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Wednesday, March 20, 2019

FLOYD COUNTY

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Cash flow 'critical' at Southern

PSC investigates Hall

Pillersdorf: Hall is 'scapegoat'

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

Prestonsburg attorney Ned Pillersdorf claims Southern Water & Sewer District Manager Dean

Hall is a "scapegoat" in a Kentucky Public Service Commission case in which Hall is accused of violating state laws and regulations.

The PSC launched an investigation into Hall that is separate from

See HALL, Page 6A



Southern Water & Sewer District Manager Dean Hall tells the commissioners that a transfer of assets in 2017, not a 60 percent water loss, caused the district's financial problems.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

Southern Water & Sewer District Commission Chairman Jeff Prater talks about the emergency financial situation the district faces.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows



Southern water declares 'emergency financial situation'

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

In a special meeting last week, the Southern Water & Sewer District Commission declared an

"emergency financial situation," asked the Floyd County Fiscal Court for help and started the process to file an emergency rate increase application with the Kentucky Public

Service Commission. Commissioners voted unanimously to declare an emergency financial situation, with Chairman

See SITUATION, Page 5A

OBITUARIES, 6A

Randy Glen Blocker
John K. Burchett
Donald S. Hensley
Everett Johnson
Shirley Lafferty
Emma McSurley
Velvia Prater
Sylvia Ramey
Larry D. Thompson
Elizabeth Varney

Operation Clean Sweep



Hundreds volunteer for cleanup

By ELAINE BELCHER
STAFF WRITER

The 2019 Operation Clean Sweep at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park Saturday drew more than 230 volunteers to help collect trash from throughout the park and

See CLEANUP, Page 3A

Martin violated open records laws, AG rules

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

In two separate decisions issued on March 14, the Kentucky Attorney General's Office ruled that the City of Martin violated open records laws.

Officials report that, in addition to failing to respond to open records

requests submitted by a county resident, Martin also failed to send its responses to the attorney general's office.

Both cases were filed by Prestonsburg resident Terry Thornsberry, a business owner who helped organize the "We the People" group — Floyd County residents

who are opposing an annexation that was recently proposed by Martin.

On Jan. 22, Thornsberry filed an open records request with Martin, seeking a long list of documentation including documents showing names of city employees, litigation the city's involved in, meeting

minutes and other information pertaining to city finances and other matters.

Thornsberry filed an appeal with the attorney general's office on Feb. 13, claiming the only response he received for the request was a phone call from Martin City Attorney Doug Adams on

Jan. 26.

Assistant Attorney General Gordon Slone, who filed the decision in the case, reported that Martin "subverted the intent" of the Open Records Act by failing to respond to the request for more than a month,

See MARTIN, Page 8A

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Reynolds: County's trash problem an 'epidemic'

County cleanup planned for April 13

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

Floyd County is expanding its annual spring cleanup this year and officials are seeking more volunteers to deal with what one official called a "litter epidemic problem."

For years, the fiscal court has hosted two annual cleanups, offering to pay tipping fees for litter picked up in the county. This year, however, the first week-long cleanup event will be followed by a "Floyd County Wide Community Clean-Up" day— with cookouts planned throughout county — and, officials are planning to host other events for appliance and tires later this spring.

"The county itself, I believe, we have a litter epidemic problem. Really. It's epidemic," said Joe Reynolds, the county code enforcement officer. "Nobody is showing respect and that's why we're trying to get the communities back involved. It don't matter if it's in northern Floyd County or southern Floyd County, people won't even clean up their yards anymore."

During the annual spring cleanup, Floyd County residents may dispose of garbage at the transfer station at Garth for free from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on April 8-12.

During the Floyd County Wide Community

Clean-up event on Saturday, April 13, the transfer station will accept garbage brought in between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon.

Reynolds invites community groups, churches and individuals to participate in the cleanup on from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on April 13, reporting that all county fire departments will provide trash bags to volunteers who want to cleanup their communities and, at 3 p.m., all volunteers are invited back to the fire departments for a community cookout. He said the county is providing about \$200 per fire department for the cookouts, reporting that People's Bank is donating some funding.

"On April 13, from 9 to 3 p.m., is the Floyd County Wide Community Clean-up," he said. "We're putting garbage bags at each fire station in the county. You go there and get the garbage bags we're just asking for everybody in community pick up ditch lines in front of their house and in yard, and leave bag beside the road and we'll pick that up."

He said the county litter abatement workers would pick up all garbage bags left beside the roads, beginning on April 15.

He said it's important to get the communities involved.

"They see their com-

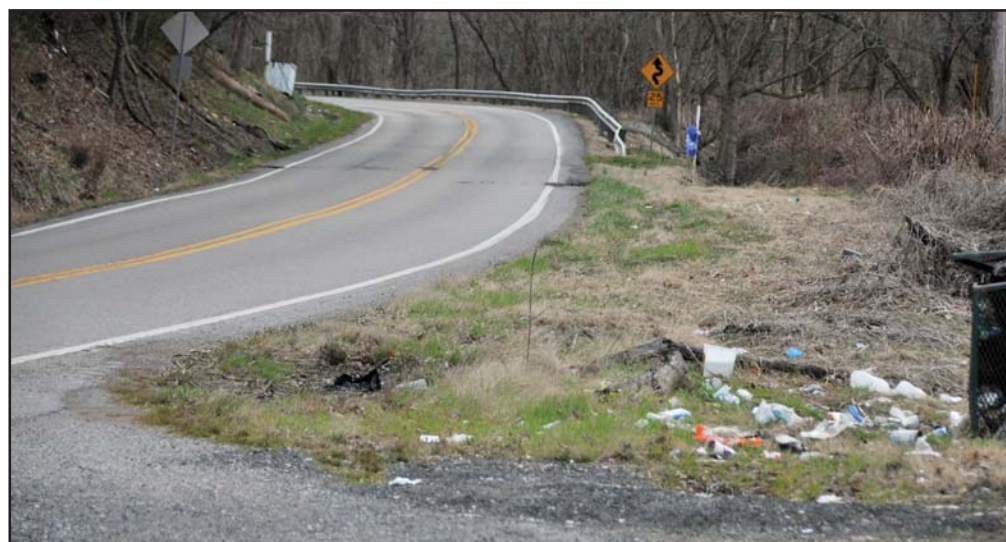
munity and how nasty it is," Reynolds said. "By getting them involved and asking them to come out and just pick up right in front of their house, hopefully that'll bring the county together as one and they'll not litter as bad. And that will also help, hopefully, when prospective businesses look at coming to Floyd County, they are not looking at trash in ditches. It's important for each community to just do their part and help, and maybe that will help a potential businesses to come to Floyd County and also take back pride in the communities. That way, maybe they won't throw their garbage out in the ditch again."

Reynolds said he's already received a lot of calls from groups expressing an interest in helping with the cleanup. He's also planning to host educational workshops for students in all elementary schools.

"Young kids are not taught responsibility from their parents," he said. "Our schools work as hard as they can to teach responsibility, to teach them the right way to do things. But it goes back to the parents teaching their kids to be responsible. If the parent does it, the kid will do it. Kids need to be taught not to litter. That's where it starts from ... People have lost respect



Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows
Trash litters the sides of Beaver Creek and Ky. 122, where an overflowing trash bin is located.



for their own community. That's why we're hoping to get the community involved and show and teach young kids that we can do better."

Since being hired in January, Reynolds said he has seen the cleanup of six illegal dumps in the county. He reported that he contacted county residents whose names were found among items that were tossed in these il-

legal dumps and, after sending letters, those residents cleaned up those dumps. One dump, he said, occurred after an elderly person hired someone to haul garbage to the transfer station, and the helper, instead, kept the money and illegally dumped the trash.

Reynolds said officials are planning to host an appliance pick-up event several weeks after this

community cleanup and a roadside tire pickup as well.

"It's ambitious. It really can be overwhelming, but it's exciting and it excites me to see everybody wanting to get involved," he said. "We want them to take pride in their community and hopefully be able to draw more businesses in here by having a nice, clean-looking community."

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More than 230 volunteers showed up for the 28th Annual Operation Clean Sweep to gather trash and debris from the grounds of the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park and Dewey Lake Saturday.

