket in the second period. Pikeville held a 33-11 half-time lead.

Pikeville's defense only gave up 15 points in the second half.

East Ridge only shot 23 percent from the field on the night, while the Panthers shot 43 percent from the field.

The Panthers out rebounded the Warriors 34-21.

Pikeville freshman Rylee Sammons led the way for the Panthers with a game-high 14 points and six rebounds. Connor Roberts followed with 12 points and three steals. Kyle Watkins and Zac Lockart each scored seven points. Connor Byers and Nick Robinson each added six. Byron Hammond had four points. JT Orem knocked down a three and Brandon Lowe added two points.

Cameron Hess led the way for the Warriors with eight points. Eli Sykes added four points and Dalton Wellman scored three. Hunter Damron, Jackson Potter, Jonathan Mills, Brad Howell and Eli Rose each scored two for the Warriors.

First Round Overtime

**East Ridge 75,
Sheldon Clark 72**

East Ridge trailed 63-60 with just 11 seconds left.

The Warriors had one last shot and Cameron Hess took it.

Hess drilled a deep three with time expiring to tie game at 63-63.

East Ridge pulled out a 75-72 win in overtime against Sheldon Clark in the opening round of the 15th Region All "A" Classic Friday night at the East

Kentucky Expo Center.

In overtime, Eli Sykes hit a jumper to give the Warriors a 65-63 lead. That was the Warriors' first lead of the game since 3:07 left in the first quarter when Sykes hit a three to give East Ridge a 9-8 lead.

Sheldon Clark battled back and took a 67-65 lead with 2:42 left in the extra session after Jordan Dalton knocked down a three.

Braxton Stanley came up with a steal and Sykes scored with 50 seconds left in overtime to give East Ridge a 71-69 lead.

The Warriors held on for the 75-72 win.

Hess led the way for East Ridge with a game-high 21 points and six rebounds. Sykes followed with 20 points and seven rebounds. Dalton Wellman added 16 points and Kane Taylor also reached double figures with 12 points, seven assists and three steals. Hunter Damron scored six points in the win.

Sheldon Clark was led by Trey James' 19 points and 13 rebounds. The big man only blocked one shot in the game, though. Braxton Maynard followed with 15 points and Jordan added 12. Cameron Dials also reached double figures with 11. Nick Maynard added seven points and Will Laferty scored four. Drake Muncy and Braden Walker each added two points in the win.

Pikeville 77, Jenkins 25

Pikeville came out Friday night and cruised to a big 77-25 win to advanced to the 15th Region All "A" Classic semifinals.

Pikeville jumped out to a 21-11 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Panthers only gave up 14 points in the final three quarters of play.

Pikeville had three players reach double figures.

Sammons and Byers each scored 11 points to lead the way for the Panthers.

Lockhart also reached double figures scoring with 10 points. Laithan Hall and Roberts each added nine points. Christian Billiter added eight points and Watkins scored seven.

Isaac McNamee followed with four points. Robinson, Orem, Hammond and Tate Walters each scored two points.

Pikeville forced Jenkins to turn the ball over 38 times.

Pikeville shot 52 percent from the field, while Jenkins only connected on 39 percent of its shots.

The Panthers out rebounded the Cavs 24-16.

Jahkaya Templier led the way for Jenkins with eight points. Clad Fleming and Joshua Wright each scored five points for the Cavs. Jeremy Potter added three. Ethan Cummings and Peyton Rose each scored two points.

Sports Editor's Note: For full coverage of the 15th Region All "A" Classic check out Appalachian Newspapers Inc. presents Bank On It. The Bank On It podcast will have highlights, interviews and commentary of the 15th Region All "A" Classic. Check out the Bank On It podcast at YouTube.com; just search Bank On It and subscribe to the channel to get the latest episode each week. Episode 12 of the Bank On It podcast will go online Wednesday.

