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CHRONICLE & TIMES

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

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Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Josh Little
Charles "Shag" Branham, left, was sworn into office Monday by Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton. Branham joined the other members of the city council Monday, a board on which he previously served for two terms.

Branham joins Prestonsburg City Council

By JOSH LITTLE
STAFF WRITER

Brancham, at its regularly-scheduled meeting Monday.

The Prestonsburg City Council welcomed its newest member, Charles "Shag" Bra-

Brancham, who served on the board previously from

See COUNCIL, Page 2A

Wheelwright Fire Department still has structure damage

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

When it rains, it pours. In addition to finding ways to fix a problem that caused Wheelwright's water source, an underground mine, to drain last month, city officials are also trying to figure out what to do about structure damage at the city fire department.

That problem — caused by water that flows through a culvert underneath the fire department — was described as an emergency when Fire Chief Daniel P. Gullett first approached the

city commission with it months ago, and, it isn't getting any better, according to statements he gave the commission on Jan. 10.

"On the station repairs, we have a huge hole in the wall and I'm also hearing additional sounds in the building. The shifting is not a pleasant sound, so I'm getting concerned," Gullett told the commission.

"So you're concerned the whole fire department is liable to just go in the creek?" Mayor Don Hall asked him.

Gullett told him the issue is

See DAMAGE, Page 7A

Floyd Chamber hosts ribbon cutting for Lou's Place for Pets

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The owners of Lou's Place for Pets in Prestonsburg welcomed Floyd County Chamber of Commerce members last week by introducing them to a few of their furry friends.

On Jan. 11, Floyd County Chamber members who turned out for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the business met "Sugey" the sugar glider, "Hedgy" the hedgehog, as well as a guinea pig, rabbits and other animals that Lou's Place for Pets owners Sheena Maynard has rescued.

See PLACE, Page 7A



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Sheena Maynard, center, cuts the ribbon at a ceremony held at Lou's Place for Pets by the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce. Also pictured, left to right, are: Chamber members Jessica Jarrell of BB&T Bank and Misha Curnutte of the Big Sandy Area Development District, Chamber Director Winston Reid (back), Kathy King Allen of the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton, Sheena Maynard and the business' namesake Lou, co-owner Kenneth Maynard (back), co-owner Robert Wright and Prestonsburg City Council Member Brittainy Branham.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Prestonsburg City Council Member Brittainy Branham meets "Sugey" the sugar glider during a ribbon cutting ceremony at Lou's Place for Pets.



Sheena Maynard, co-owner of Lou's Place for Pets, holds "Hedgy" the hedgehog.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary

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PMC honors Floyd responders



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Josh Little
 Representatives from Pikeville Medical Center attended the Prestonsburg City Council meeting Monday to honor first responders in the city who helped with a Jan. 3 wreck. Dale Morton, director of PMC's emergency department, second from right, presented members of the Prestonsburg Fire Department, Trans Star Ambulance Service and the Air Evac Flight Team with certificates of gratitude. Morton said PMC believes that the fast action taken by the responders after an crash that happened in the city earlier this month saved the life of a Floyd County resident. Prestonsburg Fire Chief Mike Brown, Firefighter Tyler Sparks and Fire Capt. Darrell Sparks are pictured with Morton, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Services Michelle Rainey and Trauma Nurse Practitioner Scott Suttles.

Wintry white



Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows
 Winter weather made driving in Floyd County a bit sticky this week. The snow prompted closures of schools and the library, and the weather postponed the health department's diabetes education class until Jan. 23.



COUNCIL

Continued From Page 1A

2002 to 2006, said he decided to apply because he likes the direction the city was moving in.

"I thoroughly agree and believe in the group (of council members)

that's here," said Branham.

He said one of the reasons he decided to join the council is to bring people back to the area.

"It's important to get a base for the youth to want to come home," he said.

Branham replaces

former council member Tim Cooley, who resigned from the council earlier this month, citing health and financial reasons.

The Prestonsburg City Council meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the city's municipal building.

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Prestonsburg City Hall closed Monday following gas leak



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Josh Little

The Prestonsburg Municipal Building, which houses the Prestonsburg City Hall, was temporarily shut down Monday due to a gas leak inside the building. Mayor Les Stapleton said the leak was not “explosive” nor “life-threatening.” The building was evacuated and 911 calls were rerouted and service was not affected, Stapleton said. The building reopened Monday afternoon. Stapleton said a new part has been ordered to fix a part of the HVAC system in the building where the leak was located.

New website replaces Kentucky’s 511 traffic info line

BY TOM LATEK
KENTUCKY TODAY

Drivers calling 511 to check on traffic and road conditions in Kentucky will find the service no longer available.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet replaced the old phone system with a new website, www.goky.ky.gov, that spokesman Ryan Watts said has several benefits, such as eliminating the clunky over-the-phone menu system.

Before, callers would go through a series of menu options to get information about a specific road in one of 120 counties.

Other benefits include the ability to store data for research.

“This will help with future planning and highway safety purposes, such as high accident areas,” Watts said.

For drivers who like a

mobile option, the state is also continuing their two-year partnership with Waze, a smartphone app that shares real-time information every two minutes. Transportation officials will be able to input construction and traffic information directly to the app, and not have it disappear after a short time as do reports from the public.

Watts said calls to 511 have dropped 40

percent the past two years, prompting officials to consider an evaluation of the system’s effectiveness.

“This will allow us to save taxpayers \$750,000 per year while continuing to provide up-to-the-minute information on traffic and road conditions,” Watts said.

The change is now in effect. People who call 511 will be directed to the new service.

Gearheart defends rate increase, touts boosted broadband access

BY BUDDY FORBES
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

PIKEVILLE — Gearheart Communications is defending its recent rate increase with company officials saying, during the most recent meeting of the Pike County Fiscal Court, that the company is looking out for its customers by altering its broadband speed to meet FCC regulations.

Deputy Judge-Executive Herbie Deskins said the judge-executive’s office has been receiving calls from Gearheart/Inter Mountain Cable customers, complaining that the increase is too much. Deskins said he invited Gearheart officials to the meeting in order to explain that the Pike County Fiscal Court is not responsible for the rates set by the company and to find out why the increase took place.

Gearheart Communications CFO James Campbell said the company is trying to provide better service to its customers, which he said comes at a cost.

“What we did recently was kind of realign our rates on broadband,” said Campbell. “The FCC actually defines broadband — or high-speed Internet — as 10 megs down, one meg up.”

According to Campbell, Gearheart can provide Internet at a different speed if it chooses, but he said the FCC studies set a standard for what is truly considered “broadband.”

“The FCC puts out a benchmark study all across the United States with what rates are being charged in urban areas and rural areas and we are certainly within those guidelines,” said Campbell. “We pride ourselves on that, but it’s hard to serve rural areas for a for-profit company.”

Campbell said the company has a lot of expenses to provide service to its customers and they are working to make sure they can continue to do so. He said there were “approximately 5,000 customers system-wide” who were operating at a speed below the FCC’s specifications. He said the company made the decision to alter its speed and rates in order to continue to receive funding from the FCC.

“We took an opportunity to bring everybody up to the FCC definition of

broadband Internet,” said Campbell. “A certain number of customers’ rates went up no more than \$5; some went down \$5. Some went up a little more, some went up a little less. But, the majority of the customers receive more broadband for less money.”

He said the majority of the customers should be happy, but the company has been receiving complaints from customers who are now paying more and are not happy with the changes.

“We’ve had a handful of complaints and we will handle those individuals, take care of those and make some exceptions,” Campbell said.

Deskins asked if a raise in rates would be used to better serve the company’s customers.

“We pride ourselves on our high-speed Internet and the amount of fiber we have already invested in the county,” said Campbell. “If your bill went up \$25, hopefully you got a substantial amount more of broadband ... I don’t know the specifics, but hopefully that happened.”

Deskins asked if every customer who got a raise would receive better Internet access.

“There’s 8,000 customers in Pike County and only 2,700 of those were part of this transition,” said Campbell. “So, we only touched 2,700 customers in Pike County.”

Deskins said he wanted to get the issue straightened out because of the recent issues with taxes.

“We’ve had quite a controversy on taxes that we had nothing to do with raising,” Deskins said. “And I just wanted, for the people watching on TV now, that they know the Pike fiscal court had nothing to do with the raising of their (rates), even though we’re a franchisee.”

Campbell said he is willing to speak with any customers who have concerns.

“I don’t want any customers to leave. But, at the same time, we have to have a certain amount of money to operate, just like the fiscal court does,” Campbell said.

