



CHRONICLE & TIMES

Weekend Edition, March 9 - 11, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

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Plea postponed in attempted murder case

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County man accused of attempting to murder his wife postponed a motion to enter a plea in the case this week.

According to court documents, Thurston Sturgill, 54, was scheduled to plead guilty on

March 8 to one count of attempted murder and violation of an emergency protective order. That motion, however, was postponed, at the request of his attorney, until April 12.

The charges against Sturgill stem from an alleged Dec. 8, 2015, domestic violence incident in which he is ac-

cused of stabbing his wife, Tina Sturgill, multiple times at their home in Hi Hat. On that day, court records show, Sturgill was arrested by Whitesburg Police Chief Tyrone Fields following a multi-county search that began in Hi Hat and ended at the home of Sturgill's parents, located near Whitesburg.

Fields said at the time of Sturgill's arrest that he was shocked at the sight of him because he was "completely covered in blood."

"It was like a blood-bath," Fields said, "Something you've seen in one of these awful horror movies. From his head to toe, he was absolutely covered."

Officials said Tina Sturgill, who was flown out for emergency medical care, had injuries all over her body after the stabbing.

If convicted, Thurston Sturgill faces a penalty of 10 to 20 years in prison, according to court documentation.



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Waylon Whitson
Officials from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife joined with representatives from the Liberty Nature Center in Somerset at the Paintsville Lake State Park marina Saturday for the release of Eleanor, a previously-injured bald eagle that was rehabilitated after being discovered in Johnson County in January. A large crowd gathered to witness the release.

Eagle released at Paintsville Lake State Park Saturday

BY WAYLON WHITSON
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

PAINTSVILLE — Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officials, alongside representatives from the Liberty Nature Center in Somerset, released

a previously-injured bald eagle back into the wild at Paintsville Lake State Park Saturday.

Johnson County Schools Board of Education member Bob Hutchison discovered the eagle, now named Elea-

nor, on Jan. 19. Hutchison said that he found the eagle lying in the snow.

"I'm thinking, 'Why is this eagle here?' I just couldn't believe it," Hutchison said.

See EAGLE, Page 6A

Juvenile charged with possession of handgun at BLHS

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

A juvenile, who officials said was not a student at Betsy Layne High School, was arrested after bringing a gun onto the school property this week.

Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt said BLHS Resource Officer Darrell Bradley arrested a 17-year-old former student who brought a handgun to the school on March 6.

"He was very recently a student," Hunt said. "His status at this time, the time of his arrest, I'm not for sure, but he was not a student in the school that day."

Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble confirmed that the juvenile stopped attending BLHS in November.

Both Trimble and Hunt confirmed that a report was received that the juvenile had a gun and was going to be on school property.

"No threats were made," Hunt said. "We received no information that he was coming there for any

See CHARGED, Page 2A

AG's office responds to Allen's questions about Parson's employment

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Allen City Commission received an answer to a question that was posed about a year ago regarding the employment of City Commissioner Elmer "Fudd" Parsons.

As part of his role

on the commission, Parsons was appointed as the department head of the city's maintenance in 2016 and he maintained that role while getting paid \$700 monthly as a contract employee, serving as the city's maintenance department

See QUESTIONS, Page 9A



Allen City Commissioner Elmer Parsons reads a letter Kentucky Assistant Attorney General Taylor Payne wrote in response to questions about whether conflicts exist with his employment contract with the city. City Clerk Krystal Spurlock is also pictured.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

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CHARGED
Continued From Page 1A

purpose. I think the witness saw that this was a young kid, and him being in possession of a gun was very concerning, and then that he was going to the school was concerning."

Trimble reported that officials there were notified sometime between 1:45 p.m. and 2 p.m. and the school was placed on "high alert" throughout the afternoon. He said the accused did not come onto school grounds until after 3 p.m., after the dismissal bell had rung, and sheriff deputies and school staff "were out in the parking lot waiting on him."

He said school officials believe the boy was there to pick up a "student or a friend," and that he'd been picking this person up for some time.

