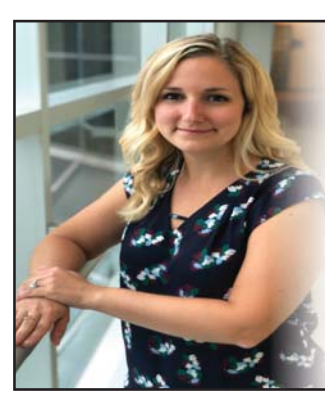




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CHRONICLE & TIMES

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

FLOYD COUNTY

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Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Martin City Council members Harold Case and April Gayheart, left to right, speak to people who turned out during a special meeting at Martin on Saturday. The meeting was canceled, as Case and Gayheart were the only council members in attendance.

Martin changes course on annexation

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

"I would encourage the city council to withdraw this proposal."

SENATOR
JOHNNY RAY TURNER

The Martin City Council appears to be changing its course on the city's proposed annexation of several local unincorporated communities on the left and right forks of Beaver Creek.

The city council called a special meeting on Saturday, Feb. 9 to hold the first reading of

See MARTIN, Page 3A



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Martin City Council member Harold Case speaks to Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, in Martin on Saturday. Case said he cannot "wholeheartedly" support Martin's proposed annexation.

Coal severance funds released

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

Floyd County will receive more than \$64,700 in coal severance, state officials reported last week.

On Feb. 7, Gov. Matt Bevin and the Kentucky Department for Local Government announced the return of \$1.3 million in coal severance to 27 Eastern Kentucky counties.

The list includes disbursements of \$64,700 to Floyd County, \$200,950 to Pike County, \$122,600 to Perry County, \$120,700 to Knott County and \$21,600 to Johnson County.

"This is a huge win for county governments, many of which are experiencing increased demands on local budgets," DLG Commissioner Sandra K. Dunahoo said in the press release. "We are returning funds to the people who understand best how these funds should be spent."

The press release said that in September 2015

See FUNDS, Page 2A

Allen retroactively approves paving project

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Allen City Commission retroactively approved hiring a paving company to finish a project that's already completed.

During a special meeting on Feb. 11, the commission approved hiring Highlands Paving

for the project, which was completed in November and funded through municipal road aid funds.

The motion sought retroactive approval for this project to Oct. 1, 2018, and it's one of two paving projects Highlands Paving completed for the city in 2018.

See ALLEN, Page 4A



Allen City Attorney Beth Shortridge, Mayor Sharon Woods and commissioners Josh Kinzer and Elmer Parsons discuss retroactive approval of a paving contract that the city funded months ago.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

JWT announces new season, new direction

By ELAINE BELCHER
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — Jenny Wiley Theatre Producing Artistic Director Robin Irwin and husband, Education Director Erick Buck-

ley, together announced the 2019 performance and workshop schedules Saturday during an open house at the Jenny Wiley Mainstage Theatre in

See JWT, Page 4A



Appalachian Newspapers photos by Elaine Belcher
Jenny Wiley Producing Executive Director Robin Irwin and JWT Director of Education Erick Buckley work with a group of potential actors in a workshop following the announcement of the 2019 season Saturday. Participants worked on incorporating body language and voice control.

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Paintsville police: Martin woman charged with endangering minor

**A PAINTSVILLE HERALD
STAFF REPORT**

A Martin woman was arrested Thursday after Paintsville Police Department officers responded to a complaint that an individual had been caught by Walmart asset protection staff attempting to steal several items, leading to a search that yielded paraphernalia and drugs within the reach of a child, according to court documents.

The citation said PPD Officer Jeremy Shepherd responded to the call and found Amanda Keen, 23, of Martin, had attempted to steal items valued at approximately \$82. A consensual search of the diaper bag Keen had on her person yielded syringes and rolling papers, which Keen admitted were used for marijuana, and a spoon with an orange residue which Keen admitted was suboxone, according to the citation.

The items were in the diaper bag, near the



Amanda Keen

child's toys, according to the citation, and the "child could have easily reached for toys and (gotten) exposed to drugs or poked by (a) needle."

According to the citation, Keen was advised several times to "stop screaming and making a scene and to listen to officers," but would not cooperate with Shepherd or the Walmart staff.

Shepherd said he also found a "considerable amount of soaked paper," that Keen advised was marijuana resin, the citation said.

Keen was arrested

and lodged in the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center on charges of theft by unlawful taking with a value of less than \$500 (shoplifting), third-degree possession of a controlled substance, first-offense prescription controlled substance not in proper container, endangering the welfare of a minor, second-degree disorderly conduct, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

Keen was released on bond the next day, and no court dates are currently set in her case.

Hagerhill man arrested on multiple warrants, new meth trafficking charges

**By WAYLON WHITSON
STAFF WRITER**

A Hagerhill man was arrested Thursday after Kentucky State Police troopers served him with a Floyd County indictment warrant alongside a probation and parole warrant from Georgia, leading to new meth trafficking charges as well, according to court documents filed in Johnson County.

KSP Trooper Bradley Bond wrote in the citation that he received information on the whereabouts of Leonard Brackett, 55, of Hagerhill, Thursday in relation to an active indictment warrant from Floyd County on a charge of first-degree and first-offense trafficking in a controlled substance (greater than or equal to two grams of methamphetamine). Bond, court documents said, had also received information that there was a large amount of crystal meth in Brackett's possession.

According to the citation, Bond traveled to a residence on Ky. 2039 and made contact with both the homeowners and Brackett, who was



Leonard Brackett

placed under arrest on the indictment warrant before Bond asked both Brackett and the homeowner if there were any drugs inside the residence. Both Brackett and the homeowners stated that there were not, and Bond requested the homeowner to sign a consent-to-search form, a request that the homeowners granted, the citation said.

A search of the home revealed several plastic bags with a "clear, rock-like substance believed to be crystal meth," two sets of digital scales, several empty plastic bags and approximately \$484 in cash, according to the citation. When asked why he lied about the drugs, money, scales and bags, Brackett reportedly told

Bond that he "just wanted to hide (the items) and didn't want (the troopers) to find (them)," according to the citation.

Bond also noted in the citation that he ran Brackett's name through dispatch and a search of the NCIC/LINK system returned active warrants from Georgia for probation or parole violations.

Brackett was arrested and lodged in the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center on two counts of first-degree and first-offense trafficking in a controlled substance (greater than or equal to two grams of methamphetamine) and was served with a fugitive warrant.

A preliminary hearing in Brackett's case is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 13.

FUNDS

Continued From Page 1A

(the 2016 fiscal year), \$2 million was "deducted" from the coal severance accounts of 27 Eastern Kentucky counties and "directed toward" to the Kentucky Communications Network Authority for "community broadband readiness and public computer access initiatives," the press release reported.

"KCNA was able to complete this work in a cost-effective manner for approximately \$800,000," the press release stated. "Gov. Bevin has directed KCNA to return the balance of these funds, together with certain other ancillary funds, to the 27 contributing counties."

Coal severance funds have dropped by more than 85 percent in Floyd County over the past decade, and the county's receipt of mineral severance funds has also decreased by about 61 percent since that time.

In the 2009 fiscal year, the county received nearly \$2.2 million in coal severance, and in 2018, the county received only \$392,400 in that fund. In 2009, Floyd County received \$2.8 million in mineral severance funds, the DLG reports, and in 2018, the county received just over \$1 million in mineral severance.

Floyd County coal severance receipts remained above \$1 million per fiscal year from

Coal, mineral severance in Floyd County

Coal Severance	
Fiscal Year	Disbursed
2009:	\$2,157,732
2010:	\$1,540,820
2011:	\$1,344,261
2012:	\$1,439,626
2013:	\$1,259,067
2014:	\$1,050,695
2015:	\$1,030,056
2016:	\$824,478
2017:	\$521,247
2018:	\$392,449
2019 (to date):	\$321,111

Mineral severance	
Fiscal Year	Disbursed
2009:	\$2,802,262
2010:	\$1,941,202
2011:	\$3,032,945
2012:	\$3,298,537
2013:	\$2,371,564
2014:	\$2,070,430
2015:	\$1,802,692
2016:	\$463,963
2017:	\$350,573
2018:	\$1,087,121
2019 (to date):	\$1,120,125

2010 through 2015, but in 2016, when these funds were deducted and directed toward the KCNA, the county's coal severance funds dipped to about \$824,500, and the funds have decreased since that time.

So far this fiscal year, which began in July 2018, Floyd County has received about \$321,000 in coal severance funds. The latest payment was on Jan. 16, when the state disbursed \$117,000 to Floyd County.

Amy Barnes, execu-

tive director of the office of federal and state grants in the DLG, reported that the \$64,700 in coal-severance based Local Government Economic Development funds announced last week comes in addition to the \$117,400 in coal severance-based Local Government Economic Assistant funds the county received on Jan. 16.

Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams could not be reached prior to print deadline.



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MARTIN

Continued From Page 1A

an ordinance announcing the city's intent to annex more than 591 acres of property along Ky. 80, "Old Ky. Rt. 80," Ky. 2554, Ky. 777, Ky. 680 and Ky. 122.

