



**Jaguars outlast Prestonsburg, capture district title**  
 ■ Sports, Page 12A

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# CHRONICLE & TIMES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

**FLOYD COUNTY**

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**Ivel slide closes northbound U.S. 23**  
 BY ELAINE BELCHER STAFF WRITER  
 trict 12 in Pikeville shut down the northbound lanes of U.S. 23 in Ivel Sunday due to a  
 The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Highway Dis-  
 See SLIDE, Page 4A

**P'burg opposes Martin annexation again**

BY MARY MEADOWS STAFF WRITER

The Prestonsburg City Council approved its second municipal order of the year on Monday, once again officially objecting to a proposed annexation in Martin.  
 The order, which mirrors another one the

See OPPOSES, Page 2A



Floyd County Homeless Shelter

**Homeless shelter nears opening day**

BY MARY MEADOWS STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Homeless Shelter committee is a step closer to opening the East Kentucky House of Hope.  
 Committee treasurer Mickey McGuire reported last week that the group has now obtained permit approval from the state

See SHELTER, Page 2A

## Flooding prompts state of emergency in Floyd

BY MARY MEADOWS STAFF WRITER

Flooding impacted areas throughout Floyd County this weekend, prompting Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams to issue a state of emergency.

Williams and Floyd County Emergency Management Director Tim Fields reported that flooding caused several mud slides and road closures. The flooding also caused power outages and other problems.

"There's going to be some ongoing fixes," Williams said.

He said the emergency declaration helps the county with funding for flood-related repairs to county roads and infrastructure, and it also allows the county to work on private property, where needed, to repair flood-related damages that could impact county roads and infrastructure.

Fields said the most prominent damages occurred on Tinker Fork in the Grethel area, where drains need replaced and other road repairs are needed.

"I think we dodged a bullet," Williams said about the damage. He

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Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

Above, two residents walk down Creekside in Abbott on Monday, where flood waters impacted homes, garages, vehicles and outbuildings. At right, Martin Fire Department officials direct traffic on Rt. 122 after flood waters covered the road near the school district bus garage.



Submitted photo

**Equine center lease approved**

BY ELAINE BELCHER STAFF WRITER

The Prestonsburg City Council conditionally approved a lease of the Prestonsburg Equine Center to Rocky Ridge Stables, LLC, owned by Sarah and Jason Rohr, pending proof of insurance, during the regular monthly meeting on Feb. 19.

The Rohrs will take on responsibility of two barns with a total of 188 stalls, two riding rings

See LEASE, Page 2A

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## SHELTER

Continued From Page 1A

and the shelter will be able to open as soon as the hiring and training process is complete.

The committee hosted an open house in December at the shelter, located on Ky. 122 in the Martin area, and officials reported that additional work was needed in order to obtain permits from the state. With that work complete, McGuire reported the shelter could be open within weeks.

"We had our inspection yesterday and we told that we passed," McGuire told the fiscal court last week. "It will take about a week to get the paperwork from Frankfort. Then, it will take about a week to hire employees, and then we're anticipating about two weeks for training. So, we're getting there."

Once open, the East Kentucky House of Hope will serve up to 12 homeless people at a

time, and Kentucky River Community Care will provide these individuals with resources

and services they need to get back on their feet.

KRCC staff will stay at the shelter around the clock, and will provide assistance with mental health issues, career assistance and other services.

McGuire reported that because it does not have a commercial kitchen, the shelter is

not permitted to prepare food for residents living there, and the shelter is still seeking families and groups that would like to contribute.

"We're not allowed to prepare food at the shelter because we don't have a commercial kitchen, so we're looking for volunteers that will agree to say, well, two nights a month, I'll bring dinner or I'll bring lunch, or I'll bring breakfast, maybe two days, one day a month or something like that," McGuire said. "We have a calendar and we're filling it in. We have quite a few churches that have volunteered and said, you know, put us down for, like, every other month. We'll do dinner for four or five days, nights in a row, or something like that."

Judge-Executive Robbie Williams encourages the public to volunteer, reporting that his family signed up to provide food there and adding the shelter will be a "great service to our community."

"What we've done is, my family, we've signed up as a family for a day for the meals and I think that would be good if you all want to do that," Williams said. "It's a needed service and, you know, we need to give a little bit back to our community as possible."

For more information, visit the shelter's Facebook page or call, (606) 949-2018.

More information is also available online at, [ekyhouseofhope.com](http://ekyhouseofhope.com).



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

Prestonsburg City Council member Don Willis, left, reads a municipal order announcing Prestonsburg's objection to a proposed annexation in Martin. Mayor Les Stapleton, right, is also pictured.

## OPPOSES

Continued From Page 1A

council approved on Jan. 29, notifies the City of Martin that Prestonsburg objects to the annexation of properties in the Eastern area because the city has infrastructure there.

The order cites a state law that requires cities proposing annexation to notify other cities if the proposed annexation area includes infrastructure owned by the other city.

Prestonsburg owns a sewage treatment plant in Eastern as well as utility lines that run along Ky. 550 and Ky. 80 — roads that are among those included in Martin's latest proposed annexation.

Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton said the city is protecting its as-

sets in that area.

"My concern is to protect the city of Prestonsburg's interest, and that's what I'm doing," Stapleton said. "What we have to be very careful of is getting involved in a fight that's not ours. Annexation is annexation ... What I will say is we have to come to some type of agreement, as far as the KRS, and we have yet to be approached (by Martin)."

Stapleton and several council members attended a Feb. 20 special meeting of the Martin City Council in which the first reading of a new ordinance announcing the city's intent to annex property was held.

It marked the third time since Jan. 29 that Martin has changed the list of roads and acreage proposed to be annexed

and city officials could not answer specific questions about the areas proposed to be annexed.

After that Feb. 20 meeting adjourned, Martin Mayor Sam Howell and Council Member Charles Justice left the building, while a quorum of Martin City Council members remained to take questions from concerned residents — in what appears to be a violation of Kentucky Open Meetings laws.

Floyd County resident Martha Davis specifically asked Martin City Council members whether the city made a mistake by not notifying Prestonsburg about the proposed annexation.

Council Member James Reynolds denied that allegation, saying it was a misunderstanding.

Reynolds told Davis, "It wasn't in the property

to be annexed. There was some confusion there."

Stapleton, however, said on Monday that Martin is legally required to notify Prestonsburg about the proposed annexation.

"Through (Ky.) 550 and Ky. 80, we have infrastructure that's in the right-of-way there," Stapleton said. "That's our infrastructure, so yes, it does concern us."

He said Prestonsburg officials did not speak publicly at the Feb. 20 Martin City Council meeting because they were there only to obtain a copy of the new proposed annexation ordinance.

"We're not going to get involved in a public fight and we're not trying to fight them. We just want them to do what the law says," Stapleton said.

## LEASE

Continued From Page 1A

with bleacher seating, an office building, restrooms, a shower house, a gazebo, two announcer booths, a concession building, six picnic tables, a shed at the front gate, dumpster and trash bins, and maintenance of those areas.

The lease also requires at least two shows per month, weather permitting, between April and

September, four trail rides annually with at least 12 horses involved and three trade days.

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

The city's proposed lease calls for payments of \$1,000 per month, and the person or company



Floyd Chronicle and Times file photo

that leases the facility agrees to offer boarding, training, camping, trail riding, shows, lessons, sales, auctions and charity functions there.

Sarah, who has 13 years of experience working at the former Thunder Ridge under her belt, said that the stable also plans on offering basic grooming and riding classes to interested visitors as well as more advanced options for more experienced riders.

"We offer full-time and self-care boarding for the horses as well as access to the facilities and assistance where

needed," she said. "We look forward to getting started."

The previous lease, held by Heather and Chris Moore of Mountain View Stables, ended on Oct. 31, and officials reported the couple owed \$6,700 for unpaid utilities at the equine center. City officials drafted a new lease in November, changing the lease agreement to add more amenities and services at the center, however the council accepted a letter of refusal from the couple during its regular meeting in December.



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# DLG announces grant for Paintsville's eKAMI

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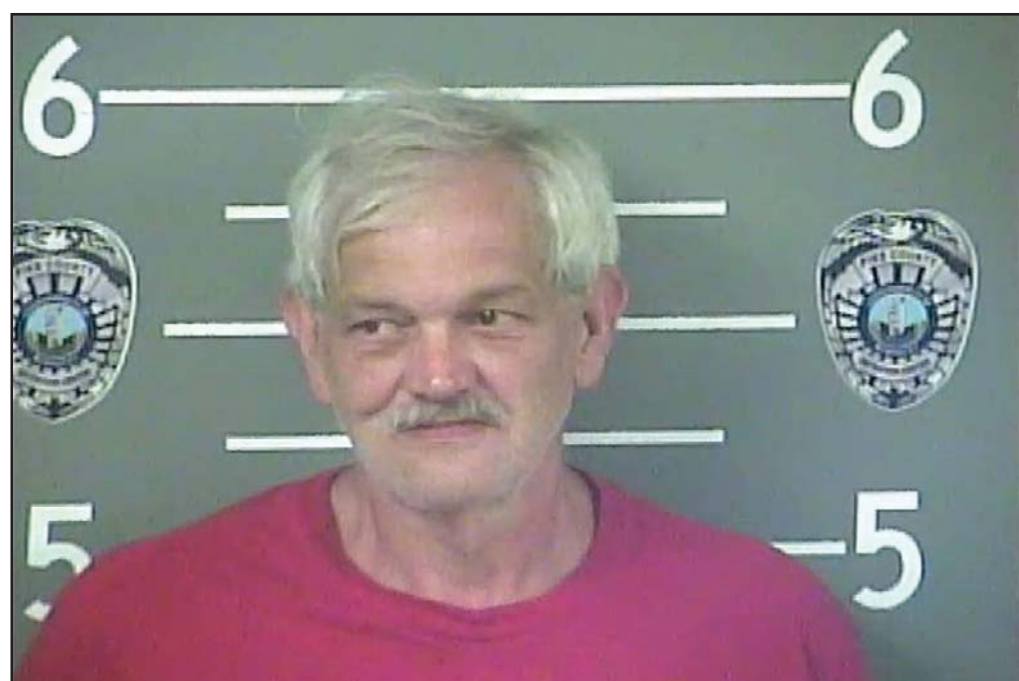
Paintsville's Haas e-Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute will see a \$1.5 million investment from the Appalachian Regional Commission, for the expansion of the workforce development program, Gov. Matt Bevin and the Department for Local Government announced last week.