Hunt said the department's K9, Drago, signaled to deputies that drugs could have been inside the juvenile's vehicle. After the search, the department confiscated a handgun, ammunition, scales, drug paraphernalia and a "large amount of cash" from the vehicle. No drugs were found there.

Hunt could not disclose all of the charges against the juvenile, who was taken to the juvenile detention center in Breathitt County. He did report, however, that he has been charged with possession of a firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia.

He commended Trimble and the Floyd County Board of Education for its recent decision to place law enforcement officials in schools—a decision that was made possible with funding promised by the Floyd County Fiscal Court and support from police departments in Prestonsburg and Martin. He also commended the witness for coming forward.

"That person, thank God, he notified us," he said.

He also said, "I'm thankful and I hope it encourages others that have information like this, no matter what the intentions might be, to please call us...I would encourage anybody with information like this to do the same thing, just call us and pass it on."

Trimble also commended that witness and talked highly of his staff and the sheriff's department for ensuring the safety of students. He said his staff "did an excellent job" and said he's "tickled to death" that the sheriff's department was on-site.

He also encourages the public to speak out when they have information that could protect students.

JCSO: One dead after shootout with police

By AARON K. NELSON
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

OIL SPRINGS — An Oil Springs man was found dead after an hours-long armed standoff Monday evening, according to the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

According to Sheriff Dwayne Price, the man, Steven Dalton, 35, of Oil Springs, died at some point following a firefight that erupted after a tense standoff.

A news release from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office said Deputy Danny Martin was the first on the scene after responding to a call of a man behaving suspiciously. According to Martin, he arrived to find Dalton in the yard, holding a Bible, and "talking toward the sky." When Martin tried to engage in conversation, he said, Dalton became combative. Martin deployed a stun weapon, and Dalton allegedly broke loose from it and barricaded himself inside his residence.

Price, other deputies and troopers with Kentucky State Police Post 9 arrived on the scene. Multiple gunshots were heard coming from within the

residence, the sheriff's office's statement said.

Family members advised law enforcement that Dalton was most likely alone inside the residence, but that he had several firearms, including an assault rifle. Kentucky State Police's Special Response Team was called to assist, and Price made a media release at that time to explain that the situation was isolated and did not present a danger to the public at large.

Throughout the hours-long standoff, law enforcement attempted to communicate via public address system and defuse the situation, Price said in a statement.

At one point, Price said, the shooter allegedly opened the door of the residence and began "rapid fire" aimed at the two Kentucky State Police vehicles behind which troopers and deputies had taken cover. Law enforcement officers returned fire.

Shortly after, the gunfire had ceased, and officers again began to try to make contact with the subject. It was not until KSP's Special Response Team arrived on scene and deployed a robot to enter the residence that they

discovered the shooter was deceased. It was not confirmed as of presstime Tuesday whether Dalton had died from a self-inflicted wound or as a result of law enforcement gunfire.

In a statement, Price said he lamented the way the situation ended, but thanked fellow law enforcement for their bravery and professionalism.

"There are times that no matter what anyone says or does, an incident doesn't end the way you want it to. Tonight was one of those times," Price said. "From the arrival of Deputy Martin until the subject opened the door and began rapidly firing toward our location behind the KSP cruisers, we had continued to try and make contact. As officers, our hope and goal is always to defuse the situation so everyone is safe. The officers that were here tonight showed extreme courage and fortitude. I appreciate and respect the KSP officers that were on scene. I also appreciate and respect the Johnson County Sheriff's Office officers that were on scene. My heart goes out to (Dalton's) family. This has been a long night for them as well."

Sisco indicted for high-speed chase, crash

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND
TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County grand jury issued an indictment last week against a Johnson County man who police said prompted a high speed chase through two

counties last month.

The grand jury issued a nine-count indictment against James Neal Sisco, 43, of Meally, for charges stemming from that high speed chase, which began in Johnson County on Feb. 13 and ended in a crash on Ky. 80 in Floyd County.

Sisco faces two violation charges, two misdemeanor charges and four felony charges as a result of the incident.

The felony charges against him include first-degree wanton endangerment, fleeing or evading police and second-degree assault, and he was also charged as a first-degree persistent felony offender. The other charges are traffic violations — speeding 26

miles or more over the limit, failing to yield right-of-way and not wearing a seatbelt — as well as charges of reckless driving and driving under the influence.