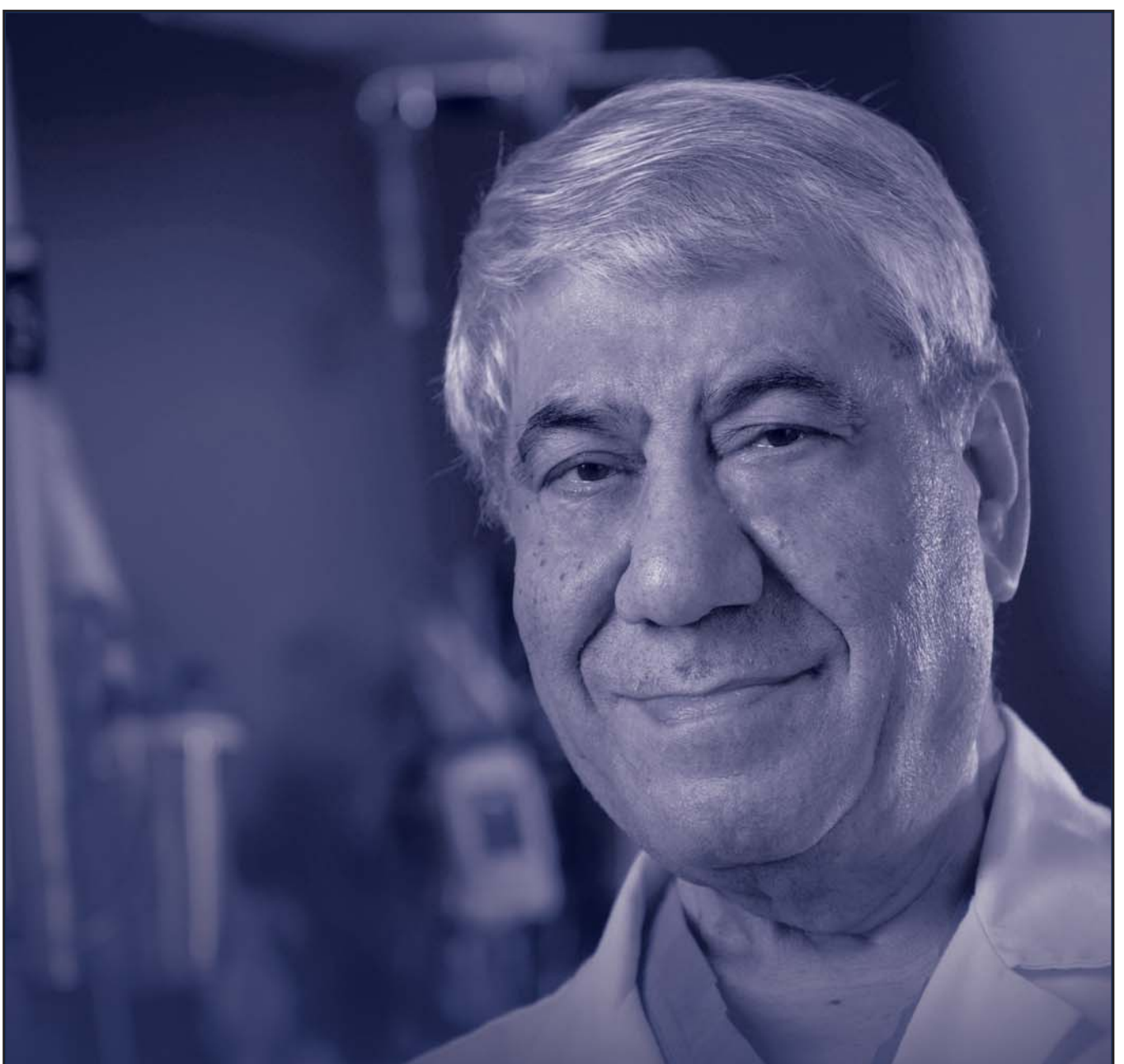
Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Elaine Belcher



Operation Clean Sweep coordinator Trinity Shepherd, right, pictured here with Friends of Jenny Wiley President Brittainy Branham and Bobber, the water safety dog, oversaw the efforts of 230 volunteers on Saturday.



Girl Scout Troop 5185 of Prestonsburg volunteered to collect trash during the annual Operation Clean Sweep at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park and Dewey Lake.



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CLEANUP

Continued From Page 1A

Dewey Lake.

According to Operation Clean Sweep organizer and JWSRP Park Interpreter Trinity Shepherd, an estimated 15-20 tons of trash were collected by organizations volunteering throughout the week, culminating with Saturday's event.

"This is the 28th year we have hosted Operation Clean Sweep and we are grateful for everyone who came out to support us," said Shepherd. "We only host an event like this once a year, and it's a great chance to give back to the park and care for the natural resources that help make the park so special."

He said that the park welcomes an estimated one million visitors each year taking advantage of the beautiful outdoor setting.

"While this is the only organized cleanup we hold each year, there

are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer with the park," said Shepherd. "Anyone interested can give me a call at, (606) 889-1790, or email, trinity.shepherd@ky.gov."

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Opening available for part time/full time police officer for the City of Wheelwright.

Must be experienced and academy trained. Applications may be pick up at Wheelwright City Hall from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Applications will be accepted until March 20, 2019.

EDITORIAL

Clean up Floyd County

The gorgeous weather this past weekend was perfect for volunteers to come out and help clean up Jenny Wiley State Resort Park and Dewey Lake for the 28th Annual Operation Clean Sweep. More than 200 people showed up and took the time to prepare the park for the upcoming outdoor season.

While the park is a great place to spend time outside, the rest of the

county needs help, too.

According to Joe Reynolds, Floyd County code enforcement officer, the litter problem in the county has reached "epidemic" proportions. He attributes this continuing problem to lack of respect.

Anyone can drive through the county to see what he's talking about. Quite a few property owners are ignoring the collection of trash in

their yards, while common areas such as roadsides, creeks and drainage ditches are choked with debris thrown from vehicles, blown by the wind or washed away by water.

While it may be easier and less effort to ignore the problem, trash build up leads to more problems down the road. Those creeks, waterways and ditches become so cluttered that it leads

to flooding because the water has no where else to go. Food wrappers and debris draw vermin, which can lead to the spread of disease. Plus, it's just nasty to look at.

Floyd County is one of the most beautiful places in Kentucky, and it's about time that each of us step up to do our part to keep it that way.

Floyd County is planning its annual spring cleanup for April 8-12,

and, for the first time, officials are also hosting the "Floyd County Wide Community Cleanup" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. All fire departments will provide trash bags to volunteers and reward them with cookouts on that day, and Reynolds said additional cleanup events are being planned.

We commend county leaders for the added emphasis on the need to

cleanup the county and for the efforts to educate children and increase community support in fixing the county's trash problem.

Sharing this responsibility and teaching our kids to do the same is just the first step in becoming a better place for all of us to live.

For questions or more information on the cleanup, call the courthouse at, (606) 886-9193.

GUEST COLUMN



By SENATOR
JOHNNY RAY TURNER

State senators worked late into the night last Wednesday and Thursday passing a myriad of bills and working to find mutual understanding on others before starting the veto recess.

Bills that received final passage covered a range of topics ranging from expungement to tax reform and their impact will be felt across the Commonwealth.

A high profile bill that meant to fix unintended consequences stemming from last year's tax reform measure has been sent

Senate Week in Review

to the governor. House Bill 354 clarifies that admission to fundraising events for nonprofits are exempt from sales taxes. This was a big concern in most of our communities. Another provision allows taxation of remote sales by online retailers per last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision in South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc. The bill also adds a tax credit to a small low-income group because they were paying more income taxes after last year's bill consolidated tax brackets.

Another major component of the bill eliminates Kentucky's bank franchise tax that is currently based on the banks' capital. Smaller banks have suffered under the franchise tax and, without this measure, there is fear that we will lose our smaller, local banks to neighboring states. Under HB 354, all banks in Kentucky would

instead pay corporate income tax beginning in 2021.

HB 354 also includes a lower property tax rate for heavy equipment rentals, exclude fees paid to enter fishing tournaments from the state tax definition of admissions, address extended warrants involving small rural telecommunication companies, and exclude poultry from the sales tax on veterinary services. Additionally, it adds a tax exemption for National Guard training income, among other tax changes.

Though some of the bill's provisions are good, the one thing we could have seen that was absent from the bill were measures that generate revenue. Still I supported the measure based on the adjustments it made from last year's bill. It has been sent to the governor's desk.

A bill that offers sec-

ond chances received its final passage Thursday. Senate Bill 57, which would expand the number of Kentuckians eligible to have low-level felonies expunged from their criminal records, passed the Senate 36-1.

The measure expands discretionary expungement to all Class D felonies, except those that involve a breach of public trust, sex offenses, crimes against children and violent crimes that may cause serious bodily injury or even death. Another provision of SB 57 outlines how the state handles expungement requests for crimes committed before 1975 when Kentucky changed its penal code.

Amendments the House made to SB 57 reduced the waiting period to apply for expungement to five from a 10-year waiting period. Under the new language, any expungement would not

become official until the applicant paid the processing fee, but that fee was cut in half to \$250.

This is good common-sense legislation and provides people with second chances by removing barriers for re-entry into the workforce and granting restoration of voting rights. SB 57 has been sent to the governor's desk.

