



## Jaguars fall to Golden Eagles in opening round

■ Sports, 1B



# CHRONICLE & TIMES

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

FLOYD COUNTY

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## BOE: BLES suspends staff named in KDE testing report

BY ELAINE BELCHER  
STAFF WRITER

Floyd County Superintendent Danny Adkins announced Tuesday that, as a result of information in the Kentucky Department of Education investigation into Betsy Layne Elementary K-PREP testing from 2013 to 2018, four staff members, in-

cluding BLES Principal John A. Kidd and Vice Principal Rebecca Ratliff, named in the report have been suspended with pay.

Also suspended were BLES teacher Jordan Kidd and former Chief Academic Officer Tonya Williams, who were also named in the KDE report. "The Floyd Coun-

ty School System, our teachers, support personnel and people of the central office, exist for one purpose, the welfare of our children, which is served by giving them the best opportunity for a quality education as the Floyd County School system can provide," Adkins

See STAFF, Page 3A

Inside: "Anomalies" led investigators to examine BLES test scores



John A. Kidd



Rebecca Ratliff

## A glimpse into Martin's money

BY MARY MEADOWS  
STAFF WRITER

It took Martin about three months to answer an open records request the Floyd County Chronicle and Times submitted on Jan. 29, seeking copies of all check registers, invoices and checks the city issued in October, November and December 2018.

The request was filed after city officials refused access to check registers approved in January, and because check registers were redacted so that negative balances were not visible.

After receiving insufficient responses to the request earlier this year, the newspaper filed a complaint with the Kentucky General General's Office, and that office issued an order declaring that Martin subverted the intent of the open records laws.

City officials cited several reasons for the delay. They said the city's move to a new city hall

See MONEY, Page 8A



## Levisa Fork Paddlefest

Floyd Chronicle Times photo by Elaine Belcher

Two kayakers who finished first offered assistance to others coming into the boat launch at Harmon Station.

## New season launches

BY ELAINE BELCHER  
STAFF WRITER

Forty paddlers hit the water of the Levisa Fork River Saturday for the first Levisa Fork Paddlefest hosted by Prestonsburg Tourism. In rented and personal

kayaks and canoes, the group traveled the eight-mile trip down river from Prestonsburg to the Harmon Station Landing in Johnson County.

"The trip took about three and a half hours

See PADDLEFEST, Page 4A



Floyd Chronicle Times photos by Elaine Belcher  
Beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, several dozen paddlers in kayaks and canoes traveled the eight-mile journey downstream over the course of 3.5 hours.

### OBITUARIES, 6A

- Alberta Baldrige
- Chester Burchett
- JD Hall
- William Hart
- Millie Janice Henson
- Michael Johnson
- Goldie Lee Jones
- Lowell Prater
- Dewey Lee Rogers
- Franklin Smallwood
- Donna Turner



Marchers of all ages and stripes walked three miles through Paintsville to raise awareness about veteran suicide. Appalachian Newspapers photo by Aaron K. Nelson

## March held for veterans

BY AARON K. NELSON  
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

Dozens of supporters turned out Saturday for a first-of-its-kind march through Paintsville to

See VETERANS, Page 4A

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# BLES investigation started because of erasures

By **MARY MEADOWS**  
STAFF WRITER

The Kentucky Department of Education launched its investigation into testing violations at Betsy Layne Elementary because the school ranked among the highest in the state for the number of testing “anomalies” that occurred there.

The KDE Report of Findings of that investigation, sent to Superintendent Danny Adkins on May 13, defines an “extreme anomaly” as those “with a one in one million chance” of occurring naturally.

BLES received “flags” for the number of times these anomalies occurred on state testing. It received five flags in 2013, one flag in 2014, four flags in 2015, 20 flags in 2016, 17 flags in 2017 and no flags in 2018, when KDE monitored test administration at the school.

The report noted that in 2016, BLES ranked as the “eighth most anomalous school” in Kentucky, as the “second most anomalous school” in the state in 2017 and as the “fifth most anomalous school in Kentucky” in 2018 “due to its high flagging count in previous years.”

The report showed that “increases of wrong to right” erasures at BLES correlated with increased test scores in 2016, and that the school’s scores “continued to soar” in 2017, as the number of erasures increased.

The report said the number of students who scored proficient nearly doubled in 2016 in reading and math for elementary students and also increased for middle school students. In 2016, elementary reading proficiency increased from 46.6 to 88.3 and math proficiency increased from 44.2 to 85. In 2017, elementary reading proficiency jumped to 95.2 and math increased to 79.7 in elementary grades, KDE reported.

“However, when KDE monitored the K-Prep assessment in 2018, the number of students scoring Proficient/Distinguished dropped significantly. Elementary students scoring Proficient/Distinguished in reading fell to 67.3 and 48.0 in math. Middle school students scoring Proficient/Distinguished in reading fell to 69.9 and 47.5 in math.”

In October 2018, the KDE provided the Floyd County Chronicle and Times numerous documents related to district testing in response to an open records request.

Letters and emails sent to district administrators explained that the investigation started because of “erasure data” the KDE received on reading and math tests.

“The data provides the KDE the probabilities of erasure anomalies occurring, but the KDE does not consider the data to be an allegation against the district without a corresponding allegation or observation,” KDE Staff Attorney Erik M. Carlsen-

Landy wrote in an April 2018 email to former Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble and Davida Marson, former director of district-wide services in county schools.

At the time that letter was sent, KDE had instructed Trimble to withhold testing materials from Betsy Layne Elementary School and Betsy Layne High School — a request that was later changed.

A day before he resigned from his post on April 17, 2018, former KDE Commissioner Dr. Stephen L. Pruitt sent a letter about an “urgent test security matter” to Trimble.

Pruitt wrote, “As you may be aware, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) conducts forensic analysis of every district and school’s results on the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) exam to look for indications of potential testing improprieties. Recently, KDE staff undertook a longitudinal review of schools that have been flagged for the highest potential of testing improprieties and presented me with data that calls into concern the validity of test scores in a number of schools, including some in FCS.”

Pruitt requested that when testing booklets arrived at central office, the test booklets for Betsy Layne Elementary and Betsy Layne High School be withheld and not sent to the schools.

“The materials for these schools are not to be opened by FCS staff,” he wrote, asking Trimble to contact KDE when the testing materials arrive for those schools so that KDE staff could “monitor the inventory process” for BLES and BLHS.

“Upon completion of the inventory process, KDE staff will seal the boxes with a tamper-evident tape to ensure the materials are secure,” Pruitt wrote. “Once materials are verified to be secure by KDE staff, Betsy Layne Elementary and High School will be able to receive their materials but will be instructed that the materials are not to be opened by anyone other than KDE staff.”

He goes on to explain that KDE staff will be sent to both schools throughout testing to “open the materials and monitor their distribution, monitor the administration of the K-PREP, and securely seal test materials on a daily basis.”

He also noted, “For now, knowledge of this situation is to be limited to you and District Assessment Coordinator Tonya Goodman.”

The day after that letter was sent and Wayne Lewis was named interim KDE commissioner, Carlsen-Landy sent Trimble an email, reporting that the letter was mistaken.

“As we discussed yesterday, I was mistaken in placing a hold on the Betsy Layne High School testing materials. The corrected hold is on the K-PREP test materi-

## EXHIBIT 2

### READING % PROFICIENT/DISTINGUISHED

Grade	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All ES	50.0	46.6	88.3	95.2	67.3
3	47.0	42.9	93.9	98.7	52.6
4	60.3	42.6	95.7	92.6	71.2
5	40.8	54.4	73.0	94.0	75.0

Grade	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All MS	53.1	52.2	70.3	84.9	69.9
6	63.1	48.9	81.7	93.8	88.9
7	62.5	53.0	60.9	76.3	59.7
8	34.3	53.3	66.7	83.7	60.3

### MATH % PROFICIENT/DISTINGUISHED

Grade	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All ES	53.4	44.2	85.0	79.7	48.0
3	47.0	37.7	86.6	86.1	26.3
4	66.7	42.6	89.9	75.3	60.3
5	44.9	52.9	77.8	77.6	52.8

Grade	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All MS	51.2	51.6	59.3	72.9	47.5
6	70.8	53.3	78.3	90.6	68.3
7	45.8	48.5	43.5	62.7	33.9
8	38.6	53.3	53.0	60.5	39.7

Submitted graph

This graph is part of the Report of Findings issued by the Kentucky Department of Education in May regarding test scores at Betsy Layne Elementary School. The graph shows how test scores improved in 2016 and 2017. A KDE investigation reportedly found evidence of wrong-to-right erasures during that time period. The chart also shows how test scores dropped in 2018 when KDE monitored administration of the tests.

als for Betsy Layne Elementary School, which you clarified for me was the K through 8th Grade school,” Carlsen-Landy wrote.

In September 2018, KDE officials sent the school district several other letters, reporting, among other things, that the 2017 administration of Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards Assessment at the Floyd County Area Technical Center was “compromised,” causing students to have to re-take the test and training to be required for teachers Connie McKinney, Rickey Joseph and Principal Lenville Martin.

Six Sept. 2018 letters were also sent to inform the district about the scores being lowered for six students at Osborne Elementary, Adams Middle School, Duff Elementary and Allen Elementary who “gained a testing advantage” because teachers scribed for students who were not given scribes as an accommodation, as well as other issues.

These issues were similar to those highlighted in the Individuals with Disabilities Act Audit that the KDE released in Floyd County last year. The KDE provided the Floyd County Chronicle and Times with the anonymous letter that launched the investigation that caused that audit.

The Jan. 28, 2018, letter sought an investigation for “unethical and morally wrong things” going on in the school district. The 11-page letter was filed with numerous allegations, and nearly all of them were related to former chief academic officer Tonya Williams, who also previously served as principal at May Valley. No allegations were made against Kidd or Ratliff, but two allegations about BLES were mentioned. One said a teacher “was told that she would not be testing the special education students who she

had stated would not be able to perform at the proficient level even with accommodations, and this came to pass along with the huge increase in test scores” at the school. Another allegation concerned Williams asking “for leniency” with the school’s lack of having a response-to-intervention plan in place in 2015-16.

Some of the allegations against Williams in

that anonymous letter were highlighted in the May 13 KDE Report of Findings, but not all of them. Numerous allegations made against Kidd and Ratliff in the report came from staff interviews, including allegations that they worked with teachers to make wrong-to-right erasures, that teachers reviewed state tests for accuracy while substitute teachers

supervised students, that students were given accommodations they were not qualified to receive and that test materials were not secure.

Following that report, the KDE determined that Jordan Kidd, Williams, John Kidd and Rebecca Ratliff be reported to the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board.

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# Begley cites progress on corrective plan

By ELAINE BELCHER  
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Board of Education approved a second reading of the updated Special Education Policies and Procedures on Monday, May 20, during the regular meeting.

Floyd County District Special Education Director Larry Begley explained during an interview the focus of the policies and procedures is to determine what is best for the education of the child.