The meeting was canceled, however, due to lack of a quorum. If the meeting had been held, it would have been held in violation of state open meetings laws. The city failed to provide a 24-hour notice or submit the meeting notice via email, as required in those statutes, to the Floyd County Chronicle and Times.

Council Members April Gayheart and Harold Case were the only city council members in attendance. They addressed complaints from residents and officials who came to city hall on Saturday.

The conversation began as Gayheart gathered her things from the meeting room in preparation to leave. Dale McKinney of WMDJ radio — one of dozens of people in attendance — asked whether Mayor Sam Howell was in the building.

"Well, the mayor should have; somebody should have enough guts to come out and tell people what's going on," McKinney said.

Both Gayheart and Case denied calling the meeting.

Gayheart told him the meeting was canceled. The crowd complained.

"Typical Martin. Typical Martin," said Terry Thornsberry, one of the founders of the informal group "We the People," which publicly opposed another recent annexation attempt in Martin.

Over the past few weeks, "We the People" has collected \$14,500 for legal representation, and \$500 was donated by a business at the meeting.

Rita Daniels, one of the founders of the informal group, said they hired an attorney from Lexington, but they could not reach that attorney prior to the meeting on Saturday.

"The failure of the Martin City Council to show up to where they have enough people that's we could have the meeting, where 'We the People' could be here to hear what they're doing, they didn't even care to even show up," she said. "And these are the people that are trying to annex our area and take our tax dollars? It's beyond belief. It's just another example of their shady and corrupted government down here at the City of Martin."

Members of the Maytown Volunteer Fire Department and the Allen Volunteer Fire Department were present for the canceled meeting, as were Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton and Prestonsburg Council members Rick Hughes and Shag Branham. Floyd County Board of Education member Rhonda Meade was also among the crowd.

Turner said he oppos-

es Martin's annexation of outlying unincorporated communities.

"I'm here in opposition to the annexation of the city," he said. "There's nothing in common with the areas they're trying to develop, or trying to annex."

When informed that the proposed annexation appears to have changed from 800 acres previously proposed to 591 acres mentioned on the agenda for Saturday's meeting, Turner stood firm in his opposition. He said that from what he's heard about this annexation, he opposes it.

He said he received several calls on Saturday from people on the left and right forks of Beaver who don't want to be annexed.

"They don't want to be annexed," he said. "They just want to be left alone ... I'm not for it. I think they should tighten their belts and manage what they got."

He also said, "I would encourage the city council to withdraw this proposal. The communities, the small communities, are struggling and trying to grow, and I understand that the city of Martin needs more money, but there's a right way to do it and there's a wrong way."

Stapleton said he came to the meeting to obtain a copy of the proposed annexation ordinance to determine whether it would impact Prestonsburg. The Prestonsburg City Council recently issued a municipal order, declaring that city's objection to a prior annexation Martin had proposed. The previous proposed ordinance sought the annexation of more than 800 acres, and, Prestonsburg alleged, it included a wastewater treatment plant that Prestonsburg owns in Eastern.

The Martin City Council canceled a meeting officials said would be called about that proposed annexation on Jan. 31. Howell stated in a press release that the meeting was canceled to give council members "time to consider" the proposed annexation and to "attempt to secure a facility" that could "provide adequate space for all concerned citizens to hear the positions of others regarding the issue of

annexation."

Howell said in the statement that there would be a notice issued to property owners 14 days before that meeting.

Howell could not be reached for comment after the meeting on Saturday, but Case did answer questions posed by the Floyd County Chronicle and Times.

He said he didn't know why other members failed to attend.

"Honestly I have no idea," he said. "Now, I was called last night and delivered the packet by 6 o'clock and I got a 24-hour notice there was going to be a meeting at 5 o'clock this evening, and I show up, April showed up, and we was the only two. So, I don't. Honestly,

I don't know."

He said he had not spoken with Howell or other council members on Saturday. He said he appreciated the public for being there.

"Well, I appreciate the people coming out. Like I said, I don't dodge anybody. I don't dodge the people. I appreciate them coming out. I'm here. I'll do what I can," he said.

When asked whether he supports the annexation, Case said, "Not wholeheartedly, no. Not wholeheartedly."

He said there were a "number of reasons" why he could not "wholeheartedly" support it.

"Well, there are a number of reasons," he said. "You don't want to go too big, too quick. You

know, just a number of things that I didn't agree with, but it was being revamped, so. That's what this was all about. It's going to be revamped, downsized quite a bit. I don't know why the rest of them didn't show."

When asked whether the lack of a quorum could have been related to the number of people who turned out in opposition, Case said, "It could be. It could be. I don't know. It could be, but I don't know."

Floyd Central teacher Amy Halbert and her husband, Duff-Allen Central Elementary School Principal Wes Halbert expressed their frustration as the crowd dispersed from the meeting room.

Amy Halbert said she was there "to stop the an-

nexation of our school." She said she is worried about the occupational tax she will have to pay if Martin annexes Floyd Central property.

"The taxes that they want to put on us without additional help and support; the percent of the tax is very high that they want to be put on us," she said.

When asked what the couple would like to say to the Martin City Council, Wes Halbert said, "If it was the right thing to do, you wouldn't have this opposition and you wouldn't have doors locked and have it in this little tiny room, trying to hide stuff. You'd do it right or give us the right to vote."

He complained that it's "taxation without representation."



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JWT

Continued From Page 1A

Pikeville. The increase in the number and variety of theatre workshops is due to public demand, said Irwin.

"Art is an economic driver of a community in ways that we are still learning. It is a way to appreciate history and what has come before through storytelling," Irwin said. "This is why this year's theme is 'What is your story?' Whether you are Elsa changing how she feels about herself or Willie Lohman in 'Death of a Salesman' changing his perspective of his life to suit his purpose, actors are an agent of change."

Irwin emphasized that community involvement is critical to the theatre's success.

"This is your theatre," she said. "Part of leadership is listening when your people tell you they want to go in a particular direction and we intent to honor feedback and suggestions as much as possible as well as offer performances to the community at large, including some new things that have not been tried before."

Buckley then announced that the theatre plans on focusing on year-round public arts education.

"Starting the second week of March we will be hosting acting workshops for all ages, from 'Wee Wileys' for kids from ages five to eight, to 'Jumping Jennys' for kids ages 9-12 years old and classes for older kids and adults to include makeup, improv classes, stagecraft, acting and voice lessons," he said. "This is in addition to our 'Master Production' classes which will run a full production of eight weeks and end with a performance."

While costs of each master class will be \$75 and an eight-week work-



Submitted photo
Broadway veteran, director, producer and educator Robin Irwin, as Jenny Wiley Theatre's new producing artistic director, and her husband, Education Director Erick Buckley, announced the theatre's upcoming season Saturday at the Pikeville location. Jenny Wiley Theatre has two stages, The Jenny Wiley Mainstage Theatre, located at 218 Second Street in Pikeville, and the amphitheater, located at 121 Theatre Court in Prestonsburg.

shop session ranges from \$35-50, Irwin said, "No child will be turned away," and other arrangements may be available on a case-by-case basis.

Buckley said parents and supporters will be able to attend evening performances after each workshops to see actors progress.

The Jenny Wiley Footlight fall production will be a "Create Your Own Play" where, according to Irwin, participants will write, stage, direct, fundraise and produce their own "project-based learning production."

Irwin said the winter production would be Disney's "Frozen, Jr." with double casting to accommodate everyone who wants to participate.

"Everyone gets a chance to shine," she said.

Buckley announce the Mainstage performance schedule, beginning with a one-night performance of "Love Letters" written by Pulitzer Prize winner A.R. Gurney starting at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 starring Irwin and

Buckley.

"Our second show will be Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" but with a twist," he said. "Think every John Hughes' eighties film you can think of: 'Pretty in Pink,' 'Sixteen Candles,' 'Breakfast Club' and more."

Buckley said that "Greater Tuna" is on the schedule for late April into May with 25 parts available, followed by "Godspell" and a Hatfield and McCoy inspired-version of "Romeo and Juliet" at the Jenny Wiley Amphitheater in Prestonsburg this summer. An unnamed "Create A Play" production is on the schedule for September with "Octavia Hatcher" as this year's Halloween play and he said the season will finish out with "Moonshine and Mistletoe: An Appalachian Christmas Tale" in December.

Auditions for 'Twelfth Night' will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16, for actors age 12 and older with the script posted on the JWT Facebook page.

For more information, visit, jwtheatre.com.

Former pawnshop employee arrested on forgery charge

A FLOYD CHRONICLE
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A former pawnshop employee was arrested this month for alleged forgery and theft.

According to documents filed in Floyd District Court, the Floyd County Sheriff's Department arrested Jessica

Harvey, 31, of Prestonsburg, charging her with first-degree forgery, and theft by unlawful taking.

Eric Fitzer of the Pink Elephant Gun and Pawn in Prestonsburg alleges in the arrest warrant that Harvey, a former employee, "issued and stamped a check" from the business without permission

and received \$1,000. The alleged crimes took place last September, the documents state, and Harvey was arrested recently at the Floyd County Sheriff's office.