According to information in the indictment, Sisco's alleged crimes came following a high-speed chase that started when Kentucky State Police Trooper Jimmy Stratton attempted to pull him over in Johnson County on Feb. 13, and ended on Rt. 80 in Floyd County when Sisco's vehicle crashed into another one that was driven by Rebecca L. Pratt, who was injured in the wreck.



James Neal Sisco

The indictment alleges Sisco "wanted only caused serious physical injury" to Pratt with a "deadly weapon or danger-

ous instrument." It also accuses him of wanton endangerment for conduct that created a "substantial danger of death" or injury to Lisa Slone Huff, a passenger in his vehicle.

The citation issued at the time of his arrest claims Sisco admitted to "smoking a joint" during the chase. The indictment alleges he was also under the influence of alcohol.

The persistent felony offender charge, which would increase his jail time if he is convicted, comes as he has already been convicted of other felonies in Johnson County.

He is scheduled to appear in Johnson County Circuit Court on March 16 for a probation revocation hearing in two other felony cases filed against him in 2015.

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2. Each clue will be printed in the paper only once. Previous clues can be found at Official Sponsor Locations. Clues are posted at Official Sponsor Locations 24 hours before each publication.
3. Discover the egg. The egg is located on public property in an easy accessible hiding place. No stunts required!
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AEP: More help available for low-income residents

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Updates to Kentucky Power's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) will nearly double the number of low-income families who can be helped in 2018, Kentucky Power said this week in a press release.

A recent order from the Kentucky Public Service Commission increased customer contributions to the HEAP program from 15 cents to 30 cents a month. Kentucky Power agreed to match that contribution dollar for dollar with shareholder funds. Together, the program will generate nearly \$1 million this year to provide heating and cooling assistance to about 2,500 in the region.

"Kentucky Power wholeheartedly believes in assisting low- and fixed-income customers manage their energy usage and we will not waiver from this commitment," said Matt Satterwhite, Kentucky Power president and chief operating officer. "These funds will help many families in the near-term while we remain focused on leading economic development in eastern Kentucky as

the long-term solution to help all customers and address poverty in the region."

The Kentucky Power HEAP program is separate from the federal-funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program called LIHEAP. While separate, both programs are administered through Community Action of Kentucky, or, locally, the Big Sandy Community Action Program.

HEAP funds are distributed to customers who meet income requirements set by the community action agencies. Heating assistance is available for the months of December to March, while cooling assistance is available from July to September. Money is divided among customers who heat with both electric and non-electric sources, including wood and coal. Electric heating customers receive 85 percent of the funds. Non-heating customers receive 15 percent.

Satterwhite said in the statement that higher-than-average bills in the coldest months are usually caused by broken heating systems and lack of insulation and weatherization in the homes, a reason Kentucky Power

and the American Electric Power Foundation also recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to Christian Appalachian Project provide assistance in basic home repair and weatherization for those in need.

Kentucky Power also is looking at other ways to revise the HEAP program offerings to shift focus on these weatherization needs in the region to help more people, the statement said.

The company encourages customers to sign up for budget billing through its Average Monthly Payment program. AMP is 12-month average bill to even out winter heating and summer cooling bill spikes.

"After talking with customers, we recently adapted the AMP program to make it easier for those most in need of help to sign up," Satterwhite said. "The most important thing customers can do is contact us. We make every effort to assist all customers."

Kentucky Power, based in Ashland, provides electric service to about 168,000 customers in 20 eastern Kentucky counties. It is an operating company in the AEP system.

For assistance through HEAP, call Big Sandy CAP at, (606) 874-3595, in Floyd County, (606) 789-3641, in Johnson County, or, (606) 432-2775, in Pike County. Kentucky Power may be reached at, (800) 572-1113.

Three arrested at Floyd motel, facing drug charges

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Three Floyd County residents were arrested Tuesday morning at a Prestonsburg motel after they allegedly booked a room using a fraudulent credit card before officers located drugs, drug paraphernalia and firearms in the room.