"The first question we have to ask is does the diagnosed disability negatively impact their education?" he said. "Next, we ask what can we do to improve the quality of their learning environ-

ment."

Begley, who took the position in July 2018, said that the district's approach to special education accommodations, as supported by findings in the Individuals with Disabilities Learning Act audit, was to give these children what they need to help them learn, rather than accommodate them to meet a specific score.

"I have had nothing but support from the central office and Superintendent (Danny) Adkins to serve the needs of the child, not to meet a numerical criteria," Begley said. "While I do not know what happened under my predecessor, I can testify that no accommodations for any student have been made without our approval."

Begley said that, in Floyd County, when a child is diagnosed with a disability — either by a medical professional providing a diagnosis, or through several rounds of testing where the child consistently tests below one standard grade of his or her current placement in a subject, the parents work with the schools to develop an individual education plan to help the child work with his or her disability.

Begley said that he works closely with three special education consultants who review each case to determine what accommodations, if any, are necessary before the child is ever placed in a classroom. In each case, a academic review committee (ARC) is convened

— a team legally required to be made up of a chairperson (such as the principal or vice principal trained in the role), a regular education teacher, a special education teacher and a parent or guardian.

"Nothing happens without that parental consent," said Begley. "This committee reviews each case and makes a judgment call on how to logistically support the child's education as necessary."

Begley said it's important the reviews be conducted with the ARCs because the number of students receiving IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) determined the number of staff to support them.

"Each teacher is responsible for no more

than 20 cases without a specific KDE waiver. In cases of students with behavioral or emotional issues, that number is limited to 10 per teacher," he said. "Accommodations have their place, by giving these kids what they need to survive academically, but they have to need it. Supplying unneeded accommodations ultimately negatively impacts kids," he said. "I can say, that since stepping into this position, we have decreased the number of scribes and readers by approximately half since 2016."

Begley said that with assistance from the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative, 75 percent of the 1,341 Individual Education Plans in the school district have been

reviewed since Dec. 1, 2018.

"While we are not re-assessing everyone, we were required to correct the errors found in the 65 randomly-selected IEP files investigated in the audit," he said. "However, it is a requirement to review each file on an annual basis and reassess the case every three years. With KVEC's help, we have been able to do so and to carry out those requirements and correct other issues on the way."

Begley said he gives credit to KVEC for helping meet the annual deadline during the first year of his tenure. "They have helped us so much," he said. "I would have laid down and wept without their assistance to make this more manageable."

# Floyd tourism misses budget deadline

By MARY MEADOWS  
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Recreation, Tourist and Convention Commission missed its budget deadline for a second time this year.

The commission's by-laws require it to submit a proposed annual budget to the Floyd County Fiscal Court no later than

May 15 of each year, and that work is not completed.

The Floyd County Fiscal Court held the first reading of its budget on May 24, allotting \$150,000 to "tourism projects," without specifically listing the commission.

The commission had not held a meeting since March because of lack of

a quorum, which was the case on May 23, when Chairman Josh Hall, Vice Chairman Charles Hicks and members Jeremiah Parsons and Dawn Slone were absent.

Member Mickey McKinney arrived about 15 minutes late for the meeting, and Greg Johnson and Treasurer David Tackett were the only two other members in

attendance along with Misha Curnutte of the Big Sandy Area Development District.

Tackett mentioned the need to have a budget committee meeting to develop the tourism budget.

He and Curnutte also noted the need to call a special meeting prior to the commission's next regular meeting.

Last year, the commission did not complete the budgeting process until July 26, and it did not hold two readings and a vote to approve it, as required.

That budget detailed \$250,000 in revenues and expenses.

After the tourism meeting was canceled on May 23, Judge-Executive Robbie Williams met

with commission members who were present. He recommended several funding requests, including \$5,200 needed for a stage at the county's new park in Minnie, \$1,700 for fencing around the golf course in Allen, between \$40,000 and \$80,000 for a tourism project and up to \$50,000 for trail development.

# Weeksbury Post Office destroyed in fire

A FLOYD CHRONICLE  
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Weeksbury Post office was destroyed in an early morning fire Monday.

Officials at the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department and the Wheelwright Fire Department report that the post office burned to the ground following a fire that occurred at approximately 2:30 a.m. on Monday, May 27. The Left Beaver Fire Department also responded to the scene.

Betty Cook, assistant chief of the Southeast

Volunteer Fire Department, said Kaci Ramirez, who lived in an apartment above the post office, was able to escape, suffering only smoke inhalation and no major injuries. She still hasn't located her dog, which was in the apartment at the time of the fire, Cook said. She said Ramirez lost everything she owns in the fire.

Cook said Ramirez was awakened by smoke detectors that morning, but her neighbor, Brett McCoy, called 911 after seeing the flames on his security camera. He was

out of the area when the fire occurred, Cook said.

She said the fire department was called to the property at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 26, for a report of a downed tree.

The tree landed on the roof of the building, Cook said. Wheelwright Fire Chief Daniel P. Gullett said that could have caused the fire later that morning.

Cook praised the cooperation of all responding departments.

"We are blessed to have that many in our area that will work together ... When some-

thing like that happens, we're blessed that we can work together and

help each other," Cook said.

The Melvin Post office

is now serving Weeksbury residents.

STAFF  
Continued From Page 1A

said. "That goal is made more difficult when any educational professional cheats the systems of assessment. Tests that are intended to enable us to see how well our children are learning is an important tool. It informs us of where we are and what we need changed to help our children learn better. Any act that cheats the testing not only gives misinformation as we try to teach our children it also harms every child seeking to learn."

The KDE report dated May 13 revealed numerous testing violations, including evidence of deliberate alterations of tests that correlated with higher test scores at BLES. Based on the evidence gathered, the KDE determined that all 2017 K-PREP content area scores for the school "will be invalidated."

Adkins said that the four suspended individuals will not be hired for

future employment with the Floyd County Schools.

"What has been done is grievous and has done great harm," he said. "What has happened in the past I cannot change but where we go from here I can and will change. We will do everything possible to ensure that the past misconduct does not occur again."

Adkins said further changes are coming to the district's central office.

"This temporarily addresses what has happened in the past as uncovered by the Kentucky Department of Education report dated May 13, 2019," he said. "We owe that to every honest educator and every precious child entrusted to us by our citizens. In my judgment, that means that changes must begin here in the central office. That is because that seems to be where the past problems began."

Adkins then announced the reorganiza-

tion of the Floyd County Board of Education Central Office, which is designed for all departments to focus on providing opportunities to ensure that all students graduate career, college, and life ready.

He said the central office will be structured into three teams each with a specific emphasis on "Leadership for Operations," "Leadership for Safe and Healthy Schools" and "Leadership for Innovative Learning."

"The teams will work collaboratively to ensure that we partner with community agencies and businesses to provide our students with the necessary resources to learn at high levels in preparation to be successful post-graduation," Adkins said. "What happened in the Floyd County school system is an embarrassment and a terrible wrong. Our response will be one that you can take pride in and result in a system that is morally right and fair."

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Floyd Chronicle Times photo by Elaine Belcher

The 2019 Levisa Fork Paddlefest season started Saturday as 40 paddlers took to the river in Prestonsburg and traveled to Harmon Station Landing in Johnson County under the watchful eye of Prestonsburg Water and Rescue Squad.

**PADDLEFEST**  
Continued From Page 1A

with the way that the river was running," Prestonsburg Tourism Director Samantha West said. "Everyone was escorted by Prestonsburg Water and Rescue Squad who assisted if anyone had issues on the way."

West offered a few tips to anyone interested in trying kayaking for the first time.

"I would say to try renting a kayak or canoe if you're trying it for the first time — that way you can find out if you like it before investing in a watercraft," she said. "It's also important to pick

out a craft that fits your height and weight specifications."

She said people who are shorter than 5 ft. 6 in. should chose a kayak that's between eight and 10 ft. long and that anyone who is taller than 5 ft. 7 in. would be best suited with a 10 ft. kayak or canoe.

"Finally — stay safe. Always wear your life jacket and never go alone," West said. "Each time you go, you can learn something new to make your next trip even better."

The next Paddlefest is scheduled for June 22 and begins at 8 a.m. at the Prestonsburg boat launch behind Billy Ray's

Restaurant.

Registration is \$15 and includes a catered lunch and a shuttle ser-

vice. Visit, prestonsburgky.org, or call, (606) 886-1341, for more information.

**VETERANS**  
Continued From Page 1A

raise awareness for the problem of veteran suicide.

Organizer Danny Shepherd, commander with Auxier DAV Post 18 and head of the Veterans Coalition for Quality Healthcare, said the issue affects everyone.

"We have a problem," Shepherd said. "That's the reason why we're bringing attention to it. A lot of people don't know 22 veterans a day commit suicide. That's one every 65 minutes. That's approximately 8,000 a year."

Shepherd said veterans returning from combat will often live with post-traumatic stress disorder and subsequent depression, but too few seek out diagnosis or treatment, in part because of the stigma surrounding mental health.

"A lot of veterans are too proud to ask for help. And I'd like to reach a hand out ... if you're a veteran and you want to join us, we'd be more than happy," Shepherd said. "Whatever you're going through, I guarantee you somebody in our organization or the (Veterans of Foreign Wars) or somewhere has been through something similar."

The march Saturday started at Ky. 321 at Starfire Hill and ended at the intersection of Ky. 321 and Ky. 40, the Fallen Heroes Memorial Highway, with marchers carrying flags and signs. Along the way, Shepherd handed out information to motorists and passersby.

Shepherd said the most important thing is reaching out to those in crisis.

"If you're a veteran and you've had thoughts

of suicide or depression, reach out, try to talk to a fellow veteran or join an organization and get help," he said. "If you're a friend or a family member, and you notice someone that's having issues, please bring that to someone's attention, because 22 veterans a day is way too high. One veteran a day is way too high."

The next most important thing, Shepherd said, is to help ensure as many veterans as possible are registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs and able to access the healthcare, including mental healthcare, available to them.

For more information find the Big Sandy Chapter 18 DAV on Facebook. The Veterans Referral Center in Paintsville also specializes in connecting veterans with resources and benefits available to them and can be reached at, (606) 789-7587. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is, (800) 273-8255.

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## GUEST COLUMN



By JK COLEMAN  
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

# Forbidden fruit

since. Thanks a lot Big A. Adam took a bite of Eve's forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, and, as a result, God told them both to get the hell out of there and never come back. They hung their heads in shame and went about trying to find some clothes to put on. I've seen a similar thing happen at Marlow's Country Palace, but that's for another column.

Just a short while ago, Avenatti was featured on all the Trump-bashing TV stations, hundreds of times, touted as if he was the next coming. Now he's been indicted for tax crimes, extortion and a host of other criminalistic hijinx. He went so far as

to beat his famous client, who I'll refer to as Eve Daniels, out of \$300,000. My money says that if God hadn't stepped in yet again, Avenatti would have wound up running for president, and he'd currently be the Democrat frontrunner.