She is expected to be arraigned on the charge in Floyd District Court on Feb. 20.

ALLEN

Continued From Page 1A

The city hired Highlands Paving in August to patch and place asphalt in the city. That work was finished for \$17,500, city officials previously reported.

In November, the commission talked about hiring Highlands Paving again for additional patching and paving, with Commissioner Elmer Parsons reporting it would cost around \$12,000.

City Attorney Beth Shortridge told commissioners in that meeting that bidding would be required for this second round of paving because bids are required if the city spends more than \$20,000 per vendor in any fiscal year.

During that meeting, Parsons said the work needed to be done quickly because the asphalt plants were getting ready to close for the winter. No action, however, was taken on the matter. Mayor Woods said she would get another estimate for the work and agreed to call a special meeting, which was never called.

In December, Commissioner Eilene Kinzer asked whether the city got the bids for the asphalt and she was informed that the work was already done by Highlands and the company had already been paid. Since that request, city officials report they have been searching meeting minutes to determine whether the commission voted to hire Highlands Paving for the second round of paving.

On Monday, Mayor Sharon Woods informed commissioners that the city had no meeting minutes that recorded that approval.

"It wasn't voted on, and I can't come up with nothing that says it was," Woods said. "We discussed it but it wasn't in the meeting minutes."

Shortridge suggested the commission retroactively approve the purchase.

"After discussing it with other legal counsel, they advise that you can go back, you can do a resolution tonight and ask that it be back-dated prior to the job, and that would cover it," she said.

She told them to "just

pretend like the vote was happening before it was done."

All members present approved it.

During the meeting, the commission also voted to approve payment of bills without reviewing them.

"Do you have them to read into the record?" Shortridge asked.

Woods told her she didn't have them and mentioned emailing copies of bill lists to commission members the following day.

"I know," Woods said. "I can't read them in. I can see that everybody gets a copy tomorrow."

She pointed out that the clerk was unexpectedly absent at the meeting.

The commission tabled several items on its agenda because the clerk and Eilene Kinzer were not in attendance. Those items included approval of prior meeting minutes, an employment contract for Commissioner Elmer Parsons, financial statements and the city's strategic plan.

Commissioner Clyde Woods was also absent.

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EDITORIAL

Open letter to the City of Martin

Editor's note: The following open letter was mailed to officials with the City of Martin regarding a special meeting that was set Feb. 9. For more information on the meeting, which was ultimately canceled, see the story in today's edition.

On Jan. 22, the Floyd County Chronicle and Times hand-delivered the newspaper's annual meeting notice requests, per KRS 61.823 4 (a) (b), to Martin City Clerk Ethel Clouse, declaring our preference to be notified of all meetings of the Mar-

tin City Council and Martin City Tourism.

After the close of business for both Martin City Hall and the Floyd County Chronicle and Times — 5:37 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8 — the Floyd County Chronicle and Times received two faxes from Martin City Hall containing a notice of a special meeting that the Martin City Council planned to hold at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9.

We understand there is no Kentucky law that requires any local government body to issue special meeting notices only during normal business

hours. The day and time in which this meeting was called, however, and the fact that it was canceled after the public learned about the meeting and came to city hall, raises several concerns.

In light of our concerns, and because our mission is to keep the public informed, we assert the following:

These notices were sent in violation of KRS 61.823 4 (a), which states:

"As soon as possible, written notice shall be delivered personally, transmitted by facsimile machine, or mailed to ev-

ery member of the public agency as well as each media organization which has filed a written request, including a mailing address, to receive notice of special meetings. The notice shall be calculated so that it shall be received at least twenty-four (24) hours before the special meeting. The public agency may periodically, but no more often than once in a calendar year, inform media organizations that they will have to submit a new written request or no longer receive written notice of special meetings until a new written request is

filed."

These notices were sent in violation of KRS 61.823 4 (b), which states:

"A public agency may satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection by transmitting the written notice by electronic mail to public agency members and media organizations that have filed a written request with the public agency indicating their preference to receive electronic mail notification in lieu of notice by personal delivery, facsimile machine, or mail. The written request shall include the electronic mail address or

addresses of the agency member or media organization."

Respectfully, we ask you to please review the open meeting request form submitted by the Floyd County Chronicle and Times on Jan. 22, which specifically details our preference for email notifications, and please adhere to KRS 61.823 (a) and KRS 61.823 (b) when notifying us of meetings of the Martin City Council and Martin City Tourism.

Thank you for your time in considering this request.

GUEST COLUMN



By SEN. JOHNNY RAY TURNER

Senate Week in Review

asked for unity, but provided no leadership.

On Friday, we passed what will be one of the most important and far-reaching bills of the session, Senate Bill 1. SB 1 is the result of the School Safety Working Group formed last session after the tragic shooting at Marshall High School. As a retired educator, administrator and coach, I am proud to have served on this bi-partisan working group and appreciate the work that went into drafting this public policy.

SB 1, the School Safety and Resiliency Act, and its companion, House Bill 1, include measures to increase school safety. Its focus will be on mental health and the security of students. Unfortunately, the bill does not address costs for any of its directives, nor include any funding mechanisms. The latter will likely come next year during the budget

session.

Admittedly, the bill is not perfect, but after listening to stakeholders around the state, it is a good recommendation from the School Safety Working Group and a good start.

SB 1 would:

- Establish a state school security marshal to enforce school building security.

- Require schools to have a school safety coordinator who, after receiving training, would train other school personnel on school safety.

- Require every public middle and high school administrator to share suicide prevention awareness information with all students.

- Require suicide prevention training for all personnel who are in direct contact with students.

- Recommend counselors have more involvement with students.

- Set a goal of one mental health professional for every 250 students.

Other bills passed this week:

- Senate Bill 31 would provide for frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between siblings removed from their home who are not jointly placed. Children in foster care — removed from their homes — have to deal with enough without being isolated from their siblings. This should have been passed before now. I voted yes.

- Senate Bill 77 would expand organ donor registration to the Commonwealth's single sign-on system, which coincides with the new Kentucky driver's license lifespan of eight years. The single sign-on system allows citizens to join Kentucky's organ donor registry online rather than having to go to the county clerk's

office. The system will be go into place beginning in 2020 and gives Kentucky one of the top organ donor systems in the country. I supported this bill.

- Senate Bill 32 would require water well drillers' assistants to be certified and it sets up a system for accomplishing that. The point is to make it possible for master drillers to be absent from a site with a certified assistant left in charge. I voted yes.

This week citizens and stakeholders were making their voices heard in Frankfort. Citizens from across the state filled the hallways, the committee rooms and met with us to discuss the issues of importance to them. I am always glad to hear from my constituents and appreciate your concerns.

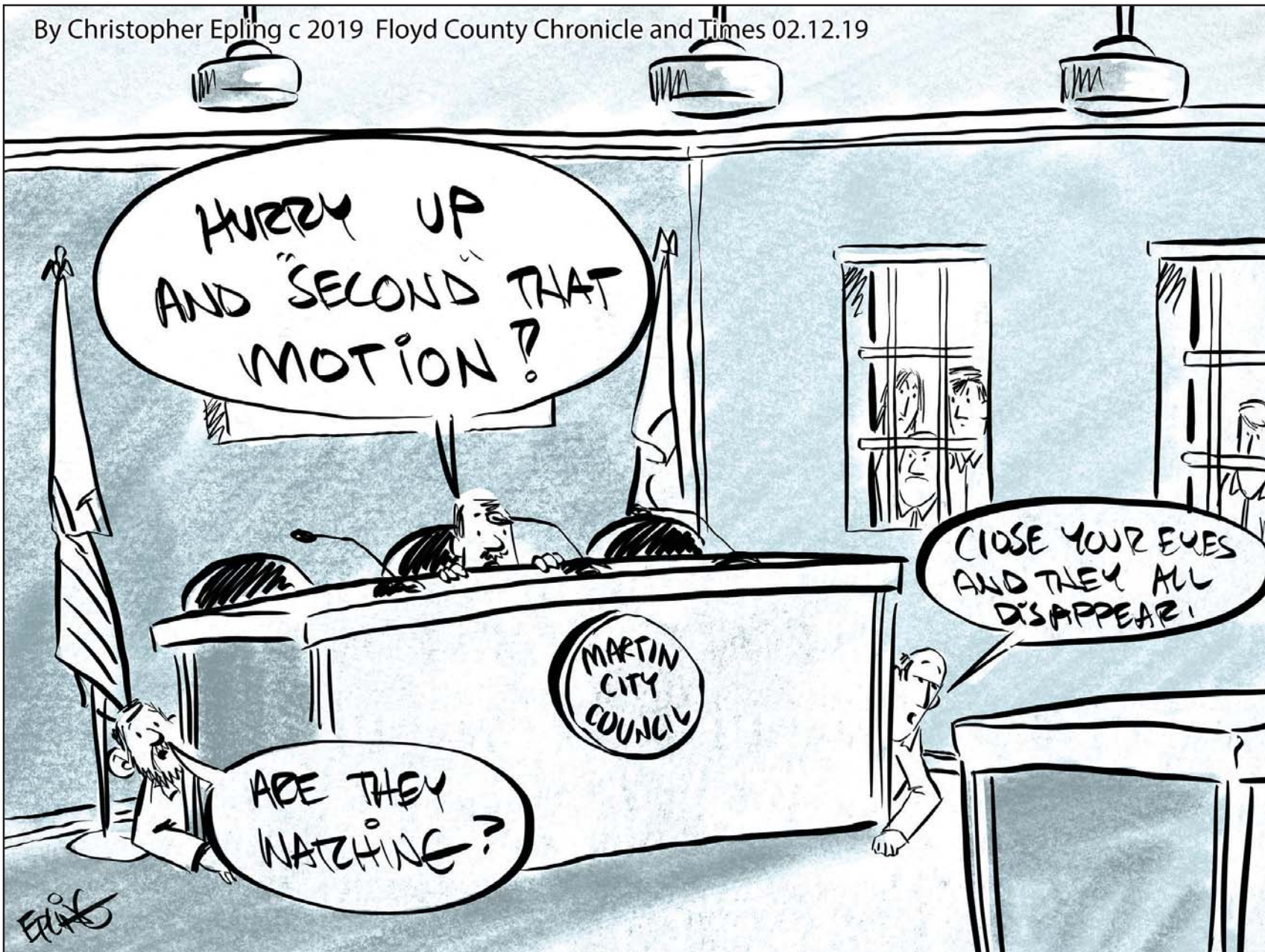
On Feb. 20, we will have our annual Military Kids Day at the Capitol. This is a great day for the children in military fam-