Other issues addressed in the last three days:

- HB 268 opens the budget to include money to enable the governor to fund economic development projects, repairs to Kentucky's park system and research at some of Kentucky's universities. This bill passed 36-0. It has been sent to the governor.

- HB 296 makes it easier for veterans nursing homes to recruit nurses. HB 296 would create a Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs nurse

loan repayment program for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses within their employ. This measure passed the Senate 36-1 and has been delivered to the governor. I voted yes.

- HB 358, which allows the postsecondary institutions and quasi-governmental agencies to voluntarily cease participation in the Kentucky Education Retirement System by paying the actuarial costs of ceasing participation, passed 25-12. The House did not concur with changes to the bill when it was in the Senate so the measure now will go to a conference committee for a compromise. I voted no because I think this measure will hurt the health departments and other quasi-governmental agencies. If we do reach a compromise in a conference committee and pass it on the last day, the bill will go to the governor and I think he will veto it.

- SB 84 as amended by the House requires the advisory council created by the bill to issue its recommendations for

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CHRONICLE & TIMES

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By Christopher Epling c 2019 Floyd County Chronicle and Times 03.20.19

P'burg council explores online surplus sales

By **ELAINE BELCHER**
STAFF WRITER

For the first time, surplus city equipment will be sold through online auction, according to a report presented to the Prestonsburg City Council during its regular meeting Monday.

According to James Allen, Prestonsburg surplus equipment manager, two police cruisers with an estimated 150,000 miles on them, a skid-steer and a Ford utility truck are the first group of items to be posted to govdeals.com, to be sold at online auction.

"Since we are new to all of this, we're starting with four items and will see how that goes before posting four more," said Allen. "We'll probably

have four or five items on there all the time by the time we get up and running."

The GovDeals website is a website that lets individuals or groups bid on government surplus and unclaimed property from local, state and federal organizations, including heavy equipment, cars, trucks, buses and airplanes.

"We have some items that, at one point, could have been utilized, but due to lack of funding for projects, we can't use them now," said Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton. "For example, we got a bunch of turf that was bought in 2012. We have enough turf to fill this room from top to bottom, and we've run out of places to store it."

Council member Shag Branham asked, "Is that from when we tried to go semi-pro? And we bought that big metal building and were going to put it in that?"

"We have no use for it," said Stapleton. "If we had a community center, it would have been great to put in there, but the funding is just not there for community centers right now. The funding is going in different directions."

Stapleton made a motion to declare the 20,000 square feet of artificial turf and the 100 foot by 200 foot metal building frame as surplus equipment to be sold. Stapleton said he thought that the metal building frame had been purchased for \$16,800.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Elaine Belcher
Two cruisers, a skid steer and a utility truck declared surplus items by the Prestonsburg City Council were, for the first time, placed for online auction Monday at govdeals.com.

"It's a heck of a deal on the frame," he said. "I was on the city council at that time, and for what we were going to use it for up on the hill, it was for

the perfect purpose. But you can't find funding for that right now. Although we are very stable and secure situation financially, we can't put forth that

kind of money right now." Allen said that surplus items from Prestonsburg should be posted on govdeals.com, starting Wednesday.

SITUATION

Continued From Page 1A

Jeff Prater calling it a "critical situation." He said the cash flow problem is impacting day-to-day operations.

"Cash flow is at a critical situation and we have an obligation or responsibility to continue water service, and the cash flow is very bad," Prater said.

Commission member Rick Roberts asked, "Can you give us an estimate, since we're declaring for a financial situation, how viable are we at this point and how much longer can we continue to operate under the same status that we are today?"

Prater told him, "I think at the end of this month, the cash is going to be so critical, that we're going to have to have some additional funding by the end of this month. The rate increase, even an emergency rate increase, I feel like three months would be very optimistic with that."

The last two financial reports approved by the commission show Southern Water had an operating loss of \$62,600 in January, and that it's operating loss was more than \$500,000 in the 2018 calendar year. The reports also showed a negative balance of about \$14,000 in one of the district's bank accounts in January.

In addition to voting to declare an emergency financial situation, the commission also voted to seek financial help, or, as clarified by Prater, seek "help from the Floyd County Fiscal Court which may be in the form of financial aid."

"I do not believe that Dean (Hall) has sufficient cash flow to keep operating without the emergency rate proposal. It's going to take, at the best, several months. In order to keep the service going, we're going to need some cash, and I would like to officially reach out to the Floyd County Fiscal Court," Prater said.

He was talking about the commission's approval of another matter at the meeting: A unanimous vote to request that the Kentucky Rural Water Association provide the district with a proposed emergency application for a rate increase.

Prater said the proposal would be brought to the commission for approval before it is sent to the PSC, and officials said the emergency application process would take at least three months. Prater said it would be filed as an emergency "because the timing is going to be very critical to, in order to address the negative cash flow."

"We are going to need some help for the short-term. I feel like that we're looking at 90 to 120 days minimum, but we're

going to need some help for a short time," he said.

Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams commended commission members for their service and suggested that getting financial help from the fiscal court might be difficult. He told them the fiscal court is "going to do what we can."

For more than a decade, fiscal court members have repeatedly complained about having to pay a \$2 million Southern Water bond that the fiscal court backed years ago.

"It's not secret. There are some hurdles that will have to be overcome with some of the bonds and some of the debt that the fiscal court has had to deal with in the past with Southern, but I think in light of the situation, we'll definitely step up and do what we have to do to keep the water flowing," Williams said.

After the vote was taken, he emphasized the issue.

"What you have to realize, guys, is half of the county don't give a crap about Southern Water District. Half the county; we're up Beaver Creek. You're up Beaver Creek. So you have to understand the situation that we're in here. You've got to sell this to magistrates on the other end of the county in trying to get some help. There's a lot of folks that don't care,"

Williams said.

Discussions centered around Southern's 60 percent water loss — a problem that prompted the PSC to open an investigation into the district and others in the state.

Commissioner Donnie Daniels asked General Manager Dean Hall about a written plan to address the water loss. Hall told him, "We're at ground zero, as far as a written plan." He talked about the need for money to fix old water lines and install new water meters — measures discussed at previous meetings.

Roberts asked Hall to create a written plan for cutting costs within a week.

"I'm glad Donnie brought that up, but I think Dean needs to understand as being manager, you know, you've foreseen this coming. Okay. This just didn't sneak up on us overnight," he said. "So, I think it's in dire straits that you come up with some kind of a plan within the next week, some kind of a written plan of ways to cut costs."

Hall said, however, that he can't create a plan within a week because he is dealing with other PSC issues that concern both him and the water district. When Roberts asked for a timeframe for the plan, Hall responded by defending the district's use of overtime. Hall said he doesn't know how to

cut out overtime unless "we just don't work it."

"Well, we don't plan work after quit time," Hall said. "So, our options are ... I'll talk my directive from this board. If you want me to, at 4 o'clock, and there's a major water leak, if you want me to go shut it off and leave the people out of water and us not work, and reduce the overtime, hey, I'll do it — if you want the heat from it. But if you want people's water on consistently, you work when there's an emergency, and we don't plan emergencies and we don't plan water leaks. So, if you want the water on and you want us to work it, we'll do it. If you don't we won't."

Roberts repeated his request, asking that Hall look at district operations with a "microscope" to determine ways to save money, if it's only \$100 a month.

Hall then provided history of the district's water loss, alleging that the system was "poorly constructed from the beginning."

When Roberts asked him why there is a financial emergency today, Hall blamed it on the loss of about \$45,000 in revenues a month from the 2017 transfer agreement between Southern Water and Prestonsburg City Utilities — the same thing he said when he was

questioned by the PSC during a hearing in January. The former Southern Water commission and the PSC approved that transfer, in which 1,100 Southern Water customers were transferred to Prestonsburg. The transfer, however, is still pending, and Southern Water has not paid sewage collections it has received to Prestonsburg for months.

Hall told the commission that Southern Water was "financially sound" before the asset transfer and "then we went broke."

"It's a good point, to bring up and fuss and bicker about the water loss, but the water loss never put us in this position. You need to go back to the transfer of assets, and there's your problem," Hall said.

The PSC estimates that Southern's water loss of 60 percent equals a revenue loss of \$386,000 annually.

Both Prater and Williams emphasized that Southern Water will continue providing water to customers.

Talking about seeking grant funding and/or traveling to Frankfort to seek funding from other state agencies, Williams said, "The water is not going to be turned off. That's a promise. No service is going to be compromised and the water's not going to be turned off."