Steven Shane Stephens, 40, of Alum Lick Road, Martin; Richard Mullins, 25, of Old County Road, Harold; and Selina Lawrence, 25, of Caney Fork Road, Martin; were charged with first-degree trafficking meth, first-degree possession of meth and possession of drug paraphernalia. In addition, Stephens and Mullins were both charged with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon.

According to a citation written by Prestonsburg Police Department Officer J. Pack, the officer was dispatched to the Quality Inn in Prestonsburg Tuesday morning when dispatch advised of two subjects staying in a room that had been paid for using a stolen credit card. Officer Pack and another officer asked the three subjects to step out of

the room they had been staying in. "Upon entering the room, the officer noticed a glass pipe lying on the bed," Pack wrote. Lawrence allegedly told the officer that the pipe was hers.

After further investigation, according to the citation, one of the male subjects had "pills and a small plastic bag" in his front pocket. The officer also found what appeared to be meth laying outside on the ground, court records show. Other items found include: plastic baggies and two handguns.

According to a citation written for Lawrence, in addition to the pipe found in the room, she advised the officer that the plastic bag containing meth was also hers. She said she flushed drugs in the toilet while the officers were knocking on the door, the citation said.

Stephens, according to court records, stated that the items found in the room were not his and that he was just there to give the other two subjects a ride.

The three were arrested and lodged in the Floyd County Detention Center.

Community calendar

- March 9; 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Appalachian Regional Commission to host a free regional workshop for those interested in submitting a POWER grant application at Hazard Community & Technical College. Register under the POWER initiative link at arc.gov.
- March 9-10, 7 p.m.: Big Sandy Idol, Mountain Arts Center. 888-MAC-ARTS
- March 10; 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park hosts elk tours. \$30 per adult; \$15 for children; free for kids age 12 and under. (606) 889-1790
- March 11; 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park hosts elk tours. \$30 per adult; \$15 for children; free for kids age 12 and under. Final tour of the season! (606) 889-1790
- March 12, 9 a.m.: Big Sandy Regional Industrial Authority meets at Big Sandy Area Development District. (606) 886-2374
- March 12; 10 a.m.: Quilting at the Library, Eastern library. Please bring your own materials and sewing box. (606) 377-2860
- March 12, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Big Sandy Community & Technical College, Pikeville, hosts 8-hour mine emergency tech retraining class. (606) 218-1228
- March 12; 10 a.m.: Quilting at the Library, Eastern library. (606) 377-2860
- March 12-April 30; 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Big Sandy Community & Technical College, Mayo Campus, to host nursing skills assistant class. (606) 218-1256
- March 13; 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.: AARP Tax help, Prestonsburg library. (606) 886-2981
- March 13 - April 16: Big Sandy Community & Technical College, Hager Hill, hosts Commercial Truck Driving class. (606) 788-2923