The funds will go to support the eKAMI program and allow for an expansion, from adult students to recent high school graduates and teacher instruction for underutilized vocational training programs, the DLG said in a statement.

"This project will enable eKAMI to expand their state-of-the-art workforce development training to equip residents from across Appalachia with the skills they need to succeed in today's high-tech, high-demand jobs," Gov. Bevin said.

The award is part of the Appalachian Regional Commission's Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization program, an initiative funded by Congress using federal resources to target communities affected by the loss of coal mining jobs, coal-fired power plant operations and coal supply chain industries.

"In the past year, Kentucky has been recognized on a national level for its innovation and commitment when it comes to preparing its workforce for well-paying, sought-after careers in advanced manufacturing," DLG Commissioner Sandra Dunahoo said. "Funding programs like eKAMI will help pave the way for individuals seeking these opportunities, and investing in a highly skilled workforce also has the potential to attract businesses to Eastern Kentucky down the road. This is certainly a worthwhile investment, and I am proud DLG could help eKAMI secure these funds."



Manis Risner Jr

## Floyd man sentenced to 15 years in federal meth case

**By Chase Ellis  
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS**

A Floyd County man was sentenced to 15 years in prison last week in U.S. District Court in Pikeville for trafficking in methamphetamine.

Manis Risner Jr., 60, of Martin, entered a guilty plea to charges of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

It marked Risner's third federal conviction for trafficking in controlled substances. He was sentenced to seven months in prison in 1990 for distributing cocaine and was sentenced to 46 months in prison in 2010 for conspiracy to distribute methadone and conspiracy to launder drug proceeds.

In May 2018, federal agents executed a search warrant at Risner's residence in Martin and located four ounces of methamphetamine, evidence of methamphetamine trafficking and six firearms.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Drew Trimble said during sentencing that Risner had been traffick-

ing in "ounces of meth at a time" with firearms and "as he was using meth," creating a dangerous combination.

"His conduct has escalated him to this point," Trimble said. "It is time to protect society from Risner."

Chief U.S. District Judge Karen Caldwell told Risner the possession with intent to distribute charge carried a guideline range of between 120 and 125 months in prison and the firearm charge carried a mandatory five year sentence, that must run consecutive to any

other time received in the other charge.

"It is sad to see anyone go to jail for this long, but you have earned this the hard way," Caldwell said to Risner.

She sentenced him to 15 years in prison — 10 years on the possession charge in addition to the five years for the firearm charge — with an additional eight years of supervised release after his prison service.

Risner was returned to the custody of U.S. Marshals after sentencing.

## Transportation Cabinet seek dump sites

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Highway District 12 in Pikeville announced that the agency is seeking places to dump rock, dirt, twigs and leaves that fill up ditch lines.

"As soon as we have enough dry weather to get back to regular maintenance work instead of chasing rock falls and mudslides, crews will begin pulling ditch lines and cleaning out drainage structures," said Paxton Weddington, Engineer-

ing Branch manager. "We have to have someplace to dump this material. We can haul it to private property, so if you need it, call your nearest state garage."

In order to bring the material to private property, landowners must sign consent and release forms, which are available at the maintenance garages.

"If you live in the flood plain, you also need written permission from your county's flood plain manager.

That person is an em-

ployee of your county fiscal court and usually has an office at the courthouse," the cabinet reported in a press release.

"It doesn't cost you anything," Weddington explained. "We deliver and dump the material where you want it, but we do not spread it. Just deliver and dump."

Floyd County residents interested in obtaining this fill material may call officials at the Allen Maintenance garage at, (606) 874-2316 or the Minnie garage at, (606) 358-5308.

## Ky. House Speaker wants added guidelines for food stamp recipients

**By Tom Latek  
KENTUCKY TODAY**

Legislation has been introduced in the Kentucky House that would add a community engagement requirement for food stamp recipients, similar to the Medicaid waiver obtained by Gov. Matt Bevin's administration.

House Speaker David Osborne, R-Prospect, is sponsor of the bill. "It just says that able-bodied adults have to at least be looking for a job, to continue receiving that assistance."

He notes that Kentucky has a high distribution rate of one type of federal funding in the country.

"It's to provide funds for people trying to transition into the workforce and we give more cash payments than any other state," he said. "I think there are so many ways we can help people transition into the workforce than that are more efficient than just giving checks."

That includes providing childcare and health-care assistance, according to Osborne. "Things like that make it easier for people to cycle off

public assistance."

The goal is to increase workforce participation in Kentucky, Osborne said. "We have one of the lowest workforce participation rates in the country, even though our workforce participation grew over the last year at one of the fastest rates in the country. There are some creative things we can do to help people get back into the workforce, to stop penalizing people for going back to work."

Provisions of the bill include performing 80 hours per month of community engagement, which includes participating in training education and employment for able-bodied adults between the ages of 19 and 64.

There are those who would receive exemptions from the requirement. They include:

- Former foster care youth.
- Pregnant women.
- Beneficiaries considered medically frail.
- Beneficiaries diagnosed with an acute medical condition that would prevent them from complying with the requirements.
- Full-time students.

The bill has been

referred to the House Health and Family Services Committee, but has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.



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## FLOODING

Continued From Page 1A

said he reached out to Magoffin County, where flooding was more severe. There, a nursing home had to evacuate and Williams said residents were still trapped by flood waters on Monday morning.

Fields reported that flooding impacted two homes, several garages and outbuildings on Creekside in Abbott, an area of about 16 homes that was severely flooded in 2004.

Creekside residents Denise and Greg Hall lost both of their vehicles in that 2004 flood. When the waters rose on Saturday night, they feared the worse. A family member's home, located down the street, was flooded, but their home was spared. Water rose into their garage and damaged their heating and cooling system and ductwork, but it did not get into the house. On Monday, they were pumping water out from underneath their home. They said they want county officials to dredge the nearby creek to prevent future flooding.

"It come up so fast. It was only like 20 minutes. It's unbelievable how that water does," Denise Hall said. "I mean, it's just like a river, and you can't get out in it. Usually, my husband will go get his mom and dad and try to bring them up in here, but it

was so bad and so deep that he couldn't even get out to go get them."

The Prestonsburg Fire Department and Mayor Les Stapleton escorted a woman and three children from a home on Creekside on Saturday night.

Fire Department Chief Mike Brown said the department was alerted about a problem there via social media. The department's swift water rescue team responded, Brown said, and Stapleton, a former white water guide, assisted.

Brown said the team used a boat to get near the home and then waded in waist-deep water to get to the family.

"At that point, the water had gotten into their house, so we thought it best to go ahead and evacuate them because the water had gotten into the house," Brown said.

Once the water receded to a safe level, he said Stapleton drove the family's vehicle out of Creekside.

"We ended up having to wade all the way up through there to get some people out," Stapleton said. "It was about 3:30 (a.m.) and the water was cold."

This weekend's flooding comes after the county had already experienced mud slides and other issues caused by heavy rains over the past few weeks. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Highway District 12 office in Pikeville announced

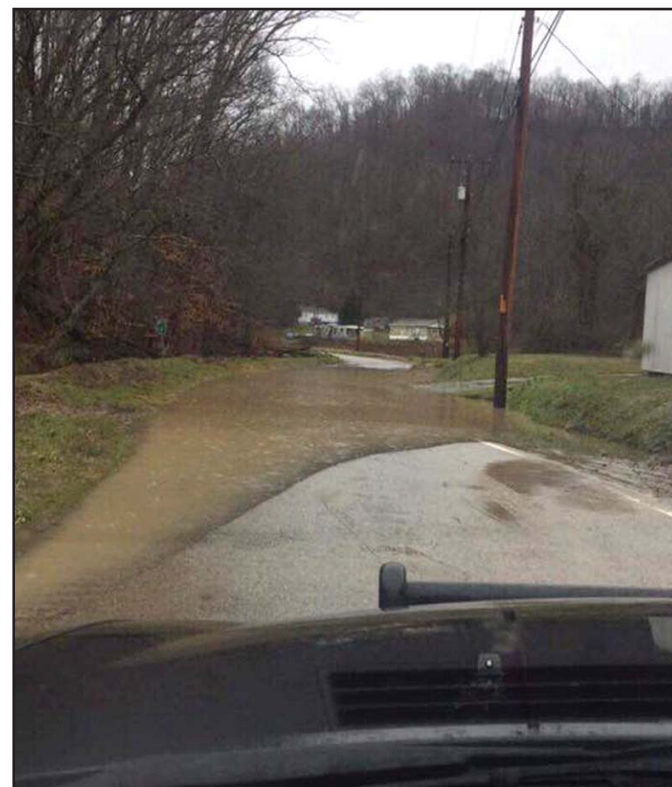
last week that Ky. 1428 in Prestonsburg would be closed until further notice.

On Feb. 21, cabinet employees assessed a hillside on Ky. 1428 that has repeatedly slipped over the past few weeks, and "determined there is still a considerable amount of material that is unstable and could end up on the pavement at any time," a press release said.

"There have been too many times in the past month when the road has been blocked by material coming off the hillside. No matter how hard our crews work each time to clear the road, it seems the next slide is bigger and more dangerous.

We simply cannot, and I will not, put the public at risk," Chief District Engineer Mary Westfall-Holbrook said in the press release.

AEP reported that 448 people were without power on Sunday in Floyd County and nearly 9,000 people were without power in other counties served by the utility. About 360 Kentucky Power employees and contractors responded after the storm, AEP reported, and as of 8 p.m. on Sunday, 5,000 customers — 373 of whom were in Floyd County — were still without power. On Monday, power had been restored to 88 percent of AEP customers in the region.



Submitted photo  
Flood waters closed several roads throughout Floyd County on Sunday, including Bucks Branch, where a Martin Fire Department member took this photo.

## SLIDE

Continued From Page 1A

new slide on the mountain next to the road.

As of presstime Tuesday, both northbound lanes remained closed from mile marker 6.6 (Ivy Creek) to mile marker 7.2 (Davidson Memorial Gardens). Two-way traffic will be routed through the southbound lanes until the area is stabilized.