REVIEW

Continued From Page 4A

regulatory guidelines for certified professional midwives (CPMs) to the state Board of Nursing within a year after the law takes effect. Those guidelines would cover — among other provisions — allowed use of medications, ordering of medical tests, and policies for transfer to hospitals when necessary. The bill, as amended by the House, also clarifies that physicians or other licensed health care providers would not be liable in legal actions taken against a CPM. SB 84 makes Kentucky the 34th state to legally recognize licensed CPMs. SB 84 passed 35-1 and has been delivered to the

governor. I voted yes.

• HB 46, which would require public schools to display "In God We Trust" in a predominant location in the school, passed 29-8.

On the 29th day of session, the Senate passed 83 bills. There are others waiting to get approval when we return

to the Capitol to take up business. Most members have returned to their districts until after the 10-day veto period. We will return to the Capitol on March 28 to consider overriding any vetoes by the governor — and to pass additional legislation — before wrapping up the 2019 Legislative Session.

There are bills in play that may still see passage. I encourage you to stay engaged and share your input. You can leave a message for me at, (800) 372-7181, or for those who are hearing impaired, at, (800) 896-0305. You can also e-mail me at, johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov.



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FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES OBITUARIES

Randy Glen Blocker

Randy Glen Blocker, 61, of Weeksbury, died Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Visitation began on Tuesday, March 19, and will continue Wednesday, March 20, at Weeksbury House of God, Weeksbury.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, March 21, at the church.

Burial will follow in the John Meade Cemetery, Caleb Fork, Weeksbury.

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

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

Emma McSurley

Emma McSurley, 90, of Lexington, formerly of McDowell, died Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 17, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel.

Burial followed in Davidson Memorial Gardens, Ivel.

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

Velvia Prater

Velvia Prater, 85, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, March 15, 2019.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Sunday, March 17, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Burial followed in the Alex Prater Cemetery, Abbott, Prestonsburg.

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

Sylvia (McKinney) Ramey

Sylvia (McKinney) Ramey, 80, of Hueysville, died Friday, March 15, 2019.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 19, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

Burial followed in the Ox Spring and Ramey Cemetery, Quicksand, Hueysville.

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

Larry Dwaine Thompson

Larry Dwaine Thompson, 50, of Strawberry Plains, Tenn., formerly of Allen, died Friday, March 15, 2019.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 20, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

Burial will follow in Davidson Memorial Gardens, Ivel.

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

Elizabeth Varney

Elizabeth Mae (Miller) Varney, 59, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Monday, March 4, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel.

Burial followed in the Varney Family Cemetery, Prestonsburg.

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

Spradlin graduates from Department of Criminal Justice training



Submitted photo
Prestonsburg Assistance Police Chief Mike Conn stands with 911 Dispatcher Jonathan Spradlin, who recently graduated from the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training. Spradlin also served in the class leadership as Honor Code Representative during the five-week training.

HALL

Continued From Page 1A

another investigation it launched last week into Southern Water and nine other utilities with high water loss rates.

The PSC alleges that Hall "willfully aided and abetted" violations of a law requiring the district to test meters every 10 years, failed to provide "adequate and safe service due to water loss," and failed to require fire departments to file quarterly usage reports for free water. The order also questions whether Hall provided water to customers without charging them for the service.

Pillersdorf notified the PSC Monday that he is representing Hall in the case.

"Unfortunately, he's been made the scapegoat for disastrous financial decisions that the board made, and, actually, I think he's been heroic throughout this crisis in keeping the water system functioning," Pillersdorf said.

In the case, the PSC refers to testimony Hall supplied gave in January, as well as the district's 2018 annual report, which was filed on March 6 and other documents the district has provided over the years. The PSC notes the investigation was started because of a rate increase application Southern previously filed which was denied recently.

During the rate case, the PSC learned that Southern Water received loans without PSC approval, had a 60 percent water loss rate and didn't comply with its tariff provisions that require fire department to file quarterly water usage reports or be assessed a penalty for not filing those reports.

Referring to the hearing held in that case in January, the PSC order states, "In the course of the hearing, the commission identified additional issues pertaining to fail-

ure to comply with meter testing regulations and allegations that customers were not being billed for the water they consumed."

It notes that the PSC was notified about the recent resignations of all Southern commissioners, and says that Hall remains employed as the manager. He has worked for Southern for 25 years and has served as manager for five years.

The PSC alleges that Hall "willfully aided and abetted" violations of a law requiring the district to test small meters every 10 years, reporting that Hall said the lack of cash flow prevented meter testing and that the district was seeking funding for radio-read meters. When the district was cited for that issue in 2017, Hall said he would begin testing meters the following year, but failed to do so, the PSC reported.

The PSC alleges that Hall failed to provide "adequate and safe service due to water loss," reporting that the district's water loss rate of 61.5 percent in September 2018, 61.6 percent in October 2018 and 71 percent in November 2018.

The PSC claims in the case that Hall was "directed to formulate and implement a written plan" to reduce water loss in 2017, 2018 and this year. Hall attributed the water loss to aging lines, theft and the region's terrain.

The PSC noted that "despite assurances" by Hall, Southern Water didn't develop a leak detection operating procedure until the Kentucky Rural Water Association created it in December 2018.

"The commission is particularly concerned that Southern District is operating at a deficit, in large part because approximately 50 percent of water produced and distributed by Southern District does not produce revenue," the PSC wrote. "Due to the failure

Floyd company to repair slides in Pike County

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

A Floyd County company was awarded a bid to repair three slides in Pikeville.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet awarded a \$152,352 contract to NATTCO, Inc. of Stanville for work on KY 1469, KY 3414 and KY 3415.

On KY 1469, Long Fork, the slide location starts a little more than three miles from the Letcher County line and runs to two-tenths of a

mile east of Tackett Hollow, a distance of 7.75 miles.

Work on the Left Fork of Long Fork, KY 3414, starts a half-mile from the beginning of state maintenance and extends east to about four-tenths of a mile west of KY 1469, a distance of 2.51 miles.

The third site is on Little Robinson Creek (KY 3415), between mile points 1.357 and 1.718, a distance of 0.36 miles.

The work must be completed by Sept. 30, KYTC reported.

John K. Burchett

John Kenneth Burchett, 79, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, March 16, 2019.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, March 19, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

Burial followed in the John Kenneth Burchett Family Cemetery, Prestonsburg.

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

Donald Stanley Hensley

Donald "Tan" Stanley Hensley, 75, of Langley, died Friday, March 1, 2019.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Monday, March 4, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

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

Everett Johnson

Everett "Pete" Johnson, 70, of Wheelwright, died Saturday, March 16, 2019.

Visitation began on Tuesday, March 19, and will continue Wednesday, March 20, at the Wheelwright Freewill Baptist Church, Byrpo.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, March 21, at the church.

Burial will follow in the Frank Johnson Cemetery, Rileys Branch, Bevinville.

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

Shirley Lafferty

Shirley Gay Duff Lafferty, 80, of Hueysville, died Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 20, in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin.

Burial will follow in the East Gate Memorial Gardens, Eastern.

to timely address significant water loss, Southern District incurs expenses to purchase and treat the water that is subsequently unaccounted for. Because of excessive water loss, Southern District experiences lost revenues of approximately \$386,000 annually.

The PSC also questions whether Hall traded free water for services.

It noted that Turner E. Campbell, former superintendent of Prestonsburg Utilities Commission, testified that PCUC found 40 customers in the Harold and Betsy Layne areas that were receiving free water services due to straight hookups or because meters were unread and unbilled. In questioning that issue, the PSC also cites questions from the hearing about Southern Water providing water to businesses in exchange for services and testimony from a KRWA representative who referred to tests he conducted that could show meters were not being read. In the case, the PSC asks Hall to provide copies of all documents that evidence Champs' Country Cooking's water usage since 2015 and all payments received for water from that restaurant in that time. Pillersdorf said Hall denies allegations that he traded water for services.

The PSC also alleged that Hall failed to obtain prior approval before obtaining a two-year \$41,355 loan from Citizens National Bank in 2015 for an excavator. The loan was set to expire in 2017, the PSC reported, but Hall extended the maturity date for the loan to August 2019, at a higher interest rate. The PSC alleges that the loan and the change in terms agreement "create the appearance that Mr. Hall had an improper intent" in regards to complying with a state law that prohibits utilities from getting a loan that spans more than two years without approval from the

PSC.

All former board members recently resigned and were replaced by new members that have been working to fix problems at Southern Water. During a special meeting last week, the commission voted to declare a financial emergency, seek help from the fiscal court and take steps to file an emergency rate increase application with the PSC.

Discussions at that meeting centered around the district's 60 percent water loss, and Hall told commission members that the district was "poorly constructed from the beginning."

"They've been a 40 to 50 percent water loss from this utility since day one," he said. "So don't sit and think that in the last four and five years that we've automatically went to pieces with high water loss. This has been a problem since this utility was constructed. It was poorly constructed in the beginning, and the lines were in a bad place. I'm not making no excuses, but people have been fighting this for 50 years and this is why we are where we are."