Campbell said customers are welcome to call Gearheart Communications with any questions or concerns about their bills.

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Bill seeks voter approval for taxing district members

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

A local legislator co-sponsored a bill last week that would allow voters to choose members of taxing districts that are currently appointed by local governments and the governor.

Representative Larry Brown, R-Prestonsburg, is among 11 Republicans and one Democrat who co-sponsored House Bill 186, which was introduced on Jan. 11 by Rep. Matt Castlen, R-Maceo.

After reviewing the final draft on Jan. 12, however, Brown said he has issues with some details of the bill and may request amendments or pull out his co-sponsorship entirely.

Brown said he likes the bill because it would give voters a say-so in the appointment of members of boards that impose taxes, but there are details about the bill

that he does not support at this time.

"I've had some conversations with the primary sponsor of the bill and agree with the bill in principle," he said. "There are a couple of issues I have with some of the mechanics of it that if we can't get worked out, I'll probably withdraw my name as a co-sponsor of the bill."

He said the bill would continue through legislative process even if he pulls out his co-sponsorship, or he may continue to support the bill by adding amendments that address his concerns.

The bill would add a new section to KRS 65 to amend 35 state laws so that voters may choose members of taxing districts that are currently appointed, and the list of those entities is quite long. Soil and water conservation district members, which are included in the bill, are already on

the ballot locally, but other special taxing districts are appointed by local government bodies and the governor, not voters.

The would change the way appointments are made for taxing districts like volunteer fire departments, rescue squad taxing districts, industrial taxing districts, sanitation taxing districts, tourism commissions, flood control districts, area planning commissions, municipal college support districts, airport boards, regional community service programs, watershed conservancy districts, drainage taxing districts and others.

In local counties, this bill would allow voters to choose members of boards of volunteer fire departments and fire protection districts, cooperative extension districts, library districts, health departments, tourism commissions and other agencies.

If approved, the bill would become effective in 2020 and all candidates would be nonpartisan.

Candidates seeking these seats would be required to obtain a nominating petition with signatures of voters in the territory served by the agency, and the bill adds members of these bodies to the list of elected officials who could be criminally charged for willful neglect or malfeasance in office.

Brown is not the only person who has issues with some of the language in the bill.

Floyd County Clerk Chris Waugh, the president of the Kentucky County Clerks Association, is not supporting it at this time.

"It would election nightmare, in my opinion," he said.

He said adding more than 30 names to ballots would be more expensive, but that is not what he's most concerned about.

He said adding board members of special taxing districts that serve residents county-wide, like the library or the health department, likely won't cause problems on Election Day, but adding fire protection district members could slow down the election process

and cause problems at the polls.

He explained that the boundary lines for fire protection districts do not match voting precincts, and if this bill is approved, election officials and poll workers would have a "tough time" trying to figure out who is permitted to vote for which fire protection district member.

"At this point, I would not be for this bill because there are too many details that need to be worked out," he said. "Fire districts, their boundary lines are not going to run with the precinct boundary lines, so we will have to have split precincts, and it will be a nightmare trying to keep up with that."

He believes the bill comes as fire departments, which are mandated to impose taxes of only 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value, seek additional funding.

"There's no doubt that their intentions are good with this," he said. "It's my understanding that they want to allow fire departments to raise their rates ... They're not willing to allow them to raise that rate without allowing people to hold them accountable at the polls."

He said he supports

fire departments, but he's not willing to back the bill until he does more research. He said the issue is "a lot more complicated than them just throwing names on the ballot."

"It would be a tremendous headache to try to determine that (which voters live in which fire protection districts)," he said. "At this point, I would have to see how we could work that out before I could support it. I think it's something that we would need to sit down and really talk about because it would definitely be a complicated thing, trying to determine who can and who can't vote. I'd just have to see how it is they're planning to resolve some of those issues."

Brown is also supporting legislation this session that would move tax-supported fire departments earning less than \$100,000 out of their designation as special taxing districts and require them to report, instead, to the Kentucky Fire Commission, as well as a bill that would impose tougher penalties of any person convicted of attempted murder or murder of a peace officer or firefighter.



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EDITORIAL:

Wheelwright water fix may not be quick, may not be painless

One of the most vital services which has been entrusted, in many cases locally, to governmental and quasi-governmental bodies is the collection and distribution of water in our communities.

While private companies have sometimes managed local water districts, the final say on important matters has been given to government agencies, whether appointed or elected. And there's a reason for that: There's supposed to be a level of trust we can place in government that ensures water systems are run the best possible way.

At the same time, there's also the added buffer of, if elected officials are unable to take care of the water systems, then they can be voted out and replaced.

Wheelwright's water system is such an organization; the Wheelwright Utility Commission is appointed by the city's government to oversee the operations of the water district. And they've had their work cut out for them recently. In December, a mine from which the city gets its water went dry, leaving the organization scrambling to provide water for the city's residents.

Deals have been worked out and water is flowing, but the future of the system is on shaky ground and there are warnings that the solutions could potentially result in higher rates for the district's customers.

And that's where the rubber meets the road, ultimately. In other districts, an ongoing issue has been a lack of replacement of outdated and aging infrastructure, which ultimately comes back to haunt the customers when things begin breaking down and water service is interrupted. It's always been incredibly costly to install infrastructure in the mountain-

ous areas of Eastern Kentucky, and as difficult as it is to install, it's also difficult to repair and replace.

In Wheelwright, the fact that the community's only source of water can dry up like this is a major cause for concern, and one on which officials have been working. However, officials said recently that a new water plant, for which ground was broken last year, is now estimated to cost double the funding the city has in place, and is even further endangered by the lack of a steady supply of water.

All of these things add up to

some tough decisions pending for the people in Wheelwright and for the utilities board. Whatever decisions are made, however, must be made with an eye toward the future, and that can sometimes mean some pain, but it can also mean some progress.

We applaud Utilities Board Chairman Paul Hunt Thompson's dedication to trying to find a solution that doesn't raise rates, and we hope he's successful. However, if there is no other option, we hope that any increase can be as minimal as possible and reduce the impact on the ratepayers.

COLUMN:

Sen. Johnny Ray Turner: Senate week in review

By **JOHNNY RAY TURNER**
29TH DIST. SENATOR

Though we are just two weeks into the 2018 Legislative Session, the state Senate has already passed some significant legislation in a very bipartisan manner — which I hope is promising to what lies ahead.

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, the seventh day of this 60-day session, we passed the first bill — a victim's crime bill known as "Marsy's Law." I am pleased to see it moving forward and hopeful it will retain the same momentum in the House of Representatives. If it also passes out of that chamber, you will get to vote in November to amend the Kentucky constitution

to expand the rights of crime victims.

Why is this so important? Felony cases resulted in convictions 23,785 times last year in Kentucky alone. For each of those, there was at least one victim. Currently, those victims have only limited statutory rights and no constitutional rights. The accused has constitutional rights. SB 3 would give victims such constitutional rights as notice of all criminal court proceedings involving the accused, reasonable protection from the accused, timely notice of the release or escape of the accused, consideration of the safety of the victim and their family in setting bail, and full restitution to be paid by the

convicted.

SB 3 is part of a national movement to pass Marsy's Laws, named for Marsy Nicholas who was stalked and killed in the 1980s by her ex-boyfriend in California. Only a week after Marsy was murdered, her brother and mother were confronted by the accused murderer. The two had gone into a grocery store after visiting her daughter's grave and the accused man was there. The family was unaware that he was out of jail on bail. Under Marsy's Law, the family would have been informed of his release.

The first bill in her name was passed in 2008 in California.

Other legislation that

passed this week included Senate Bill 7, which would establish the Kentucky Rare Disease Advisory Council and Trust Fund. The trust fund, administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, would finance the operation of the council and support rare disease research and treatment. The fund would not use state tax dollars, but rather would seek federal grants, donations and money from private foundations to pay for outreach and research. The Governor would appoint the council members.

Legislation passed in the Senate this week has been sent to the House of Representatives for further action.

We will begin our third week with a joint session on Tuesday with the House of Representatives at which time the Governor will deliver his State of the Commonwealth and Budget Address. Based on the Governor's comments and articles released from his office, I anticipate his budget will be draconian. He has said it will be sobering for many and those who have been exempt from cuts in the past will not be exempt in the next two years. Fortunately, his plan will not be the only proposal. The House is also working on a budget, that once approved will come to the Senate. If we do not pass the House's budget, the Senate will send them

one of our own. Usually the two chambers will then get together to work on a compromise that both can live with. I believe my colleagues in the General Assembly and I will be able to draft a budget that meets our needs without harming the services and programs our citizens rely on.