The new slide, mere yards from where workers in 2015 repaired a previous slide, is still considered "active" according to Sara George, information officer for Highway District 12.

"We have workers in vehicles monitoring the site," said George. "What people can't see from the road is that there are boulders as big as trucks ready to fall, and if they fall before we can get up there to fix it, they could potentially bounce into the southbound lane. So our workers are watching out for public safety and will close the road at the sign of further movement."

George said that the first step is to have engineers from the highway department assess the area to see what needs to be done.

"Our Chief District Engineer Mary Westfall-Holbrook, Floyd, Martin, Johnson and Lawrence counties Engineering Branch Manager Darold Slone, Prestonsburg Section Engineer Matt Moore and his assistant Brittany Ball are working to assess the area and determine what is the best plan of action, with the help of consultants

from GSI, who will actually carry out the work," she said. "At this time, we cannot predict how long the northbound lane will be closed."

According to George, the department engineers are applying previous lessons learned about the area from the 2015 slide.

"Thanks to that previous experience, we are hoping that repairs will be carried out a lot quicker and easier than last time," she said. "Since the problem is actually above the road, at the top of the mountain, which is private property, we need to get permission from the owners for an easement to repair the problem. Last time, the owner was very cooperative and we were able to start building the road for equipment to get to the slide area. Getting to the area this time will not be as difficult."

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# PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER SAVED MY LIFE

"I had a heart attack a mile underground."

- RICK SEXTON

Rick Sexton doesn't remember much about the day he collapsed at work. His wife, Jenette, however remembers the call telling her just how critical the situation was. Rick was life-flighted to Pikeville Medical Center where one of the region's most respected interventional cardiologists, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad, was waiting in the cath lab to repair the complete blockage in his left anterior descending artery - a blockage known as the widow-maker. Today, Rick is back to work and doing well. He recognizes the Pikeville Medical Center team for its great care and for together - saving his life.

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## COLUMN

# Something stinks in Martin



**JEFF VANERBECK**  
PUBLISHER

You would think that a tiny city in rural Eastern Kentucky that has a history of corruption and cronyism would exercise the epitome of transparency and eliminate the back-door politics. They apparently haven't learned their lesson.

By now you may have heard that the city has been trying to annex a lot of property. Property that does nothing for them except increase their costs while taxing an already struggling area. And by virtue of the fact that the people are coming out in droves to secretly-called meetings to ask questions, which the politicians are sheepishly avoiding, says that they are up to something that will hurt the people.

In recent years, city officials have been indicted and imprisoned for fraud, among other crimes. We have a source that tells us that the corruption is rampant, and that people are looked at for no reason

other than they are not on board with the corruption. This is textbook bully behavior, and makes the entire region look bad.

We have asked the city for financials they are required to provide as a public entity. They reluctantly sent us an incomplete bank statement with the balances blocked out. Upon questioning the city attorney, he stated that we didn't ask for that specific information, which is fancy lawyer-speak to try to protect their client. After threatening to contact the AG's office we finally received documents with balances, but other stuff was redacted again, including the city hall phone number. The city has re-

sponded to the AG and provided us with a copy of the response, and the process continues.

The bank statement we have received shows a negative balance for the entire period. Consistent negative balances tell us that they can't afford what they have now, so taking on more is absurd. And if they annex all the property they want to, they will have to pay out to all the fire departments in the district, and you know that money will come from increased taxes.

During this annexation process, officials have called double secret meetings, which are illegal. Sen. Johnny Ray Turner and a host of concerned

citizens showed up at one of the illegal meetings, the council cowered and cancelled the meeting. Sen. Turner is opposed to the annexation, if that tells you anything.

Last Wednesday evening, the mayor scooted out immediately after the reading of the proposed ordinance and avoided questions from the media and public. Other members of the council couldn't answer any questions. Either they are complicit in the forthcoming negligence or just ignorant. Either way, it's dangerous.

It would be one thing if they came out and said they needed that property to help their buddies in the contracting business

get bids for work. At least we would know where they stand. If they were open with their plans, the citizens of the area would be able to make informed decisions.

Now it just looks like they are bullying their way to higher taxes without and representation.

A pretty hacked off group is calling for the city to dissolve. While that may be a little extreme, I understand their point. It appears as if they city leaders can't be trusted. Former officials have gone to jail, and lightning can strike twice.

Thanks for reading the Floyd County Chronicle and Times.

## GUEST COLUMN

# Senate Week in Review



**BY SENATOR JOHNNY RAY TURNER**

As we move forward, it is important that we remember the past. History is a great teacher. This week, as we passed the halfway point of the 2019 Legislative Session, we were reflecting on those who came before us.

On Tuesday, in honor of Presidents' Day, we convened the session at the Old Capitol. The atmosphere was both light with celebration and serious with reflection. We were

reminded of the importance of moving forward and working to make a better future for all Kentuckians, while being armed with the wisdom and knowledge gleaned from those before us.

After a nod to our forefathers, it was back to business in the People's House hearing bills in committee, discussing issues with constituents, and passing policy on the Senate floor.

In admonishment of the current Secretary of State, the Senate took up a measure to limit the influence of that office over the State Board of Elections. Senate 34 would remove most of the duties and authority of the SOS over the Board of Elections, and would instead grant those powers to county

clerks, assistant county clerks and the Board of Election staff. The Board of Elections would be the sole authority to access, correct or alter the voter registration roster.

SB 34 was put forth in retaliation to accusations that the Secretary of State overstepped her authority as the state's chief elections chief. I opposed this bill. We need to let the judicial process run its course and let the courts investigate the matter before passing impetuous legislation. As it currently stands, the bill is nothing more than a political power grab. If passed into law it would not only affect the sitting SOS, but all of those who serve at that post in the future. SB 34 passed the Senate 27-8 and is now in the hands of

the Republican-controlled House.

On Friday, the Senate passed by Senate Concurrent Resolution 81 that establishes the Small Community Public Drinking Water System Failure Prevention Task Force. This measure would establish a 17-member legislative task force to study small community public drinking water systems to create mechanisms for oversight and intervention so as to prevent the drinking system's decline and failure. We need to ensure that all Kentuckians have clean, drinkable water and without intervention, this could become an even more serious problem, especially in small, rural communities.

In the continuing effort to stop child sexual

abuse, we passed legislation out of the Senate that makes possession of a sex doll resembling a minor illegal. SB 102 would prohibit the possession of a child sex doll, the trafficking of a child sex doll, and the importing of a child sex doll. The bill says a "child sex doll means an anatomically correct doll, mannequin or robot that is intended for sexual stimulation or gratification and that has the features of, or with features, that resemble those of a minor." SB 102 passed 36-0 and headed to the House.

We also passed legislation that would help victims of sexual assault to track online the status of their forensic evidence kits. SB 97 would require the Kentucky State Police to create such a tracking

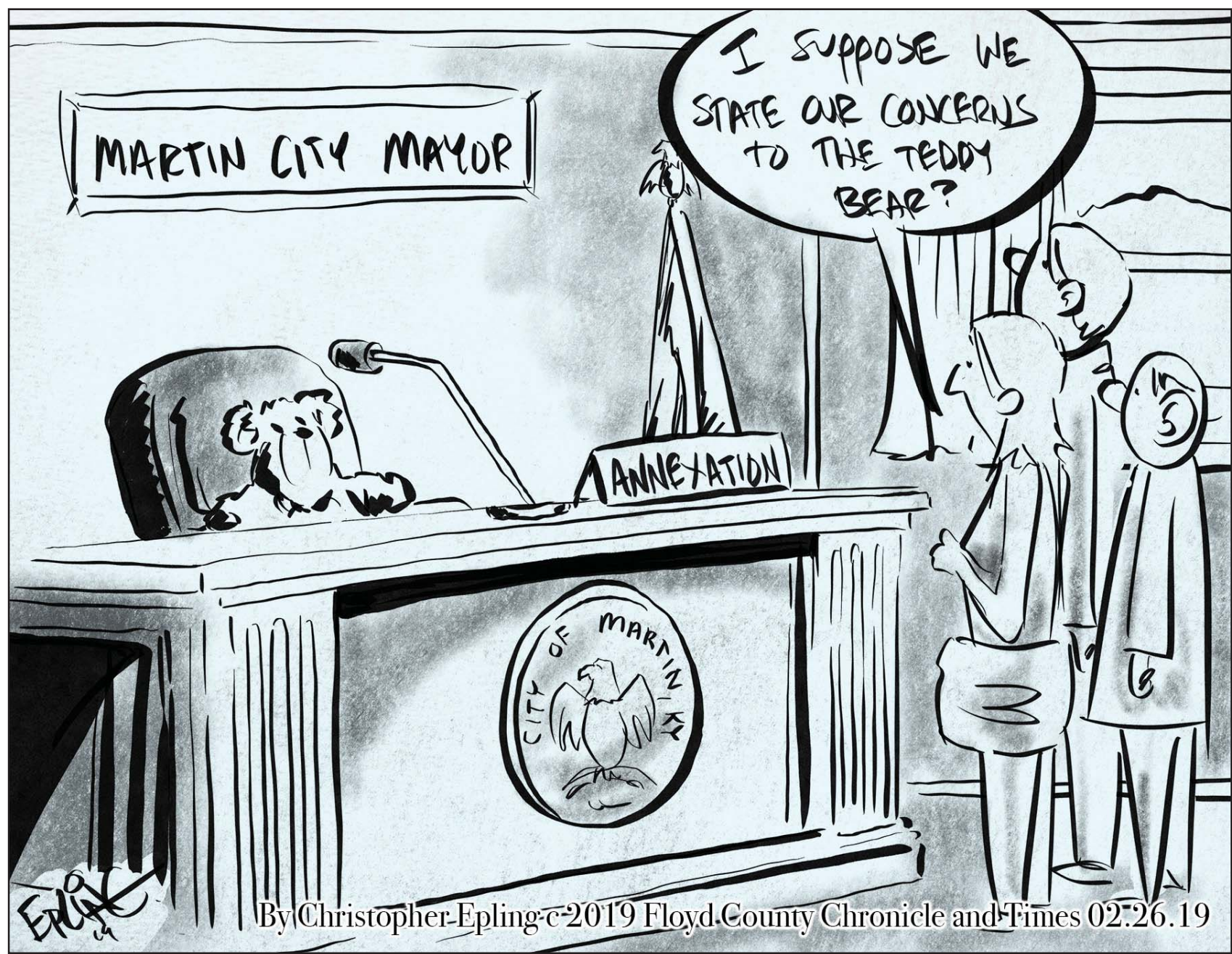
system and make it accessible to victims online and anonymously. We can track our purchases online. Why not allow victims to have a similar means to track the process of their assault kits? SB 97 passed 35-0.