He blamed the district's financial problems on the asset transfer agreement with Prestonsburg, saying that "water loss never put us in this position."

Pillersdorf referenced testimony given by former Southern District Commission Chairperson Paula Johnson, who reported that 99 percent of Floyd County residents have access to water. He said Southern Water would not be in a financial crisis if prior fiscal courts hadn't expanded water services to 99 percent of the county and if previous commissioners had not approved transferring 1,100 of the district's "best paying customers" to Prestonsburg City Utilities.

Pillersdorf said Hall does not make the economic decisions for the commission.

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Citizen complaint leads to drug bust

Four Pike County residents arrested, one hospitalized

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

What started as an investigation into a "shots fired" complaint led to a drug bust for Floyd County law enforcement officials Friday.

At approximately 12:30 a.m. on Friday, March 15, Floyd County Sheriff deputies responded to the Justell area of Betsy Layne to investigate a complaint about shots being fired in the neighborhood. They were told a small SUV was in the area, Sheriff John Hunt said.

Floyd County Sheriff Department Sgt. Oliver Little and deputies Justin Szymchack, Kevin Johnson and Jacob Calhoun were assisted at the scene by the Martin Police Department, Hunt said.

"The deputies responded to a complaint of what neighbors thought was gunshots coming from a vehicle, and the vehicle described was a white, small SUV," Hunt said. "And when deputies found it, they stopped it, and then from there, it led to one suspicious act after another and four individuals ... were arrested."

Hunt said the occupants were "being fidgety."

"They were hiding stuff, just being fidgety. Deputies thought they were trying to hide something, which they did later find pill bottles hidden in the crotch area of one guy," he said.

Hunt said deputies found 20 or 30 pill bottles filled with hundreds of pills, several baggies containing about 90 grams of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and a semi-automatic handgun. He said deputies could not recover one item that was thrown off of the Justell bridge.

Deputies arrested Amy R. Bevins, 40, and



Amy Bevins



Kevin Jarrod Worrix



Frankie Myers

Frankie Myers, 41, both of Hardy, and Pikeville resident Kevin Jarrod Worrix, 41, charging them with first-degree trafficking of a controlled substance, more than two grams of methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Bevins, who was identified in court documents as the driver of the vehicle, was also charged with second-degree fleeing/evading police for allegedly continuing to drive after deputies attempted to pull her vehicle over on the Justell Bridge.

Court documents disclose that Jennifer Gillman, 39, was also arrested, but her citation had not been filed in Floyd County District Court prior to print deadline on Friday.

Hunt reported that one person who was arrested was taken to the hospital for a suspected overdose.

"One of them was ended up taken to the hospital. Her actions just became more and more not normal, and Oliver (Little) being a trained paramedic, and the jail, too, thought something was going on with her. She has been taken to Highlands Regional," he said.

Hunt thanked community members who called to report shots fired in Justell, saying that the caller provided "very detailed descriptions" of the vehicle and which direction it was headed.

"Communities are getting tired of it. They see it in their neighbor-

hood and they see it's not getting any better, either, and they're doing everything they can to help us, and we appreciate it," he said. "That's what we ask, is that, we can't be everywhere, but some of these neighborhoods are worse than others, and if we can get the right people in there at the right time of night or day, then hopefully, it makes a difference and takes some of them out of there."

He said the local meth problem has gotten worse over the past few years.

"Meth is just absolutely consuming our time. I mean, we can't get a minute's break for it," he said. "This is probably, these four right here, is probably our 11th arrest or 12th arrest in the last two or three nights just for meth and trafficking. I'm talking about not just addicts. We're arresting dealers with sizable amounts of meth."

The estimated 100 grams of meth seized in this arrest would be enough to provide 180 or more shots from a syringe, Hunt said.

"It looks like the same meth that's being brought in," Hunt said. "It's real crystal-like. It's not your junk meth that, you know, we seen two or three years ago. We haven't seen that in a while, the dirty, yellowish-looking meth. This is real crystal-like, clear-looking, and to be honest with you, by the reactions of the users, it's more pure than what we dealt with two years ago. The people who are



Submitted photo

Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt reports that there were hundreds of pills and about 100 grams of meth found during a traffic stop on the Justell Bridge in Betsy Layne.

taking this meth, the actions of them, we have noticed a difference in the last year or two, with this meth that's being brought in from Lexington or Detroit, or wherever it's coming from."

He believes the methamphetamine is impacting the mental health of addicts.

"I think, to be honest with you, it seems to be more permanent, the effects seem to be more permanent. I tell you, it is scary to see the number of mental patients that we are transporting for evaluations or to mental hospitals that are young. ... Drugs are obviously the reason," he said.

He said inmates the department transport-


ed years ago for mental evaluations were elderly. Now, they're younger, he said.

"We see people that we know, that we've known for years — five years, seven years, some longer — not just in our job, but personally; people that we dealt with job-related things, two years ago," he said. "You know, then, temporarily, they were just an intoxicated or impaired person, but the next day or two, they were back to normal. Well, we're seeing people today that normalcy has left them. Their parents will tell you the same thing. Something has happened."


Bevins, Myers and Worrix were arraigned

in Floyd District Court on Friday. District Judge Eric Hall placed them each under bonds of \$5,000 cash. He scheduled preliminary hearings to be held this week in the cases.





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P'burg resident sentenced to six years for assault

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Prestonsburg resident who allegedly hit three people with a vehicle while driving under the influence in 2017 was sentenced to six years in prison this month.

Michael Sanders, 40, of Prestonsburg, was

given three six-year sentences, all to run concurrently to each other and to another a 12-month sentence he was given when he appeared in court this month.

He was originally charged with three counts of first-degree assault and one count of failure to maintain in-

surance, but the assault charges were amended to second degree in February, per an agreement with the Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

According to documents filed recently in Floyd Circuit Court, the commonwealth offered the six-year sentence for

the amended charges after consultations with victims in the case.

Sanders, represented by attorney Will Collins, was indicted in March 2018 for intentionally causing "serious physical injury" to William Mullins, Aaron Kimbler and a child by striking them with his vehicle on July 3, 2017,

while they were walking along Ky. 302 near the entrance to Jenny Wiley State Resort Park.

After the crash occurred, Sanders pleaded guilty to driving under the

influence and leaving the scene of a crash. A passenger, Shana Sanders, was charged in district court for allegedly falsely reporting an incident and hindering prosecution.

Prestonsburg PD releases activity report

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Prestonsburg Police Department reported the following activities for March 7-14:

Wrecks: 5
Cases opened: 1, second-degree assault
Arrests: 9
Processes served: 2
Complaints: 148

Charges

1: contempt of court, libel/slander/resistance to order

1: warrant for first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance

(opiates)

2: fourth-degree assault

1: second-degree wanton endangerment

2: menacing

1: violation of an emergency protection order

2: third-degree criminal mischief

3: driving under the influence

1: nonpayment of fines

1: first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance

2: persistent felony offender

3: parole violations

4: public intoxication

1: open alcoholic beverage in a moving vehicle

2: possession of drug paraphernalia

3: no registration receipt

4: failure to produce insurance card

2: failure to appear

2: probation violation



ATTENTION: Garden Seed Vendors

Vendors interested in providing Garden Seed Program items (seeds, plants, fertilizer for food bearing gardens) during the 2019 Garden Seed Program administered through Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) must contact the BSACAP central office by Friday, March 22, 2019 in order to sign up.

The intent of the program is to provide low-income households in Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike counties with the essential materials to start growing a vegetable garden. Eligible program participants receive a \$40, tax-exempt voucher to purchase garden products from local vendors. Vouchers cannot be used to purchase garden tools or equipment.

Interested vendors should sign up at the BSACAP Central Office located at the Johnson County Courthouse, Room 323, Paintsville, KY 41240. If you have any questions, call (606) 789-3641.

MARTIN

Continued From Page 1A

provide a "detailed explanation" for the delay or provide a date in which the records would be available, as required by open records laws.

Slope also claims that Adams failed to submit the city's response to the attorney general's office.

"This office telephonically notified the office of the city attorney that the request was granted and the city could respond to the appeal no later than Friday, February 22. This office has received no written response to the appeal, other than the request to postpone the response," Slope wrote in the decision.

The decision notes that state law requires public agencies to provide access to public records within three days after an open records request is filed. It also notes that any extension of the three-day deadline for disclosure "must be accompanied by a detailed explanation of the cause for delay" and a date when the records will be available.

"The City has failed to provide any reasonable or detailed explanation for the delay in honoring (Thornsberry's) request, thereby failing to fulfill its obligation under KRS 61.872 (5)," the decision says. It notes that the requirements of the Open Records Act "are not mere formalities, but are essential part of the prompt and orderly processing of an open

records request."