As we work toward a balanced budget and a pension plan that protects our public employees and schoolteachers and our retirees, I encourage you to stay engaged. You can follow our work and keep updated on bills at our website, www.lrc.ky.gov.

As always, you can stay in contact with me by calling the Legislative Message Line at 1-800-372-7181 or contact me personally at, johnnyray.turner@LRC.KY.GOV. I always look forward to hearing from Kentuckians with an interest in the work of the General Assembly.

CHRONICLE & TIMES

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By Christopher Epling c 2018 Floyd County Chronicle and Times 01.17.18

Lizzy Caudill

Lizzie Caudill, 88, of Topmost, died Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018.

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

Bucky Ray Collins

Bucky Ray Collins, 59, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018.

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

Violet Mae Hall

Violet Mae Hall, 71, of Beaver, died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018.

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

Rebecca Pearl (Pack) Hamilton

Rebecca Pearl (Pack) Hamilton, 75, of Drift, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018.

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

Ralph Archer Leslie

Ralph Archer Leslie, 88, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, Jan. 12, 2018.

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

Ethel Little

Ethel Little, 86, of Weeksbury, died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018.

Arrangements were under the direction of

Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.



Sandra Faye Slone

Sandra Faye Slone, 72, of Paintsville, died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018, at the Paul B. Hall Medical Center, Paintsville.

She was born October 23, 1945, at McDowell, a daughter of the late Helton and Virginia Cassell Slone.

She was a member

of the Pine Grove Baptist Church and a retired teacher of Floyd County Schools.

She is survived by three brothers, Ray Slone (Violet), Vernon Kelly Slone (Mary) and Ralph Allen Slone, all of McDowell; a sister of the heart, Lynn Slone; brother-in-law, Carlos Neeley; 10 nieces and nephews, Charles Neeley, Julian Slone, Renee Frasure, Tish Sturgill, Jenny Lynn Slone, Tiffney Triplett, Beth Grim, Ralph Shannon Slone, Brent Helton Slone and Keisha Hicks; 13 great-nieces and great-nephews, Robert Slone, Dalton Price, Logan Triplett, Savanna Price, Emily Triplett, Aaliyah Frasure, Summer Slone, Breonna Slone, Reagan Slone, Caroline Slone, Jaxon Sturgill, Paisley Slone

and Ariel Hicks; and a special neighbor and friend, Dora Norman.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Norma Jean Neeley and Madgalene Slone; and one great-nephew, Skylar Slone.

Funeral services will be held at 12 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin, with Ted Shannon officiating. Burial will follow in the Slone Family Cemetery, Doty Creek, McDowell.

Visitation will be held all day Wednesday, at the funeral home, with church services beginning each night at 7. Arrangements are under the direction of the Hall Funeral Home of Martin. This is a paid obituary.

Zellie Tackett

Zellie Tackett, 93, of Hi Hat, died Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018.

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

Mary Louise Wilson

Mary Louise Wilson, 68, of Lackey, died Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.

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

James Luther Wright

James Luther Wright, 72, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018.

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

General Fund and Road Fund receipts for Dec. 2017

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Office of State Budget Director reported that December's General Fund receipts were the highest on record as receipts totaled \$1,140.1 million. Revenue collections increased 11.2 percent compared to December of last year, an increase of \$114.8 million. Receipts have increased 3.1 percent for the first six months of the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2018. Second quarter collections rose 3.2 percent, which is slightly higher than the first quarter total of 2.9 percent.

The official FY18 revenue forecast, which was officially revised by the Consensus Forecasting Group (CFG) on December 15, 2017, calls for 2.3 percent revenue growth. Actual receipts of \$5,400 million through the first six months of the fiscal year are only \$40 million ahead of the CFG pro-

jection. Revenues will need to grow only 1.5 percent for the last six months of the fiscal year to meet the estimate.

Road Fund receipts for December totaled \$113.2 million, a 1.5 percent increase from December 2016 levels. Year-to-date receipts have fallen 0.4 percent. The official revenue estimate calls for a 0.3 percent decline for the fiscal year and receipts can decline 0.2 percent over the remainder of the fiscal year and still meet the estimate.

While State Budget Director John Chilton was pleased with the growth in General Fund receipts, he acknowledged some concern that there may be extra volatility to this year's monthly receipts.

"The concern with a very large month of tax receipts is that what appears to be actual growth could be merely an acceleration of revenue that would have been realized in later months of the fiscal year.

Federal tax law changes in late December that limit the federal deductibility of state and local income and property tax payments in 2018 could have prompted some taxpayers to send estimated tax payments prior to the end of the calendar year. The acceleration of those payments could have swelled the income tax coffers in December. In another tax account, property tax revenue, which is typically volatile within the year, rose 33.3 percent in December but is up only 5.5% year-to-date. As noted, individual taxpayers may have accelerated property tax payments in response to the federal income tax changes. Overall, December's strong growth is certainly encouraging and seems to be consistent with the recent estimates by the Consensus Forecasting Group, but the fiscal year is only half over," according to Chilton.

Among the major accounts:

- Sales and use tax re-

ceipts rose 3.0 percent in December and have increased 2.7 percent for the year.

- Corporation income tax receipts increased 18.9 percent and are up 1.3 percent for the year.

- Individual income tax collections rose 14.2 percent in December on the strength of withholding and estimated tax receipts. Year-to-date collections in this account have increased 3.6 percent.

- Property tax collections rose 33.3 percent and are up 5.5 percent for the year.

- Cigarette tax receipts increased 9.2 percent in December. For the first six months of the year, collections have decreased 4.9 percent.

- Coal severance tax receipts decreased 18.9 percent in December and have fallen 6.8 percent for the year.

Road Fund receipts rose 1.5 percent, or \$1.7 million, in December. Receipts for the month were \$113.2 million

compared to \$111.5 last December. Receipts have declined 0.4 percent through the first six months of the year. Second Quarter collections fell 0.3 percent after falling 0.5 percent in the first quarter. The CFG's official Road Fund estimates call for a decrease in revenues of 0.3 percent for the fiscal year. Based on year-to-date tax collections, revenues can decline 0.2 percent for the remainder of FY18 to meet the estimate.

Among the Road Fund accounts, motor fuels receipts fell 1.2 percent in December, and are down 0.5 percent for the first six months. Motor vehicle usage revenue rose 2.4 percent in December but has decreased 1.3 percent year-to-date. License and privilege receipts decreased 6.0 percent for the month but are up 0.6 percent for the year.

Additional information is available at, <https://osbd.ky.gov>

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Kentucky approved for groundbreaking Medicaid change

By TOM LATEK
KENTUCKY TODAY

Kentucky's Medicaid waiver application has been approved by the Trump administration, making it the first state to require many of its Medicaid recipients to work to gain coverage.

Gov. Matt Bevin made the announcement that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services gave the approval on Friday. The change will require adults between the ages of 19 and 64 to complete 80 hours per month of "community engagement" to keep their coverage. That includes getting a job, going to school, taking a job training course or community service.

Those under traditional Medicaid — the aged, blind and disabled — will not see any changes, but everyone else will.

Traditional Medicaid adults eligible prior to expansion will have no

change in benefits, but will begin paying copays or premiums of \$1-\$15 per month and, except for those who are the primary caretaker of a dependent, will have to participate in the "community engagement."

Medicaid expansion adults will have to pay premiums or a copay, community engagement will be required, and visual and dental coverage will be available through a My Rewards Account.

Pregnant women and children covered by traditional Medicaid and KCHIP will not have premiums or charges in benefits and won't have to participate in community engagement.

Medically frail adults and former foster youth up to age 26 will keep their benefits and have optional premiums to access My Rewards, with no community engagement requirement.

My Rewards Accounts provides incentives for

members to improve their health through preventative services and health education, community engagement and improve job skills.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for us to chart a path that will produce the kind of results that are needed," Bevin said during a Capitol press conference. "Kentucky will be better for it, Kentucky will be healthier for it, Kentucky will be more economically vibrant because of it, and Kentucky will continue to lead the nation."

Bevin administration officials say this would affect about 350,000 Medicaid recipients, half of whom are already involved in community engagement. Currently, Medicaid costs the state \$11 billion per year, according to the administration, and this could save \$24 billion over five years.

Bevin said the program, with its emphasis

on work and community service, will encourage healthier living.

"There is dignity associated with earning the value of something that you receive," Bevin said. "The vast majority of men and women, able-bodied men and women ... they want the dignity associated with being able to earn and have engagement."

There have been reports that a lawsuit could be filed against implementing Kentucky HEALTH and Bevin responded to that.