Though we have not addressed a public pension plan, we did pass a bill that will place future employees into a voluntary 401(k). SB 107 would require state employees hired on or after July 1, 2019 to automatically be enrolled in a 401(k) voluntary retirement plan with a monthly employee contribution of \$30 per month. This would not be their primary retirement plan, nor would it be mandatory. SB 107 passed 35-0 and is now in the hands of the House.

SB 140, which I am the primary sponsor, passed out of the Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee last week and I hope it gets a vote on the Senate floor this week.

SB 140 would expand

See REVIEW, Page 6A



By Christopher Epling © 2019 Floyd County Chronicle and Times 02.26.19

## CHRONICLE & TIMES

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# FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES OBITUARIES

## Joda Elizabeth Butts

Joda Elizabeth "Tiny" Butts, 100, of Ivel, died Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019.

Visitation was held at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, at Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

Burial followed in Davidson Memorial Gardens, Ivel.

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

## Timothy Lee Carroll

Timothy Lee "Bear" Carroll, 64, of Eastern, died Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Visitation was held after 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 24 at Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Funeral services with military honors were held Tuesday, Feb. 26, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

Burial followed in the Carroll Family Cemetery, Martin.

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



**Gracy Evelyn (Shepherd) Clark**

Gracy Evelyn Clark, 82, of David, widow of Henry Clark, died Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019, at the UK Bluegrass Care Center, Lexington.

She was born Sept. 25, 1936, in Pyramid, a daughter of the late Ashland J. and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Shepherd. She was a member, Sunday Superintendent and Treasurer of the Open Door United

Baptist Church, a former teacher at the David School, former teacher's aide at Clark Elementary and former retail clerk at Hobbs Five and Ten. Her most recent job was as a loan receptionist/processor at First Commonwealth Bank, from which she retired in 2005, after 25 years of service.

She is survived by her children: Patricia Louise Lafferty of Prestonsburg, Susan Elaine Campigotto-Geer of South Point, Ohio, Henry Clark II of David, Della Dorothea (Tim) Ousley of Prestonsburg, Evelyn Carolyn Bear of Pikeville, Caren Margaret (Dale) Slone of McDowell and Rebecca Joy (Michael) Blanton of River; two brothers: Paul Edward (Marsha) Clark of Warsaw, Ind. and Lloyd Bob (Sheryl) Shepherd of David; one aunt, Margaret Mae Tussey of Blue River; eight grandchildren: Victoria Grace Charlton, Joseph Campigotto Jr., Miranda NaShae Shepherd, Nicholas Ross Lafferty, Storm Orion Bear Clark, Blade Turner Greyson Slone, Sage Elizabeth-Charles Slone and Malechi Henry Russey Blanton and five great-grandchildren; Caleb Joseph Zane Charlton, Ellah Grace Lafferty, Axton Clark Hicks, Jonah Ronald Grey Charleton and Truvy Louise Lafferty.

In addition to her husband and parents she was preceded in death by her twins: Elizabeth Dorothea and Charles Earnest Clark; two brothers: Ralph Wheeler Shepherd and Russell Shepherd and one sister, Sally Lou Reynolds.

Visitation was held after 6 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 25, and Monday, Feb. 26, at Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel with Bob Shepherd officiating.

Burial followed in the Ashland Elizabeth Shepherd Cemetery, David.

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

This is a paid obituary.

## Rita Collins

Rita Collins, 48, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Visitation was held after 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 25 and Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Funeral services will be held at 12 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Burial will follow in the Justice Family Cemetery, Spurlock.

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

## Martha Ann Fife

Martha Ann Mulkey Johnson Fife, 82, of Martin, died Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

Visitation was held at 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 25, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Burial followed in the Layne Family Cemetery, Dana.

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



## Henry Hackworth

Henry Hackworth, 80, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, at Pikeville Medical Center.

Born Aug. 13, 1938, in Floyd County, he was the son of the late Green and Martha England Hackworth.

He was a retired landscaper.

Henry is survived by his wife, Phyllis Watkins Hackworth.

Henry is also survived by his children: Frank (Clara) Hackworth, Diane (Rudy) Pennington and Lisa (John) Campbell, all of Prestonsburg; grandchildren: Rudy (Bethany) Pennington, Joshua (Brittany) Pennington, Justin (Christy) Hackworth, Stephanie (Shane) Arnett, Laken Hackworth, Dakota Hackworth, Ethan Hackworth and Cameron Campbell; great grandchildren: Keegan, Mandy, Bentley, Jace, BJ, Katie, Ruthie, Aubree and Brylie.

Henry was preceded in death by one daughter, Rita Darlene Hackworth; brothers and sisters: Sammie Hackworth, Romine Hackworth, Thomas Hackworth, Earl Hackworth, Mary Davis, Lucy Prater, Phoebe Hackworth, Irene Slone and Josephine Baldrige; and one great-grandchild, Allie Cat.

Henry will be missed by all that knew and loved him.

Visitation was held after 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, and all day Sunday, Feb. 24, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 25, at Nelson Frazier Funeral Home, Martin, with Donnie Patrick and Bill Collins officiating.

Burial followed in the Spradlin-Watkins Cemetery, Ivyton, Magoffin County.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations toward the funeral bill.

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

This is a paid obituary.

## Lundy Samons

Lundy Samons, 62, of Hazard, formerly of Martin, died Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Visitation was held after 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, at Hall Funeral

Home, Martin.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

Burial followed in the Samons Family Cemetery, Arkansas Creek, Martin.

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



## Robert Meyer

Robert L. Meyer, 67, died Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, at Frankfort Regional Medical Center, Frankfort.

He was born at Louisville, May 20, 1951, the son of the late William Lewis and Mary Ruth Burch Meyer.

In 1977, Bob moved to Eastern Kentucky and married Pamela Rice Meyer. They celebrated 42 years of marriage in January. Bob and his wife raised three daughters. He was predeceased by his daughter, Kristin Wallace Thomas and is survived by his daughters, Emily Rose Meyer and Alisha Marie Meyer and son-in-law, Musician Second Class, Brian Kloppenburg, USN.

While in Eastern Kentucky, Bob was afforded many career opportunities that positively impacted the community. After retirement, Bob and his wife settled in Lawrenceburg.

Surviving, in addition to his wife and daughters, are three sisters: Jeanette Cahill (Bill), Loretta Roberts and Angela Cunningham (Robert); as well as four granddaughters: Morgan Hedrick,

Olise Marie Meyer Kloppenburg, Charlotte Rose Meyer Kloppenburg and Olivia Jean Meyer Kloppenburg.

A private celebration of his life will be held by the family.

Arrangements are under the direction of Clark Legacy Center of Versailles.

The guestbook may be signed at, [www.clarcklegacycenter.com](http://www.clarcklegacycenter.com).

This is a paid obituary.



**Kenneth Ray Robinson**

Kenneth Ray "Kenny" Robinson, 65, of Martin, died Feb. 16, 2019, at his residence.

Born January 6, 1954, in Martin, he was the son of the late Sammy and Ella Miller Robinson.

He was a retired heavy equipment operator for Alpha.

Kenny is survived by his wife, Imogene Scarborough Robinson.

In addition to his wife, Kenny is survived by his children: Christopher Kenneth Robinson of Martin and Kimberly Raye Robinson of Prestonsburg; one brother, Paul Donald "Duck" Robinson of Printer; one sister, Shelby Jean Tackett of Printer; grandchildren: Cody Robinson, Nicole Robinson and Livia Burchett. Along with his parents, Kenny was preceded in death by his brothers and sister: Randal Robinson, Gary Wayne Robinson and Carolyn "Sue" Carroll.

Kenny will be missed by all that knew and loved him.

This is a paid obituary.

## REVIEW

Continued From Page 5A

the Hepatitis B continuing inoculation voucher program to include Hepatitis A vaccinations for firefighters.

Some other bills voted out of the Senate and sent to the House for further consideration:

- SB 61 would allow a student of chiropractic to engage in clinical practice under the supervision of a licensed chiropractor. It passed 35-0.
- SB 153 would ex-

pand the membership of the Board of Agriculture to 18 members. It passed 34-0.

- Senate Concurrent Resolution 46 would establish the Alzheimer's and Dementia Workforce Assessment Task Force. It passed 35-0.
- SB 98 establishes the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship. It passed the Senate 36-0.
- SB 65 would establish the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. It passed 36-0.

Birth certificates show that about 700 babies are born at home in Kentucky every year -- despite the

- SB 16 would establish the Kentucky Rare Disease Advisory Council and make an appropriation. It passed 36-0.
- SB 84 would create a council to advise the state Board of Nursing on the creation regulations regarding qualifications, standards for training, competency, any necessary statutory changes and all other matters relating to certified professional midwives.

fact the state stopped issuing permits to home-birth midwives in 1975. SB 84 is not whether to allow home-birth midwives but whether to regulate a practice and discourage charlatans from preying on expecting mothers. It passed 32-4. I voted yes.

- SB 30 would require that health benefit plans cover genetic tests for cancer that are recommended by certain health care providers if the recommendation is consistent with certain genetic testing guidelines. It passed 33-3. I voted yes.

- SB 92 would require Emergency Medical Technicians have training on sexual violence awareness.
- It would not add additional hours to already required training. It passed 33-0.
- SB 7 would allow arbitration, mediation, or alternative dispute resolution agreements be required as a condition or precondition to employment. It passed 26-10. I voted no. This bill would do away with the rights of employees to take a grievance or claim to court and

be heard by a jury.

The number of bills introduced on the Senate floor and heard in committee will only increase in the days ahead.