I wonder how loud they'd be screaming for his tax returns? I'd like to think that his tax-dodging documentation would roll out further than the dead sea scrolls, but I doubt it exists at all. And they'd have never asked for it anyway.

Avenatti allegedly tried to extort \$25 million from Nike, a company that seems to be a magnet for clowns who

are starving for attention. He's also accused of identity theft. I can't say as I blame him for that one, as if I were him, I'd want to be someone else too. Stormy would have been better off buddying up with the likes of Judas.

Think about it: The liberal media's mouths were watering for a criminal who will probably go to jail for 50 years, simply because he was the most ferocious Trump-hater of the day. This Avenatti creep was on their shows every day, accusing the president of everything in the book, as if Trump himself was the devil of the two.

And they ate it up like forbidden fruit from the

Garden of Eden. That's because they're so gluttonous for low-hanging juiciness on the president, they'd chomp on anything you dangled in front of them. Even if it's rotten.

When I wake up and see the trees, and the flowers and the birds, and Donald Trump is our president, it leaves no doubt that this world was truly created by our God in Heaven.

But this same God doesn't make it easy on those who continue to chase forbidden fruit. That's why we're all wearing clothes these days, CNN's ratings are in the tank and Avenatti is going to prison.

CHRONICLE & TIMES

LETTERS OR COMMENTS:

Please send to:  
P.O. Box 390  
Prestonsburg, Ky 41653  
Fax: (606) 506-5092  
Email:

news@floydchronicle.com  
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Jeff Vanderbeck, Publisher (jvanderbeck@news-expressky.com)  
Russ Cassidy, Editor (editor@news-expressky.com)  
Danny Coleman, Ad Director (dcoleman@news-expressky.com)  
Bobby Gilliam, Production Manager (bgilliam@news-expressky.com)  
Lisa Moore, Office Manager (lmoore@news-expressky.com)  
Randy White, Sports Editor (sports@news-expressky.com)  
Emma Burchett, Office Manager (eburchett@floydct.com)

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Congress should raise age for buying nicotine products to 21

THE KENTUCKY STANDARD

The history of tobacco's influence in Kentucky politics for far too long favored producers of a product that has been proven to kill people.

Often that protection was veiled under the guise of protecting the small family farmer who worked a full-time job but raised a tobacco patch to supplement the family's income.

That was back before the 2004 Tobacco Buyout abolished the quota system that tied production to specific parcels of land. Over the intervening decade and a half, tobacco

consumption has dropped drastically, as has production. In 1998 Kentucky produced 416 million pounds of air-cured light burley Type 31 tobacco, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service's online database. By 2008, that statewide harvest had dropped to 147 million pounds. In 2018, it was 80 million. Kentucky had an estimated 30,000 tobacco farmers in 2004. Today that number is closer to 2,600.

The decline in stakeholders and the growing awareness of tobacco's ill health effects have combined to weaken its political influence to the point

where Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Monday introduced legislation to raise the legal age required to purchase tobacco products to 21.

In most states the legal age to purchase alcohol has been 21 following passage of the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984. Alcohol-related causes remains the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States, almost 90,000 a year. By comparison, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate cigarette smoking is responsible for 480,000 deaths per year. More than two-thirds

of people who start smoking become dependent, nurturing an addiction that can last a lifetime.

It only makes sense that the age to purchase nicotine products is at least that of alcohol.

Bipartisanship is on the brink of extinction in Washington, D.C., but McConnell's bill is co-sponsored by Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine, who represents Virginia, which is rooted just as deeply in tobacco production as the Bluegrass.

While smoking has declined in recent years, the latest concern centers on vaping,

especially among teens. The long-term effects of vaping are unknown, but it is a delivery mechanism for nicotine, the addictive substance in tobacco. The Surgeon General of the United States has warned that youth vaping has become "an epidemic."

Raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to 21 would help protect young people from a life of nicotine addiction and should be passed by Congress. It's time lawmakers sided with people over the tobacco producers.





# FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES OBITUARIES

## P'burg resident accused of impersonating officer

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

A Floyd County grand jury indicted a Prestonsburg woman who is accused of impersonating a police officer, among other alleged crimes.

Kimberly Slone, 55, of Prestonsburg, was indicted last week on one

felony count of impersonating a police officer and several misdemeanor counts, including resisting arrest, second-degree disorderly conduct, fourth-degree assault and failure to notify the Kentucky Department of Transportation about an address change.

The indictment al-

leges that Slone identified herself as a law enforcement officer when she was questioned by Prestonsburg Police Officer Bradley Calhoun and she resisted arrest when Calhoun attempted to arrest her on an assault charge. Slone is scheduled to be arraigned in Floyd Circuit Court on June 11.

## Missing kayaker's body found in river

**By CHRIS ANDERSON APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS**

PIKEVILLE — The body of a missing kayaker was recovered Friday morning in Coal Run Village.

According to a Kentucky State Police statement, the body of Paris Smith, 47, of Joes Creek, Pikeville, was found just after 11 a.m. in the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River. Smith went missing Wednesday night after being separated from the group with which he has been kayaking. A search was conducted throughout the day Thursday and resumed Friday morning.

Pike County Emergency Management Director Doug Tackett told the News-Express that Smith was found in an area of the river with swift water. Tackett said the river diverts around a small island near the area where Smith was found, and Millard Fire-Rescue Chief Glen Adkins found

Smith's body under the surface of the water.

"He's been found and now, hopefully, the family has some closure," Tackett said.

Kentucky State Police Post 9 spokesperson Trooper William Petry said numerous search and rescue agencies and volunteers took part in the search. Petry said several agencies, including at least one from Tennessee, contacted KSP offering their services, and they were welcomed to take part in the search for Smith.

"At a point yesterday, we decided we could use more help if we could get it," Petry said.

According to a KSP statement following the initiation of the search, Smith was kayaking with a group of people and, at approximately 10 p.m. Wednesday, became separated from the group. The search for Smith began and continued into Thursday. The search Fri-

day began around 8 a.m., Petry said.

It remains unclear where Smith went into the water in relation to where he was ultimately found.

"In these situations, a body can move and be moved underwater," Petry said.

Tackett said searchers taking part hoped for the best.

"You always want to find them alive, but it didn't work out that way this time," Tackett said. "It seems like more often than not this is how it turns out."

Tackett expressed his gratitude for all those who took part in the search for Smith.

"Thank God for everyone that came out to help," Tackett said.

According to KSP's statement, the investigation into the incident remains ongoing.

*News-Express publisher Jeff Vanderbeck contributed to this report.*

### Alberta Vaughan Baldrige

Alberta Vaughan Baldrige, 87, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 25, at Carter Funeral Home, Prestonsburg.

Burial followed in the Baldrige Family Cemetery, East Point.

Arrangements were under the direction of Carter Funeral Home of Prestonsburg.

### Chester Burchett

Chester Burchett, 62, of Martin, died Sunday, May 26, 2019.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 29, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Burial will follow in the Jervis Cemetery, Endicott, Prestonsburg.

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

### JD Hall

JD Hall, 83, of Kite, died Friday, May 24, 2019.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 28, at the Rebecca Old Regular Baptist Church, Kite.

Burial followed in the Forest Hall Cemetery, Kite.

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

### William Cleveland Hart

William Cleveland "Bill" Hart, 79, of Auxier, died Saturday, May 25, 2019.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 27, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Burial followed in the Hart Residence Cemetery, Auxier.

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

### Millie Janice Henson

Millie Janice (Lawson) Henson, 77, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, May 25, 2019.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

### Michael Ronnie Johnson

Michael Ronnie Johnson, 56, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, May 17, 2019.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 8, at the Prestonsburg Church of God, Prestonsburg.

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

### Goldie Lee Jones

Goldie Lee (Caudill) Jones, 94, died Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 25, at Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Burial followed in the Newman Cemetery, Hi Hat.

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

### Lowell Jackson Prater

Lowell Jackson "Jackie" Prater, 54, of Langley, died Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 27, at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Burial followed in the Hoss Jackson Prater Cemetery, Hueysville.

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

### Dewey Lee Rogers

Dewey Lee Rogers, 77, of Teaberry, died Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 27, at Pilgrims Home Old Regular Baptist Church, Grethel.

Burial followed in the Hamilton-Akers Cemetery, Grethel.

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

### Franklin D. Smallwood

Franklin D. "Hank" Smallwood, 82, of Bevinsville, died Saturday, May 25, 2019.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, May 29, at the Little Rock Old Regular Baptist Church, Bevinsville.

Burial will follow in the Buckingham Cemetery, Bevinsville.

Arrangements are

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



### Donna Reeves Turner

Donna Reeves Turner, 71, of Winchester, passed away Saturday, May 18, 2019.

She was born on July 7, 1947, in Melvin. She was the first of her family to complete a Bachelor's degree in finance and accounting, graduating Cum Laude from Pikeville College in 1985. She was a member of the Wheelwright United Methodist Church. She was a spiritual woman who enjoyed the celebration of life, arts and crafts, and spending time with her family and friends. There was never a job too large or too small that she couldn't tackle. She will be missed by family and numerous friends.

She is survived by two daughters: Crystal Montgomery and April Reeves; three grandchildren: Tera Little, Allie Montgomery and Kenneth Montgomery.

Special thanks to the wonderful physicians and nurses at Baptist Health Cancer Center in Lexington.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., Monday, June 3, at United Methodist Church in Wheelwright.

Arrangements are under the direction of Care Cremation Funeral Service of Lexington. This is a paid obituary.

## Elliott appointed

**SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES**

A Floyd County dentist was honored in Arizona this month.

Dr. O. Andy Elliott of Martin, the Eastern Kentucky Dental Director—Avesis Inc., was installed as president-elect of the American Association of Dental Consultants during a spring workshop held in Scottsdale, Arizona this month.

Dr. Michel E. Couret of New Hampshire was installed as president, Dr. Lawrence M. Hoffman of Missouri was sworn in as secretary/treasurer, Dr. Madeline J. Anderson Thomas of Texas Dr. Randi S. Tillman of Boston were elected to the board of directors, and other honors were awarded at the conference, which was themed, "Focus on the Future."

Elliott, a 1983 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, has operated a dental practice in Langley for decades. He



Dr. O. Andy Elliott

has served in numerous leadership roles, including president of the Kentucky Dental Association and vice president of the American Dental Association.

Founded in 1979, the AADC is an organization of dental insurance consultants, administra-

tors and educators who work to "promote the interchange of ideas, to encourage the highest standards in serving the interests of dentistry, plans, patients and purchasers and to insure the competency of its members through the certification process."

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# Fiscal court starts budgeting process

By **MARY MEADOWS**  
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Fiscal Court held the first reading of the 2019-2020 budget during a special meeting on Friday, May 24.

The \$17.5 million budget is about \$500,000 less than the current fiscal year budget. It reflects a \$1.7 million decrease in the county's general fund (budgeted at \$7 million); a \$200,000 increase in the Local Government Economic Assistance Fund (budgeted at \$1.8 million) and an \$800,000 increase in the road fund (budgeted at \$3.9 million).