ilies. They get to take a Capitol tour, participate in a Capitol Scavenger Hunt, attend committee meetings related to military issues and be a legislative page for their legislator. I want to invite children from all the military families in my district to come to Frankfort to participate and page for me. The deadline to register is Feb. 18. You can go online and take care of that at the LRC website, <https://legislature.ky.gov/LRC/Pages/Military-Kids-Day.aspx>

Time is moving quickly and the workload is increasing. Next Friday is the last day to file bills in the Senate.

The pace will continue to pick up each day as we vote bills out of committee and send them to the floor. Stay in touch and engaged. You can follow the progress of bills at lrc.ky.gov or offer feedback through the Legislative Message Line at, (800) 372-7181. Citizens with hearing impairments may call, (800) 896-0305. You can also e-mail me at, johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov.

By Christopher Epling c 2019 Floyd County Chronicle and Times 02.12.19



CHRONICLE & TIMES

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**FLOYD COUNTY
CHRONICLE
AND TIMES**

OBITUARIES

William Bailey

William "Bill" Bailey, 79, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Services will be held at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, 1 p.m.

Burial will follow in the Richmond Cemetery, Prestonsburg.

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

Alberta Jean Blackburn

Alberta Jean (Conn) Blackburn, 92, of Drift, died Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

Visitation will continue Wednesday, Feb. 13, after 11 a.m., at Drift Pentecostal Church.

Services will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14 at the church.

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

Betty Compton

Betty Compton, 74, of Bowling Green, died Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019.

Services were held Sunday, Feb. 10, 12 p.m. at George W. Dotson Cemetery, Phelps.

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

Phil Hall

Phil Hall, 69, of Craynor, died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

Services were held Friday, Feb. 8, 5 p.m. at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Burial will follow in the Drift Cemetery.

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

Cann Martin Isaacs

Cann Martin Isaacs, 94, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

Services were held Sunday, Feb. 10, 11 a.m., at Providence Old Regular Baptist Church, Topmost.

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

Perry Johnson

Perry Johnson, 80, of Weeksbury, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1 p.m., at the Free Pentecostal Church of God at Weeksbury.

Burial will follow in the Johnson Family Cemetery at Weeksbury.

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

Linda Sue McCoy

Linda Sue (Howell)

McCoy, 72, of Richmond, died Friday, Feb. 8, 2019.

Services were held Tuesday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m. at Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Arrangements were under the direction of Oldham, Roberts and Powell Funeral Home of Richmond and Hall Funeral Home of Martin.

Stanley Stephens

Stanley Christopher "Beagle" Stephens, 36, of Allen, died Friday, Feb. 8, 2019.

Services were held Monday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m. at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

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

Sandra Stratton

Sandra "Kaye" Stratton, 58, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019.

Visitation will continue Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Cow Creek Freewill Baptist Church.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. at the church.

Burial will follow in Gethsemane Gardens, Prestonsburg.

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

Bobby Ray Thompson

Bobby Ray Thomp-

son, 86, of Betsy Layne, died Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019.

Services were held Saturday, Feb. 9, 1 p.m. in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

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



Gerrie Short Watson

Gerrie Short Watson, 88, of Prestonsburg, passed into her heavenly home, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, at the Greg and Noreen Wells Hospice Center at Hazard.

Gerrie was delivered by a mid-wife, Aug. 6, 1930, to the late Lula Richardson Short and Pearl Short of Pippa Passes.

Gerrie was married, Aug. 12, 1949, to the late Harvey Watson. From their union were five children: the late Clared Windell Watson (Brenda) and John Watson (deceased infant); and

survivors: Cline Douglas Watson (Nadine) of Independence, Patricia Carol Watson of Prestonsburg, Marcia Lynn Watson Goin (Joe) of Cross Plains, Tenn.

Gerrie had a ready smile and love for everyone. Gerrie was a homemaker and vegetable and flower gardener. Gerrie loved the Lord and lived her faith all the way to the time of her departure from this life. She was a faithful member and deaconess in the Cold Springs Regular Baptist Church on Caney Creek, Martin. Some of her church family affectionately called her "candy lady" because she always carried candy and treated children and adults, alike. In 1987, Gerrie was honored with the title "Mother of the Year" through recognition by the Independent Christian Women's Fellowship of Floyd County. Also, Gerrie was an associate member of the United Mine Workers of America. She supported a variety of charities.

Gerrie is survived by her beloved brothers: Charlie Short, (late, Ruth) of Garner, Dewey Short (Irene) of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Pearl Short, Jr. (Anna Grace) of Pippa Passes. One brother, Paul Short of Pippa Passes, preceded her in death.

Gerrie has six grandchildren: Rita Watson Al-

len of West Liberty, Jeffrey Watson (Zelma) of Pyramid, Crystal Watson Rose (K.B.) of Prestonsburg, Courtney Watson Jordan of Prestonsburg, Harvey A. Watson (Lisa) of Fort Knox and Nathan D. Watson (Jenni) of W. Palm Beach, Fla.; nine surviving great-grandchildren: Bethany and Evan Allen of West Liberty, Aaron Watson of Pyramid, Kennedy and Kendall Rose of Prestonsburg, Jillian Jordan and Jonah Slone of Prestonsburg and Luke and Benjamin Watson of W. Palm Beach, Fla., and one deceased infant, Noah B. Rose.

Visitation and service will be at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin. Visitation was held Tuesday evening, Feb. 12, 4-9 p.m., and will continue Wednesday morning, Feb. 13. The service will be at 11 a.m. on Feb. 13 with Regular Baptist ministers Brother Squire Hamilton and Brother Kerry Ratliff presiding.

The final resting place is in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, Ivel.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Greg and Noreen Wells Hospice Care Center, 57 Dennis Sandlin MD Cove, Hazard, KY 41701.

This is a paid obituary.

Turner invites military kids to the Capitol

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The annual Military Kids Day at the Capitol will be Wednesday, Feb. 20. Military families from across the state are invited to participate. Senator Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, said he would like to see Eastern Kentucky well-represented.

"Service to country is a long-standing tradition in eastern Kentucky and many of our young men and women proudly represent our country today," he said. "Military Kids Day is a good way to recognize and honor our military families for their sacrifices and it also allows the children to have a front row seat

as the Kentucky General Assembly does its work."

An annual event, Military Kids Day allows children of military families to participate in the legislative process for a day. The children are invited to go on a Capitol tour, page for their respective legislator, participate in a Capitol Scavenger Hunt and attend committee meetings related to military issues.

"I would love to have pages in the Senate and welcome any child who would like to participate," said Senator Turner.

To participate, register at, <https://legislature.ky.gov/LRC/Pages/Military-Kids-Day.aspx>. The deadline for participants to sign up is Feb. 18.

Community Events

- Feb. 13, 5 p.m.: Wheelwright City Commission meets, city hall. (606) 452-4202
- Feb. 13, 12 p.m.: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park invites volunteers to attend an organizational meeting for Operation Clean Sweep, which will be held March 16 from 9 a.m. to noon
- Feb. 16, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: MATHCOUNTS competition, Big Sandy Community and Technical College
- Feb. 18, 12 p.m.: Create Bridges forum on retail, tourism, accommodations and entertainment, Garfield House, Pikeville
- Feb. 18, 5 p.m.: Floyd County Soil and Water Conservation District meets, 18 Mayo Br., Brandykeg. (606) 889-9800
- Feb. 18, 6 p.m.: Prestonsburg City Council meets, city hall. (606) 886-2335
- Feb. 19, 6 p.m.: Create Bridges forum on retail, tourism, accommodations and entertainment, Big Sandy Area Development District, Prestonsburg.
- Feb. 19, 3:30 p.m.: Mountain Arts Center Board of Directors meet, MAC. (606) 889-9125
- Feb. 19, 5:15 p.m.: Jenny Wiley Chapter of the AARP meets at Highland Terrace, Prestonsburg.