"It's conceivable," he said. "There are a lot of lawsuits that fly around this town and this country. People certainly have that right. We'll see."

Bevin described the program glowingly.

"Good for the individual, it is good for the community, it is good for the workforce, it is good for the economy, it's good for Kentucky and it's good for America," he

said.

He also told reporters that two other states have applied to do the same thing Kentucky is doing.

Reaction to the program has been mixed. Democrats, such as House Minority Leader Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, are opposed to it.

"Gov. Steve Beshear's decision to expand Medicaid was a game-changer for Kentucky that has saved lives, improved our collective health and pumped billions of dollars into our economy," he said. "The waiver approved today puts those gains at risk, ultimately removes needed healthcare for up to 100,000 Kentuckians and will almost certainly cost us more in the long run because of the added bureaucracy."

Adkins said lawmakers need to hash out the program for its validity.

"The General Assembly needs to take a

very close look at these changes and then decide if this is really the most productive course of action for the state to take for its citizens," he said.

Republicans, such as House Speaker Pro Tem David Osborne, R-Prospect, expressed support.

"Medicaid expansion in Kentucky has not met our goals for improved health," said Osborne. "Despite dedicated funding, we remain one of America's most unhealthy states. Kentucky HEALTH is a course-change to realign our focus on the healthcare decision-making process, with resulting healthcare benefits. I'm excited about the possibilities presented by this fresh approach."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell supported the changes, calling it "common-sense steps to engage patients, improve health, and reduce the burden on Kentucky taxpayers."

LRC: Marsy's Laws moving forward

SPECIAL TO THE
FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The General Assembly's 2018 session passed one of its early milestones last week as the first bill to clear a chamber this year was approved by the Kentucky Senate on Wednesday.

The legislation, known as Senate Bill 3, brought back an issue lawmakers have considered before: Adding language to the state constitution that specifies certain rights that should be afforded to crime victims. These rights would include notice of all criminal court proceedings involving the accused, reasonable protection from the accused, timely notice of the release or escape of the accused and the right to full restitution to be paid by the convicted.

If Senate Bill 3 is approved by lawmakers, then Kentucky voters would get to decide whether this change is made to the state constitution.

The legislation is part of a national movement to establish Marsy's Laws, named in memory of Marsy Nicholas, who was killed in the 1980s by her ex-boyfriend in California.

Another top issue last week focused on the possibility of moving the election of Kentucky's governor and other statewide officers to even-numbered years. Supporters say this would save the state money on election costs and increase voter turnout. A House Committee has approved House Bill 23 on this matter, while the full Senate has approved similar legislation, Senate Bill 4.

If either bill is approved by

both chambers, a proposed constitutional amendment on the matter would be decided on by Kentucky voters.

Other bills that took steps forward this week include:

- Senate Bill 7, which would establish the Kentucky Rare Disease Advisory Council and Trust Fund to promote research, treatment and education on rare diseases. The bill was approved by the Senate on Thursday and sent to the House for consideration.

- House Bill 88, approved by the House State Government Committee on Thursday, would allow unclaimed state property to be the only source of funding for operation of the Office of the State Treasurer. The measure is aimed at giving some relief to the state budget. The bill now goes to the full House for consideration.

- HB 84 would improve efforts to accommodate the wishes of people who want to be organ and tissue donors. The bill would require coroners and medical examiners to contact the Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates if a deceased person's body is suitable for organ or tissue donation. The bill was approved Wednesday by the House Licensing, Occupations & Administrative Regulations Committee and now goes to the House for consideration.

- Senate Bill 8 would provide civil immunity for damaging a vehicle if a person enters the vehicle with the reasonable, good-faith belief that a dog or cat is in immediate danger of death if not removed. The legislation passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday and now heads to the full senate for

consideration.

The Senate and House did not convene on Monday, Jan. 15 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Lawmakers returned to the Capitol on Tuesday. That same day the governor will give his State of the Commonwealth address in which he is expected to lay out details on his proposed budget. The biennial budget is a top priority this session and once the governor hands over his proposal, the House and Senate will begin making changes so that the final budget proposal reflects their priorities.

If you'd like to share feedback on issues under consideration with state lawmakers, please call the General Assembly's toll-free message line at, 1-800-372-7181.

PLACE
Continued From Page 1A

"These animals aren't for adoption," Maynard said. "They're just kind of here because when kids come in I like to use them to educate them about taking care of animals."

After the ribbon cutting, Maynard encouraged people who have children to bring them by to visit animals that are cared for there. She said she enjoys educating children about animals and the need to spay and neuter their pets.

"Sugey" and "Hedgy" are among numerous animals that were rescued from abuse and neglect, including the businesses' namesake Lou, a miniature pincher that promotes the store's merchandise.

Maynard, who has a long history of volunteering with animal rescue organizations, said several people have come into the shop to surrender their animals since she her husband Kenneth and brother Richard Wright opened the business last July. She wants the public to know

that Lou's Place does not accept animal rescues. It offers pet boarding, grooming and supplies, including outfits suited for pets of all sizes.

Maynard worked for 10 years at Little Caesar's in Prestonsburg and cashed in her savings to open Lou's Place for Pets because of her love for animals.

The sign on the door says, "Pets Welcome. Humans Tolerated."

She laughed about that sign, saying that she's "honest to the core."

She said, howev-

er, that her "door is always open" to children and adults who want to meet the animals or learn about the services and products she provides at Lou's Place.

Maynard decided to join the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce because she wanted to be more involved in the community.

"It was just an opportunity to get out in the community more," she said. "Obviously, I give away coats and food and we sponsor stuff, but I wanted to get more involved, find out what the

community needs. I'm from here, my husband's from here, my brother is from here, and we just want this to be a better place, for it to grow."

She didn't know about the chamber when she opened her business last year and learned about opportunities available through the chamber when she spoke to chamber member Jessica Jarrell of BB&T Bank recently.

"I decided that if I'm going to be a small business, I need to help other small businesses," she said. "We've got to stick

together."

The business collected donations to provide Christmas gifts to 98 children this year and hosts an ongoing donation drive to help people in need this winter.

Lou's Place for Pets is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information, call, (606) 506-5068, or visit Lou's Place for Pets on Facebook.

DAMAGE
Continued From Page 1A

Gullett told him the issue is significant.

"We're going to have to look at it and make a decision about it," he said.

The city's insurance company turned down Wheelwright's claim on the problem, reporting that the movement of soil underneath the fire department was not covered in the city's policy. Hall complained about

the policy at the meeting.

"More than less, we don't need that insurance company," Hall said. "If I'm paying it and you have an accident and they're not going to pay it, then why would we pay them?"

City Attorney Tyler Green advised Hall to review the insurance policy to make sure it includes coverage that the city needs before making that decision. Gullett said the insurance company has paid other claims for

the city.

"Even with the policy, though, we still have the problem that they're not covering what's already done, so we've got to figure out what we can do to remedy that," said Commissioner Sam Little, a fire department volunteer.

"We'll have to take steps ourselves to repair it. That's all you can do," Hall said.

Gullett asked the commission to act quickly and mentioned the

need for additional heat in the building because of a hole and the lack of insulation.

"We do need to focus on trying to get that repaired soon," he said.

After the meeting, Gullett said he doesn't believe the building is in "imminent" danger of collapsing, but said it could deteriorate if the cause of the problem isn't fixed. He said city officials should work toward fixing the cause of the problem instead of

working to find a temporary solution.

"I'm still hearing unusual noises, but I don't believe it's in imminent danger of collapsing," he said. "But if they don't do some groundwork underneath there, it will eventually fail."

At the meeting, the commission approved the financial report, showing it had \$41,500 at the beginning of December and disbursements of \$21,400, leaving a balance of \$24,546.

It also showed the city had \$149,500 in its prison fund and \$18,800 in its road aid fund.

Commissioners approved the payment of more than \$15,000 in bills for November and \$21,400 in bills for December, as well as \$6,571 for January bills that had been filed.

They agreed, per Gullett's request, to spend \$1,364 for fire truck repairs and holiday expenses and \$350 for a police car computer.