It includes more than \$7 million in the general fund, \$3.9 million in the road fund, \$2.4 million in the jail fund, \$1.8 million in the Local Government Economic Assistance Fund, \$34,000 in state and federal grants, \$330,000 in federal disaster funding, \$16,000 in a revolving loan fund, \$101,000 for water and sewer, \$1.5 million in the construction fund and \$367,000 in the E-911 fund.

Previously budgeted items that were not added to the new budget include the scanner and x-ray budgeted last year at \$31,000 for the jail; the Natural Resources Conservation Service home buyback program budgeted at \$10,000 last year; the Allen/Park and convention center budgeted at \$50,000 last year and the golf course supervisor, budgeted at

\$33,700 last year.

Items that were not included in the current fiscal year budget but have been added to the new budget include \$10,000 for fire department grants, \$150,000 for a community center, \$33,000 for a parks supervisor and \$45,000 for the road supervisor.

Compared to the current fiscal year budget, the general fund reflects decreases in costs for some employees, like a \$26,000 reduction for deputy judge-executive, a \$16,000 reduction for finance officer, a \$12,000 decrease in county attorney secretaries, an \$8,700 decrease in deputy coroner staff and a \$13,600 decrease in ABC and code enforcement. It also reflects decreases in several other areas, including a \$10,000 decrease for audits (budgeted at \$40,000); a \$10,000 decrease in police equipment (budgeted at \$10,000); \$20,000 in decreases in utilities at the courthouse (budgeted at \$75,000) and the justice center (budgeted at \$130,000), as well as a \$110,000 reduction in grants that will pass through the county for Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, a \$10,000 reduction in grants for the rescue squad, a \$5,000 reduction in funds given to the Disabled American Veterans and a \$10,000 reduction in funds given to German Bridge (budgeted at \$10,000).

There is also a significant decrease in this budget for the debt

service of the principal on the Southern Water and Sewer bond, which dropped by more than \$1.9 million to \$75,000 over the current fiscal year. The debt service for the interest on that bond, however, increased by \$75,000 to \$85,000, the budget said.

There were significant increases in several budget line items.

In general government, legal fees increased by \$9,000 to \$10,000; the budget for election officers doubled to \$80,000, printing costs increased by \$47,000 to \$100,000; utilities for drug court increased by \$25,000, custodial personnel increased by \$13,000 and maintenance increased by \$20,000.

Overall, the county's social services budget increased by \$115,000, with the support for the senior citizens program doubling to \$140,000 and other senior citizens costs increasing by \$50,000 to \$250,000.

In the road department, the cost of travel, training and supplies increased by \$13,500 to \$15,000; the cost of contracted serviced increased by \$150,000 to \$400,000, the cost of asphalt increased by \$250,000 to \$950,000; the cost of road construction materials doubled to \$160,000; the cost of supplies and equipment increased by \$49,000 to \$149,000; highway equipment leases increased by \$100,000 to \$120,000 and highway equipment doubled to \$200,000. The



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows  
Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams, right, talks about the 2019-2020 budget during a May 24 meeting.

debt service for black-top increased by about \$5,500 to \$193,000, compared to the current budget.

Although the jail's \$2.4 million budget remained the same, there were several line item changes as well, including increased costs of about \$31,000 in staffing (budgeted at \$884,000); \$40,000 more for food (budgeted at \$280,000); and \$80,000 more for routine medical expenses (budgeted at \$240,000).

The new budget also reflects decreases in several line items at the jail, including a \$30,000 decrease for contracts with other counties (budgeted at \$70,000) and a \$145,000 decrease in building maintenance (budgeted at \$75,000).

The county's litter abatement budget will decrease by about \$10,000 in the new fiscal year to \$65,000 and there are also several increases in the county's recreation line items.

Those increases include \$25,000 more for supplies and equipment (budgeted at \$55,000); \$50,000 more for utilities (budgeted at \$100,000); \$50,000 more for parks (budgeted at \$100,000); and \$20,000 more for golf course wages (budgeted at \$60,000).

Per requests from magistrate Ronnie Akers and Mike Tackett, the new budget includes \$55,000 for resource officers for county schools.

According to the budget, the fiscal court will receive most of its funds from taxes, with more than \$2.4 million coming from property and motor vehicle taxes, \$1 million coming from the county's insurance premium tax, \$100,000 from the transient room tax, \$30,000 from a telecommunications tax, \$200,000 from coal severance taxes, \$970,000 from mineral severance taxes and \$50,000 from an occupational tax that is split with Martin County.

Other revenues include \$10,000 in borrowed money, \$400,000 for housing state prisoners, \$2.3 million in trash collections, \$400,000 from the transportation cabinet, \$1.4 million in road aid, \$300,000 from the Administrative Office of the Courts and, among other revenues, \$1 million in Local Government Economic Development grants.

The county expects to carry more than \$2.4 million from this fiscal year into the new fiscal year.

## Correction

A May 24 article about the Floyd County Fiscal Court budget should have noted that the fiscal court approved tabling a resolution to amend the procurement code so that bids are required for projects that cost \$30,000.

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**MONEY**

Continued From Page 1A

caused issues finding documents, reported that the new building doesn't have enough storage space, said employees filling misunderstood what was required, and, among other things, said employees were "overwhelmed" with other requests.

On March 29, the newspaper was scheduled to pick up the documents, but City Clerk Ethel Clouse canceled the appointment.

She said, "Sam (Howell) came in here evening before last and while we were working on that and he said that we couldn't do that. It was interfering too much with city time and that we cannot do any more open requests, that he'd sign an executive order and he'd take the blunt for it instead of us."

When the newspaper interviewed Mayor Sam Howell about that problem on April 9, he said the requests were "hindering the operation of the city."

He asked for patience and pledged to ensure the documents would be provided.

To date, Martin has provided about 500 pages in response to the newspaper's open records request. That response, combined other documents provided by a local resident, provides a glimpse into Martin's finances.

**The budgets**

Martin is one of the largest cities in Floyd County, with a budget of \$785,100 for the current fiscal year.

Its water system operates on a separate \$260,000 budget, and the budgets are \$210,000 for the city's sewer system and \$240,000 for the city's tourism commission.

None of these budgets record funds carried over from the prior fiscal year, although bank accounts associated with them had funds available to carry over from the prior year.

Invoices, bank statements, audits and check registers show that Martin regularly pays its bills late — sometimes while racking up late fees and charges — and that funds are transferred between

these agencies.

The tourism commission's 2018 audit, for example, says tourism loaned the fire department \$15,000 and the city \$14,814. Bank statements for the Martin City Tourism Commission show that the commission paid Martin Water \$10,000 on March 21, 2019, the Martin Fire Department \$15,000 on April 11, 2018, and the city \$5,000 on April 12, 2018. Earlier this year, the city's auditor asked officials to ensure those transfers are approved by both the council and the tourism commission — a request that has not been publicly addressed since that time. City officials say the transfers were necessary for a grant that the fire department received.

It appears the city has overspent in some budget areas this fiscal year.

For example, the city budgeted \$7,000 for municipal road aid this fiscal year, and it has spent more than \$14,500, the bank account shows.

The fiscal year budget allots \$36,500 for fuel in all accounts, but the general ledger records payments of about \$38,000 to Fleet for that expenditure between July 2018 and March 2019.

The budget allots nearly \$14,000 for phones this fiscal year. The city's general ledger records payments of more than \$18,600 from July 2018 to March 2019 on phones.

The city's water system budgeted \$108,000 for water purchases this fiscal year, and at the end of March, it had already spent all but around \$7,000 of that budgeted amount.

**Howell says records issues will be resolved**

The review of the financial records raised several questions about the city's finances — most of which were answered during interviews with Howell, Clouse, City Attorney Doug Adams and other city employees.

One of the most significant issues that surfaced is that city council members cannot rely on the check registers they receive and approve every month.

All local government bodies approve monthly

expenditures, and these check registers should indicate how much money the city is spending and how much it has available to spend. That is not the case in Martin.

The city check register shows Martin's city account has negative balances in every month of 2018 except February; with some the highest negative balances being recorded as June (\$27,000 in the red) and October (\$37,000 in the red). The check register shows the city ended 2018 at \$24,000 in the red, but the city's bank statement show the city's bank account had more than \$18,500 in it on Dec. 31, 2018.

Bank statements reflect numerous out-of-sequence checks in all accounts and a few instances where checks were returned for insufficient funds, but no large deficits are recorded.

Unlike the check registers for Martin's water and sewer accounts, the check numbers reported on the check registers in the city account are out of order, which makes it difficult to determine the flow of Martin's checks according to the check register.

Between Jan. 5, 2018, and Feb. 1, 2019, there were nearly 670 instances where the same check number was reportedly used more than once — and sometimes, these checks were reported to have been used three and four times. Numerous voided checks were reported and some check numbers weren't recorded at all.

On Nov. 9, 2018, for example, the check registers approved by the city council report that nearly every employee received two paychecks for about the same amount. The second checks recorded were also reported elsewhere on the check registers as having been used to make other payments.

The repeated use of check numbers on the check registers and reported double payments of bills weren't limited to employee payrolls.

The check registers report twin payments of more than \$700 to Layne's Ace Hardware on two separate days and with two separate checks in September, and the numbers used for those reported payments were

also recorded as being used to pay other expenses on Jan. 18, 2019.

The city account check register also recorded a \$700 payment to the Floyd County Chronicle and Times with three separate checks last year, and the check numbers were also recorded as having been used elsewhere. The newspaper's records indicate that it received one payment from the city's account, and the check number used to pay that bill was also recorded on city check registers for other payments in Jan. 2019.

City officials said they had not noticed these irregularities before the newspaper asked questions about them.

Clouse said employees did not get paid twice on Nov. 9, a statement affirmed by bank statements. She said the second checks recorded on check registers would be voided.

She said check numbers were reported as being used repeatedly for several reasons.

The city used check books with the same numbers, she explained, paid some bills over the phone and did not reconcile check numbers when bank statements were provided, voided some checks prior to review by the city council and voided other checks after the city council approved the check registers. Bank statements do reflect some instances of the

same check numbers being used more than once.

When asked how the council can make informed decisions if the check registers are not accurate, Howell said the auditor has never highlighted this problem.

"Something's not right there," he said. "I don't have an answer to that because, honest to God, I think everybody in here would say the same thing, I have no idea. I mean I see what you're saying ... You'd think your auditor would catch that."

Howell said the city will improve its financial reporting. He believes the city needs to update its accounting program. He said he's seeking a "more up-to-date" system that would simply the process.

"We're looking at new things to make everything a whole lot more simple process ... We're going to get it switched out to where it makes a whole lot more sense," he said.

**Employee reimbursements questioned**

Martin Council Member Bonita Compton asked Clouse on April 22 for invoices for city cell phones bills and the Fleet card, which is used by employees to buy gas, noting the Fleet card averaged about \$3,000 per month and phones cost around \$1,500 per month.

Compton asked her who has city cell phones.