It is more important than ever that you stay engaged and communicate with me. You can follow bills online at, [lrc.ky.gov](http://lrc.ky.gov) or share feedback through the message line at, (800) 372-7181. You can e-mail me at, [johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov). I also invite you to like my Facebook page (State Senator Johnny Ray Turner).



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# Lawmakers discuss restoring voting rights to felons

By TOM LATEK  
KENTUCKY TODAY

A bill that would automatically restore voting rights to convicted felons upon completion of their sentence and making full restitution had its first hearing before a legislative committee on Monday.

The bill's main sponsor, Rep. George Brown, Jr., D-Lexington, was joined by two of his five co-sponsors, Reps. Charles Booker, D-Louisville and Jason Nemes, R-Louisville, in presenting the bill before the House Judiciary Committee.

"Kentucky is one of three states that don't automatically restore voting rights, along with Iowa and Virginia," Brown said.

"We know this is breaking the backs of a

lot of good, amazing, brilliant people," Booker said. "On the campaign trail I would talk to folks and they would say, 'Charles, I like you, we want to get behind you, we believe our community can get better. But I don't think things will change, because I can't even vote. I made a mistake before you were born and I've been trying to take care of my family, but I can't even be heard.'"

Nemes told the committee he sees bipartisan approval for the measure.

"I've talked to a lot of Republicans our caucus, especially the freshman and sophomore classes, and there is significant support for this bill on my side of the aisle," he said. "We need to make full citizens of folks once they have paid their debt

to society."

Also appearing before the committee was Bonnie Lynch, Kentucky President of the League of Women Voters.

She testified the League has been working on the issue since 2005, because of the number of Kentuckians who have been disenfranchised.

"One out of 11 Kentuckians, or 312,000 people cannot vote. That is more than three times the national average," she said. "Twenty-six percent or one out of four African Americans of voting age in Kentucky cannot vote, which is the highest rate in the country."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville, said, "This bill has passed this House committee many, many times. But

we have a big freshman and sophomore class that has not been introduced to this issue."

In fact, the House passed voting rights legislation 10 years, 2007-2016 by large bipartisan margins. However, the bill has not been brought up the past two years. Approval by Florida voters of a similar measure last November has renewed interest.

No vote was taken on the legislation, which is in the form of a Constitutional Amendment that would appear on the November 2020 ballot, if it clears both the House and Senate.

Two similar measures have been introduced in the Kentucky Senate, one by a Democrat and one by a Republican.

# McConnell, Quarles praise Craft's nomination for UN ambassador

By MARK MAYNARD  
KENTUCKY TODAY

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles hailed President Donald Trump's nomination of Kentuckian Kelly Craft as the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Trump announced, via Twitter, that Craft was his choice.

"The President made an exceptional choice for this critical post," McConnell said. "Kelly Craft is a strong advocate for American interests and will be a powerful representative of our great nation at the U.N. She has a long record of service to her state and the nation

and I'm confident she will continue to serve with distinction as America's voice to the world at the United Nations."

Craft, a Glasgow, Kentucky native, was a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly under President George W. Bush's administration. She is also friends with McConnell's wife, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, and thanked Chao for her "longtime friendship and support" at her swearing-in as ambassador.

Craft has been the U.S. Ambassador to Canada since September 2017.

"While serving our nation in Canada, Ambassador Craft has been a great resource for

Kentucky agriculture," Quarles said. "She hosted a delegation from Kentucky when I led the first-ever agriculture trade mission to Canada with the World Trade Center of Kentucky. I applaud President Trump for picking this Glasgow native."

As U.S. ambassador to Canada, she played a role in facilitating the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, a revamp of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"She has been an effective advocate for the United States and Kentucky as Ambassador to Canada," Quarles said. "There is no better person to represent us at the United Nations."

Craft and her husband, coal magnate Joe Craft of Alliance Resource Partners, served on Trump's inaugural committee and the couple donated about \$265,000 to a committee backing Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Former President George W. Bush named Craft to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations in 2007 and she's served as the Kentucky fundraising chairwoman for several presidential nominees.

Kelly Craft graduated from the University of Kentucky as did her husband, who is a donor to athletics at UK.

Craft has served on the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees and co-founded the Morehead State University Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics.

# Caller ID, Golden Alert system bills zip through House

By TOM LATEK  
KENTUCKY TODAY

Legislation to prevent fake phone numbers from appearing on caller ID, and to formally establish a statewide Golden Alert system, both unanimously passed the Kentucky House on Friday.

Rep. Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville, is the main sponsor of the Caller ID spoofing bill and says it should cut down on the number of spoof calls "because not only are we going to get the Attorney General and Commonwealth's Attorneys after the companies doing this, but we will also allow plaintiff's attorneys to go after them."

Bratcher says the penalties are a \$500 fine for first offenses and \$5,000 fines for subsequent violations. "Hopefully, they'll get the message and just stop making the calls. That's the ultimate goal, because it is hurting people and small businesses."

This issue has caused a lot of people to contact him, Bratcher said. "It cuts across every economic and every status there is in Kentucky. Ev-

erybody is getting these calls."

Bratcher says he's hopeful the bill will continue to have easy sailing right up to the governor's desk.

Another bill, sponsored by Rep. Deanna Frazier, R-Richmond, would expand the capabilities of the Kentucky Golden Alert system, similar to the Amber Alert notification system, used to track down missing and endangered children.

The revised Golden Alert System would allow law enforcement officers to notify the public whenever an impaired person, such as a person with disabilities, go missing. Kentucky State Police would be authorized to use the same resources as the Amber Alert System, including highway signs and public notification via the news media and text alerts, when an impaired person is determined to be missing.

"Many states have enacted similar legislation and I am proud that we are one step closer to ensuring that Kentucky law enforcement officers have every tool at their dispos-

al to find individuals who have gone missing," Frazier stated.

Impetus for the bill came when a 78-year-old Richmond man went missing in December 2016 and his family was unable to locate him. The man, who had recently been diagnosed with dementia, left his phone at home and was thought to have been driving down I-75. Police were unable to utilize the highway notification system, which authorities believe would have aided in his recovery. The man was found dead over a month later in his car, which had run into a creek. He had passed away.

"This bill is especially important to me because people in my home district have been negatively affected by not having these laws in place. I am proud to sponsor this legislation and hopefully ensure something like this never happens again. We need to work together to protect those who are most vulnerable in our local communities," Frazier said.

Both measures now head to the Senate.

## Community Events

- Feb. 27, 6 p.m.: Friends of Jenny Wiley Meeting, May Lodge, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Jim Stewart, (606) 886-8735
- Feb. 27, 9:25 a.m.: Kentucky Chautauqua presents Nancy Green as Aunt Jemima, Big Sandy Community and Technical College Gearheart Auditorium
- Feb. 28, 5 p.m.: Floyd County Tourism meets, county courthouse. (606) 886-9193
- March 5, 10:50 a.m.: Kentucky Chautauqua presents Jean Ritchie, portrayed by Rachel Lee Rogers at Big Sandy Community and Technical College Gearheart Auditorium.
- March 4, 6 p.m.: Allen City Commission meets, Allen City Hall. (606) 874-2953
- March 1; 7:30 p.m.: Josh Martin performs with Rachel Messer as special guest, Mountain Arts Center. macarts.com
- March 2-8: The East Kentucky Science Center will be closed for the installation of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope exhibit. The center will reopen on March 9. (606) 889-8260
- March 5, 5:30 p.m.: Free Bornlearning Academy for children age birth to five and their parents, South Floyd Elementary. Free meal. (606) 263-6175
- March 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild meets, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668
- March 7, 5:30 p.m.: Free Bornlearning Academy for children age birth to five and their parents, May Valley Elementary. Free meal. (606) 285-0883
- March 8, 9 a.m.: Tiny Bobcat Academy for kids age birth to five, Betsy Layne Elementary. Free. (606) 478-9751
- March 9, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Mountain Comprehensive Care Center to host Masquerade Ball to raise funds for children's services, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. Tickets are \$30 per individual, \$50 for couples. (606) 886-8572
- March 11, 5:30 p.m. Tiny Eagle Academy for kids age birth to five, Allen Elementary. Free. (606) 874-2165
- 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

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# Kentucky's 'too low and too slow' response to the nation's worst hepatitis A outbreak

By **LAURA UNGAR AND CHRIS KENNING**  
LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL

Last spring, Kentucky's infectious disease chief was ringing the alarm.

An outbreak of hepatitis A that already had infected nearly 400 people in Louisville was seeping into Appalachia, where rampant drug addiction provided fuel for the virus to explode across rural Kentucky.

To contain it, the drug users and homeless largely spreading the disease had to be vaccinated — and quickly.

But the challenges in impoverished rural Kentucky were huge. Drug users were hard to find and vaccinate. Thinly staffed county health departments had seen their budgets shrink. And federal vaccine money for Kentucky had run out.

"Need to move faster," urged Dr. Robert Brawley in an April 2018 email to state health department colleagues obtained by the Courier Journal. "The virus is moving faster than we and (local health departments) are ... immunizing persons (at) risk."

Brawley argued that a powerful state response was needed: \$10 million, including \$6 million for a fusillade of 150,000 vaccines and \$4 million for temporary health workers to help administer them. In an email, he also lobbied for a public health emergency declaration to bolster the case for more federal money.

But a Courier Journal investigation found his urgent pleas went nowhere. And in the months that followed, Kentucky's outbreak metastasized into the nation's largest and deadliest.

The Courier Journal found that Brawley's boss, 31-year-old acting public health Commissioner Dr. Jeffrey Howard, rejected his aggressive recommendations. Amid limited state budgets, county staffing constraints and the availability of more than \$220 million in local health department reserve funds — he stuck instead to a \$3 million state response.

The Courier Journal interviewed Kentucky health department insiders as well of dozens of public health officials and experts in its investigation into the state's deadly spread of hepatitis A. It analyzed reams of reports and health statistics, obtained emails and documents and spoke with survivors and families of those who died in the nation's largest outbreak.

The state ultimately sent \$2.2 million to local departments and declined to declare an emergency. In addition, county health departments added little to no staff to increase efforts to find and vaccinate drug users and homeless people.

Moreover, Kentucky officials never tried strategies used successfully by some of the other 16 states who fought outbreaks with limited budgets.