ANNOUNCE YOUR NEWS

Welcome Baby Smith

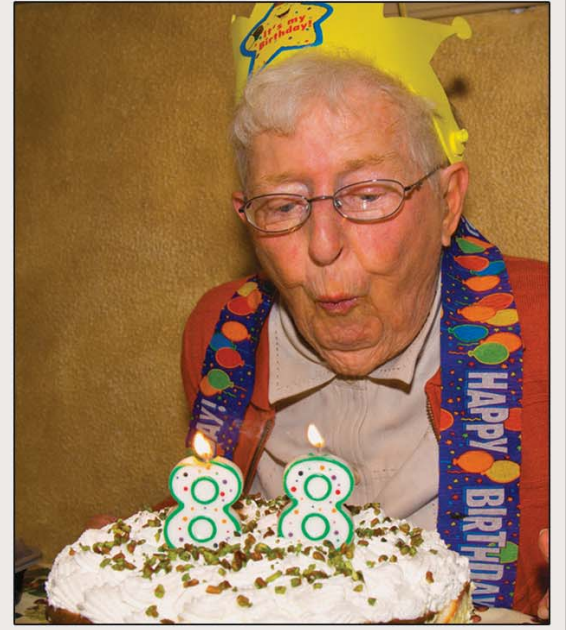


John Caleb Smith, the son of Aaron and Christy Smith of Allen was born Wednesday, December 6, 2017. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Dave and Thelma Ratliff of Allen and John and Dorothy Smith of Wheelwright, Ky.

Birth Announcements

All birth announcements for babies under 3 months are **FREE**.

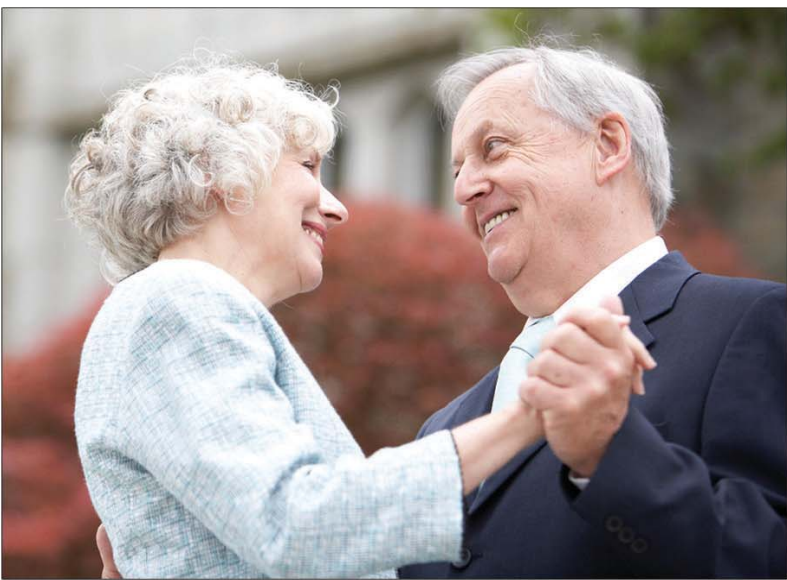
Celebrating Birthdays



The Prestonsburg Senior Citizen Center recently celebrated December birthdays. The guest of honor was Leslie Belcher. Belcher was celebrating her 88th birthday.

Senior Citizen Center Birthdays

All Senior Citizen Centers may announce their birthdays for **FREE**.



Celebrating 55 years

Larry and Jane Marcum of Martin celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on December 30, 2017 with a surprise party thrown by family and friends. The couple was married on June 23, 1962. Larry is a retired banker and Jane is retired from the Floyd County Board of Education. Mr. and Mrs. Marcum belong to the Martin Church of Christ where they are active members. They have four children, two sons and two daughters: Joe (Diane) Marcum of Martin, Frank (Judith) Marcum of Lexington, Anna (James) Richard of Archdale, NC, and Margaret (Joseph) Andrews of Lynchburg, Va. They have 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Wedding Anniversaries

All wedding anniversaries over 40 years, in addition to 10th and 25th anniversaries, are **FREE**.