- Feb. 19, 6 p.m.: Prestonsburg Utilities Commission meets, utilities office
- Feb. 19, 6 p.m.: Floyd County Fiscal Court meets, fiscal courtroom. (606) 886-9193
- Feb. 19, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Tuesday Night Songwriter's Scene, Dewey's at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. (606) 886-1341
- Every Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Moms Meet Moms in Recovery support group, offering free diapers, baby items, babysitting, food, refreshments, informational resources, at Destination Church. Qualifies as "parent education" and "peer support group" required by drug court. For information, call Kelly at (606) 886-2788
- Every Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.: The Art Gallery in Langley is open at 297 Johns Branch Road in Langley. artgalleryinlangley.org
- Tuesday-Friday, 1 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.: East Kentucky Science Center hosts planetarium and laser light shows, Prestonsburg campus of Big Sandy Community and Technical College. Shows also available 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. on Saturdays. \$6 for adults, \$4 for students, free to kids age four and under. (606) 889-8260

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Garrett resident arrested on drug possession

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Martin City Police Department reports that a citizen tip led to the arrest of a Garrett resident on Feb. 7.

According to a press release, Chief Kenny

Stidham was dispatched to the Martin McDonald's at approximately 7 p.m. on Feb. 7, in reference to a person who was possibly passed out in a vehicle.

Stidham arrested Nathan E. Collins, 31, of Garrett, charging him

with first-degree possession of a controlled substance, a felony.

Stidham alleges that he located a small baggie with a white, crystal-like substance that is believed to be methamphetamine in the vehicle.

Stidham also served

an arrest warrant on Collins for several charges filed against him in a separate case. In that case, Collins is charged with driving under the influence, driving on a suspended license, careless driving, failure to wear seat belts, failure to

maintain insurance and other traffic-related violations, the department reported.

"Another illegal driver in possession of dangerous drugs was taken off the street today because someone saw something, and they said something,"

the department said in the press release. "Thank you to those good members of our community who take time to call and report suspected illegal activity."

The department's tip line is, (606) 949-1402.

Kentucky House honors Floyd Coal miners who died

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Ashley Tackett LaFerty, D-Martin, has supported several bills and resolutions that have been considered in the Kentucky House since she was sworn into office.

On Feb. 8, she also became the primary sponsor of her first legislative measure.

LaFerty filed House Resolution 80, asking the chamber to honor seven coal miners who died in a Floyd County mining accident in 1982.

Jan. 20 marked the 37th anniversary of the mine blast at Mink Branch in Craynor that killed seven coal miners, including four members of one family.

The coal miners honored with the resolution included Burnis Hamilton, Don Hamilton, Jack Hamilton, Wade Hamilton, Palmer Edwin McKenny, Ronnie Hall and Thurman Reynolds.

The resolution asks House members to pause and "reflect on this tragic moment" in the state's history, "while honoring the seven men who lost their lives on that fateful winter day."

According to the Mine Safety & Health Admin-

istration, a coal dust explosion occurred at the RFH Coal Company mine located at Mink Branch in Craynor on Jan. 20, 1982, killing all seven coal miners who were working underground. The blast occurred after coal dust ignited inside the mine.

The coal miners started working that day at 6 a.m., MSHA reported, and the "forces from the explosion" that occurred at 9:40 a.m. traveled to the surface of all three mine openings.

"The telephones on the surface were destroyed by the forces coming out of the mine," MSHA reported. The mine manager, Purvis Hamilton, shouted over the hill to ask a passing truck driver to find help, the report says.

"Shortly thereafter, Phillip Stevens, Elk Horn Coal Corporation, who was on the surface at a nearby underground coal mine, James McKinney and Danny Newsome, who lived near the mine, and Curtis Tackett who worked at a nearby mine, arrived at the mine to give assistance," the MSHA investigation report states.

MSHA reported that those men repaired the fan housing and reconnected power wires to

the fan at the mine. They reversed the direction of the airflow to provide fresh air more quickly to the miners underground, MSHA reported.

Mine rescue teams from Pikeville, Hazard, Martin and the National Mines Corporation partic-

ipated in the search for these coal miners.

MSHA reported that two coal miners were killed instantly by the blast and five others died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Reynolds, 25, was a section foreman with

more than seven years of experience.

McKinney, 26, was a roof bolter with one year of experience.

Hall, 25, was a roof bolter with more than two years of experience.

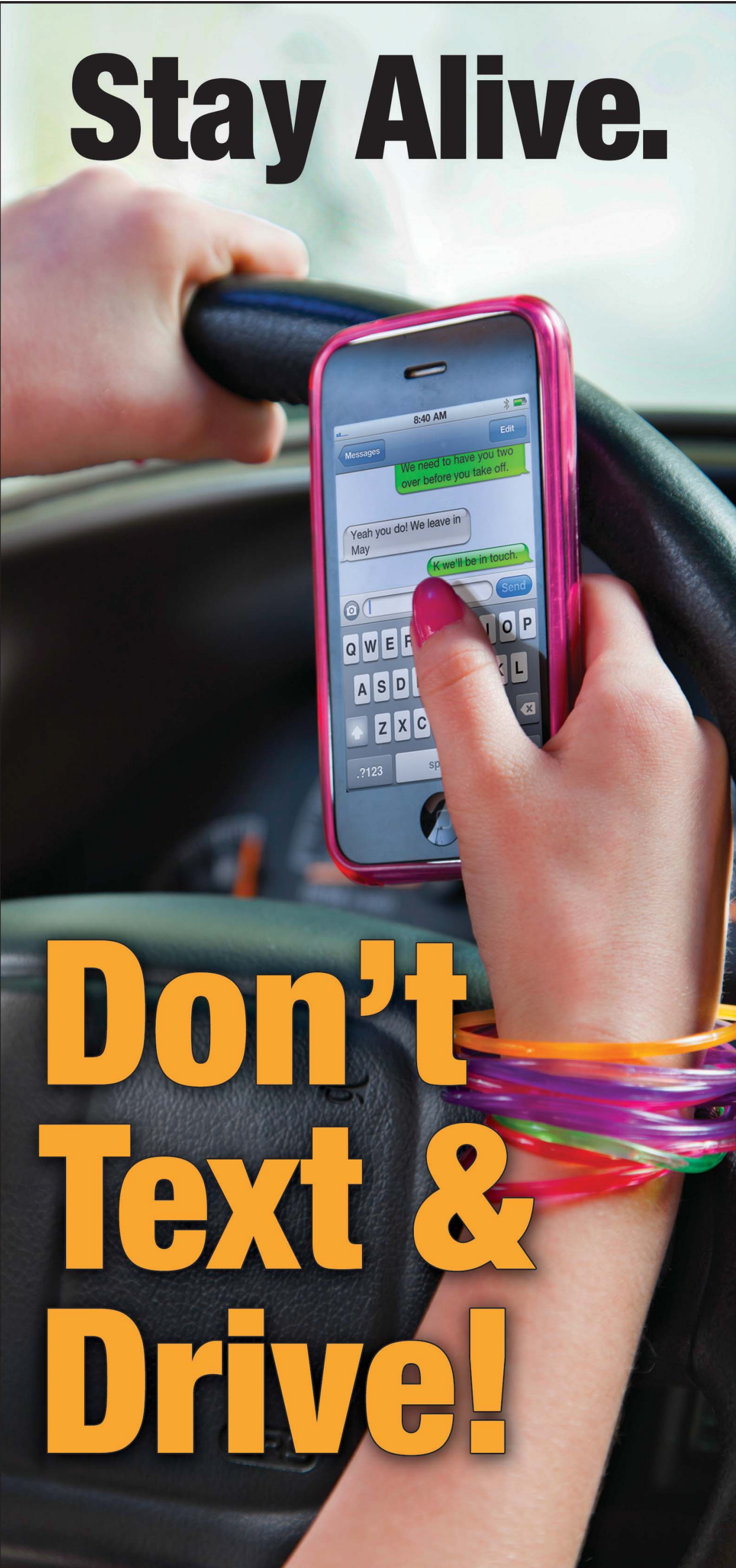
Donald Hamilton, 39, a coal drill operator, had

11 years of experience.

Jack Hamilton, 36, a shot firer, had 11 years of experience.

Burnis Hamilton, 31, a scoop operator, had 11 years of experience.

Wade Hamilton, 23, a scoop operator, had four years of experience.



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Death investigation opened in Pike

AN APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE — Kentucky State Police are investigating after a Pike woman was found dead in her driveway in the Johns Creek area over the weekend.

According to a statement from KSP, troopers and emergency medical personnel were dispatched at approximately 9:30 a.m. Saturday after receiving a call reporting that a person had been found lying on the driveway of a residence.