ANNOUNCE YOUR NEWS

Welcome Baby Smith



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

Birth Announcements

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

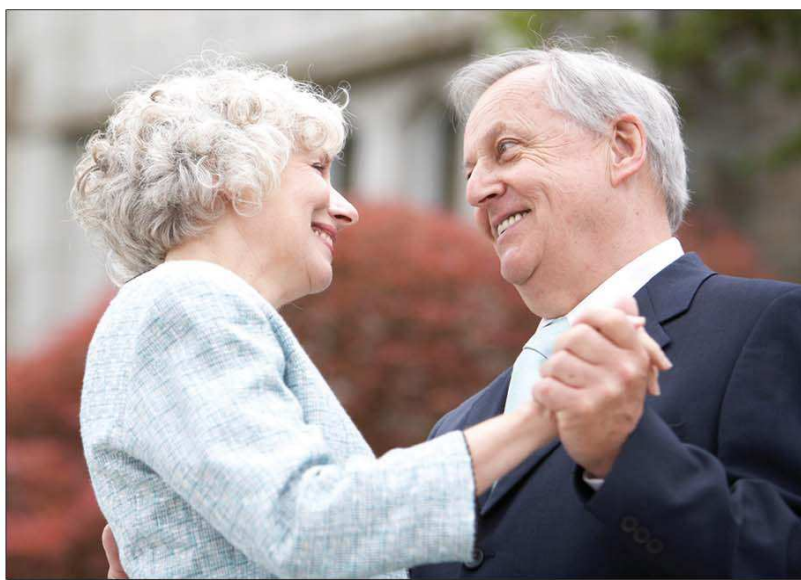
Celebrating Birthdays



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

Senior Citizen Center Birthdays

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



Celebrating 55 years

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

Wedding Anniversaries

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

Dotson-Simpkins



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

Engagement

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

Wedding

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

Hatfield-McDaniel



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

CHRONICLE & TIMES

FLOYD COUNTY

To place your **FREE** announcement contact our office or mail P.O. Box 802, Pikeville, KY 41502.

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Kentucky Justice Cabinet awards \$900,000 for community supervision of youth

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Floyd County Juvenile Intervention and Services Program, 31st Judicial District Committee, received \$150,000 in grant money to help supervise youth in the community.

The Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and the Department of Juvenile Justice last week announced \$900,000 in grants for local programs that help supervise youth in the community, allowing Kentucky to focus secure facilities on the most serious offenders.

The grants are part of a new juvenile justice incentive fund that was established this year to support community-based services, treatment programs or alternatives to out-of-home placement. It was a key component in Senate Bill 200, which called for more effective use of government re-

sources and better use of community interventions to hold offenders accountable.

"We are seeing incredible progress with community supervision," said Kentucky Justice Secretary John Tilley. "We are cutting taxpayer cost while improving public safety. But most importantly, we are achieving better outcomes for children by keeping them close to their families and holding them accountable closer to home."

Carey Cockerell, commissioner for the Department of Juvenile Justice, said the competition for funding was impressive, demonstrating the success of Senate Bill 200 in driving community outreach.

"With early intervention, we can prevent these kids from becoming adult offenders, but it takes a smart approach involving both the family and the community," Commissioner

Cockerell said. "I'm glad to see so many qualified programs working with children to provide a better future."

The fund is being administered through a partnership with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which is acting as the fiscal agent for the grants. Judicial districts and community programs were eligible to receive up to 200,000.

Programs this year include community intervention and prevention, evidence-based mentoring, wraparound services, behavioral health, drug treatment and therapy. Experts from AOC will collect and report on data that judicial districts are required to maintain under the incentive program.

Passed in 2014, SB 200 sought to improve outcomes in the juvenile justice system by expanding access to timely, quality treatment and supervi-

sion in the community, focusing the most intensive resources on serious offenders and enhancing data collection and oversight mechanisms to ensure the policies are working.

So far, it has reduced the department's total youth population by 60 percent since fall 2013. New commitments fell from 493 in 2013 to 253 last year.

That has allowed the department to realign operations over the past 18 months, reducing dependence on secure facilities and channeling more funds toward community-based practices. Four facilities have been closed or consolidated into the department's system during that time.

Overall, the reforms have freed up \$4 million to reinvest in community supervision, aftercare services, day treatment centers and the new incentive fund.

Programs that received funding this year include:

- The Early Intervention Pilot Program, Louisville Metro Criminal Justice Commission — \$120,977
- The Youth Strong Initiative, Oldham County Health Department — \$179,731
- The Floyd County Juvenile Intervention & Services Program, 31st Judicial District Committee — \$150,000
- The Pike County Juvenile Intervention & Services Program, 35th Judicial District Committee — \$150,000
- The Four Corners Program, Knox & Laurel-Cumberland Behavioral Health — \$161,325
- On TRACK, Fulton County Schools — \$83,608
- SAFE, RiverValley Behavioral Health — \$54,359

Turner honors Cooley, Case

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Senator Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, recently honored former Prestonsburg City Council member and Floyd County Emergency & Rescue Squad captain Tim Cooley and World War II soldier Elba Case, who died decades ago, in the Kentucky Senate.

On Jan. 10, Turner filed Senate Resolution 87, honoring Cooley upon his resignation from the city council and the rescue squad.

The resolution says that "Cooley's pride for his hometown and its people cannot be adequately measured, and

his contributions as both an elected official and a public servant will not be forgotten."

It commends Cooley "for all he has accomplished on behalf of the people of Floyd County and Prestonsburg."

Turner also recently filed Senate Joint Resolution 50, which would rename a portion of Rt. 2030 in memory of Corp. Elba Case, who was born in 1925 in Honaker.

Case served as a tank driver with the CC D 27th Armory Division, 3rd Regime as part of the army in both Normandy and northern France. He was "gravely injured" during a battle in Germany in 1994, and

received a Purple Heart and several other medals.

That injury was so severe, the resolution states, that Case's left

arm was crippled and his stomach and intestines had to be replaced with the intestines of a sheep.

He died in 1971 in

the Veterans Administration Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia, leaving behind his wife and other family members.

Once approved, a portion of Rt. 2030 will be named the Elba Case WWII Purple Heart Memorial Highway.



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Wayland resident to hike Pacific Crest Trail beginning in March

By JOSH LITTLE
STAFF WRITER

One Floyd County man intends to hike more than 2,600 miles over the course of a few months beginning in March.

Kevin Bellamy, of Wayland, will hike the Pacific Crest Trail, which spans from Mexico to Canada and crosses through California, Oregon and Washington.

Bellamy said he began contemplating hiking the Pacific Crest Trail after visiting Colorado last year. He said that, since then, his urge to travel has grown exponentially, leading him to the PCT.

"My goal is to start at the southern terminus located in the small town of Campo, California, then, I will finish at the northern terminus (Washington/Canada)," he said. "From the northern monument, you can either continue hiking onward eight miles to Manning Park Resort in Canada or simply turn around and head back to Hart's Pass — the last road in the United States. I've chosen not to enter Canada, so I'll backtrack 30 miles, which is a pain but it's not unusual either."

Bellamy said he has always enjoyed being outdoors and spending time exploring nature, which started with the trails near his Wayland home.