"The City must immediately make arrangements to produce the requested records to (Thornsberry)," the decision says.

The second decision, written by Assistant Attorney General James M. Herrick, cites the city for the same type of issue. It reports that Martin "procedurally and substantively" violated the Open Records Act by failing to respond to a request in writing and "failing, without explanation," to provide any records in response to the request.

That decision stems from Thornsberry's Jan. 29 request for a copy of the city's Code of Ordinances.

Thornsberry alleged the city failed to respond to the open records request. Herrick reported that the attorney general's office gave Martin an extension of time to submit a response to Thornsberry's complain, but the office did not receive a response.

"Since the city never provided any records or any explanation for its failure to do so, or, indeed, a written response of any kind, we conclude that it committed both procedural and substantive violations of the Open Records Act."

The decision notes that the city could have required Thornsberry to inspect the records in person. It stated, "This does not, however, excuse the city from its obligation to respond to an open records request in writing."

BSACAP ANNOUNCES BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

In accordance with its bylaws, Big Sandy Area Community Action's Board of Directors will meet on the following dates in 2019:

- January 22, 2019
- March 26, 2019
- May 28, 2019
- July 23, 2019
- September 24, 2019
- November 26, 2019

Meetings will be held at the May Lodge, Jenny Wiley State Park, Prestonsburg, KY, at 7 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Location subject to change. Please call (606) 789-3641 to confirm.

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Wheelwright native honored for teaching

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Wheelwright native Nancy Hall Duncan was inducted into the Gov. Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame last week.

Duncan, who began her teaching career in 1965 and retired in 1998, fell in love with teaching as a youngster.

"My sixth-grade teacher picked me along with a few others to go and tutor the first grade students," she said. "I loved it and I knew from the sixth grade on I was going to be a teacher."

A native of Wheelwright in Floyd County, Duncan was the first in her family to earn a bachelor's degree.

She attended Union College and Western Kentucky State College, earning a degree in Home Economics while balancing obligations to her family. She earned

her master's degree in 1975 from WKU and a Rank I Certification in 1993 from the University of Kentucky.

Her teaching career began in 1965 at Auburn High School in Logan County and it continued at Russellville Middle School (1966-1972), Morgantown Elementary School (1975-1978) and Woodford County High School (1978-1998).

"I have so many wonderful memories," Duncan said. "I was blessed with wonderful students."

One of those students was Amanda Ellis, Deputy Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education, who said, "Nancy Hall Duncan has greatly impacted students, teachers and our community in each role she has served in the school and outside of it."

Ellis, a former teacher and principal, said Duncan was "a wonderful educator who has had



Photo courtesy of Bryan Lemon/Western Kentucky University
Floyd County native Nancy Hall Duncan was inducted into the Gov. Louis B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame on March 13. She's pictured alongside Dr. Corinne Murphy, left, dean of Western Kentucky University's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and Amanda Ellis, right, deputy commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education.

a lasting impact on her community and the lives of so many students."

Duncan's daughter, Pam, teaches math at Woodford County High School.

"As I became a teacher I realized my mom was almost super woman," she said. "To

be a wonderful wife, to be a wonderful mother, to be a wonderful church member and influence all these lives in education."

The Governor Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame was created in 2000 through a gift by the former governor who hoped to recognize the

vital role that classroom teachers in Kentucky play in the education of young people and the positive impact education has on the state's economy. Western Kentucky University was selected as the home of the Teacher Hall of Fame because of its more than 100-year

history in teacher education.

The inductees are chosen by a statewide selection committee.

To make a nomination for a future Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame winner, visit the nomination link at, wku.edu.

Floyd County Job Club seeks clients

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Floyd County Job Club is seeking new clients.

Participants will receive information and resources that can help them find employment.

"With practical lessons and expert-led activities planned to help get you back to work, Job Club in Floyd County is now better positioned than ever to deliver hands-on assistance that can help you write a professional resume, learn how to succeed in job interviews, connect with employers, workforce professionals and other job seekers and create a winning game plan for your job search," a press release from the organization said.

Job Club members will learn how to build job leads, get job search advice, have access to job networking opportunities and build

a professional resume.

"The experts who will guide you through Job Clubs and on your way to a successful new job have been in this industry for years and know what needs to be done to get you on the fast track toward employment," the press release said.

The program is offered through a partnership between the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, the Kentucky Career Center Career Development office and Big Sandy Community Action Program.

The Floyd County Job Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 4, at the Prestonsburg Kentucky Career Center, located at 686 North Lake Drive. All new members are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes prior to the meeting for orientation.

For more information, call, (606) 889-1772.



Registration underway for STEM camp

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Big Sandy Community and Technical College is hosting a free camp for middle school girls this summer.

It is free and open to 100 girls.

The Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Camp for Middle School Girls will be offered June 10-28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and 10 Saturdays on the college's Prestonsburg campus. Any girl who wants to

learn more about virtual and augmented reality, electronics and coding, 3D design/printing, design thinking and entrepreneurship is encouraged to register.

Following the summer, the students will participate in monthly sessions throughout the academic year where they will develop a technology solution for a community problem that aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Lunch, refreshments and trans-

portation to/from the community college will be provided to the campers at no-cost during the summer sessions. Each camper will receive a Verizon Ellipsis 10 tablet to keep, provided that they attend 80 percent of the camp programming.

The camp is one of several that are taking place at 16 community colleges that are partnering with Verizon Innovative Learning to introduce middle school girls in rural parts of the country to science, technology,

engineering and math (STEM) skills. Launched in partnership with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), the 2-year program was piloted in 2017 at five community colleges. In 2018, eleven more community colleges joined the program making the total program reach 1,500 middle school girls, Verizon reported in a press release.

To register, visit, the registration link at, nacce.com.

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2. Each clue will be printed in the paper only once. Previous clues can be found at Official Sponsor Locations (listed below). Clues are posted at Official Sponsor Locations 24 hours before each publication.
3. Discover the egg. The egg is located on public property in an easy accessible hiding place. No stunts required!
4. Bring the egg and the enclosed certificate to the Chronicle & Times office at 197 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, between 9am-5pm weekdays, and you will win \$500! Prize must be claimed by April 30, 2019.
5. Employees of Appalachian Newspapers Inc. and their families are ineligible to win.
6. Appalachian Newspapers Inc. and the Official Sponsors are not liable for any injuries, damages, or losses resulting from your participation. Your attempt to locate the egg is acknowledgment that you agree and hold said parties harmless.



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Moore's named to All-Region Tourney Team

By **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

Floyd Central sophomore guard Katie Moore and senior forward Kaylee Moore were among the players named to the All-15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament Team at the East Kentucky Expo Center on Tuesday night.

In two games in the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament, Katie Moore scored 20 points and pulled down 12 rebounds. During the same stretch, Kaylee Moore posted 15 points and eight rebounds.

Floyd Central reached the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament Semifinals. Kaylee Moore was saddled with early foul trouble during

Floyd Central's matchup versus eventual champion Pikeville in the second round of the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament.

The 2019 All-15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament Team was as follows: Ashlee Belcher (Johnson Central), Alaina Castle (Johnson Central), Kirsten Cole-Williamson (Pikeville, MVP), Alyssa Elswick

(Shelby Valley), Hannah Fitch (Johnson Central), Alivia Gearheart (Pikeville), Kenzie Maynard (Belfry), Kylie Maynard (Lawrence County), Katie Moore (Floyd Central), Cassidy Mullins (Pike County Central), Alyssa Newsom (Shelby Valley), Trinity Rowe (Pikeville), Leslie Stewart (Pikeville), Kelsey Jo Tackett (Pikeville).



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Floyd Central's Katie Moore goes up for a shot over a Magoffin County defender in the 15th Region Tournament. Katie Moore was named to the 15th Region All-Tournament Team.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Floyd Central's Kaylee Moore goes up for a shot over a Magoffin County defender in the 15th Region Tournament. Katie Moore was named to the 15th Region All-Tournament Team.

Kansas City business trip

By **RANDY WHITE**
REGIONAL SPORTS EDITOR

UPIke is making its annually business trip to Kansas City.

The Bears are once again making their way to Kansas City to take part in the NAIA National Championship Tournament.

UPIke's ticket was punched last week during the NAIA Selection Show.

The Bears finished second in the regular season in the Mid-South Conference be-

hind Georgetown. UPIke then fell to Life 96-94 in a triple overtime thriller in the Mid-South Conference Tournament at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

The Bears enter the NAIA National Championship Tournament with a No. 4 seed.

UPIke will take on No. 5 seed Talladega College in the opening round of the NAIA National Championship Tournament.