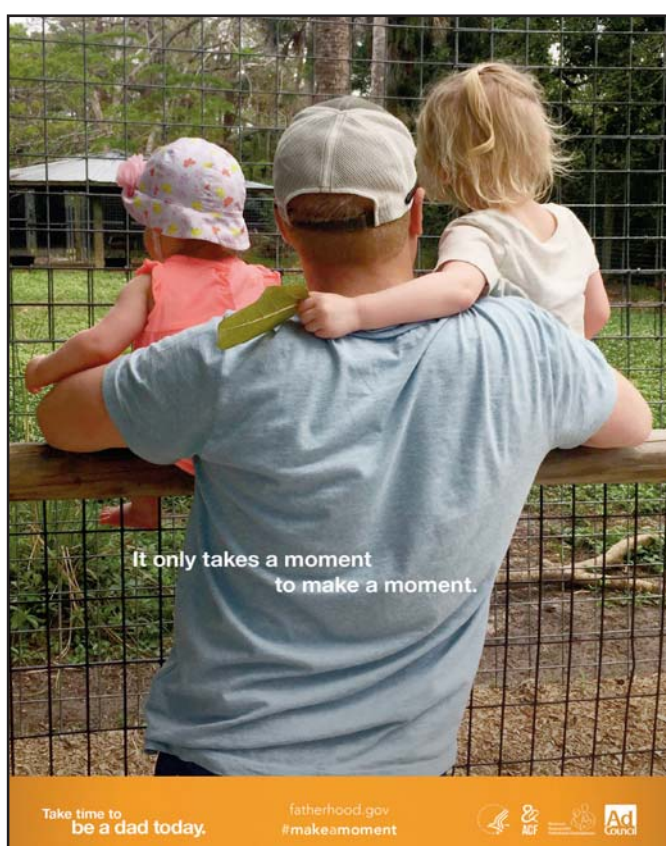
Responders, the

statement said, found that the person, Michele Smith, 44, was dead.

The preliminary investigation, the statement said, determined there was possibly a robbery and assault involving a motor vehicle in the incident. An autopsy was performed on Smith Monday in Frankfort.

Anyone with information is asked to call KSP at, (606) 433-7711. Callers may remain anonymous.

The incident remains under investigation by KSP Det. Kevin Newsome.



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ARH files lawsuit against opioid manufacturers, distributors, local alleged 'pill mills'

Action claims companies were negligent in marketing, selling addictive drugs in ARH's region

**AN APPALACHIAN
NEWSPAPERS
STAFF REPORT**

Eastern Kentucky's largest healthcare system filed a legal action in federal court against several parties, including OxyContin manufacturer Purdue Pharma, drug distributors and marketers and even a Hazard "pill mill," alleging all the businesses and organizations contributed to the opioid epidemic in Eastern Kentucky.

The lawsuit was originally filed in Perry Circuit Court in December by Appalachian Regional Healthcare, but was moved to U.S. District Court in London this past week. The lawsuit joins hundreds which have been filed nationwide against Purdue Pharma and other companies, alleging that the companies' marketing and business practices led to damages to communities

and individuals due to the resulting epidemic of addiction.

In the lawsuit, ARH is asking for compensatory and other damages for costs and other injuries the hospital chain suffered as a result of the opioid epidemic, alleging Purdue Pharma and the other companies caused the hospital to incur expenditures above what could normally be expected in the operation of its business.

"(The) defendants' misconduct alleged in this case does not concern a discrete event or discrete emergency of the sort a hospital would reasonably expect to occur and is not part of the normal and expected costs of a hospital's existence," ARH alleges in the lawsuit.

In the lawsuit, ARH points to its hospital in Hazard as having been forced to deal with several issues as a result

of the opioid epidemic, including a high opioid abuse hospitalization rate, increased pressure on the hospital's mental health facility, as well as a marked increase in the number of residents with hepatitis C and HIV.

The lawsuit blames the drug companies' marketing for the problems the hospital is facing.

"This case takes aim at the primary cause of the opioid crisis: A marketing scheme directly affecting hospitals who, like Appalachian Regional Healthcare, provide millions of dollars in uncompensated, unreimbursed and under-reimbursed medical care to patients suffering from opioid-related medical conditions, and for other costs incurred as a result of the defendants' conduct," the lawsuit said. "... This marketing scheme was created and implemented by way of a conspiracy among and between the

defendants who deceptively marketed opioids and those who distributed opioids. At its core, this scheme involved the false and deceptive marketing of prescription opioids, with the goal and effect of increasing demand for and increasing sales of opioids."

The nation's opioid epidemic, the lawsuit said, was caused by the drug companies' "unlawful marketing, sale and distribution of prescription opioids that has resulted in addiction, criminal activity, serious health issues and loss of life."

Hospitals, the lawsuit said, are unfairly impacted by the epidemic, and absorb costs and other losses that shield the drug companies from being impacted.

"The marketing defendants and distributor defendants extract billions of dollars of revenue from the addicted Amer-

ican public while hospitals sustain tens of millions of dollars of losses caused as a result of the reasonably foreseeable consequences of the prescription opioid addiction epidemic," the lawsuit said. "In fact, defendants depend on hospitals to mitigate the health consequences of their illegal activities — at no cost to defendants — thereby permitting defendants to perpetuate their wrongful scheme."

In addition to the large companies, ARH's lawsuit also names as a defendant Ace Clinique of Medicine, a former Hazard medical clinic whose owners, James and Lesa Chaney, were both convicted as a result of crimes committed in connection with the clinic and are currently serving federal prison sentences. The action also targets The Recovery Center, a drug rehabilitation company which operates clin-

ics in several locations, including Hazard and Paintsville. ARH claims in the lawsuit that the company, which has been also targeted in a lawsuit by Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear's office, "improperly prescribed thousands of doses of Suboxone to opioid addicts, causing the commonwealth 'being flooded with thousands of dangerous and addictive doses of suboxone that were subject to abuse and diversion.' This, in turn, created a black market for the drug."

While the case currently remains in the London court, filings indicate that the case could be moved and combined with the litigation filed by several local governments and other organizations against Purdue Pharma and the other companies.

Hep A outbreak nears 4,000 cases with 40 deaths

**BY TOM LATEK
KENTUCKY TODAY**

Kentucky public health officials keep recommending vaccination for hepatitis A as the outbreak nears 4,000 cases with 40 deaths across the state.

According to figures from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, through Jan. 26 the number of cases stood at 3,919, resulting in 1,905 hospitalizations and 40 deaths, since the outbreak began being tracked in November 2017. Cases have been reported in 103 of Kentucky's 120 counties.

Eighty counties have reported five or more cases, meaning they meet the threshold for what is considered an outbreak of hepatitis A virus. Boyd, Carter, Fayette, Floyd, Jefferson, Kenton, Laurel, Madison and Whitley counties report 100 or more cases associated with the outbreak.

The Department for Public Health says people who are considered high risk for exposure to the hepatitis A virus should get vaccinated as soon as possible, to avoid contracting the virus and lessen the spread of the disease. High risk groups include individuals who use illicit drugs, close contacts of illicit drug users, and homeless people. DPH said 80 percent of the cases have occurred in those groups.

Other priority areas of the population for vaccination include: people with direct contact with someone who has hepatitis A (particularly during their infectious period); men who have sexual contact with men; and people who are at increased risk of complications from hepatitis A (e.g., people with chronic liver disease).

"Immunizations can be obtained from a healthcare provider,

pharmacies, and clinics throughout the state," said DPH Commissioner Dr. Jeffrey Howard. "Local health departments have limited vaccine supply for at-risk individuals who are uninsured. In addition, if you live in a county experiencing an outbreak, we also urge you to be vaccinated for hepatitis A as well as continue to practice regular and thorough hand washing, particularly if you are engaging with any of the

high-risk groups."

Health officials describe hepatitis A as a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease of the liver, which causes inflammation of the liver and affects the organ's ability to function. Signs and symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and loss of appetite, fever, fatigue, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes), clay-colored bowel movements, dark-colored urine, and abdomi-

nal discomfort. Signs and symptoms usually appear two to four weeks after exposure but may occur up to seven weeks after exposure. Children under six years of age with hepatitis A often show few signs and symptoms.

The virus is found in the stool of infected people and is usually spread person-to-person when infected people do not properly wash their hands or do not have access to proper sanitation. Trans-

mission typically occurs when a person ingests infected fecal matter, even in microscopic amounts, from contact with contaminated objects, food, or drinks. DPH recommends frequent hand washing, particularly after using the restroom, or before eating, to prevent transmission of hepatitis A and many other common diseases.

Since 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recom-

mended that all children receive the hepatitis A vaccine series. DPH recommends children aged one to 18 years receive the two-dose hepatitis A vaccine, as well as at-risk adults.

Kentucky now requires all students in kindergarten through 12th grade to have two doses of the hepatitis A vaccine in order to attend school or receive a provisional certificate of immunization.

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School safety measure clears Senate

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

The School Safety and Resiliency Act — the top priority of the General Assembly's leadership — was approved by a 35-0 vote of the Kentucky Senate on Feb. 8 and now moves to the House for consideration.