"My childhood was spent outdoors exploring near-

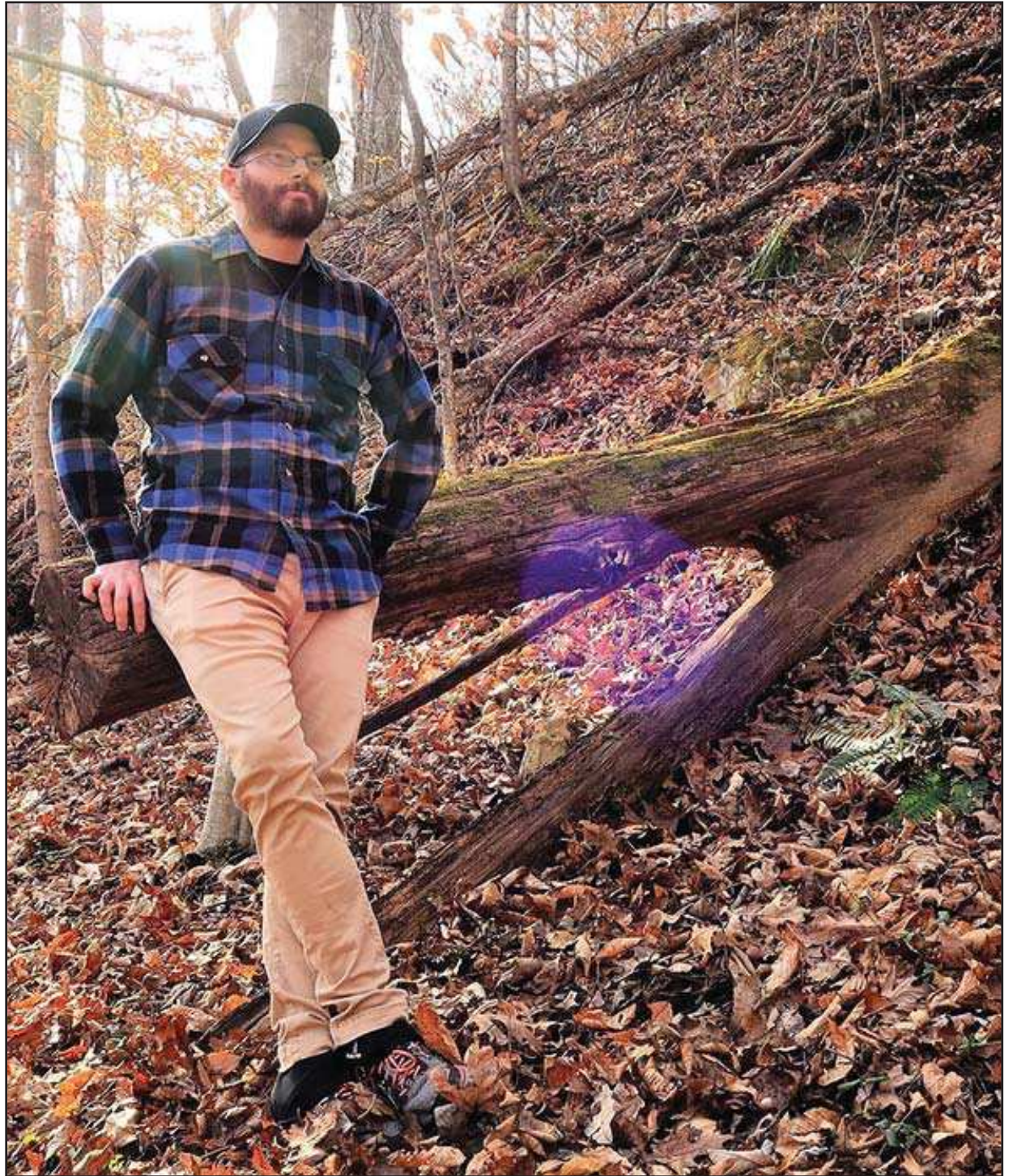
by creek banks for hidden treasure buried in the sand, taking evening strolls in the woods with my little ol' grandmother and roaming the dark hills behind my parents' house searching for mountain trolls," said Bellamy. "I'm currently 35 years old and I still continue to explore those same hills."

For him, nature is more than just nature, it's therapy.

"Spending time around trees and looking at trees reduces stress, lowers blood pressure and even improves your mood," he said. "When I'm conquering a mountain or simply exploring hills in solitude, I'm at peace. Nature calms me. My mind becomes clean and tranquil."

He mentioned that people in this area are lucky to have the mountains so close to them — in their backyards in some cases — especially, if they enjoy spending time outdoors.

"These mountains and views are only minutes away from my house, yet provide unique and unforgettable memories and moments," he said. "You don't have to put yourself in debt traveling to all these highly-overrated destinations that constantly stay congested with tourists armed with tacky fanny packs and selfie sticks. Sometimes, following a trail behind your



Submitted photo
Kevin Bellamy is preparing to hike the more than 2,600-mile Pacific Crest Trail in March. Bellamy grew up hiking in the hills behind his Wayland home.

See HIKE, Page 11A

'Olivia' visits Eastern library



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Josh Little

Children visiting the Eastern Branch of the Floyd County Library Friday were surprised by a visit from Olivia, the famous pig from the "Olivia" children's books written by Ian Falconer. Five-year-old Joslin Crum, left, and her seven-year-old sister Johnna pose with Olivia. Children had the opportunity to play dress up with Olivia before participating in a photoshoot.

Operation Christmas Care



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

Floyd County Public Library Programming and Outreach Coordinator Randy Reno helps Johnson County resident Margaret Banks and her niece and nephew Kelsie and Noah Estep prepare gift boxes for soldiers during Operation Christmas Care on Dec. 7. Banks said the family learned about the event through the library's Facebook page and wanted to come. Her husband George also attended. "There are people that are not going to be home for the holidays. There are people out preserving our freedoms," she said. Library Programming and Outreach Coordinator Randy Reno, also pictured, said he will work with the National Guard Army in Prestonsburg to mail the packages to the troops.

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Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation gives



Floyd County Chronicle and Times photo by Aaron K. Nelson
 The Duff-Allen Central Elementary Archery Team is one of several programs in Floyd County's schools, sustained in part thanks to donations like the one given in early December from the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

HIKE Continued From Page 10A

own backyard can lead to awe-inspiring vistas." When he is not hiking the trails behind his home, Bellamy said he spends a lot of time exploring the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park in Prestonsburg.

In preparation for the PCT, Bellamy invested in a gym membership and runs laps around an abandoned coal camp baseball field near his home, with his loaded

backpack.

"While getting into physical shape is not important for a thru-hike, carrying a pack for 10-25 miles, daily, is equally crucial," he said. "By doing laps with my pack, my body is slowly becoming accustomed to such a heavy load."

Although Wayland, and Appalachia, is his home and although he loves exploring the Appalachian mountains, Bellamy said he chose to travel 2,000 miles to the West Coast, to hike from Mexico to Cana-

da, because he wanted to try something new; something "different" and "fresh."

"Saying farewell to Kentucky for five consecutive months is going to be absolutely bonkers, but I'll embrace the array of challenges and changes, no matter how foreign or radical," said Bellamy.

Bellamy encourages anyone interested in his journey to follow his Instagram account: Kevinonthetrail. He said he will post updates when possible.

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15th Region All 'A' Classic

Girls' Roundup



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance

Prestonsburg's Reesce Endicott drives to the basket for a shot Sunday afternoon against Paintsville in the 15th Region All "A" quarter finals. The Lady Blackcats fell to the Lady Tigers, 60-26. The Lady Blackcats were also in action Friday night during the play-in games where they defeated Phelps, 61-47.

By RANDY WHITE
REGIONAL SPORTS EDITOR

The girls' 15th Region All "A" Classic took place at the Expo Monday afternoon.

Pikeville took on Sheldon Clark and Shelby Valley took on Paintsville in the 15th Region semifinals.

Friday:
Pikeville 82,
Piarist 22

The Lady Panthers had no problem winning Friday night to advance to the 15th Region All "A" Classic quarterfinals.

Kaitlyn Keathley led the way for the Lady Panthers with a game-high 18 points. Kelsey Jo Tackett followed with 14. Grace Bartley, Leslie Stewart and Madison Thacker each scored eight. Alivia Gearheart added six and Alexia Wilkerson scored five. Jaden Edmonds and Kirsten Cole-Williamson each scored four. Ella Lockhart scored three,

See GIRLS, Page 2B



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Betsy Layne's Megan Frazier attempts a shot under the basket Sunday afternoon against Sheldon Clark in the quarter finals of the 15th Region All "A" Classic. The Lady Bobcats fell to the Lady Cardinals, 61-53.

Boys' Roundup



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance

Betsy Layne's Morris Adkins pulls up for a jump shot Monday night against Phelps during the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

By RANDY WHITE
REGIONAL SPORTS EDITOR

Betsy Layne knocked off Phelps 54-48 and Paintsville cruised to a 79-62 win over East Ridge in the opening games of the boys' 15th Region All "A" Classic Monday evening.

**Betsy Layne 54,
Phelps 48**

A big third quarter helped the Bobcats pick up a big 54-48 win over Phelps in the opening game of the 15th Region All "A" Classic Monday evening at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

Betsy Layne held a 27-25 halftime lead over the Hornets.

In the third quarter, Phelps' Trey Francis scored the opening basket of the half to tie things up at 27-27.

Betsy Layne scored eight straight points to take a 35-27 lead. Grant Orsborn scored to beat the third quarter buzzer and give the Bobcats a 39-29 lead entering the fourth quarter of play.

The Bobcats outscored Phelps 13-4 in the third quarter.

Betsy Layne's lead grew to 46-32 after Orsborn scored with 5:48 left to play in the game.

The Hornets made a late charge, but it wasn't enough as the Bobcats held on and advanced in the tournament.

Orsborn led the way for the Bobcats with a game-high 19 points, four rebounds, four assists and two steals. Morris Adkins added a double-double; he finished the game with 14 points and a game-high 14 rebounds. Zach Bentley just missed double figures scoring with nine points. Byron Hammond added eight points and five rebounds. Nathaniel Mims and Quintin Adkins each added two points for the Bobcats.

Francis led the way for the Hornets with a team-high 17 points, six rebounds, three assists, two steals and a blocked shot. Keegan Bentley added 13 points, seven rebounds and four steals. Jason Casey also reached

See BOYS, Page 3B

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GIRLS

Continued From Page 1B

while Allison Adkins and Belle Thomas each added two.