UPIke will play take on Talladega College at 10:00 a.m. Thursday

See TRIP, Page 2B

UPIke's Stanley Perrin



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TRIP

Continued From Page 1B

morning. It will be the first game of the second day of first round games. The first round has eight games played over two days.

"We've had a productive week," UPIke coach Kelly Wells said. "We get to square away and work on some details on our team and now, we get to shift gears and start preparing specifically for Talladega. They are a very good team. They are a very solid team. They play in a great conference in the Gulf Coast. They remind you a little bit of Georgetown. There are some similarities between the two teams. We'll have some similar comparisons as we go, but we'll get to know them inside and out and really dig into that."

The Bears know Talladega well. In 2015, Talladega knocked UPIke off in the Elite 8 game.

"A couple of years ago they knocked us out of the tournament," Wells said. "Every time I hear Eric Church's song Talladega it brings back some memories. We want to reverse that."

If the Bears win, they will face the winner of the No.1 seed Benedict College vs. No. 8 seed Westmont.

UPIke takes a 23-8 record into the tournament.

The Bears have advanced to the NAIA National Championship Tournament seven of the last eight years. UPIke missed the NAIA National Championship Tournament in 2012. The Bears won the NAIA national championship in 2011. "It's taken some time to build some tradition there, but we're starting to build that tradition here," Wells said. "We've had a great tradition and a long standing tradition here, but we've worked hard to build that and move it toward a different level. Going out there (Kansas City) seven out of the last eight years, you do see some of these teams each year. So when you start thinking of who you could draw, there aren't a lot of great picks. There are 32 really good teams. We just try and not get overwhelmed by it because

you don't have to beat all 32, you just have to beat five of those teams. We got to take it one at a time and so certainly our goal is going to be to go 1-0. You know me well enough to know that I'll pack five different suite and ties and hope I'll be there at the end."

Bears compete in the toughest conference in the country. The Mid-South Conference sent three other teams to the NAIA National Championship Tournament besides UPIke.

"You look at our conference and you have four Kentucky teams that are going," Wells said. "It's great for the state. I think we all have opportunities to advance. Some of that depends on the matchups with who you play. The first round is always the toughest. If you can find a way to win that first one, you just never know who's going to get going after that. We want some urgency, but we want it to be a business trip. We want to go down there and play well. I think it's important for our guys. I'm proud of them because we've had some ups and downs. We've had some really good times, we've had some times where we were disappointed. We've been pretty consistent. We've been pretty balanced offensively and defensively. They've continued to get better and listen, so they deserve this opportunity. They've just got to make the most of it."

UPIke will take on Talladega College at 10:00 a.m. Thursday morning in the opening round of the NAIA National Championship Tournament.

Sport's Editor's Note: To watch the full Kelly Wells interview check out the Appalachian Newspapers Inc. presents Bank On It podcast. The Bank On It podcast episode 21 will have a full interview with coach Wells about the upcoming NAIA National Championship Tournament. It will also feature highlights and interviews from the Pikeville Lady Panthers' game against Barren County in the opening round of the KHSAA Sweet 16. Like, subscribe and comment.

Prestonsburg falls to visiting Sheldon Clark

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Prestonsburg couldn't limit its opponent on Monday as visiting Sheldon Clark pulled away to win 17-5 in five innings in a high school softball season opener at Stone-Crest Sports Park.

Sheldon Clark pitcher Gracie Presley earned the win. Presley allowed eight hits and five runs while striking out five and walking none.

Prestonsburg hurler Megan Music suffered the loss. Music surrendered 17 runs on nine hits over four innings,

striking out seven. Another Prestonsburg pitcher, Katelyn Bingham, threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen for the Lady Blackcats.

The Lady Blackcats suffered the lopsided loss despite nearly matching Sheldon Clark in the hits column. Sheldon Clark edged Prestonsburg 9-8 in its the hits column and committed only one error defensively.

The Lady Cardinals scored first and never trailed. Sheldon Clark pushed across three runs in the top half of the first inning and led 11-0 before Prestonsburg answered.

The Lady Blackcats battled back to cut Sheldon Clark's lead nearly in half, scoring five runs in the bottom half of the third inning.

Still, Sheldon Clark proved to be the more productive squad in the season-opening contest, adding six runs in the top half of the fourth inning to move ahead 17-5.

Paige Maynard was three for three at the plate and delivered four RBIs to lead Sheldon Clark to the victory.

Presley and Terri Howard added two hits and three RBIs apiece for the Lady Cardinals.

Eight different Pres-

tonsburg players - Music, Bingham, Emily Salisbury, Alison Campbell, Haylee Niece, Shae Robinson, Haley Ratliff and Alison Woods - provided one hit apiece. Music drove in two of the Lady Blackcats' five runs.

Defensively, Prestonsburg committed four errors in the setback.

Prestonsburg is scheduled to host Hazard for an early-season high school softball doubleheader on Saturday. Game times for the Prestonsburg-Hazard double-header are 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Jags drop season opener to Cardinals

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

INEZ — Floyd Central was unable to notch a win on the road in its season opener. Host Sheldon Clark plated a dozen runs over three consecutive at-bats to defeat Floyd Central 12-2 in five innings in a high school baseball season opener on Tuesday.

Familiar foes, Floyd Central and Sheldon Clark met four times during the Jaguars' inaugural season in 2018. Sheldon Clark won three of the four games over Floyd Central during the 2018 season.

Parker Jarrell was

the winning pitcher for much-improved Sheldon Clark in the 2019 season opener. Jarrell allowed seven hits and two runs over four innings, striking out four and walking none. Helping Sheldon Clark capture the win, Daylon Stafford threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen for the Cardinals.

Matt Combs took the loss for visiting Floyd Central. Combs, who transferred to Floyd Central from 15th Regional Paintsville, worked two and two-thirds innings, allowing three runs on four hits while striking out four and walking none.

Sheldon Clark collected 11 hits. Stafford led the Cardinals offensively, finishing three for four with four RBIs.

Matthew Fitch went three for three and drove in one run for the Cardinals. Four different Sheldon Clark players finished with multiple hits. Jarrell and Dawson Jude added two hits apiece for the Cardinals in the victory.

Excelling defensively, Sheldon Clark, a member of the neighboring 57th District, turned in an error-free performance in the field.

Floyd Central, a member of the 58th District, connected for eight hits in the setback. Blake

Slone and Brayden Hamilton led the Floyd Central offensive effort with two hits apiece. Slone drove in one of the Jaguars' two runs.

Defensively, Floyd Central committed three errors in the loss.

Floyd Central was hosting Magoffin County on Tuesday. Results from the Floyd Central-Magoffin County baseball matchup were unavailable at press time. Complete coverage of the Floyd Central-Magoffin County baseball game will appear in the Friday, March 22 edition of The Floyd County Chronicle & Times.

Betsy Layne falls to Paintsville in opener

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

BETSY LAYNE — Host Betsy Layne faced an eight-run deficit before crossing home plate for the first time and couldn't make up for its slow start as visiting 15th Region rival Paintsville pulled away to win 11-1 in five innings in a high school softball season opener on Monday.

Paintsville pitcher Anna Keeton earned the win. Keeton, one of the top softball players in the 15th Region, worked all five innings, allowing

only two hits and one run while striking out nine and walking one.

Helping her pitching cause at the plate, Keeton finished a home run short of hitting for the cycle. Keeton went three for four with four RBIs. The versatile Keeton was named the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Player of the Year less than one month ago.

Clara Blair belted a home run for Paintsville in the convincing victory. Perfect at the plate in the high school softball season opener, Blair finished four for four with three

RBIs.

Paintsville outhit Betsy Layne 12-2 in the season-opening matchup.

Lauryn Watkins accounted for both of Betsy Layne's hits in the loss.

The Ladycats struggled defensively, committing five errors.

In other area high school softball games on Monday it was Belfry 7, Van (W.Va.) 2; Belfry 12, Van (W.Va.) 3 (6 innings); Hazard 14, Floyd Central 4 (5 innings); Johnson Central 10, Lawrence County 9 (8 innings); Morgan County 6, Perry County Central 2; Pike

County Central 13, Shelby Valley 3 and Sheldon Clark 17, Prestonsburg 5 (5 innings).

Betsy Layne is slated to visit Paintsville for a late-season matchup on May 9.

The Lady Bobcats were visiting Belfry on Tuesday. In another early-season high school softball game on Tuesday, Paintsville was hosting Leslie County for a home opener. Results from each early-season high school softball matchup were unavailable at press time.