Known as Senate Bill 1, the act was sponsored by Sen. Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, with support from several other legislators, including Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg.

Wise said SB 1 was the product of testimony, research and study over eight months by the non-partisan School Safety Working Group and others who were asked to assist. Turner also served on this group, which held one of its meetings at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg.

Turner called the bill "a good start."

"Admittedly, the bill is not perfect, but after listening to stakeholders around the state, it is a good recommendation from the School Safety Working Group and a good start," he wrote in a column.

The working group was formed in response to the western Kentucky shooting at Marshall County High School last winter in Benton. Earlier in the week, the parents of the two slain students from the shooting testified in support of SB 1 before the Senate Education Committee.

Wise explained that the act focuses on personnel, systems and structures, accountability and a culture of student connectivity in order to improve safety at schools.

If finally approved by the House, the act would create a state school safety marshal, similar to the state fire marshal. It would also establish the framework for schools to expand the use of school resource officers.

"I can't say this bill will be preventive — that it will stop acts of evil from occurring," Wise said, adding that a similar bill was also introduced this session as the top priority of the House, filed as House Bill 1.

One provision of SB 1 would require one guidance counselor with mental health training for every 250 students in

a school, contingent on funding. The guidance counselors would be required to spend at least 60 percent of their workday on counseling-related tasks.

A second provision would expand an anonymous school safety tip line statewide, while a fourth would encourage districts to seek charitable donations to pay for security-related expenses.

A fifth provision would specify who could serve on the board for the Center for School Safety and clarify members' duties. The nationally-recognized center was created by the passage of House Bill 330 in 1998. That measure was in response to the Heath High School shooting on Dec. 1, 1997, in West Paducah. Three girls died and five other students were injured.

Legislators are expected to fund various provisions of the bill during next year's regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly, during which the biennium budget will be approved.

Sen. Christian McDaniel, R-Taylor Mill, said as chairman of the

Senate Appropriations & Revenue Committee he would work to make sure provisions of SB 1 are funded in the next biennium budget.

"We will find a way to make the funding for this to work," he said.

As part of the legislative approval process, the Legislative Research Commission compiled a fiscal note detailing costs that could be associated with the bill.

The fiscal note did not highlight expenses that local school districts will face if the bill is finally approved, but it detailed several costs that would be incurred by state agencies.

The projected costs included:

- \$173,300 in costs annually for the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund.
- \$25,000 to the Kentucky Center for School Safety to develop a training program for school safety coordinators. The fiscal note says this cost could reduce site visits for school safety assessments by 10 annually.
- \$196,300 the first year and \$173,300 annually after that for the Department of Criminal

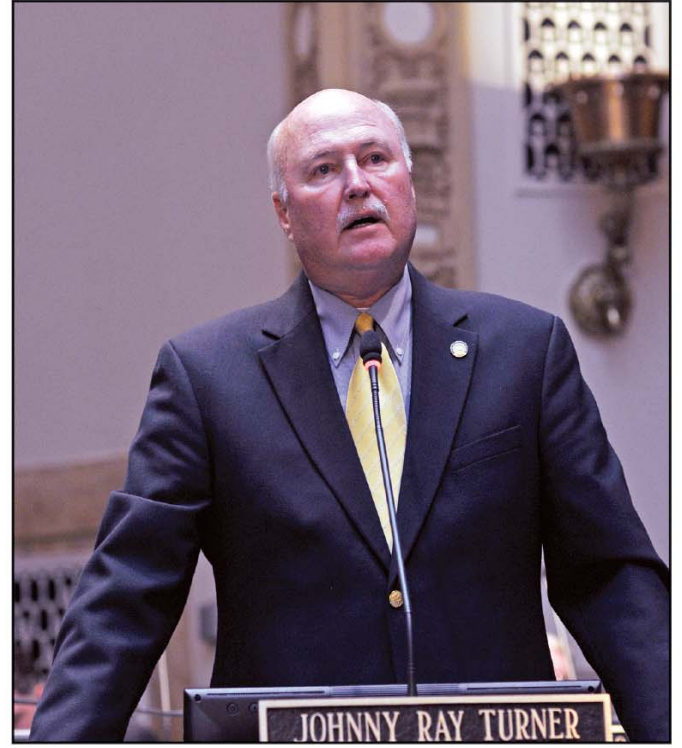


Photo courtesy of LRC Public Information
Senator Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, speaks in the Senate for the School Safety and Resiliency Act. He was a member of the School Safety Working Group that traveled around the state to meet with students, teachers, administrators, parents, law enforcement and others about school safety in order to develop public policy. SB 1 was sent to the House for consideration.

Justice and Training to hire a state school security marshal, fund travel, a computer and related costs.

- \$12,000 per offender in costs that could be incurred by the Department of Corrections if terroristic threatening is enhanced to a Class D felony

- \$35,000 for the Kentucky Department of Education to provide trauma-informed toolkits for school districts and there may be additional costs for the KDE to develop an anonymous reporting tool and hire additional personnel, if needed.

Turner files bill to provide Kentucky firefighters with hepatitis A vaccines

**SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD
CHRONICLE AND TIMES**

Senator Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, filed legislation to protect Kentucky firefighters by expanding its hepatitis B continuing inoculation voucher program to include hepatitis A vaccinations.

"With the outbreak and recurring spread of hepatitis A in the commonwealth, firefighters from Harlan County approached me with concerns that some older firefighters have not had the hepatitis A vaccine," said Turner. "Seeing the merit in their concerns, I looked into it and agreed

that there was a need to provide the second vaccine. This is a safety and preventive measure."

Senate Bill 140, which is cosponsored by Senator Brandon Smith, D-Hazard, would allow the Kentucky Fire Commission to pay costs for hepatitis A vaccines, as it currently does for hepatis

B vaccinations, for all paid and volunteer firefighters. Funding would come from revenues allocated to the Firefighters Foundation Program and be limited to \$500,000 per fiscal year.

"It is important that we provide any protections when possible for firefighters," said Smith.

"Their jobs are riddled with enough danger without having the fear of contracting hepatitis A."

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver often caused by a virus. Hepatitis A is caused by the hepatitis A virus and hepatitis B by the hepatitis B virus.

The hepatitis B vaccination vouchers would be continued through the program.

"This legislation could have significant impact on our firefighters and their health and well-being," said Turner. "They protect us, we should protect them."

Kentucky BOE seeks CTE task force

**SPECIAL TO APPALACHIAN
NEWSPAPERS**

The Kentucky Board of Education voted last week to pass a resolution requesting the Kentucky General Assembly to form a task force in 2019 focused on making structural and funding reforms in career and technical education in Kentucky ahead of the 2020 biennial budget session.

During a presentation to the KBE, Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis said that existing statutes, regulations and funding levels pose challenges for mak-

ing funding determinations for locally operated area technical centers.

Lewis acknowledged that decision made by the Kentucky Department of Education during the past five to 10 years — intended to protect funding for already existing programs — has resulted in pathways at local centers across the state not being funded. These unfunded pathways are commonly in Kentucky's high-demand industries, such as advanced manufacturing, business and information technology, construction, healthcare, and transportation and

logistics, which is leaving the state's workforce underserved.

Current budget language gives the commissioner the authority to approve requests from locally operated technical centers established since 2001, for which statute does not provide funding.

"We have numerous funding requests from programs across the state, and while I could approved those requests, that would result in pulling funding from other existing programs," said Lewis. "I have not yet made decisions about approving those requests,

but if I open that process, I struggle to see how I would pick just one or even a few. All of them are doing really impressive work."

In other business, the board also voted to approve statements of consideration and amendments to the state's accountability system for reporting.

Amendments to the accountability regulation came as a result of the recent public comment period. Amendments included simplifications to the system in the areas of achievement gap closure, quality of school

climate and safety, overall accountability weights and removal of rating charts (these examples of performance are no longer needed with exact weights)

After a lengthy discussion, the board approved exact weights for the indicators included in the accountability system. Weights are a necessary and integral part of Kentucky's five-star school accountability rating system. The weights are an indication of the intended policy value/emphasis for each indicator. A range of weights were used last year and

they created confusion amongst districts.

The Kentucky Board of Education also approved the following actions:

- Revision of academic standards in social studies (second reading)
- Revision of Kentucky academic standards (second reading)
- Repeal of the Ride to the Center for the Arts Program fund (second reading)
- Repeal of Next Generation Learners
- Amendment school health services policy (second reading)

**EVEN TEXTERS AND DRIVERS
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Submitted photos
The overall winners of the district elementary Governor's Cup competition were May Valley Elementary, left, in District 131 and South Floyd Elementary, above, in District 132

'The Casual Reader'



BSCTC hosts online book club

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Big Sandy Community and Technical College recognized two employees this week for their efforts to encourage reading.

The college issued a press release recognizing professors Judy Howell and Michelle Fields, who host the Internet-based "The Casual Reader" book club and publish "The Casual Reader," an online newsletter in which they review numerous books.

Howell and Fields offer videos of their book reviews on the college's website as well.

See BOOK, Page 11A

Floyd County students honored at district Governor's Cup

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Floyd County Superintendent Danny Adkins announced Monday the results for District 131 and District 132 elementary district Governor's Cup competition that took place Feb. 9 at South Floyd Elementary and May Valley Elementary schools.