"Several of the people," Clouse said. "And like, most of them, I deduct out of their checks."

Clouse said some employees have cell phones on the city account for work-related duties, while others use them as personal cell phones.

There were 21 phone numbers on Martin's Appalachian Wireless bill in November, and the Floyd County Chronicle and Times determined the names of the people with nine of those phones. They belonged to the mayor, police chief, fire chief, a maintenance employee, the tourism director, two water system employees and one police department dispatcher, who has two phones on the city account — one that he uses and another that his wife uses.

He and his wife — who is not a city employee — both said the city deducts the cell phone bill from the paychecks that he earns from Martin. They both said they were personal cell phones.

There were no answers at seven cell phone numbers. Five other numbers appear to be assigned to tablet and Mifi/modem access connections — a personal wifi hotspot that costs around \$22 per month.


Morgain Patterson, director of municipal law and training for the Kentucky League of Cities, answered general questions about cities providing cell phone benefits.

See MONEY, Page 9A



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**GOVERNMENT FORECLOSURE SALE**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019 10:00 A.M.**  
**AT THE SITE OF THE BELOW DESCRIBED PROPERTY HOUSE AND LOT LOCATED AT 5051 SPURLOCK CREEK, PRESTONSBURG, KY 41653 IN FLOYD COUNTY, KENTUCKY**



This is a three bedroom home on public water and septic. It is well located in a quiet neighborhood. It consists of three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, and one bath. This property is considered unsuitable for the Rural Development, Rural Housing Program. This would be an excellent buy for an investor interested in rental property or for resale after repairs.

The minimum acceptable bid for this property is \$8,040.00.

An open house will be held on June 12, 2019 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Payment of the current year's property taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser.

Clear title to this property is not warranted. The U.S. Marshal's Deed is not a general warranty deed. Buyers are advised to have the property's title examined. Written notification regarding encumbrances on the property must be made to the Paintsville Rural Development Office within 30 days of the date of sale.

Potential buyers are hereby put on notice of the presence of various molds of an unknown origin in this house. Some forms of mold have been known to result in serious illness in occupants of homes with existing mold conditions. Rural Development makes no warranties regarding the type of mold in the house and will not assume responsibility for removing the mold. Any persons entering the home for any purpose, including inspecting the property, are hereby made aware of the presence of mold and should take whatever actions they deem necessary to protect themselves while in the house. Rural Development does not recommend entering the home without proper protection. Removal of the mold will be the responsibility of the purchaser, as well as all costs and associated liabilities.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 10:00 am., at the property site, at 5051 Spurlock Creek, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 in Floyd County, Kentucky, in order to raise the principal sum of \$38,467.88, with accrued interest of \$10,515.26 through May 30, 2017, with a total subsidy granted of \$33,833.48, late charges of \$143.83, and fees assessed of \$1,974.67, for a total unpaid balance due of \$84,935.12 as of May 30, 2017. Interest is accruing on the unpaid principal balance at the rate of \$7.1784 per day after May 30, 2017, until the date of entry of Judgment as appears on the Affidavit of Rural Development Foreclosure Representative, Vickie Jones, previously filed herein, together with interest on the Judgment amount at the rate of 2.06 percent per annum, until paid in full, plus cost, disbursements, attorney's fees, and expenses pursuant to Judgment and Order of Sale, being Civil Action No. 7:17-cv-119-KKC on the Pikeville Division of the United States District Court for Eastern District of Kentucky, entered on March 7, 2018, in the case of the United States of America vs James Ed Scott, Et Al, the following described property will be sold to the highest and best bidder:  
 House and Lot located at 5051 Spurlock Creek, Prestonsburg, KY 41653, Floyd County KY Being the same property conveyed by Deed dated February 17, 1994, and in Deed Book 374, Page 264, in the Floyd County Clerk's Office  
 Terms of Sale: Ten percent (10%) of the bid price (in the form of a Cashiers Check made payable to the U. S. Marshal) on the day of the sale with good and sufficient bond for the balance, bearing interest at the rate of 2.06 percent per annum until paid, due and payable in sixty (60) days and said bond having the effect of a Judgment. Upon a default by the Purchaser, the deposit shall be forfeited and retained by the U.S. Marshal as a part of the proceeds of the sale, and the property shall again be offered for sale subject to confirmation by the Court.  
 This sale shall be in bar and foreclosure of all right, title, interest, estate claim, demand or equity of redemption of the defendant(s) and of all persons claiming by through, under or against them, provided the purchase price is equal to two-thirds of the appraisal value. If the purchase price is not equal to two-thirds of the appraised value, the Deed shall contain a lien in favor of the defendant(s) reflecting the right of the defendant(s) to redeem during the period provided by law (KRS 426.530). Under law, the purchaser is deemed to be on notice of all matters affecting the property of record in the local County Clerk's Office.  
 Inquires should be directed to:  
 Darwin E McGuire, Rural Development  
 Paintsville, Kentucky  
 Telephone: 606/789-3766 Ext 4



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**MONEY**

Continued From Page 9A

She said it's common for cities to offer stipends to employees who use their cell phones both for work and personal reasons. When asked about whether those situations would result in the city's cell phone bill containing the phone numbers for employees' personal cell phones, Patterson said it would depend on how the city provides that benefit.

"In some instances, what they'll do is they'll have their personal plan and then the city can reimburse them for the actual cost of the city use, or the employee, say, will pay X amount per month for their personal use," she said.

When asked whether there would be an issue with an employee having two phones on the city account allowing a family member, who is not an employee, to use the phone, she said, "That would just depend on whether, you know, I really haven't come across that issue before."

She did say, however, that one of the phones could be paid by the city, while the other one may be paid via the discount that's given by the phone company.

Each employee cell phone costs about \$43 per month. Attempts to determine how much Martin deducts from employee's paychecks were unsuccessful. One employee said she pays \$20 per paycheck, which would equal about \$80 per month.

In regards to the city's gasoline account, Martin has a \$14,000 spend limit on its Fleet cards, bills sent to the city show, and Martin collectively spent \$14,800 for the Fleet card in October, November and December, 2018, according to check registers provided.

Most gas purchases occurred in Martin, while there were several at gas stations in Hazard, where some police department officials live. The city bought about \$46 in gas on Nov. 5-7 at Bowling Green, Arizona and Texas, the invoices show.

**Grocery store and restaurant purchases**

Martin regularly buys food at the Martin IGA and local restaurants, a review of city documents show.

Howell said Martin buys supplies — including toilet paper, paper towels and other items — at IGA for all city departments. Groceries, Tourism Director Kris Rudder said, are often purchased there for fire department training events.

Howell said only some Martin employees may buy items at the grocery store and he said he reviews purchases there.

"It's set. You're limited on who can do this," he said.

Martin City Tourism spent nearly \$3,300 at the Martin IGA this fiscal year, and the city's account records included a \$1,588 Martin IGA bill that noted the fire de-

partment owed part of it.

According to receipts provided for those purchases on the \$1,588 bill, the city bought coffee, coffee creamer, coffee filters, ice, pop and other items, like three hot sandwiches, two prepared meals and various candy bars in September 2018.

The general ledger records nearly \$1,000 for various purchases at Dairy Queen in Martin this year — with some individual payments of nearly \$300.

Receipts provided for an Oct. 24, 2018, purchase of \$330 at Dairy Queen were difficult to read, but most of the legible receipts shows purchases of meals totaling \$50 or more during the city's Red, White & Blue Days Festival, while at least one receipt was for \$30 in meals bought in May.

Howell said the city provides free meals to firefighters to help during the festival and other events. He talked about how hard these volunteers work and how it saves money.

He said buying them meals is "a whole lot cheaper than if we actually had to pay the employees to do all of that."

The city spent nearly \$1,600 at Giovanni's and \$3,500 at IGA in 2017.

**Martin pays for health insurance bought by private companies**

Martin offers insurance to employees, and it reimburses employees for health insurance provided by other entities, the city's open records response showed.

One employee, for example, is reimbursed \$252 monthly for health

insurance his wife buys through her place of employment. This is the same couple who also receive two cell phones through the city's cell phone account.

Clouse reported that she is also reimbursed for health insurance, but invoices for her health insurance were not provided.

"The company (city) will reimburse you \$385 max a month on insurance payments if you pay them yourself," Clouse said. "I think (the other employee) and I are the only two. His is \$252 and mine's \$140."

Copies of numerous invoices for employee reimbursements were not provided. Lisa Hall, a clerk for the water system, said some employees forget to turn in receipts.

She and Howell said they could not remember why the city water check register reports that Howell was reimbursed \$664 on Oct. 17. No invoice or check was provided. Hall said the check has not been cashed.

Howell said he couldn't remember the purchase, and noted emergency repairs often arise outside of normal operating hours.

"If I'm out somewhere and we needed, they needed, something and I'm somewhere, I'll get it," he said.

**Funds used for public purposes**

Martin has spent about \$180 on flowers for funerals this fiscal year, a practice Patterson said is not generally best practice for governments.

She said the Kentucky Attorney General issued an opinion detailing the use of city funds

to buy flowers.

"It's going to depend on the facts of the case. If you just say whether a city is buying funeral flowers, it will matter who the flowers are for, what the purpose is for, that kind of thing, and generally, it's not the best practice, however, there may be instances when it is actually considered a public purpose."

When asked whether buying flowers for a council member whose family member died would qualify as a public purpose, she said, "The attorney general has issued a decision a long time ago. That's not going to be considered a public purpose practice."

Patterson said the KLC advises cities to use donated funds, instead of taxpayer funds, to buy funeral flowers.

Howell said Martin has bought flowers for funerals since the 1980s and 1990s. Adams said he will research the law on the issue.

The city tourism commission spent \$1,700 at flower shops this fiscal year, documents show, and the majority of the payments were noted as being for an "account," while two were listed with individual names.

**Howell said Martin has come a long ways, still has a long way to go**

Howell said Martin has improved over the past several years, and it is still trying to overcome financial problems that started before he was elected.

"We're a small town that struggles. We've always, Martin's always struggled," he said. "I mean, look, I come into office and we struggled

so bad. You was pulling your hair out every day, figuring out how you was going to make your payrolls and stuff, not because of something I've done. Just because of the shape it was left in."

The city's former mayor died in federal prison, after being convicted in 2014 of conspiracy to violate civil rights of voters and vote buying.

Howell said when he came into office, the city had not paid a \$160,000 Kentucky Infrastructure Authority loan for years, owed Prestonsburg \$44,000 for delinquent water bills, owed \$21,000 in delinquent electric bills, owed Rural Development \$13,000 and had other financial issues.

Floyd County sued the city's water system in 2011 for failure to turn over garbage bill collections, and, since November 2013, Martin has been making monthly payments of \$300 to the county to pay off a \$22,000 debt owed for the collection of garbage bills that were not turned over to the county. That debt is now below \$1,000.

"We're still paying those debts off," Howell said.

He said when he came into office, Martin did not have the equipment it needed.