Pikeville outrebounded Piarist 43-7. The Lady Panthers also faced the Lady Knights to turn the ball over 20 times.

Prestonsburg 61, Phelps 47

Prestonsburg jumped out to a big 31-14 lead after the first half against Phelps and the Lady Blackcats held the Lady Hornets off in the second half to advance in the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

Reesce Endicott and Alivia Slone led the way for Prestonsburg. Endicott scored a game-high 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to record a double-double in the win. Slone caught fire from three and made four of her five attempts from downtown for the Lady Blackcats. Slone scored 20 points to follow Endicott's lead.

Nicole Burchett also had a good game for the Lady Blackcats. She also reached double figures scoring with 10 points and she added seven rebounds. Alison Campbell just missed double figures scoring with nine points. Faith Lazar rounded out the scoring with one.

Phelps' Danielle Prater had a big game to lead the Lady Hornets. Prater

scored a team-high 20 points in the loss. Britany McCoy added 10 points for Phelps. Chloe Smith followed with eight points. Kacie Dotson added five and Alyssa Sargent added three. Gabby McCoy added one point for Phelps.

Phelps only shot 29 percent from the field, while Prestonsburg knocked down 40 percent of its shots. The Lady Blackcats outrebounded Phelps 42-29.

Sunday:

Sheldon Clark 61, Betsy Layne 53

A big third quarter against Betsy Layne Sunday helped Sheldon Clark advance to the 15th Region semifinals.

Sheldon Clark outscored Betsy Layne 16-0 in the third and held on to pick up a 61-53 win over the Lady Bobcats at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

The game was tied at 29-29 at the half.

Betsy Layne didn't score for the entire third quarter.

In that time, Sheldon Clark built up a 45-29 lead.

In the fourth quarter, Betsy Layne stormed back and outscored Sheldon Clark 24-16, but it wasn't enough.

Paige Maynard led the way for the Lady Cardinals with a game-high 27 points. Madison Thompson followed with 18 and McKenzie Preston

also reached double figures with 12. Fallyne Wefenstette followed with three points and five assists. Kristen Isaac added one point in the win.

Megan Frazier had a double-double to lead Betsy Layne. Frazier finished the game with 24 points and 11 rebounds. Destiny Compton followed with 15 points and eight rebounds. Caroline Ariaz also reached double figures with 11. Lauryn Watkins added two points and Katie Kidd added one.

Sheldon Clark forced Betsy Layne to turn the ball over 22 times. The Lady Cardinals shot 44 percent from the field, while the Lady Bobcats shot 41 percent from the field.

Betsy Layne outrebounded Sheldon Clark 35-19 in the loss.

Sheldon Clark (7-9) advanced to the 15th Region semifinals with the win. The Lady Cardinals were scheduled to take on Pikeville Monday evening at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

Pikeville 62, Jenkins 36

The Lady Panthers were too much for Jenkins Sunday in the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

Jenkins stayed close in the first half, but Pikeville pulled away in the second to advance to the 15th Region All "A" Classic semifinals against Sheldon Clark Monday af-

ternoon.

Pikeville held a 17-9 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Lady Panthers' lead grew to 29-16 at the halftime break.

At the end of the third quarter Pikeville held a 48-26 lead.

Kelsey Jo Tackett, Alivia Gearheart and Kaitlyn Keathley each scored 11 points to lead Pikeville. Leslie Stewart added eight points and eight rebounds. Kirsten Cole-Williamson added six points. Jaden Edmonds and Grace Bartley each added four points. Emma Ratliff added three, while Alexia Wilkerson and Madison Thacker each scored two.

Lala Watts led the way for Jenkins with 12 points, seven rebounds and seven blocked shots. Jerrica Thacker followed with 11 points and seven rebounds; she made three of six three-point attempts. Kristin Thacker followed with seven points and a game-high nine rebounds. Lindsey Rose added six points and four rebounds.

Pikeville forced Jenkins to turn the ball over 28 times in the game. The Lady Panthers scored 31 points off turnovers.

Pikeville (12-3) took on Sheldon Clark in the 15th Region All "A" Classic Monday afternoon.

Paintsville 60, Prestonsburg 26

The Lady Tigers got out in the open court and ran past Prestonsburg to

a spot in the 15th Region All "A" Classic Sunday.

The Lady Tigers advanced to take on Shelby Valley in the 15th Region semifinals yesterday afternoon at the East Kentucky Expo Center.

Paintsville jumped out to a 15-6 lead after the end of the first quarter and extended the lead to 31-14 at halftime.

Anna Keeton led the way for the Lady Tigers with 14 points. Presley Chirico added 13 and Elizabeth Williams also reached double figures with 11. Sonia Williams added eight points and seven rebounds. Allison Hall scored six points. Aleiah Newsome added three points, while Katelyn Fitch and Camilia Ruiu each scored two. Kaitlyn Newsome added one.

Paintsville held Prestonsburg to 20 percent shooting from the field. The Lady Tigers outrebounded Prestonsburg 32-27.

Endicott led the way for Prestonsburg with 15 points. Campbell and Lazar each scored four. Burchett added two and Slone added one.

Shelby Valley 42, East Ridge 33

59th District rivals Shelby Valley and East Ridge squared off in the All "A" Classic Sunday.

Shelby Valley's defense held tough as the Wildcats struggled shooting the ball.

East Ridge shot 42

percent from the field, while Shelby Valley only knocked down 26 percent of its shots.

The Lady Warriors committed 26 turnovers, though and that turned out to be the difference in the game.

Eighth-grader Cassidy Rowe led the way for Shelby Valley with a team-high 15 points. Fellow eighth-grader Alyssa Elswick added 10 points for the Lady Wildcats. Cassidi Wright added seven points and three steals. Summer Rose had four points and four steals in the win. Kayla Newsom had four points and three steals. Kyleigh Tackett scored two points, grabbed four rebounds, blocked one shot and had five steals.

The Lady Warriors outrebounded the Lady Wildcats 29-21.

Shelby Valley jumped out to a 13-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. Shelby Valley held a 20-12 lead at the halftime break.

East Ridge cut the lead to 29-23 at the end of the third quarter. The Lady Warriors cut the lead to within two in the fourth, but couldn't get any closer.

Shelby Valley (13-3) advanced to take on Paintsville in the 15th Region semifinals yesterday afternoon.

Rodney Rowe recorded his 499th career win as a coach with the win over East Ridge.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Betsy Layne's Destiny Compton drives through traffic for a shot Sunday afternoon against Sheldon Clark.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance

Prestonsburg's Annabelle Trusty attempts a shot Friday night against Phelps in the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

Prestonsburg's Alivia Slone brings the ball across midcourt Sunday afternoon against Phelps.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance



Betsy Layne's Caroline Ariaz attempts a shot Sunday afternoon against Sheldon Clark.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

BOYS

Continued From Page 1B

double figures scoring with 10 points. Brandon Turmire added four points, while Kinser Dotson and Cameron Hatfield each scored two for the Hornets.

Paintsville 79, East Ridge 62

Paintsville didn't have any trouble advancing in the opening round of the 15th Region All "A" Classic Monday evening.

The Tigers used a huge third quarter to cruise to a 79-62 win over the Warriors.

The Tigers held a 29-24 halftime dad over East Ridge.

Paintsville opened the third quarter on an 18-2 run as the lead grew to 46-26 with 4:17 left after Seth Williams scored a basket.

The Tigers outscored the Warriors 27-13 in the third to blow the lead open. Paintsville held a 56-37 lead entering the fourth quarter of play.

Mason Moore led the way for the Tigers with a game-high 25 points, six rebounds and four steals. Williams followed with 15 points and two steals. Colby Fugate also reached double figures scoring with 14. Nick Keeton added seven points and Braxton Tharp scored five. Ryan Gibson had three, while Jaxton Watts, Ryle McKenzie, Rex Castle, James Allen and Ryan Moore each scored two points for the Tigers.

Dalton Wellman lit it up for East Ridge from deep. Wellman scored a team-high 21 points for the Warriors. All of his points came from three-point land as he made seven of his 11 attempts from deep. Kane Taylor followed with 17 points, five rebounds, six assists and one steal. Cameron Hess just missed double figures with nine. Hunter Damron added six points and Jacob Chaffins had four. Dylan Prater added three and Logan Thacker had two.

Paintsville shot 54 percent from the field, while East Ridge shot 51 percent from the field on the game. The Tigers forced the Warriors to turn the ball over 17 times.