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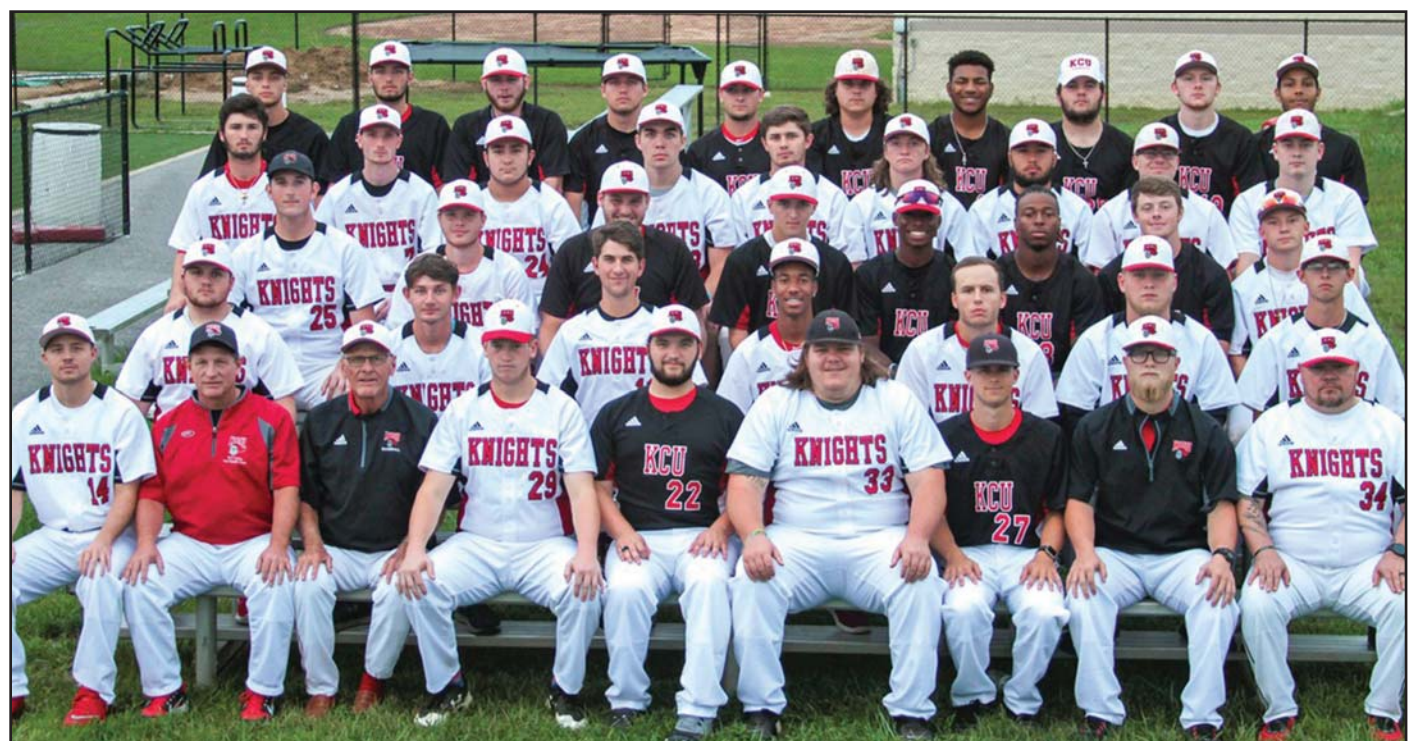
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Welch makes KCU roster as freshman



Prestonsburg High School graduate Ben Welch is a freshman for the Kentucky Christian University baseball team. Welch wears jersey No. 54 for the Knights.

photo courtesy of Kentucky Christian University

Sweet 16: Pikeville falls at Rupp

By **RANDY WHITE**
REGIONAL SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON — Just two minutes into the KH-SAA Sweet 16, Pikeville's Kirsten Cole-Williamson picked up her second foul and headed to the bench.

At that point, Pikeville trailed 3-2. Barren County rolled off a 10-0 run to jump out to a 13-2 lead.

The Trojanettes hot start helped them pick up a 65-47 win over Pikeville in the Sweet 16.

Pikeville finished the season with a 27-8 record. The Lady Panthers won the 59th District championship and their first 15th Region championship since 1980.

"Obviously, we didn't get the good start that we wanted," Pikeville coach Kristy Orem said. "I didn't know how they'd handle the jitters. I thought in the second half we settled down and played our style and did what we needed to do. It's just the game of basketball. Some nights you're going to make shots and they're just not going to fall in. Thankfully, we got to see some fall in the second half. The first half was rough as far as shooting percentage and rebounding, I couldn't believe that this was one of the first times we've been out rebounded all year."

Cole-Williamson came back in the first quarter and knocked down two free throws with 3:42 left to stop the 10-0 run. That cut the lead to 13-4.

Pikeville trailed 17-6 at the end of the first quarter.

"We've been really confident the last two weeks and I thought this was the first time you could see that you could see some panic," Orem said. "I think you could see that in our offense not being what it should've been. Credit to them. Coming out shooting 50 percent, you're shooting the ball really well because I know my

girls play really good defense."

Pikeville seventh-grader Trinity Rowe opened the second quarter with a jumper to cut the lead to 17-8.

That sparked another 10-0 run by Barren County. The Trojanettes held a 27-8 lead after Jalynn Bush scored with 3:10 left in the first half.

Cole-Williamson scored with two seconds left in the half to cut the lead to 32-15 heading into the halftime break.

Pikeville trailed 51-32 entering the fourth quarter.

"We started playing defense a little better," Orem said. "We tightened up and said, 'Let's get out there and get after them.' I thought that we'd play off of them early and that wasn't the best idea. We just said, 'Let's play our defense and let's get after them.' I really thought that helped us get some points in transition and settle in on offense."

Kelsey Jo Tackett opened the fourth with a three for Pikeville to cut the lead to 51-36. Rowe followed with a basket at the 5:27 mark to cut the lead to 51-38.

Tackett added another three with 3:09 left to cut the lead to 55-41.

Pikeville couldn't really get any closer as Barren County held on for the 65-47 win.

Tackett led the way for Pikeville with a team-high 14 points. She hit four of her 10 three-point attempts. Cole-Williamson followed with 13 points and four rebounds. Rowe just missed double figure scoring with nine points. Alvia Gearheart finished the night with eight points. Leslie Stewart finished two points and seven rebounds. Grace Bartley chipped in with one point.

"I just think that all of the hard work that we've put in has been worth it and it's been such a great experience with all of the seniors," Cole-Williamson

said. "It's just been awesome."

Pikeville got out rebounded by Barren County 45-27.

"It was frustrating (rebounding the ball)," Orem said. "We knew that there would be some long rebounds because they shoot a lot of threes. Out of our zone, we didn't do a good job of rebounding out of it. A lot of it on the offensive end, we typically get a lot of offensive rebounds. Kirsten (Cole-Williamson) is a killer at going and getting offensive rebounds. It was like she

would be there and the ball would just go over her head. She was in position. I guess it just wasn't meant to be."

Pikeville will lose two seniors off of this year's team. Bartley and Stewart are both seniors.

"It was huge (to let our seniors end their careers at Rupp Arena)," Orem said. "My seniors Grace Bartley and Leslie Stewart were our main stays all year. As far as mental toughness and being leaders on the court and off the court. They're special. When I came here, we only

had two seniors at the time and those two were sophomores and we talked about building a program. I think that they were big in that. Our saying here is that we want to build a legacy. And I can tell you that those two seniors left a legacy."

The Lady Panthers will return a lot of talent next season.

"These girls will tell you, I'll be ready to get back in the gym with them ASAP," Orem said. "I'll let them have a little break just because I love them. I think the biggest thing for them to learn

since I've been here is just how hard it is get here. You have to work. I'm trying to help raise women and teach them that you're going to have to work hard for everything you get. Nobody is going to give us anything. Just like coming to Rupp Arena, it took a long time to get here. I want to see these girls be successful women and I want them to understand that they have to work hard to be that."



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance

Pikeville's Alvia Gearheart shoots a runner against Barren County last Thursday in the Sweet 16 at Rupp Arena.



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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-9028, Operator Change

In accordance with 405 KAR 8:010, notice is hereby given that Landfall Mining Incorporated, P.O. Box 129, Elkhorn City, KY 41522 intends to revise permit number 836-9028 to change the operator. The operator presently approved in the permit is Faith Unlimited Contracting, Inc., P.O. Box 71, Deane, KY 41812. The new operator will be Management Consulting Services, LLC, 11000 Highway 7 South, Kite, KY 41828. The operation is located 0.1 miles northeast of Wayland in Floyd County, KY. The operation is located 0.4 miles northeast from KY 7's junction with KY 1086 and located 0.2 miles north of Steele Creek. This operation is located on the Wayland U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map at latitude 37°26'44" and longitude 82°48'01". The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources Hazard Regional Office, 556 Village Lane, Hazard, KY 41601. Written comments or objections must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. All comments or objections must be received within fifteen (15) days of today's date.

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