"We had one weedeater. The city had one weedeater, and we didn't even have a shovel to dig a hole with. You think I'm lying. This is fact," Howell said.

Officials said the city police officers had to buy their own guns and vests and used a stop sign to cover a hole in the floorboard of the police cruiser when Howell came into office.

Howell talked about a dump truck and a Jeep with a plow that belonged to the city, saying he drove them when he was employed there, but the vehicles were gone when he became mayor.

"There's still answers I don't have," Howell said. "Vehicles that just vanished. Backhoes, everything. Nobody knows nothing."

Martin and other cities in coal-producing counties have struggled with decreases in coal severance funding and other issues. Howell said in Martin, that funding decline comes alongside the decline in revenue caused by the redevelopment project, which will demolish the once-busy downtown area, causing residents to move elsewhere. He said when the project started, people didn't think about how Martin would make up for revenue lost— funds the city would otherwise receive in property taxes, insurance taxes, water and sewer bills and other fees paid by residents living downtown.

"This is going back to show you where Martin was and where it is today. You know, I mean, that's how far we've come," Howell said. "That's just like this annexation. Yeah, it's going to help Martin. It's going to help us. It's going to create revenue. It will. But, to me, that's going to benefit everybody, even these schools. The way they portray it is like Martin is trying to get money to do this or do that. No, Martin's trying to better the whole area. We could be like Martin County and only have two police officers for the entire county."

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# PPD seeks pastor wanted on child exploitation charge

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

The Prestonsburg Police Department issued a statement this weekend, reporting that officials are searching for a pastor who is accused of allegedly exploiting a child.

According to a statement, the department obtained an arrest warrant on May 24 for Bobby J. "BJ" Blackburn, 26, of Prestonsburg, on one count of prohibited use of an electronic communication system to procure a minor to commit a sex act.

"Attempts to execute the warrant and find the location of Mr. Blackburn have been unsuccessful as of Saturday morning," the statement said. "The Prestonsburg Police are reaching out to the public for any assistance and in addition are asking anyone who knows the whereabouts of Blackburn to call, (606) 886-



**Bobby "BJ" Blackburn**

1010, you may remain anonymous as only the information as to his location is needed."

Department Spokesperson Lt. George Tussey said Blackburn had not been located as of noon on Tuesday. A call to the investigating officer was not return prior to print deadline Tuesday afternoon.

Blackburn is pastor at Elevate Church in Prestonsburg. Services there were canceled for Sunday after the Prestonsburg Police issued the statement.



Floyd County Schools District staff celebrated the arrival of the first three buses approved by board in October 2018 on Thursday at the bus garage located in Martin.

# Floyd schools get new buses

**By ELAINE BELCHER STAFF WRITER**

Floyd County Schools District staff celebrated the arrival of the first three buses approved by the board in October 2018 on Thursday at the bus garage located in Martin.

According to district Director of Transportation Joe Marson, the buses, manufactured by Thomas Built Buses and Blue Bird — the same company that will be sup-

plying buses under this new loan — are more fuel efficient, feature more technology and amenities and are safer than older buses in the district's fleet.

"We are using a Kentucky Department of Education formula to develop a program of 'appreciation' for the buses — a schedule of when to purchase and when to sell buses to maintain value for the vehicles," said Marson. "It takes 14 years for a bus to de-

preciate in value for the district as it takes more maintenance and parts to keep them running. So if we buy five new buses a year and sell off the same number, we will be able to maintain a schedule to balance those maintenance costs with the value for the buses."

During the October 2018 meeting, the BOE approved financing more than \$1 million to buy

two 34-passenger buses, four 52-passenger buses, three 72-passenger buses and one 84-passenger bus using a Kentucky Interlocal School Transportation Association bond. The interest rate on the loan will be between two and 3.5 percent, the district reported, and the district will make its first payment of around \$150,000 in September.

# Police: Couple using meth reported false incident in Pike

**AN APPALACHIAN NEWS-PAPERS STAFF REPORT**

PIKEVILLE — A Floyd County couple was arrested recently after allegedly reporting a false incident while under the influence of methamphetamine.

According to court documents, Eric D. Roberts II, 23, and Jan Sester, 18, both of Whispering Oaks Drive, Prestonsburg, were arrested May 19 at Lykins Creek in

Pikeville. According to court documents, the couple had gone door-to-door in the area asking residents to contact 911 for them "because someone is 'after them.'"

According to court documents, when Pikeville Police made contact with the couple, both Roberts and Sester had "pin point pupils and was speaking very fast," and experienced difficulty standing still. Court documents said the couple told officers that "every

car that passed while we spoke were people out to get them."

Court documents said the couple told police they had been "hiding in tall grass for hours trying to avoid the people out to get them," and that they had been using meth.

"Both subjects also advised me that they had been doing a '10 piece of meth' in the days prior to my contact with them," Pikeville Police Officer Tommy Fouts wrote in court documents.

Both Roberts and Sester were charged with public intoxication and falsely reporting an incident. They were lodged in the Pike County Detention Center and released the following day on their own recognizance.

## Tiger Is Missing!



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## Community Events

### Thursday, May 30

• 7 p.m.: Jack Pearson will offer an "intimate guitar clinic" at Gearheart Auditorium, Prestonsburg campus of Big Sandy Community and Technical College. Free admission

### Friday, May 31

• 8 a.m.: Registration begins for Big Sandy College Foundation William G. Duke Golf Scramble, Stonecrest.

• 8 p.m.: Sons of FM to perform at Stonecrest Bar and Grill, Stonecrest, Prestonsburg.

### Saturday, June 1

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Floyd County Farmer's Market open, Prestonsburg

• 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Dance Etc. to host "On Broadway" spring recital, Mountain Arts Center. 888-MAC-ARTS

• 9 a.m.: Friends

of Jenny Wiley 5K Trail Run, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park Wilkinson-Stumbo Convention Center

• 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.:

Prestonsburg Night Market, downtown Prestonsburg

### Sunday, June 2

• 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.: Dance Etc. to host "On Broadway" spring recital, Mountain Arts Center. 888-MAC-ARTS

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## 'Fairytale 5K' raises funds for children's services

By MARY MEADOWS  
STAFF WRITER

Mountain Comprehensive Care Center hosted its second "Fairytale 5K" on Saturday, May 25, raising around \$1,000 for its children's services programs.

Piarist School student Seth Hall won the race with a time of 21:06. In the male division, Brandon Noble of Knott County came in second and Randall Watts of Johnson County came in third. In the female division, Terri Mullins earned first place with a time of 25:18, followed by Noel Heart in second place and Jana Newsome in third place.

Officials said funds would be used to offers summer camps to hundreds of children in Floyd and surrounding counties this year.

MCCC provides more than 100 types of services to local residents and children. It's youth services include psychiatric and psychological services, a first steps program for children from birth to age three, a collaborative educational and mental health program called SIGHT/INSIGHTS, case manage-

ment, school-based and other types of programs that help children and youth cope with mental illness. Among other services, MCCC offers residential treatment for juveniles at its Rising Point facility on Stonecrest, as well as crisis services for youth at other locations.

MCCC Peer Support Specialist Taylor Vandeventer addressed the crowd prior to the race, telling them it offers "great services" for children.

"Kids, there's a 10-year delay between kids showing symptoms of a mental illness and them actually getting help for it," she said. "And that's crazy to think that a kid might be having problems by the time they're eight years old, and they don't even get help for it by the time they're 18."

She described herself as being in recovery of a mental health issue she's had since childhood. She said she suffered with anxiety and depression but she didn't understand what was wrong until she was in high school and she didn't seek help until after she was married.

See RACE, Page 12A



Mountain Comprehensive Care Center hosted its second "Fairytale 5K" on Saturday, May 25, raising around \$1,000 for its children's services programs. The program offers summer camps to children and works throughout the year to improve their quality of life.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows



## PHS senior wins art contest

A FLOYD CHRONICLE  
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

U.S. Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers announced the winners of the 2019 Congressional Art Competition for Kentucky's 5th Congressional Dis-

trict. The winning artwork will hang in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year, representing southern and eastern Kentucky.

The first place winner is Payton Martin, a senior at Prestonsburg

High School who displayed "great artistry and detail" in his pencil portrait of President Abraham Lincoln, according to the statement from Roger's office.

Martin, the son of Georgia and Danny Martin of Prestonsburg and student of PHS Art Teacher Maggie Robi- nette, will receive two airline tickets from Southwest Airlines to attend a national reception this summer in Washington, D.C. along with all of the 2019 winning artists from across the country. He is also eligible for a scholarship from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

"It is always an honor to have your art recognized and I can think of no higher recognition than from Congressman Hal Rogers and seeing it displayed in our Capitol," said Martin. "Having won third place in this competition my freshman year, I am glad to see how much I have

improved. From here, I hope to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design to further develop my skills as an artist."

The Congressional Art Competition, sponsored by the Congressional Institute, was initiated by Congress in 1982 to provide an opportunity for Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of young people living in their districts. More than 650,000 students have participated in the competition.

"Our region has a number of incredibly talented artists and this competition provides a way to highlight our students' work on the national level," said Rogers. "Payton's incredible drawing of President Lincoln will captivate thousands of visitors in the Capitol Building throughout the year, representing southern and Eastern Kentucky."



Submitted photo

Prestonsburg High School senior Payton Martin won of the Fifth Congressional District Art Competition.



## Trail run in P'burg this weekend

A FLOYD CHRONICLE  
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Friends of Jenny Wiley, a nonprofit organization that supports Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, is hosting its third annual 5K Trail Run this weekend.

The race will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 1, and last until about noon.

All proceeds will be used to upkeep trails and make other improvements at JWSRP.

The Jenny Wiley 5K

Trail Run course is 3.1 miles, starting at the park's Wilkinson-Stumbo Convention Center and continuing onto the park's scenic Lake-Shore Trail, which follows along Dewey Lake. Runners and hikers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Prizes will be awarded for the top finishers in several categories.

For more information, visit the Friends of Jenny Wiley on Facebook or fojw.org.

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Jack Pearson

## Free guitar clinic with Jack Pearson

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Musician Jack Pearson, a former member of the Allman Brothers Band, is offering a free guitar clinic in Floyd County this week.

Pearson, credited by Rolling Stone as having a "light touch and a fluid, jazzy style," will host an "intimate guitar clinic" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, at Gearheart Auditorium, located on the Prestonsburg campus of Big

Sandy Community and Technical College.

Pearson has played professionally for more than 40 years and worked with numerous bands and musicians, including The Allman Brothers Band, Vince Gill, Earl Scruggs, Amy Grant, Faith Hill, Ronnie Milsap, Gov't Mule, Lee Ann Womack, Martina McBride, Trace Adkins and others.

Admission is free. For details, visit, [macarts.com](http://macarts.com).