Paintsville outrebounded East Ridge 31-17.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance
Betsy Layne's Grant Orsborn launches a three Monday night against Phelps.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance
Betsy Layne's Byron Hammond turns around for a jump shot Monday night against Phelps.

Floyd Central splits double header with Betsy Layne

Jaguars knock off Bobcats, 66-31

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

BETSY LAYNE - The Floyd Central Jaguars kept rolling in the 58th District on Friday night, beating host Betsy Layne 66-31 in a boys' basketball matchup at the Dome.

Upstart Floyd Central and Betsy Layne met in the first game of a new 58th District basketball rivalry.

With the win, Floyd Central improved to 10-6 overall and 3-0 in the 58th District.

Betsy Layne stumbled to 6-9 and 2-2 in the district with the loss.

The Jaguars, under the direction of head coach Kevin Spurlock, moved ahead early and forced Betsy Layne to play from behind in each quarter.

JR Tackett led a balanced Floyd Central scoring effort with a team-high 14 points.

Kyle Isaac ranked as Floyd Central's second-leading scorer, netting 12 points for the Jaguars in the convincing victory.

Floyd Central fea-

ured three scorers in double figures as Brady Conn, fresh off scoring the 1,000th point of his high school basketball career, contributed 11 points.

Eighth-grader Rylee Samons narrowly missed reaching double figures for the Jaguars, scoring nine points.

The other scorers for the Jaguars in the 58th District triumph were Jake Collins (five points), Dylan Caudill (five points), Kolby Slone (five points), Ethan Smith-Mills (four points), Blake Johnson (four points) and Grant Blackburn (three points).

Floyd Central was seven of 12 from the free-throw line.

As part of a dominant performance, visiting Floyd Central owned a comfortable lead at the conclusion of each quarter.

Struggling offensively, Betsy Layne shot only 28.9 percent (11 of 38) from the field. The Bobcats missed all 12 attempts from three-point range.

Betsy Layne, playing on its home floor, shot just 39.1 percent (nine of

23) from the free-throw line.

Byron Hammond led Betsy Layne with a double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Hammond was the only Betsy Layne player to reach double figures in the scoring column. The Betsy Layne bigman led all players in both scoring and rebounding.

Quintin Adkins and Grant Orsborn contributed three points apiece as part of a limited Betsy Layne offensive attack.

Morris Adkins (two points), Nathaniel Mims (two points), Jordan Frazier (two points), Zach Bentley (one point) and Davey Bentley (one point) also chipped in offensively for the Bobcats.

Betsy Layne slipped back into the loss column following an emotional win over Prestonsburg on the road three nights earlier. The Bobcats lost for the fifth time in six outings.

Floyd Central is slated to host Betsy Layne in a home 58th District game on January 26.

Lady Bobcats upset Lady Jaguars

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

BETSY LAYNE - Tradition-rich Betsy Layne is a contender for another 58th District girls' basketball championship. The Lady Bobcats, under the direction head coach Kristal Allen, a former standout player for Betsy Layne, upset visiting Floyd Central 75-73 in overtime at the Dome on Friday night.

With the win, Betsy Layne improved to 6-9 overall and 2-2 in the 58th District.

Floyd Central slipped to 10-6 overall and 2-1 in the district with the win.

Determined Betsy Layne battled back to win after facing a 15-point deficit.

Betsy Layne shot 38.1 percent (24 of 63) from the field. The Lady Bobcats were two of six from three-point range.

Betsy Layne shot 51.2 percent (21 of 41) from the free-throw line.

Floyd Central, which led 29-26 at halftime, couldn't hold off Betsy Layne late in regulation. The 58th District girls' basketball teams ended regulation tied 61-61.

Betsy Layne and Floyd Central were even at 71-71 in overtime when Megan Frazier, one

of the 15th Region's top girls' basketball players, drained a pair of free throws.

Alexandria Jarvis pushed Betsy Layne's advantage out to five points when she connected on two foul shots with only 10.8 seconds remaining in overtime.

Floyd Central's Brook Stumbo hit a three-point field goal as time ticked off the clock in overtime to set the final score as Betsy Layne hung on to win following the extra period.

Frazier poured in a game-high 29 points to lead Betsy Layne. In addition to her game-high scoring total, Frazier pulled down eight rebounds for the Ladycats in the win.

Destiny Compton delivered a double-double for Betsy Layne, scoring 15 points and grabbing a game-high 13 rebounds.

Accompanying Frazier and Compton in double figures in the Betsy Layne scoring column, Caroline Ariaz added 12 points, along with eight rebounds.

Narrowly missing double figures, Jarvis tossed in nine points for the Lady Bobcats in the thrilling victory. Jarvis, who gave Betsy Layne a lift off the bench, grabbed five rebounds.

Katie Kidd (four points), Madilyn Meade (three points) and Lauryn Watkins (three points) rounded out the Betsy Layne individual scoring.

Katie Moore paced Justin Triplett-coached Floyd Central with a team-high 25 points. Moore led a trio of Floyd Central scorers in double figures.

Accompanying Moore in double figures for Floyd Central, Stumbo scored 21 points and Abby Maggard added 11 points.

Kacie Poston (five points), Grace Martin (five points) and Kaylee Moore (four points) provided additional scoring for Floyd Central in the heartbreaking loss.

Floyd Central slipped back into the loss column after battling back to beat host Prestonsburg 79-76 in a game at the Prestonsburg Fieldhouse on Saturday, Jan. 6.

Betsy Layne claimed its second straight 58th District win. Earlier in the week, on Tuesday, Jan. 9, Betsy Layne upended homestanding Prestonsburg 62-55 in a 58th District girls' basketball game at the Prestonsburg Fieldhouse.

Betsy Layne is slated to visit Floyd Central for another 58th District girls' basketball game on January 26.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Bull Creek Coal Corporation, 750 Town Mountain Road, KY, 41501, has applied for Phase I/II/III Bond Release on Increment 1, **Permit Number 836-8028** that was last issued on April 24, 2017. The application covers an area of approximately 14.5 acres located 0.5 miles south of Lancer in Floyd County. The permit area is approximately 1.8 miles north from KY 302's junction with US 23 and located on Bull Creek. The surety bond now in effect is on Increment No. 1 for \$75,000, 100 percent of the original bond amount is included in the application for release. Reclamation work performed includes: backfilling, grading, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching completed in 2017. Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or

LEGALS

informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Field Services, 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, KY, 40601, by March 1, 2018.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled March 2, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Pikeville Regional Office, 121 Mays Branch Road, Pikeville, KY, 41501-9331. The hearing will be canceled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by March 1, 2018.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-5615 MA3

In accordance with KRS 350.070, notice is hereby given that, Spurlock Mining, LLC., 3228 Summit Square Place, Suite 180, Lexington, Kentucky 40509 has applied for a major revision for an existing underground coal mining and reclamation operation located 2.6 miles southeast of East McDowell and is situated in Floyd County. This operation disturbs 2.22 surface acres and underlies 459.00 acres making a total area of 461.22 acres within the permit boundary. No new acreage is proposed under this major revision.

The operation is approximately 0.9 miles east from the junction of KY 1929 and CR 1140 and located 0.0 miles from Gap Fork.

The operation is located on the McDowell U. S. G. S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The operation will use the underground method of mining. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Brenda J. Edington and Laurel Mountain Resources, LLC. The operation will underlie land owned by Henry Ross Keathley, Richard & Ryan Hamilton, Lina Howell Estate (Sally Smith, Clifton & Lona Parsons, Susie Howell, Edward Howell, Clifford Howell, David Howell, and Molly Howell), Levi Blankenship, Martin & Amarine Collins, Bobby & Sharon Page, Laurel Mountain Resources, LLC, Iona & Henry Henderson, Samuel Hamilton, Ricky & Margaret Robinson, Premium Elkhorn Coal Corporation, Burblene Henderson,

LEGALS

John & Ida Mae Keathley, Levi & Melanie Blankenship, and The Elk Horn Coal Company, LLC.

The purpose of this major revision is to address cotenant properties and to revise water monitoring points.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources' Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director of the Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

This is the final advertisement in this application; all comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be received within (30) days of today's date. _

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PUBLIC NOTICE City of Prestonsburg ACCEPTING BIDS (2) 2018 DODGE CHARGER PURSUITS

The City of Prestonsburg is accepting bids for the purchase of two (2) 2018 Dodge Charger Pursuits. For vehicle specifications contact the Prestonsburg City Clerk at (606) 886-2335. Bids will be due no later than 4:00 pm on Friday January 26, 2018. The City of Prestonsburg reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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