Dotson-Simpkins



Mike and Cathy Layne Dotson of Prestonsburg announce the engagement of their daughter, Tara Renae, to Scott Michael Simpkins, son of Marvin and Lynn Robinette Simpkins of Williamson. The bride-elect is a 2011 graduate of Prestonsburg High School and received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Kentucky in 2015. Simpkins is a 2011 graduate of Pikeville High School and a 2015 graduate of the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. A June wedding is planned in Prestonsburg.

Engagement

Announce your engagement in the Floyd County Chronicle for **FREE**.

Wedding

Announce your recent marriage. Weddings within 3 months are **FREE**.

Hatfield-McDaniel



Amy Michelle Hatfield and Chad McDaniel of Fort Bragg, NC, were united in marriage at six o'clock in the evening, Saturday, December 9, 2017 at the Maple Lane Farm, Fayetteville, NC. The bride is a graduate of Allen Central High School and attended Morehead State University. McDaniel is a graduate of Rowan County Senior High School. He serves as a Sergeant in the US Army. Following the ceremony, the couple left for a honeymoon in the Bahamas. They are residing in Fort Bragg.

CHRONICLE & TIMES

FLOYD COUNTY

To place your **FREE** announcement contact our office
PO Box 390, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653 • news@floydchronicle.com
(606) 886-8506

PHONE: (800) 539-4054

EMAIL: eburchett@floydct.com

MAIL: P.O. Box 802 • Pikeville, KY 41502

FAX: (606) 437-4246

Deadlines are:
Wednesday - Monday @ Noon
Friday - Monday @ Noon

Pre-Pay and Save!

All major credit cards accepted



TO OUR READERS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

POLICIES

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.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD

Please read your ad the first day it appears in the *Floyd County Chronicle and Times*. Report any errors immediately and we will gladly correct any errors published. Credit will be issued for one (1) day only. After the first day the ad can be corrected for the remaining number of runs, but credit will not be issued for days ad ran incorrectly.

PERSONAL AD POLICY

Ads will be printed at publisher's discretion. Publisher not responsible for results, parties responding to or placing ads.

FOR SALE

NEED EXTRA CASH? Run a Classified Ad. They Work! Call (800)539-4054 Today!

APARTMENTS- UNFURNISHED

2BR APT. DEPOSIT and two references required. At Martin KY. Call 606-285-9159

2BR DUPLEX, CENTRAL heat/air, total electric. Close to Prestonsburg. Call 606-886-9007 or 606-889-9747.

HOUSES FOR RENT

3BR, 1BA HOUSE for rent. Carport, large yard. Located between Prestonsburg and Paintsville. Call 606-886-9007 or 606-889-9747.

HOUSES FOR SALE

FARM FOR SALE 70 acres more/less House, Shed and Trailer, 739 Harper Branch Road, West Liberty KY. Call (606)743-9669.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

HIRING

Needing a Part-Time Handy-Person for 24 hours a week at Branham Heights Apts. Must have general knowledge of plumbing, painting, dry wall and electric. Have your own hand tools. Apply at 67 Branham Street Wheelwright, KY 41669. 1(606)452-4777

HELP WANTED:

Earn extra income managing a campground with site rentals, horse barns, trails, etc. Special skills required in personnel, client, and property management. Carpentry, electrical, maintenance of equipment and grounds. Reply with resume to: Resume, PO Box 1711, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

AUTOMOBILES



89 FOX BODY Mustang, 5.0 5 speed, 86,000 miles. All new updates. Cobra wheels and intake. Clean car. \$4,800 OBO. 606-793-8682