### RACE

Continued From Page 11A

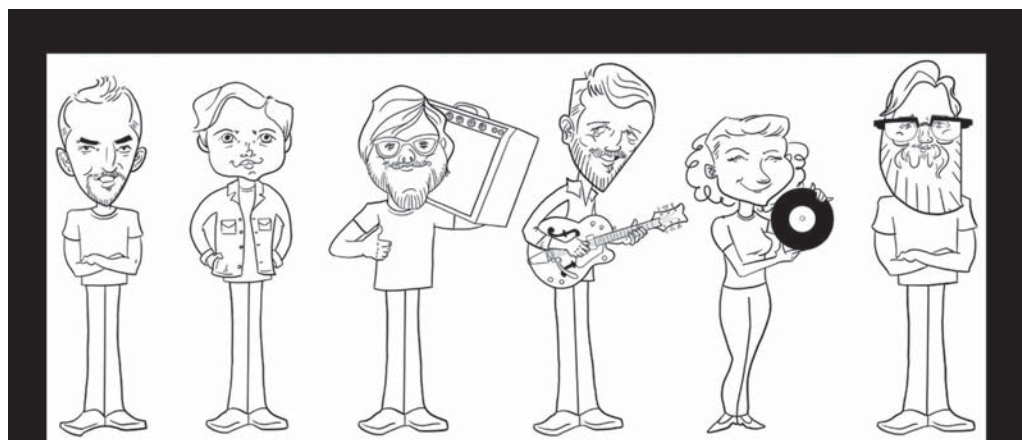
She said 75 percent of children in the juvenile justice system have a mental illness.

"So, if that tells you anything, mental health services are important," she said.

She talked about the importance of de-stigmatizing mental illnesses, saying, "It doesn't have to be a thing hidden in the dark anymore, and it can be brought to the light and everybody can get help."

MCCC Community Support Services Program Director Trina Caudill said MCCC will also host its fairytale-themed "Royal Christmas Ball" in December to raise more funds for children services.

For more information about services provided by MCCC, to refer a child in need of services, or to donate, call, (606) 886-8572. MCCC offers a 24-hour helpline, (800) 422-1060.



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 with Sarah Lange Hyden

**Vacation and Retirement: Different Goals Require Different Investment Strategies**

To achieve any of your financial objectives, you need to save and invest – that much is clear. But just how you save and invest may differ from goal to goal. Let's look at two common goals to see the differences in your savings and investment strategies.

The first goal we'll consider is a dream vacation – one lasting a couple of weeks or more, possibly to an exotic locale. So, for the investments you've designated to fund this vacation, you need two key attributes: *liquidity* and *low risk*. The liquidity requirement is pretty self-explanatory – you want to be able to get to your vacation funds exactly when you need them, and you don't want to be slapped with some type of early withdrawal or tax penalty.

The low-risk part of your vacation strategy means you want investments that won't drop in value just when you need to sell them to use the proceeds for your trip. However, you need to be aware that those types of stable-value investment vehicles likely will not offer much growth potential. As you may know, the investments with the greatest possible rewards are also those that carry the highest degrees of risk. Yet, by starting to invest early enough in more conservative investments, and putting away money regularly, you may be able to compensate for the lack of growth opportunities.

Now, let's turn to your other goal – retirement. When you are saving for retirement, your primary objective is pretty simple: to accumulate as much money as you can. Consequently, you will need a reasonable percentage of your portfolio devoted to growth-oriented investments. But what's a reasonable percentage? There's no one-size-fits-all solution – the amount of growth investments in your portfolio should be based on several factors, including your age, risk tolerance and projected retirement lifestyle.

Furthermore, this percentage may need to change over time. When you're just starting out in your career, you may be able to afford to take on the greater risk that comes with having a higher percentage of your portfolio in growth investments. But as you get closer to retirement, you might want to begin shifting some dollars toward more conservative vehicles – you don't want to be over-exposed to the volatility of the financial markets just when you need to start selling investments to help fund your retirement.

Nonetheless, you won't want to give up all growth investments, even during your retirement years. You could spend two or three decades as a retiree, and over that time, inflation could take a big toll on your purchasing power. To counter this effect, you will need to own some investments that have the potential at least to equal, and ideally outpace, the cost of living.

The examples of taking that extensive vacation and enjoying a long retirement illustrate the importance of recognizing that you will have many goals in life – and you'll need to prioritize and plan for them, sometimes following significantly different investment strategies. When you do, you'll give yourself a better chance of reaching your destinations.

**Sarah Lange Hyden**  
 Financial Advisor  
 255 West Court Street | Prestonsburg, KY  
**Office: 606.889.9004**  
**[sarah.lange@edwardjones.com](mailto:sarah.lange@edwardjones.com)**

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## 15th Region Tournament



Floyd Central baserunner Brayden Hamilton approaches third base as the Jaguars faced Johnson Central in the opening round of the 15th Region Baseball Tournament on Saturday.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

### Jags fall to Golden Eagles

By **STEVE LEMASTER**  
SPORTS WRITER

EASTERN — Floyd Central hung around but was unable to push any runs across as Johnson Central pulled away to win 6-0 in the opening round of the 15th Region Baseball Tournament on Saturday.

Determined Johnson Central claimed the win on Floyd Central's home field.

The victory pushed perennial title contender Johnson Central into the semifinals of the 15th Region Baseball Tournament. With the win, Johnson Central improved to 31-5. Following the loss, Floyd Central ended its season 13-19.

Andrew Music was the winning pitcher for the Golden Eagles. Music pitched a shutout,

surrendering zero runs on five hits over seven innings while striking out seven and walking one.

Floyd Central junior Chase Conley suffered the pitching loss. Conley pitched five and two-thirds innings, allowing 10 hits and six runs while striking out four and walking one.

Johnson Central pushed across the game's first run in the bottom half of the first

See JAGS, Page 3B



Use your camera phone and scan the QR Code above to watch the latest episode of the Bank On It podcast.

### Lady Jaguars fall to Lady Golden Eagles

By **RANDY WHITE**  
REGIONAL SPORTS EDITOR

EASTERN — It took Johnson Central's offense a while to get going, but it didn't matter because Lady Golden Eagle pitcher Chloe VanHoose was dominant.

Once the Lady Golden Eagle offense got going, Johnson Central cruised to a 10-0 win over Floyd Central in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament.

With the win, Johnson Central advanced to the 15th Region semifinals to take on Pikeville. Pikeville and Johnson Central have met in the 15th Region championship the past two seasons.

The Lady Golden Eagles only had one hit in the first two innings

See LADY, Page 2B



Floyd Central's Grace Martin swings at a pitch against Johnson Central in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament at Floyd Central Tuesday night.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Floyd Central pitcher Ashley Bellamy winds up as she gets ready to deliver a pitch to home plate against Johnson Central Monday night in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament. The Lady Jaguars fell to Johnson Central 10-0.

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Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Floyd Central's Emma Dudleson attempts to lay down a bunt against Johnson Central Tuesday night in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament.

**LADY**  
Continued From Page 1B

of play against Floyd Central, but everything changed in the bottom of the third.

In the bottom of the third, Claire Gamble got things going with a bunt single. Alaina Castle followed with an RBI double to score the game's first

run. With two outs, Alysa Hedrick hit a ground-er to short, but she beat the throw to first for an infield RBI single. Abby Fannin followed with an RBI single.

The Lady Golden Eagles held a 3-0 lead after three innings of play.

Johnson Central kept things going in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Katelyn Fitch led off the inning with a double for the Lady Golden Eagles. With two outs, Gamble hit an RBI single. Castle followed with an RBI single of her own. VanHoose was hit-by-a-pitch. Hedrick followed with a two RBI double to push the lead to 7-0. Fannin reached base on an error allowing the fifth run of

the inning to score. Johnson Central added two more runs in the bottom of the fourth. What did VanHoose do on the mound for the Lady Golden Eagles? She just threw a no-hitter with 14 strikeouts. VanHoose was dominant on the mound shutting down Floyd Central.

Floyd Central finished the season with a 12-18 record. Johnson Central (22-15) is scheduled to face Pikeville (26-11) in the 15th Region semifinals Tuesday evening at Floyd Central. The game ended too late to be included in this edition of the Paintsville Herald. For complete coverage see the Week-

end Edition of the Paintsville Herald. The winner of the Pikeville vs. Johnson Central game will take on the winner of the Pike Central vs. Shelby Valley game in the 15th Region championship Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at Floyd Central.

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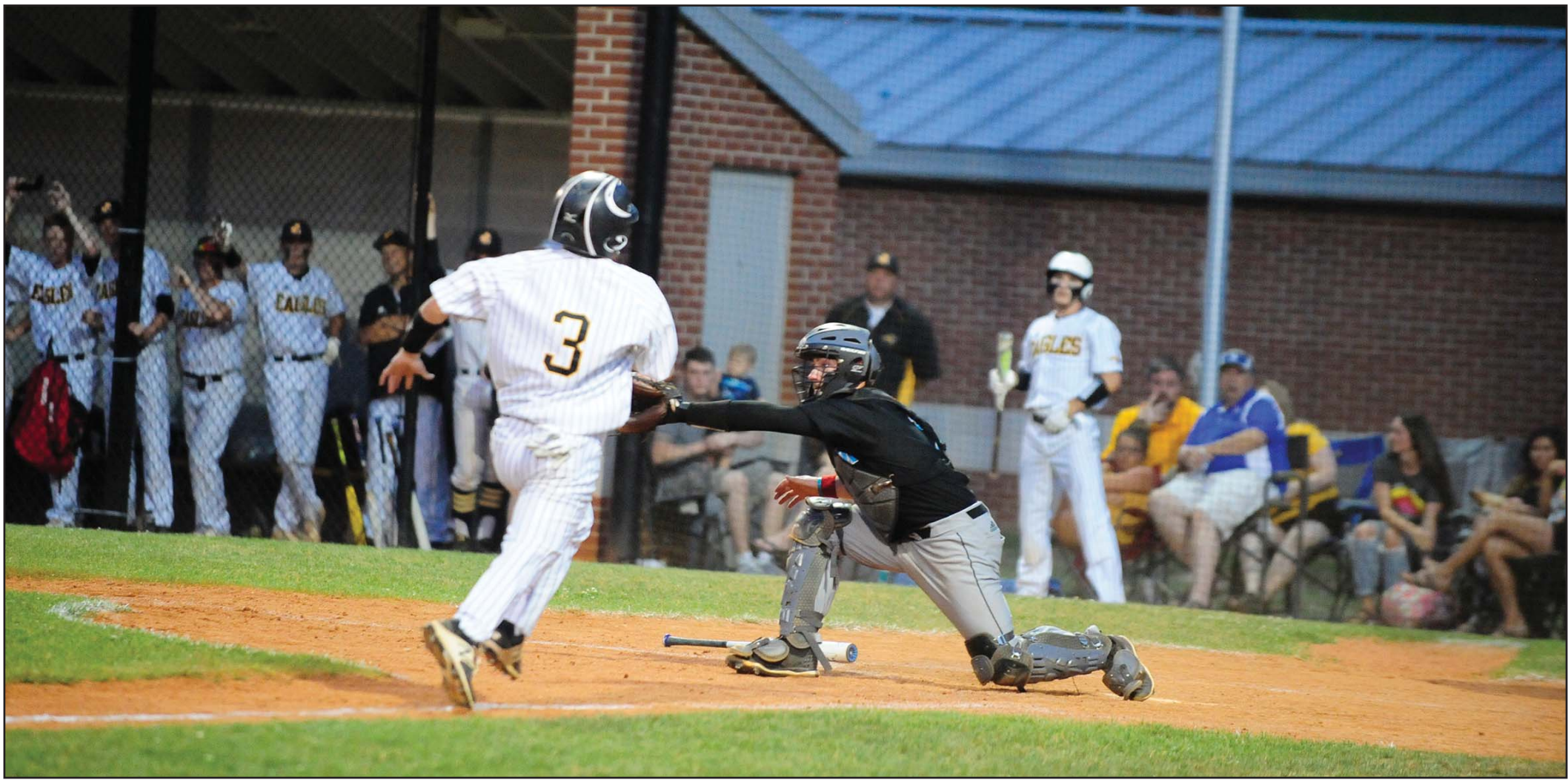
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Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Floyd Central catcher Logan Conley prepares to apply a tag at home plate against Johnson Central in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Floyd Central third baseman Brady Jones runs toward third base for a force out.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Floyd Central shortstop Matt Combs attempts to make a play in the opening round of the 15th Region Baseball Tournament.