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4	5 Wesley Christian (B), Bright Beginnings (B)	6 Creekside (B), Ivy Creek (B), Let's Get Moving 4:00 PM (EB), Game Night 5:00 PM (P), Sign Language 5:30 PM (EB), Lego Club 5:30 PM (P)	7 Goble Roberts (B), Dixie Apartments (B), Story Time 1:00 PM (EB), Story Time 2:00 PM (P), Tai Chi (Registered Guests Only) 6:30 PM (P)	8 Adventure Learning Center (B), Betsy Layne Senior Citizens' Center Outreach, Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Let's Get Moving 4:00 PM (EB), Game Time 4:00 PM (EB)	9 Wayland (B), Garrett (B), Tai Chi (Registered Guests Only) 6:30 PM (P)	10
	12 Wesley Christian (B), Bright Beginnings (B), Tack Quilting 10:00 AM (EB)	13 Warco (B), Grigsby (B), Block Party 1:00 PM (EB), Let's Get Moving 4:00 PM (EB), Game Night 5:00 PM (P), Perler Bead Craft 5:30 PM (P), Sign Language 5:30 PM (EB)	14 Cliffside (B), Story Time 1:00 PM (EB), After School Teen/Family Craft 3:30 PM (P), Tai Chi (Registered Guests Only) 6:30 PM (P), Story Time 2:00 PM (P)	15 Adventure Learning Center (B), Martin Senior Citizens' Center Outreach, Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Let's Get Moving 4:00 PM (EB), Free Movie Night 6:30 (P)	16 Adams Middle School (B), Highland Terrace (B), Tai Chi (Registered Guests Only) 6:30 PM (P)	 Anime Day 10:00 AM (P)
EASTERN BRANCH TACK QUILTING AT THE LIBRARY Monday, March 12th Monday, March 19th Monday, March 26th 10:00am	19 Wesley Christian (B), Bright Beginnings (B), Tack Quilting 10:00 AM (EB)	20 Creekside (B), Ivy Creek (B), Wheelwright Senior Citizens' Center Outreach, Let's Get Moving 4:00 PM (EB), Tween/Teen Craft 4:00 PM (EB), Game Night 5:00 PM (P), Sign Language 5:30 PM (EB)	21 Goble Roberts (B), Dixie Apartments (B), Story Time 1:00 PM (EB), Story Time 2:00 PM (P), Tai Chi (Registered Guests Only) 6:30 PM (P)	22 Adventure Learning Center (B), Mud Creek Senior Citizens' Center Outreach, Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Let's Get Moving 4:00 PM (EB)	23 Wayland (B), Garrett (B), What's Cookin' 10:30 AM (EB), Tai Chi (Registered Guests Only) 6:30 PM (P)	24 Family Movie Day 1:00 (P)
	26 Wesley Christian (B), Bright Beginnings (B), Tack Quilting 10:00 AM (EB)	27 Warco (B), Grigsby (B), Let's Get Moving 4:00 PM (EB), Game Time 4:00 PM (EB), Game Night 5:00 PM (P), DIY Cardboard Cat Castle 5:00 PM (P)	28 Story Time 1:00 PM (EB), Story Time 2:00 PM (P), After School Family/Teen Craft 3:30 PM (P), Tai Chi (Registered Guests Only) 6:30 PM (P)	29 Adventure Learning Center (B), Let's Get Moving 4:00 PM (EB), Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Free Movie Night 6:30 (P)	30 Tai Chi (Registered Guests Only) 6:30 PM (P)	31 The Trail of Peter Rabbit Treasure Hunt (Registered Guest Only) 10:30 AM

EDITORIAL:

Floyd County's community partners should be commended

In recent weeks, Floyd County community partners have really stepped up to the plate and, in doing so, they've showed all of us the best that meaning of "community."

Recently, we reported how the Middle Creek National Battlefield — one of the county's most prominent tourists attractions — received a facelift, thanks to \$24,000 that was donated by local businesses and individuals who wanted to remain anonymous. Ace Hardware of Prestonsburg also donated

the facade of an old-style building, which was installed on the battlefield during the renovation work.

The businesses and individuals who donated funds to improve the battlefield should, no doubt, be commended for their willingness to help. They didn't want their names disclosed, so we can't recognize them individually, but we can thank them publicly for caring about Floyd County.

And that's truly what it's all about, isn't it? You can't have

a strong community without a group of folks who are willing to give of themselves to make it better and to help others.

That is why we are also dedicating this space to recognize the efforts of another group of community members: The businesses, individuals and agencies that came together on March 2 to host the "Truth or Consequences" program at Prestonsburg High School.

That program, developed by the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office and numerous

local partners, is another example of what happens when communities come together — not for the betterment of themselves or to promote themselves — but to reach out to shine some light for the younger generation among us.

In this event, students were given scenarios in which choices were made for them and they learned about the consequences that could come from those actions. In these scenarios, they faced everything from teen pregnancies and sexually-trans-

mitted diseases to crimes and addictions. It absolutely helped that the county coroner's office and a local judge participated to help these students learn how to make good decisions.

If that event taught just one student to think twice about making a bad decision, it was worth it.

And it's worth noting, every single person involved in either one or both of these projects deserves a pat on the back.

GUEST COLUMN:

House week in review

By LARRY BROWN
95TH DISTRICT STATE
REPRESENTATIVE

Getting two people to agree on an issue can be difficult. Getting up to 100 people to agree on an issue — especially one as complicated as passage of a \$22.5 billion budget that affects every single person in the Commonwealth — can be downright impossible.