Kentucky didn't seek money from the state legislature, like Michigan. It didn't deploy "strike teams" of state health workers to counties, like Indiana.

And it waited much longer to deploy state funds than Tennessee, which earmarked \$3 million after just 25 cases.

The contagious liver disease has taken a heavy toll in Kentucky, sickening 4,162 people, far more than in any other state. It has sent 2,015 Kentuckians to the hospital for costly treatment.

And it has claimed 43 lives, the highest death toll in the U.S. — including people such as former Eastern Kentucky coal miner James Ramey.

Last fall, Ramey's organs failed, one by one, until he struggled so hard to breathe that the blood vessels burst in his neck.

In his last hours, his father raced over two hours from Martin County to his bedside in a Lexington hospital, leaning over his tubes and wires to beg him to hold on.

Ramey's heart gave out as soon as he heard his father's voice and felt his touch. He died Nov. 28, 2018, just over a year after the state declared an outbreak of hepatitis A.

"There's a very good chance James would be alive" had the state done more earlier to educate and vaccinate people in Appalachia, said his sister, Brandy Stafford. "We are desperate for help in these counties. People are crying out."

"Does the state not think these people's lives are worth something?"

## A controversial decision debated

Howard defended his decisions, telling the Courier Journal the state used limited money to bolster vaccines in numbers that could actually be administered by small staffs in county health departments — and he was willing to seek more funding if needed.

Nurses were expensive, he said. And even with more vaccines, drug users would remain difficult to find.

None of the counties requested additional staff, he said, and some were slow to spend the state money they did get. Also, counties could pay for vaccines with local tax revenue or Medicaid reimbursements or order vaccine provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Moreover, state officials consulted with the CDC, which provided more than \$600,000 in cash and \$1.4 million worth of vaccines, he said. And they targeted people where they could efficiently find them: jails, emergency rooms, syringe services programs and drug rehabilitation centers — efforts that public health experts praised.

But he acknowledged that in retrospect he could have done some things differently.

"I would've liked to be more robust in our early

response in Eastern Kentucky for sure. I wish I would've been more bold and said, 'Let's move into Eastern Kentucky,' as opposed to waiting, as we did, with the outbreak," said Howard, who grew up in Appalachia. "As an Eastern Kentucky guy, it's heartbreaking to see this disease spread out in rural Kentucky. And I knew the struggles that they'd have once it started."

Adam Meier, secretary of Cabinet for Health and Family Services, said he stands behind Howard's choices. He said in a statement that the "challenges Kentucky faced were less financial and more logistical in nature as it related to identifying and engaging the at-risk populations."

"While hindsight might provide more context for some things now, in retrospect there's not a single decision that I'm aware of that was made in real time, with the information available at the time, that I would change," he said.

But Brawley told the Courier Journal that much greater resources were needed to battle Kentucky's spread of hepatitis A, pointing out that San Diego County in California spent more than \$12 million fighting its 2017 outbreak.

After an early response that an audit deemed too weak, San Diego brought the virus under control by nearly quadrupling the vaccines administered seven months into its outbreak.

By comparison, the state general funds Kentucky spent on its outbreak amounted to less than a quarter as much, Brawley said, even as the virus ultimately infected nearly seven times as many people.

"In comparison, the Kentucky hepatitis A outbreak response has been too low and too slow ...," Brawley, who resigned in June, told the Courier Journal.

"Had the state hastened its vaccination efforts, it may have more quickly reduced the risk of the disease's spread and prevented acute cases, hospitalizations for about 50 percent of those cases, deaths and avoided millions of dollars in health-care expenses for emergency department visits and hospitalizations."

Now, he said, "Kentucky has the worst hepatitis A outbreak in the United States in the 21st century."

## 'His advice should have been heeded'

Others inside the health department, including nurse Margaret Jones, manager of the state's immunization program, agreed that Brawley's recommendations could have curbed the outbreak faster.

"We should have done more sooner," said Jones, who retired last summer. "If we had been able to get the vaccines out early, we may not have near as many cases or near as many hospitalizations. ... He knew what to do. I think his advice should

have been heeded."

Jones said others were surprised Howard didn't follow the guidance from Brawley, a public health veteran who has been a doctor since 1975, holds specialized degrees in epidemiology and infection control, and retired from the U.S. Navy Medical Corps before joining the department in 2006. Brawley eventually left his job as chief of the state health department's infectious disease branch and now lives in Columbus, Ohio.

Howard graduated medical school in 2014, was named acting commissioner just as the outbreak was declared in November 2017 and received his Kentucky medical license last year.

As recently as 2018, he was working on a public health master's degree at Harvard University and was officially appointed public health commissioner in June.

Like Jones, others who work in rural Kentucky were dismayed that Brawley's recommendations were ignored.

"It's shocking that decision was made. I'm flabbergasted," said Stacy Usher, manager of a drug prevention program in Wolfe County, which has one of the state's highest rates of hepatitis A.

But Meier emphasized that the state's response, led by the state epidemiologist, was guided by a public health team including epidemiologists, physicians, nurses and scientists. He pointed to county health department reserves and other sources of funding available to help address the outbreak.

Officials at the CDC and in other states haven't criticized Kentucky's spending decisions. For most states, they said, resources dictate public health responses.

Howard echoed that sentiment, saying that while he never had an issue with the amount of money Brawley wanted to send out, the state "had to limit our response based on the capabilities that exist."

## Hit hepatitis A hard and fast

Given the challenges and the unpredictability of viral infections, experts said, it's impossible to know the extent to which Kentucky's outbreak would have been minimized with more resources.

But experts say the unprecedented hepatitis A outbreaks that have sickened more than 13,000 Americans are a reminder that states must devote more resources to preventing and controlling disease, despite a national erosion of public health budgets.

If rural health departments nationally were "properly resourced," they might have been able to stop the vaccine-preventable disease before it sickened so many, said Dr. Michael Brumage, an assistant dean at the West Virginia University School of Public Health.

"This is something that happens in Third World nations," Brumage said. "This should not be happening in the First World."

Experts agreed that the way to bring hepatitis A under control is to hit it hard and fast. That saves money in the end, they said, because prevention always is less expensive than treatment.

"As soon as there's a few cases, that's the time to throw everything but the kitchen sink at it," said Dr. Nate Smith, president-elect of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and director of the Arkansas Department of Health. "Once you've got thousands of cases across the state, it's hard to get the genie back in the bottle."

Howard said he appreciates the severity of the outbreak, which has spread to 103 of Kentucky's 120 counties.

But it would be wrong, he said, to compare hepatitis A to other diseases affecting drug users, such as hepatitis C, which afflicts Kentucky at one of the nation's highest rates.

Howard said hepatitis A is different because, "for most people that get it, is a fairly mild disease. Your liver enzymes will go up. You'll feel bad for a few days. And it will go away. ... I think it would be a mistake to equate it with HIV, hepatitis C and diseases that cause severe morbidity and mortality."

Officials are hopeful the hepatitis A outbreak has crested. The number of new cases each week is down from 150 in early November 2018, averaging 87 a week this year.

State health officials said their plans in 2019 include working to help local departments vaccinate more regularly at jails, increase vaccinations generally, enlist more federally qualified health centers to administer vaccines, and continue to push out federally funded vaccine to counties.

But even now, too many at-risk drug users and homeless still aren't being reached, said Dr. Martin Gnoni, an infectious disease specialist at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital near Ashland, one of the first areas outside of Louisville to be hit last year.

Gnoni said his area could use more epidemiologists and health department staff, as well as outreach teams in vans. To get the virus under control, Louisville's 220-person health department blanketed vulnerable residents, administering 25,000 vaccines.

And it paid off. By May, Louisville's cases declined steadily. The city's all-out response led to nearly 100,000 vaccinations and was called a "gold standard" by the CDC.

But Appalachian counties have fewer resources and fewer places drug users and homeless people concentrate, which has helped the virus race through the mountains.

In January, Martin County, where Ramey lived and died, recorded some of Kentucky's highest rates of hepatitis A.

"I guess you could have seen it coming," said Stephen Ward, the health department director in Martin County, where more than a third of the 11,000 residents live in poverty and addiction touches nearly every family.

The county gave out around 800 vaccines last year, but never got any of the state money targeted for vaccinations. Howard said he wasn't sure why, although it did receive some federally funded shots.

Regardless, Ward said Martin County didn't get enough resources from the state to combat the outbreak.

"I do understand the budget constraints that the state is under," said Ward, who at times picked up rural residents so they could get vaccinated. "We are easy to ignore ... But these people bring so much. They deserve to be rescued."

He aches for the Ramey family, who he knows well.

On a cold February morning, Stafford, Ramey's sister, visited the family cemetery in a wooded mountain valley. She stuck cloth flowers into the fresh earth and placed a garden gnome near her brother's grave.

The 40-year-old followed his father into coal mining and struggled with pills, heroin and meth for much of his life. Years of intravenous drug use had given him hepatitis C.

But his family remembers him as a generous prankster, a 6-foot-2 "brute" who loved car racing, riding his four-wheeler and hanging out with his two teen sons.

No one in his family had heard of hepatitis A until his girlfriend got it. Then Ramey contracted the virus, and within weeks he was dead.

His family is still angry Kentucky isn't doing more to save others from the same fate.

"This is very serious, and it needs to be taken more seriously," Stafford said. "Our people are dying."

### Town of Martin Project - Public Meeting Notice

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Huntington District, is hosting a public meeting for the Town of Martin project. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update to the public on the project, solicit individuals or groups that wish to act as formal consultation partners under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

A public meeting with USACE staff available to discuss the project will begin at 6 p.m. on March 14, 2019 at the Fire Station on the Redevelopment Site (1 Randy Caudill Loop, Martin, Kentucky). In addition, office hours will be available from 1pm - 4pm to allow for individual questions or discussion at the USACE Resident Engineer's Office (Construction Trailer) on the Redevelopment Site.

Questions regarding the public meeting can be sent to Ms. Rebecca Rutherford, Chief, Environmental Analysis Section, Planning Branch, Huntington District Corps of Engineers, 304-399-5924, 502 Eighth Street, Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070.





Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

Wesley Christian School students portrayed historical figures and entertainers during the school's first-ever living wax museum on Feb. 22. Pictured left to right in the front row are: Byran Powers, Emma Kidd, Mia Lequire, Landon Spears, Andrew Huynh, Christian Hicks, Abby Hastings, Will White and Jasmine Oney. Pictured left to right in the back row are: Madisyn Hunt, Aubrey Blair, Ella Wells, Daniel Blackburn, Lizzie Branham, Evan Wells, Ella Keathley, Eden Williams, Shelby Justice and Emily Goble.

## Wesley Christian hosts living wax museum

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

The Wesley Christian School hosted its first-ever living wax museum on Feb. 22, capping a three-month study for participating fourth- and fifth-grade students.

Teachers Sabrina Lequire and Laura Fitch coordinated the project, and parents were invited to watch students portray various historical figures and entertainers on Friday. The teachers said students started researching their chosen historical figures three months ago and completed and memorized essays about them. The students recited the first-person essays to visitors who turned out on Friday.

"Not only are they learning about historical figures, but then they get to come and do this," Fitch said. "Learning to speak in front of others at such a young age, that will help them tremendously."

The school's gym

was filled with numerous characters, including Abraham Lincoln portrayed by Byran Powers, Dolly Parton portrayed by Emma Kidd, Pocahontas portrayed by Mia Lequire, Babe Ruth portrayed by Landon Spears, Paul Revere portrayed by Andrew Huynh, Albert Einstein portrayed by Christian Hicks, Amelia Earhart portrayed by Abby Hastings, Neil Armstrong portrayed by Will White, Helen Keller portrayed by Jasmine Oney, Betsy Ross portrayed by Madisyn Hunt, Princess Diana portrayed by Aubrey Blair, Nancy Reagan portrayed by Ella Wells, George Washington portrayed by Daniel Blackburn, Queen Elizabeth II portrayed by Lizzie Branham, Queen Elizabeth I portrayed by Eden Williams, Walt Disney portrayed by Evan Wells, Jacqueline Kennedy portrayed by Ella Keathley, Loretta Lynn portrayed by Shelby Justice and Anne Frank portrayed by Emily Goble.

Shirley Spencer came

to the museum to watch her granddaughter Madisyn Hunt perform and got autographs from all students participating. Spencer said the autographs were for her granddaughter's scrapbook, but she also wanted to congratulate the students for their public speaking.

**Wesley Christian students Christian Hicks portrayed Albert Einstein and Abby Hastings portrayed Amelia Earhart at the school's first living wax museum.**

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows  
Evan Wells portrayed Walt Disney and Ella Keathley portrayed Jacqueline Kennedy at Wesley Christian School's first living wax museum.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows  
Daniel Blackburn portrayed George Washington and Byran Powers portrayed Abraham Lincoln at Wesley Christian School's first living wax museum.

## REO Speedwagon coming to Expo in June

**SPECIAL TO APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS**

PIKEVILLE — REO Speedwagon will be joined by special guest

Sister Hazel for a show on June 5 at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

Formed in 1967, REO Speedwagon has sold more than 40 million re-

ords, including 13 Top 40 hits and two number ones with hits, "Keep On Loving You" and "Can't Fight This Feeling."

They will be joined

by Sister Hazel. Formed in 1993 in Florida, Sister Hazel burst into the alternative rock scene with its 1997 "All For You," which peaked at Number 11 on

the Billboard Hot 100 and reached the top of the U.S. Adult Top 40 chart.

Tickets will go on sale Friday, March 1, and start at \$48.50.

Tickets will be available through the Appalachian Wireless box office, ticketmaster.com, and by phone at, (800) 745-3000.

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

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

**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.

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**FOR RENT: FOUR BD** brick, 3 miles from Prestonsburg on Rt. 404. \$600 month. **RENT TO OWN:** 16x80 3BR / 2BA mobile home, on RT. 114 in Prestonsburg. Call 606-791-2845.

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

**BUSINESS PROP. FOR RENT / LEASE BUILDING AND LOT FOR LEASE KY RTE. 1428 ALLEN, KY 41601**

Landlord may be reached at 606-874-2244 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Call our advertising staff today at (800) 539-4054 for more details.

**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 606-886-1825, 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.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**THE CARL D. Perkins Job Corps Center** is seeking qualified professionals for the following positions:  
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Please submit resumes to Debbie Haywood at haywood.debbie@jobcrops.org

**LEGALS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to 405 KAR 8:010, Section 16(5), the following is a summary of permitting decisions made by the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Min Permits with respect to applications to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations in Floyd County. **FLOYD, SPURLOCK MINING, LLC, 836-5615**

**NOTICE TO UNKNOWN DRIVER OF LOG TRUCK DRIVING ON OLD KY 114 (aka KY 2555) AND INVOLVED IN SIDE-SWIPE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

Notice is hereby given of the filing of a lawsuit styled: **Makayla Williams v. Unknown Driver of Log Truck Driving on KY 114 on September 25, 2018 and Kentucky National Insurance Company.** Civil Action No: 19-CI-

**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.

**LEGALS**

0005 in the Floyd Circuit Court, Division II, Floyd County, Kentucky. In this lawsuit, personal injury claims are asserted against the Unknown Driver of the Log Truck. On February 6, 2017, Attorney Casey M. Jones of the Jones Law Firm, PLLC was appointed as warning order attorney to notify the Unknown Driver of the Log Truck the above action has been filed against him/her. A copy of the Complaint can be obtained from the Jones Law Firm, PLLC. Under Kentucky's civil rules, the Unknown Driver of the Log Truck must answer the complaint within 50 days of February 6, 2019. If the Unknown Driver of the Log Truck fails to file an answer, he/she might forfeit his/her rights to challenge the allegations of the lawsuit. The Unknown Driver of the Log Truck is asked to contact Attorney Casey M. Jones by mail at P.O. Box 405 Prestonsburg, Kentucky or by telephone at 606.886.8940.

**LEGALS**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS**

The Housing Authority of Martin is seeking sealed proposals for **Legal Services**. Proposals are due by **4:00 PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 1st, 2019**, at the office of the Housing Authority and then will be opened publicly and read aloud. The information for Proposals, Form of Bid, Form of Contract and other contract documents may be examined, or a copy obtained, at the Housing Authority of Martin's office located at 109 Raymond Griffith Drive, #1101, Martin, KY 41649. For any additional information or a bid package, please contact Billie Webb, Executive

Director at (606)285-3681 or email martin-housing2014@yahoo.com.

**Thanks For Reading The Floyd Chronicle & Times**

**LEGALS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Andrew Shepherd, 2476 KY RT 850, David, KY. 41616, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to excavate and fill property. The property is located at 2476 KY RT 850, David, KY 41616, located approximately 8 miles from Prestonsburg, KY, to effect the left fork of Middle Creek. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Surface Water Permit Branch, Floodplain Management Section 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502)564-3410

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-7012**

**Renewal No. 2** In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Matt/Co, Inc., 439 Meadows Branch, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653, has applied for a renewal of a per-

**LEGALS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

mit for a surface coal mining and reclamation operation located approximately 0.07 miles east of Big Branch in Floyd County. The proposed operation will disturb 72.28 surface acres within the permit boundary. The proposed operation is approximately 0.52 miles southeast from KY 302's junction with KY 1428 and located along Big Branch. The proposed operation is located on the Lancer U.S.G.S 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The operation will use the haul road only method of surface mining. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Frank and Judith Adams, Tri-Star Development, Inc., and Alma Land Company. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources' Pikeville Regional Office, 121 Mays Branch Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41501-9331. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director of the Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sow-

**LEGALS**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE**

er Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. **This is the final advertisement of the application.** All comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within 30 days of today's date.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Notice is hereby given that Jordan Caldwell has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to place durable rock to stabilize a creek bank. The property is located on the upper Cow Creek Road approximately 1 mile from Ky. Rt. 194. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Surface Water Permit Branch, Floodplain Management Section 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502)564-3410

**Thanks For Reading The Floyd Chronicle & Times**

**LEGALS**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE**

**Application Number 898-4463** **Renewal #7** In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Landmark Mining Company, Inc., P.O. Box 460 Shelbiana, Kentucky 41562, has applied for renewal of a permit for an underground coal mining operation located 5.1 miles southwest of Pikeville in Pike County. The proposed operation will disturb/permit 151.8 surface acres and will underlie 876.0 shadow area acres in Pike and Floyd Counties. The proposed operation is approximately 1.0 miles southwest from Island Creek road's junction with Ray Branch County Road and located 0.1 miles west of Island Creek. The proposed facility is located on the Pikeville U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Pikeville

**NOTICE (Of Final Settlement)**

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD...SCT**

I, Douglas Ray Hall, Clerk of the Floyd District Court, do hereby certify that the following Settlements of Estates have been filed in my office. Anyone desiring to take exceptions to said Settlements must do so on or before FEBRUARY 28, 2019 at 10:00 am.

SETTLEMENT	CASE NUMBER	ESTATE OF:	FIDUCIARY	DATE FILED
FINAL	17-P-479	BERRY REYNOLDS	OLIVE REYNOLDS	12/19/17
FINAL	18-P-108	GEORGE HALL	MARY HALL	3/9/18
FINAL	18-P-207	MARY ST. CLAIR	HAROLD ST. CLAIR	5/15/18
FINAL	18-P-245	HUBERT LIKENS SR.	REATHA LIKENS	5/15/18

**LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT**

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD**

I, Douglas Ray Hall, Clerk of Floyd District Court, Do hereby certify that the following persons have been appointed fiduciaries by the District Court. All person indebted to an Estate should settle with the Fiduciary within six (6) months from the date of appointment.