**JAGS**

Continued From Page 1B

inning. Then, following another scoreless frame, Johnson Central added another run in the bottom half of the fifth inning to move ahead 2-0.

Holding the two-run

lead, Johnson Central erupted for six runs in the bottom half of the sixth inning to put the game out of Floyd Central's reach.

Johnson Central, under the direction of veteran head coach Shawn Hall, collected 15 hits. Grant Davis and Ryan Sartin-Slone each

provided multiple hits for the Golden Eagles. Davis went three for four at the plate with a double to lead Johnson Central offensively.

Weston May, Blake DeLong, Ryan Sartin-Slone, Cody Rice and Chayce Meade added two hits apiece for 57th District cham-

pion Johnson Central. Davis and cleanup hitter Hunter McCloud each recorded two RBIs in the Golden Eagles' victory.

Johnson Central overcame two errors in the field to notch the postseason win.

Floyd Central put runners on base as ear-

ly as the first inning but was limited offensively and held scoreless.

Senior catcher Logan Conley paced Floyd Central at the plate, finishing three for three. Two other players, Blake Slone and Braxton Turner, added one hit apiece for the Jaguars.

In the other opening round games in the 15th Region Baseball Tournament it was Lawrence County 11, Paintsville 4; Pikeville 6, Pike Central 4 and Bel-fry 11, Shelby Valley 3.

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



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

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

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

**TO OUR READERS**

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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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Highland Terrace does not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability or familial status.



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**LEGALS**

**LEGAL NOTICE I, JENNIFER BURKE ELLIOTT,**

a duly licensed attorney practicing in Floyd County, Kentucky, have been appointed by the Floyd Circuit Court as Warning Order attorney for the Unknown Spouse of Alice Robinson. The Order is to notify the Unknown Spouse of Alice Robinson that a legal action has been brought against her/him, the same being **Floyd Circuit Court, Division II, Civil Action No. 19-CI-000241.** Notice is hereby given to the Unknown Spouse of Alice Robinson that his/her failure to respond to the Complaint could result in a default judgment being awarded. As Warning Order Attorney, a response must be filed within fifty (50) days of the filing of the Complaint.

**JENNIFER**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-5681 (Renewal)**

(1) In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC, 544 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 has applied for a renewal of a surface area, auger and underground mining permit which is located 2.3 miles south of Eastern in Floyd County. (2) The operation is approximately 2.0 miles south of KY Route 80's junction with Goose Creek Road and located 0.02 miles south of Goose Creek. (3) The operation

**LEGALS**

**BURKE ELLIOTT Attorney at Law**

**107 S Arnold Avenue Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653 (606) 886-9937**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-5681 (Renewal)**

is located on the Wayland U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The operation includes surface area, auger and underground mining. The permitted surface area is owned by The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC. The operation will underlie property owned by George Ousley, Willie Jr. & Rebecca Conley, James E. Patton, Robert Allen, Brent Allen, Appalachian Land Company and Erma Gayheart. (4) The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's "Hazard Regional Office, 556 Village Lane, P.O. Box 851, Hazard, KY 41702. Written comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director of the Division of Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort,

**LEGALS**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-8079**

**Renewal No. 7** In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Spurlock Mining, LLC, 3228 Summit Square Place, Suite 180, Lexington, Kentucky 40509 has applied for renewal of a permit for an existing coal processing facility, refuse disposal, underground, and auger and auger and reclamation mining operation located 1.90 mile southeast of Printer in Floyd County. The proposed operation will disturb 323.81 surface acres. The proposed operation is approximately 1.4 miles southeast from KY Route 122's junction with KY Route 2030 and located 0.004 miles northeast of

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE (Of Final Settlement)**

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD**

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 June 26th, 2019 at 10:00 am.

SETTLEMENT	CASE NUMBER	ESTATE OF:	FIDUCIARY	DATE FILED
FINAL	16-P-271	BENITA RAY	LOLETTA MEADE & WILLIAM RAY	7/13/18
FINAL	17-P-213	MICHAEL HANCOCK	RITA HANCOCK	5/18/17
FINAL	17-P-480	MARVIN SCOTT STURGILL	JO ANNA LYBERGER	1/8/18
FINAL	18-P-94	HERBERT GOBLE	HERBERT GOBLE JR.	3/2/18
FINAL	18-P-184	NELLIE JANE MULLINS	SHARON A. CAUDILL	4/27/18
FINAL	18-P-276	GARNETT FAYE LAFERTY	FREDA CORNETT	7/6/18
FINAL	18-P-379	DONNA TURNER	PAUL WADE	9/25/18
FINAL	18-P-380	MART BOYD	MARY BOYD	9/26/18
FINAL	18-P-414	EDITH HANSFORD	TYANN HANSFORD	11/1/18

**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
4/18/19	19-P-158	LINDA KAY SAMONS	RANDALL SAMONS	
4/19/19	19-P-159	ED CAUDILL	FELICIA JOHNSON	
4/23/19	19-P-161	WILLIAM BOOTH	DAVID SPRADLIN	
4/25/19	19-P-162	PAMELA HOWELL	STONEY HOWELL	
4/26/19	19-P-163	GRACE CLARK	LLOYD SHEPHERD	
4/29/19	19-P-165	REBECCA SUE HAMMONDS	HELEN HAMMONDS	
4/29/19	19-P-166	EDGAR HOWELL	BRIAN HOWELL	
4/29/19	19-P-167	MYREDIA HOWELL	BRIAN HOWELL	
4/29/19	19-P-168	GERALD DEAN NEWSOME	KATHY NEWSOME	
4/29/19	19-P-169	SCARLET KEATHLEY	ANITA COLEMAN	
4/30/19	19-P-170	CHESTER SLONE JR.	SHERRY SLONE	STEPHANIE DAVIS
4/30/19	19-P-171	JEWELL HUNTER	SCOTTY HUNTER	
4/30/19	19-P-172	EDGAR WRIGHT	BETTY WRIGHT	
5/1/19	19-P-173	TIMOTHY RICE	SUSAN RICE	
5/3/19	19-P-174	SHARON KAY PATTON	BRIAN PATTON	
5/1/19	19-P-175	RODNEY O'DELL MOORE	RONDA MOORE	
5/7/19	19-P-177	BENJAMIN JOHNSON	STEPHANIE JOHNSON	
5/8/19	19-P-179	MICHELLE RENEE SWIGER	MARK SWIGER	ANTHONY CRAIG DAVIS
5/9/19	19-P-180	CLYDE HANCOCK	EARL CLINE	
5/10/19	19-P-181	DEWAYNE BEVINS	JUANITA BEVINS	
5/17/19	19-P-182	LOIS GAYLE NEWSOME	CANDY MCKAY	
5/10/19	19-P-183	JAMES EDWARD CHAFIN	JOHN CHAFIN	
5/13/19	19-P-184	ERMA FAYE ARMSTRONG	MARY STRANDRIGE	KEITH BARTLEY
5/17/19	19-P-185	MARY EVELYN AKERS	BRENDA HARRIS & SHERRY AKERS	
5/13/19	19-P-187	E. L. TACKETT	GLENDA TACKETT	
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**LEGALS**

at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Hazard Regional Office, 556 Village Lane, P.O. Box 851, Hazard, Kentucky 41702. Written comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

**LEGALS**

Mine Permits, 300 Sower 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 thirty (30) days of today's date.

**MEDICAL SECRETARY NEEDED**

At doctor's office in Martin, Ky. Office hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 6 pm. and every other Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
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**Public Notice Accepting Sealed Bids**

Allen Fire Protection Tax District is accepting sealed bids on the following:

2017 Jeep Cherokee Limited Approximately 43,000 miles

Bids can be mailed to P.O. Box 276 Allen, KY 41601, but must be received by June 4, 2019.

Bids can also be dropped off prior to the opening of the bids on June 4, 2019, 7:00 pm at the Allen Fire Station, 142 Court Street, New Allen, KY 41601.

For questions please contact: Fire Chief Frank Rudder at 606-874-0792 or 606-424-2582.

Allen Fire Protection Tax District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Southern Water and Sewer District is seeking to fill a full time position for a **WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR.** Certified operators with a Class II or Class III Drinking Water Treatment license is preferred, but exception will be made for a Class II operator with the ability to obtain a Class III certification within one year of hire.

Starting Salary (depending on qualifications/experience):

Requirements include a High School diploma or equivalent (GED), supplemented by the required years of experience operating a Class IIA, IIIA, or IVA Water Treatment Plant. Experience may be substituted with a distribution certification or appropriate education. Must hold a current KY Drinking Water Certification, a valid KY Driver's License and pass a drug screen and background check.

Responsibilities will include:

- \* Maintaining all plant operations
- \* Monitoring treatment process efficiency
- \* Performing all necessary tests related to water treatment
- \* Maintaining records and monitor maintenance at the water plant and grounds
- \* Monitor water flow in basins, clear wells, booster pump stations and water tanks
- \* Must have basic understanding of computers and Microsoft Office to record test results and other data
- \* Under general supervision, adjust chemical feed rates, pumps, valves, filters, etc. To maintain proper operations
- \* Operates a variety of machinery and/or equipment such as raw water pumps, finished water pumps, backwash pumps, chemical feed pumps and lab instrumentation
- \* Performs various other operations including filling tanks/hoppers with chemicals, back-washing filters, changing pumps, cleaning basins and janitorial duties, etc.
- \* Subject to be called to work outside of normal working hours to ensure uninterrupted water service for customers
- \* Interacts and communicates with various groups and individuals such as the supervisor, customers, plant operators and the distribution department operators

Interested applicants may submit an application and resume to Southern Water District. 245 KY RT 680 McDowell, KY 41647

By Mail: PO Box 610 McDowell, KY 41647



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