LEGALS

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-8086, Renewal

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given SNR Rail Ops, LLC., Rt.4, Box 104E, Catlettsburg, KY 41129, has filed an application for a renewal of a surface coal mining operation located 0.25 miles east of Ivel in Floyd County. The operation affects a total permit acreage of 11.95 acres. The operation is located on the Harold USGS 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map at latitude 37° 35' 22" and longitude 82° 39' 53", at the community of Ivel, KY. The operation is approximately 0.25 miles southeast from US 23's junction with Ivel road and is located 0.25 miles southeast of Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by SNR Rail Ops, LLC. The minerals are owned by Appalachian Land Company, 750 Town Mountain Road, Pikeville, KY 41501. The operation will not involve re-location or closure of either of the public roads. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40601.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 860-5265, Renewal

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Mason Coal, Inc., P.O. Box 474, Salyersville, KY 41465 has applied for a renewal of an existing underground coal mining operation located 0.7 miles southeast of Hollybush in Knott County. The operation disturbs 7.58 acres of surface area and underlies an additional 910.0 acres, for a total of 917.58 acres. The operation is approximately 0.6 miles southeast from the junction of Hollybush County Road and KY 3393 and located 0.8 miles east of Hollybush Creek. The operation is located on the Kite 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Tech Energy, Inc. The operation will underlie land owned by Gay Ellis and Pearl Maggard, Orville and Brenda Collins, Francis Owens, Consolidation Coal, Ben and Nevada Hall, Richard and Alverta Huff, Bobby and Ruth Hall, R. Ellsworth Bair, Troy Hall, R. Campbell and C. Perkins, O.W. Smith, Diamond Waddles, Albro King, Griggs King, Ralph and Clara Stone, Frank Thornsberry, Earl Thornsberry, Stanley Thornsberry, Otis and Hilda Smith, General Lee Stone, East Kentucky Energy, and Ottis Jr. and Regina Stone. The renewal application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40601.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Liberty Management, LLC, P.O. Box 100, Ary, Kentucky 41712 has applied for Phase I Bond Release on Increment No. 1 Phase I and II Bond Release on Increment No. 5, Phase II and III on Increment No.'s 3, 4 and 9 and Phase III Bond Release on 2 and 6 of **Permit Number 836-0454**, which was last issued on September 8, 2016. Increment No. 1 covers an area approximately 4.04 acres, Increment No. 2 covers an area approximately 4.15 acres, Increment No. 3 covers an area approximately 16.74 acres, Increment No. 4 covers an area approximately 8.02 acres, Increment No. 5 covers an area approximately 21.95 acres, Increment No. 6 covers an area approximately 15.82 acres and Increment No. 9 covers an area approximately 16.92 acres located 2.5 miles northwest of Minnie in Floyd County. The permit is approximately 1.7 miles southeast of KY 80's junction with KY 680 and located 0.1 mile south of Gosling Branch. The operation is located on the Wayland U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The latitude is 37° 29' 08". The longitude is 82° 47' 37". The bond now in effect for Increment No. 1 is a Surety Bond in the amount of five thousand eight hundred dollars (\$5,800.00), which sixty percent (60%) of the bond at five thousand eight hundred dollars (\$5,800.00), is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 1 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 2 is a

Thanks For Reading The Floyd Chronicle & Times

Licensed Land Surveyor Needed

Local Engineering and Surveying firm is in need of an experienced Licensed Land Surveyor for a variety of civil engineering, mine engineering and land surveying projects. Applicants must have a minimum of 8 years experience in one or more of these areas and must possess a Kentucky Surface Miner's card as well as a valid driver's License. The successful candidate will be a surveyor licensed in good standing with the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The successful candidate will also be a surveyor skilled in both conventional and GPS equipment, as well as the AutoCadd/SurvCadd software. Competitive salary and benefits package includes health/dental/vision insurance and retirement plan. Please mail resume to: EDC, Inc., 43 Village Street, Pikeville, KY 41501, Attn: Surveyor Position or Email to patedc@bellsouth.net EOE