In District 131 competition, May Valley Elementary School beat Allen Elementary, Duff-Allen Central Elementary, and Prestonsburg Elementary to become champions, with Prestonsburg winning second place.

In the District 132 competition, SFES won the championship against Betsy Layne Elementary and John M. Stumbo Elementary.

For District 131, MVES took first place in the quick recall category and second in Future Problem Solving against PES, which took home first place in Future Problem Solving and second in quick recall.

In District 132 competition, SFES took home first place in Future Problem Solving and second place in quick recall against

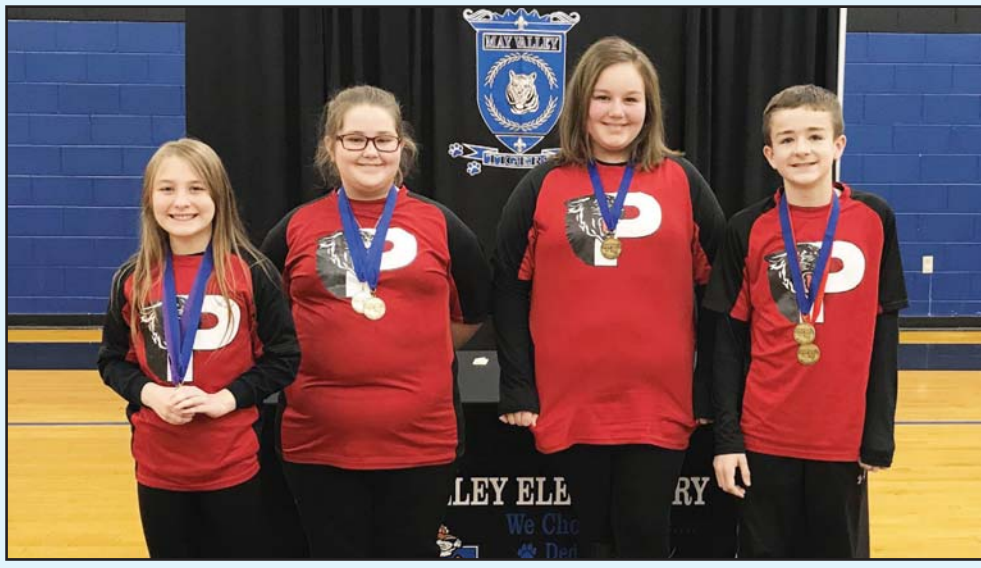
BLES, which were named runners up overall and earned first place in the quick recall division. JMS placed second in the Future Problem Solving category. Students honored include:

District 131

May Valley: Miles Hutchinson (third, math and fourth, science), Reagan Laferty (fourth, math and third, arts and humanities), Jackson Hall (fifth, math and second, language arts), Drew Akers (third, science), Braxton Howard (second, social studies and first, arts and humanities), Ava Bailey (fourth, language arts), Kyria Barnette (fifth, arts and humanities), Kylie Walters (second, composition), Skye Shepherd (third, composition) and MiLeigh Kilburn (fourth, composition).

Prestonsburg: Drake Hatfield (second, math), Ally Hamilton (first, science and first, composition), Isaac Steward (second, science), Haidyn O'Brien (fourth, social studies), Madelein Lewis (fifth, social studies), Maddy Rowland (first, language

See HONORS, Page 11A



Submitted photo
Prestonsburg Elementary students earned first place in Future Problem Solving at the District 131 Governor's Cup competition.



Submitted photo
South Floyd Elementary students earned first place in Future Problem Solving at the District 131 Governor's Cup competition.



Submitted photo
Betsy Layne students earned first place in quick recall at the District 132 Governor's Cup competition.



Submitted photo
May Valley Elementary students earned first place in the quick recall competition at the District 131 Governor's Cup competition.

For the love of fish

Smith maintained BSCTC aquarium for 20 years

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Big Sandy Community and Technical College issued a press release this week honoring mathematics professor Dwight Smith for his "dedication and knowledge" about an aquarium he's managed there for two decades.

Smith, who has worked at BSCTC for 26 years, has managed the 125-gallon aquarium in the Campbell Science building for 20 years, the press release said.

"If you've ever own an aquarium of any size, you will understand the dedication and work that goes into creating a healthy underwater environment in which life can thrive," the press release said.

"First I tried keeping some native fish such as bluegills and channel catfish. Unfortunately, they proved to be impossible," Smith said. "Bluegills are very aggressive. We all know how feisty they can be when hooked on a fishing line. And native

See FISH, Page 11A

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Submitted photo

Big Sandy Community and Technical College professor Dwight Smith has been caring for the fish in this aquarium for 20 years.

FISH

Continued From Page 10A

catfish love tearing up an aquarium's scenery."

Now, the aquarium population consists of two Tinfoil Barbs, a Silver Dollar, a Buenos Aires Tetras, a two Giant Danios, a Plecostomus, a

pair of Firemouth Cichlids and a pair of Kribensis, according to Smith.

He said, "The Plecostomus looks like something straight out of the age of dinosaurs. A student donated it years ago. It doesn't harm other fish, and no fish is going to pick a fight

with it. With all those spines it has, a troublemaker would be in for an unpleasant surprise! It loves to eat algae, so that is a great plus."

The college praised Smith for his knowledge about the fish and his dedication to preserving the aquarium.

"One thing is very certain. Professor Smith's fishkeeping hobby has given many passerby joy and sparked fascination," the release said. "His dedication and knowledge of fish and the copious managing of the aquarium is a lesson for us all."

Contest open to students

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Kentucky First Lady Glenna Bevin launched the 2019 Kentucky Derby Poster Contest for high school students this week.

Bevin invites high school students across Kentucky to create the official Governor's Derby Poster, which will be dis-

played in the State Capitol for years to come.

The theme is, "What does Derby Day look like to you?"

"Matt and I are strong advocates of fostering creativity in the minds of our young people," said Bevin. "We believe that it is very important to give students the chance to use their artistic skills for a greater cause. It em-

powers them and gives them confidence to share their own ideas."

Three contest finalists will be invited to attend a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion, where the winner will be revealed.

The first-place winner will receive the opportunity to attend the Kentucky Derby Festival luncheon and the Derby

Eve Gala. He or she will receive a \$500 scholarship. Scholarships of \$300 and \$200 will also be provided from Derby Celebration, Inc. to the second- and third-place winners.

The deadline for submission is Feb. 28.

For details, visit the Derby Poster Contest link (under "Initiatives") at, firstlady.ky.gov.

Local students recognized

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

University of Pikeville President Burton J. Webb, Ph.D., released the names of the top students for the fall 2018 semester this week, and several Floyd County residents were on the list.

To qualify for the President's List, students must be full-time and receive a grade point average of 4.0.

Floyd County students who were honored include:

College of Arts & Sciences

Jason Edward Harris of Banner, Madison D. Turner of Eastern, Dominique S. Mims of Harold, Jacob L. Baker of Printer and Prestonsburg students June Rochelle Akers, Olivia N. Lowe and Laura Grace Maynard

Coleman College of Business

Kristen Alexzandra Neeley of Stanville

Patton College of Education

James Barron Darrell Allen of Langley

vite residents to provide book review recommendations by emailing them to, judy.howell@kctcs.edu, or, mfields0030@kctcs.edu.

"The Casual Reader" book club, videos and newsletters are available on the college's website, bigsandy.kctcs.edu, under the "Library" link.

BOOK

Continued From Page 10A

The newsletter is currently in its 75th issue, the college reported, and Howell and Fields read up to 18 books per month.

The latest reviews published in January included highlights from six books.

Howell and fields in-

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Photo © Wayne Harber

Ladies in Red

It's not just a man's disease. One in three women die of heart disease and stroke, but it can be prevented.

You are invited to learn about women's heart health and the prevention of heart disease by attending our FREE Ladies in Red event. For the second year, Highlands Health System is partnering with the Floyd County Health Department and the Floyd County UK Extension Office to offer health screenings, heart health education, gentle yoga class, a healthy cooking demonstration, and free lunch.

Tuesday, February 19th, 2019
9:00am-1:00pm

Floyd County UK Extension Office
3490 Ky. Route 321
Prestonsburg, Ky.



Join us for any or all sessions

Vendors and Health Screenings

9:00am-11:00am

Dietary Counseling
Stroke Risk Factor Screening
Cholesterol Screenings
Blood Sugar Screenings
Oxygen Saturation Tests
PAD Screening Registrations
FIT Kit Registrations
Medicaid and Medicare Info
Health Care Vendors & more!

Gentle Yoga

11:00am (Beginners welcome!)

Maintaining your Heart Health

11:30am Highlands Heart and Vascular
FREE heart healthy lunch

Healthy Cooking Demo

12:00pm

Please RSVP to Danielle by calling (606) 886-7468 or by email at dfranklin@hrmc.org.

Show your enthusiasm for the **Ladies in Red** movement by wearing red and helping to reduce heart disease in Eastern Kentucky.



Stroke Care Network