DATE OF APPOINTMENT	CASE NUMBER	ESTATE OF:	FIDUCIARY	ATTORNEY
1/23/19	19-P-32	BETTY DAVIS FRANCIS	CAROL MARTIN, HELEN VICKERS	JENNIFER BURKE ELLIOTT
1/23/19	19-P-31	JUANITA PRATER	DALPHINA CONLEY	
1/23/19	19-P-33	PEGGY HEREFORD	DAVID HEREFORD, LAURA GOBLE	
1/25/19	19-P-36	BALLARD SHEPHERD	PHYLLIS SHEPHERD	
1/28/19	19-P-40	JOANN BURKE	RONALD SHEWSBERRY	
2/5/19	19-P-46	HELEN TACKETT	SHEILA JOHNSON	
2/5/19	19-P-47	ELMO GREEN	EDITH GREEN	
2/5/19	19-P-45	IRENE FIELDS	KENT THOMPSON	LARRY D. BROWN
2/6/19	19-P-48	EYVIND HAMILTON	BRENDA HOWELL	
2/7/19	19-P-51	DONNA TURNER	PAUL TURNER, REBECCA HANCOCK, LOIS TURNER	
2/7/19	19-P-50	CLINTON SPRINGER	MICHELLE SPRINGER	
2/7/19	19-P-53	ABEL CHARLES KINSEY	JONATHAN KINSEY	KEITH BARTLEY
2/8/19	19-P-54	RICHARD HENSON	MILLIE HENSON	
2/8/19	19-P-52	MARIE SLONE	KRISTEN FRYE	DARYLE RONNING
2/11/19	19-P-57	DOROTHY ENGLE	AUBREY ENGLE	
2/11/19	19-P-56	AILEEN HALL	NANCY NILES, RHONDA KRETZER	
2/12/19	19-P-59	ANNA LOU BLACKBURN	RUBY TACKETT	
2/13/19	19-P-60	WILLIE GEARHEART	LORETTA GEARHEART	
2/13/19	19-P-61	BILLIE JOHNSON	ALYSSA JOHNSON	
2/14/19	19-P-64	BOBBY HENSON	HIRAM HAMILTON	
2/15/19	19-P-67	ALBERTA BLACKBURN	BRENDA BOLEN	
2/18/19	19-P-68	PAULINE SPARKS	SYLVIA KEESE	



**LEGALS**

Regional Office, 121 Mays Branch Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41501. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Kentucky 40601.

**This is the final advertisement of this application;** all comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be received within 30 days of this date.

**INTENTION TO ENGAGE IN AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BUSINESS**

Hometown Convenience, LLC, PO Box 430 Whitesburg, KY 41858, hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a Retail Beer License NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package license(s) no later than April 15, 2019. The business to be licensed will be located at 468 US 23 North Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653 doing business as Prestonsburg DoubleKwik #23, The (Owner(s); Principal Officers and Directors; Limited Partners; or Members) are as follows:

Partner, Ina M Matthews of 250 Bearfoot Trail, Whitesburg, KY 41585.  
Partner, Donna J. Childers of 114 Country Knoll Lane, Nicholasville, KY 40656.  
Partner William D. Childers of 133 Letcher St. Whitesburg, KY 41858.

Any person, associate, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the licenses by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control, 1003 Twilight Trail, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8400, within thirty (30) days of the date of this legal publication.

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## 15th Region Tournament: Blackcats fall to Golden Eagles

By STEVE LEMASTER  
 AND RANDY WHITE

Prestonsburg fell behind early and faced double-digit deficits throughout the game as Johnson Central, the champion out of the 57th District, pulled away to win 80-49 in the first round of the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament at the East Kentucky Expo Center on Monday night.

The runner-up out of the 58th District, Prestonsburg ended its season 16-16 with the loss.

With the win, Johnson Central improved to 25-7 and advanced to the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament semifinals.

The Golden Eagles took control early, outscoring Prestonsburg 26-4 in the opening quarter. Johnson Central led 48-17 at halftime.

Johnson Central shot 56.4 percent (31 of 55) from the field. The Golden Eagles were eight of 21 (38.1 percent) from three-point range.

Johnson Central shot 83.3 percent (10 of 12) from the free-throw line.

Thriving inside, Johnson Central outrebounded Prestonsburg 35-24.

Senior Gabe Ferrell led Johnson Central to the convincing victory. Ferrell, who has signed with the Eastern Kentucky University baseball program, drained six three-point field goals on his way to scoring a game-high 22 points for the Golden Eagles.

Joining Ferrell in double figures for Johnson Central, Cory VanHoose scored 18 points and John King contributed 10 points.

The other scorers for Johnson Central were Isaiah May (seven points), Braxton Bentley (four points), Jacob Rice (three points), Toby Spriggs (two points), Connor Lemaster (two points), Mason Fairchild (two points), Grant Bingham (two points), Josh Slone (two points), Brett Caudill (two points), Zach Russell (two points) and Bryson Hackney (two points).

May led Johnson Central inside, securing six rebounds.

Prestonsburg shot 42.2 percent (19 of 45) from the field. The Blackcats were three of 12 from three-point range.

Prestonsburg shot 50 percent (eight of 16) from the free-throw line.

Graham Burchett paced Prestonsburg with a team-best 14 points. Burchett was the only Prestonsburg player to reach double figures in the scoring column.

Narrowly missing double figures for the Blackcats, Blake Slone netted nine points.

The other scorers for Prestonsburg were Adam Slone (seven points), Clayton Smith (seven

See **BLACKCATS**, Page 13A



ABOVE: Prestonsburg's Graham Burchett goes up for a shot against Johnson Central's Isaiah May Monday night in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament. The Blackcats fell to the Golden Eagles 80-49. Prestonsburg ended the season with a 16-16 record.

LEFT: Prestonsburg's Blake Slone goes up for a shot over Johnson Central's John King Monday night at the East Kentucky Expo Center during the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament.

Floyd Chronicle and Times  
 photos by Randy White



## BLACKCATS

Continued From Page 12A

points), Kaleb Jarvis (four points), Ryan Rose (three points), Josh Hall (two points), Will Gullett (two points) and Grant Justice (one point).

In the nightcap of the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament on Monday, Shelby Valley defeated Pike County rival Phelps 59-33. Johnson Central will face Shelby Valley in the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament Semifinals at 6:30 p.m. on Friday.

### Shelby Valley 59, Phelps 34

The third quarter was the difference Monday night in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament.

Shelby Valley outscored Phelps 25-8 in the third quarter to roll to a 59-34 win over the Hornets.

With the win, Shelby Valley advances to the 15th Region semifinals Friday night to take on Johnson Central. The Wildcats picked up a 71-69 win over Johnson Cen-

tral in the regular season finale in the teams' last meeting.

Cameron Worrix had a huge game for the Wildcats. He scored a game-high 24 points and came up with four steals. Cody Potter struggled shooting for the Wildcats going three for 12, but he finished with a double-double. Potter had 10 points, 11 rebounds, three blocks and a steal. Orbie McPeek finished with 10 points and seven rebounds. Samuel Stanley added six points in the win. Keian Worrix had two points, a game-high eight assists and two steals. Seth Johnson, Aaron Bates and Russ Osborne each scored two points. John Flaney added a point in the win.

Phelps turned the ball over 20 times, resulting in 20 points off of turnovers for the Wildcats. Shelby Valley outscored Phelps 16-8 in fastbreak points. The Wildcats also outscored Phelps 36-20 in the paint.

Phelps came out early in a three-two zone that bothered Shelby Valley. The Hornets and the

Wildcats were tied at 12-12 at the end of the first.

The Hornets held the lead for most of the second quarter, but McPeek hit a buzzer beater to give the Wildcats a 21-16 halftime lead.

Trey Francis led the way for the Hornets. Trey Francis scored a team-high 15 points, he pulled down five rebounds, dished out two assists and came up with three steals. He was the only Hornet to reach double figure scoring.

Jason Casey added eight points for Phelps. Seth Mayhorn followed with six points and six rebounds. Dominick Francis scored three and Cameron Sanson chipped in with two points.

Phelps finished the season with a 15-15 record. The Hornets won their first 60th District title since 2012.

Shelby Valley (28-5) is scheduled to take on Johnson Central at 6:30 p.m. Friday night at the East Kentucky Expo Center in the 15th Region semifinals.

**Johnson Central's Gabe Ferrell goes up to block Prestonsburg's Grant Justice's shot attempt Monday night in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament at the East Kentucky Expo Center.**



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

**Prestonsburg's Kaleb Jarvis goes up for a layup against Johnson Central Monday night in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament at the East Kentucky Expo Center.**




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# Jaguars capture 58th District crown

By STEVE LEMASTER  
SPORTS WRITER

LOUISA — Floyd Central remains on top in the 58th District. The Jaguars, under the direction of head coach Shawn Hager, outlasted rival Prestonsburg 44-41 in the 58th District Boys' Basketball Tournament championship game at Lawrence County High School on Thursday night.

With the win, Floyd Central improved to 6-24.

Prestonsburg dropped to 16-15 with the loss.

Both Floyd Central and Prestonsburg advanced to the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament at the East Kentucky Expo Central in Pikeville.

Floyd Central shot 34.9 percent (15 of 43) from the field. The Jaguars were three of 13 (23.1 percent) from three-point range.

Floyd Central shot 64.7 percent (11 of 17) from the free-throw line.

The Jaguars and Blackcats swapped leads throughout the district title game. Prestonsburg packed a 19-15 lead into halftime but faltered after the intermission period.

Ethan Smith-Mills

led Floyd Central to the district title-clinching victory, scoring a game-high 19 points.

Brady Conn accompanied Smith-Mills in double figures in scoring and ranked as Floyd Central's top rebounder, finishing with 12 points and eight rebounds.

In another solid individual performance, Brandon Little added eight points and six rebounds for the Jaguars.

Rounding out the Floyd Central individual scoring, Blake Slone and Caleb Hager posted three points and two points, respectively.

Adam Slone paced Prestonsburg with a team-best 15 points. Accompanying Slone in double figures for the Blackcats, Graham Burchett added 11 points.

Blake Slone nearly reached double figures for Prestonsburg, posting nine points.

The other scorers for Prestonsburg were Grant Justice (four points) and Kaleb Jarvis (two points).

Along with Floyd Central and Prestonsburg, the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament field includes Johnson Central, Shelby Valley, Phelps, Paintsville, Pike County Central and Pikeville.



TOP: Floyd Central poses with the 58th District trophy at Lawrence County after knocking off Prestonsburg 44-41 in the 58th District championship game.

BOTTOM: Floyd Central's Ethan Smith-Mills goes up for a shot over a pair of Prestonsburg defenders in the 58th District championship. Floyd Central picked up a 44-41 win over the Blackcats to claim the 58th District title. Smith-Mills scored a game-high 19 points for the Jaguars.

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