LEGALS

Surety Bond in the amount of one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00). The remaining bond of one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00), is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 2 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 3 is a Surety Bond in the amount of fifty-five thousand six hundred dollars (\$55,600.00). The remaining bond of fifty-five thousand six hundred dollars (\$55,600.00), is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 3 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 4 is a Surety Bond in the amount of forty-eight thousand dollars (\$48,000.00). The remaining bond of forty-eight thousand dollars (\$48,000.00), is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 4 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 5 is a Surety Bond in the amount of eighty-one thousand nine hundred dollars (\$81,900.00), which eighty-five percent (85%) of the bond at eighty-one thousand nine hundred dollars (\$81,900.00), is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 5 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 6 is a Surety Bond in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00). The remaining bond of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 6 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 9 is a Surety Bond in the amount of twenty-one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$21,800.00). The remaining bond at twenty-one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$21,800.00) is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 9 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010.

LEGALS

dred dollars (\$81,900.00), is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 5 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 6 is a Surety Bond in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00). The remaining bond of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 6 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010. The bond now in effect for Increment No. 9 is a Surety Bond in the amount of twenty-one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$21,800.00). The remaining bond at twenty-one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$21,800.00) is being requested for release. Reclamation work performed on Increment No.'s 9 include: backfilling, final grading, seeding and mulching and planting of trees completed in Fall 2010.

LEGALS

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APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED for 1,2,3 & 4 Bedroom Apartments

Located in Prestonsburg is Highland Heights Apartments in Goble Roberts addition and Cliffside Apartments on Cliff Road. Rent is based on gross monthly income. All utilities included at Highland Heights and a Utility Allowance at Cliffside. Learning centers at both sites with computers available. For more information, call Highland Heights at 606-886-0608 and Cliffside at 606-886-1819, TDD: 1-800-648-6056 or 711 or come by the offices for an application. Highland Heights and Cliffside Apartments do not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability or familial status.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED for 1-Bedroom Apartments for Persons 62 and older

Located on Mays Branch in Prestonsburg. All utilities included, rent is based on gross monthly income. Several activities such as line dancing, crafts, church services, hair salon. Furnished with stove, refrigerator, emergency alarm system and air conditioner. For more information, please call Highland Terrace at 606-886-1925, TDD: 1-800-648-6056 or 711 or come by the office for an application. Highland Terrace does not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability or familial status.

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Full Time Position Open Service Advisor/Case Manager

Position provides Case Management for Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver participants. Duties include but not limited to care planning, coordinating, & monitoring a range of in-home services.

Requirements are a Bachelor's degree in a health or human services field with at least 1 year experience or the educational or experiential equivalent in the field of aging or disabilities; Or a Registered Nurse with at least 2 years of experience in the field of aging or disabilities; Or a Master's degree in a health or human services field. Position will be in the Big Sandy area, full time with excellent benefits.

Send resume to: Big Sandy Area Development District Attn: Steve Jones 110 Resource Court Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Or Email: Steve.jones@bigsandy.org

Deadline: COB February 4, 2019

Big Sandy ADD is an Equal Opportunity Employer

LEGALS

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<p>NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE</p> <p>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 is-</p>	<p>sued 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</p>	<p>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 5 4 . 4 0 % (\$40,800.00) of the original bond</p>	<p>amount in this increment is included in this application for phase 1 release. Reclamation work performed includes backfilling/grading/topsoiling/see ding, completed in the Summer of 2018. Results thus far achieved include backfilling, grading, seeding, and topsoil-</p>	<p>ing of the disturbed areas. This is the final advertisement of the application. Written comments, objections, and request for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement, 300 Sower</p>	<p>Blvd. 2nd Floor Frankfort, KY 40601 by <u>February 22, 2019</u>. A public hearing has been sched-</p>	<p>uled for <u>10:00 a.m.</u>, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, on <u>February 25, 2019</u> at the Prestonsburg</p>	<p>Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive Suite 6, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. This hearing will be can-</p>	<p>celed if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by <u>February 22, 2019</u>.</p>

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