As a member of the Kentucky House, I can tell you that how a lawmaker votes on the state's two-year spending plan may come down to just one or two issues. Too little money for public schools can mean a "no" vote for many lawmakers who otherwise support a budget that beefs up funding for prosecutors or social workers. So balance is critical in passing a budget, and balance is what we tried to achieve in this session's Executive budget bill, House Bill 200, which passed the House by a vote of 76-15 on March 1.

With Senate passage of this session's pension reform bill expected any day, HB 200 would increase funding for the Kentucky Retirement Systems by \$774.5 million and the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System by \$89.1 million to meet the state's full actuarially required contribu-

tion (or ARC) for state employee and teacher pensions, with full funding for teacher retirement provided at the school district level. Health coverage for retired teachers through the biennium would be secured with \$59.5 million added to this budget which also includes funding for health care for active school system employees.

That said, I remain concerned about the provisions of the pension reform bill (SB 1) as it will have a substantial monetary impact on teachers, city, county and state employees in my district. The pension systems have been crippled through no fault of those who have consistently paid into them for years. They are the victims here. Good faith efforts have been made to try to remedy the pension issues, but I think SB 1 will meet with much more resistance in the House than the budget bill we just passed.

For our students, HB 200 would boost base per-pupil funding for K-12 education, or SEEK funds, to a record level of \$4,055 in the first year of the biennium and \$4,056 in the second year. The bill would also provide \$7 million in surplus SEEK to fund the emergency revolving loan fund for struggling school districts as directed by this session's HB 141, and

increase school transportation funding to \$127.8 million in each year of the budget cycle to restore funding there.

Students headed to college would also benefit from HB 200, which would provide over \$105 million to restore higher education funding left out of earlier budget proposals and well over \$215 million in KEES scholarship money drawn from Kentucky Lottery proceeds. It would also boost funding for specific programs at state universities.

Support for adoption and foster care reforms in HB 1 that passed the House on Wednesday and is now before the Senate is found in HB 200's health and family services portion. Over \$86 million will be added over the biennium to add 354 positions to reduce worker caseloads under the bill, with another \$25 million be added to recruit social workers. Additional funds for community living supports, substance abuse treatment for pregnant women, and millions of dollars over the biennium for the state's popular Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, or FRYSCs, that help remove barriers to student academic success would also be provided.

We also would increase funding for public safety in

this proposal, with particular attention paid to the Kentucky State Police with funding for hundreds of new cruisers and rifles for our state troopers. Increased funding for corrections is included to the tune of around \$50 million to accommodate an increase in the state's prison population. Funding for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for abused and neglected children), day treatment for troubled juveniles, and funds to hire over 50 new public defenders who provide representation for defendants who can't afford to hire their own attorney would also be funded.

Kentucky prohibits revenue from being included in its spending bills, so the revenue for the next two-year state budget is being approved separately. The funding required to carry out the appropriations in HB 200 is found in HB 366, also approved by the House on Thursday by a vote of 68-25.

Many revenue makers in the bill are the same as in nearly every revenue bill, with some differences. But HB 366 includes some striking new revenue streams, too — most significantly a 50-cent per pack increase in the cigarette tax beginning this July and a 25-cent per dose tax on opioids at the distribution level. Both reve-

nue sources are projected to rake in an extra \$377 million over the two-year budget cycle for the Commonwealth. (Other revenue changes in HB 366 would bring in around \$123 million in additional revenue over the next two years, for a total of around \$500 in new revenue over the biennium raised by the bill.)

One more word on the opioid revenue, which would be tracked by the Office of the Attorney General to ensure the tax isn't passed on to consumers, according to testimony in the House budget committee. Any repercussions would come from that office, which also had a role in Kentucky's 2016 consumer protection settlement with Volkswagen. A fund to distribute Kentucky's share of the settlement — which could potentially bring \$100 million to both the state and impacted customers — would be created by HB 366, with around \$20 million from that settlement going to fund fuel-efficient school buses for local school districts over the next two years.

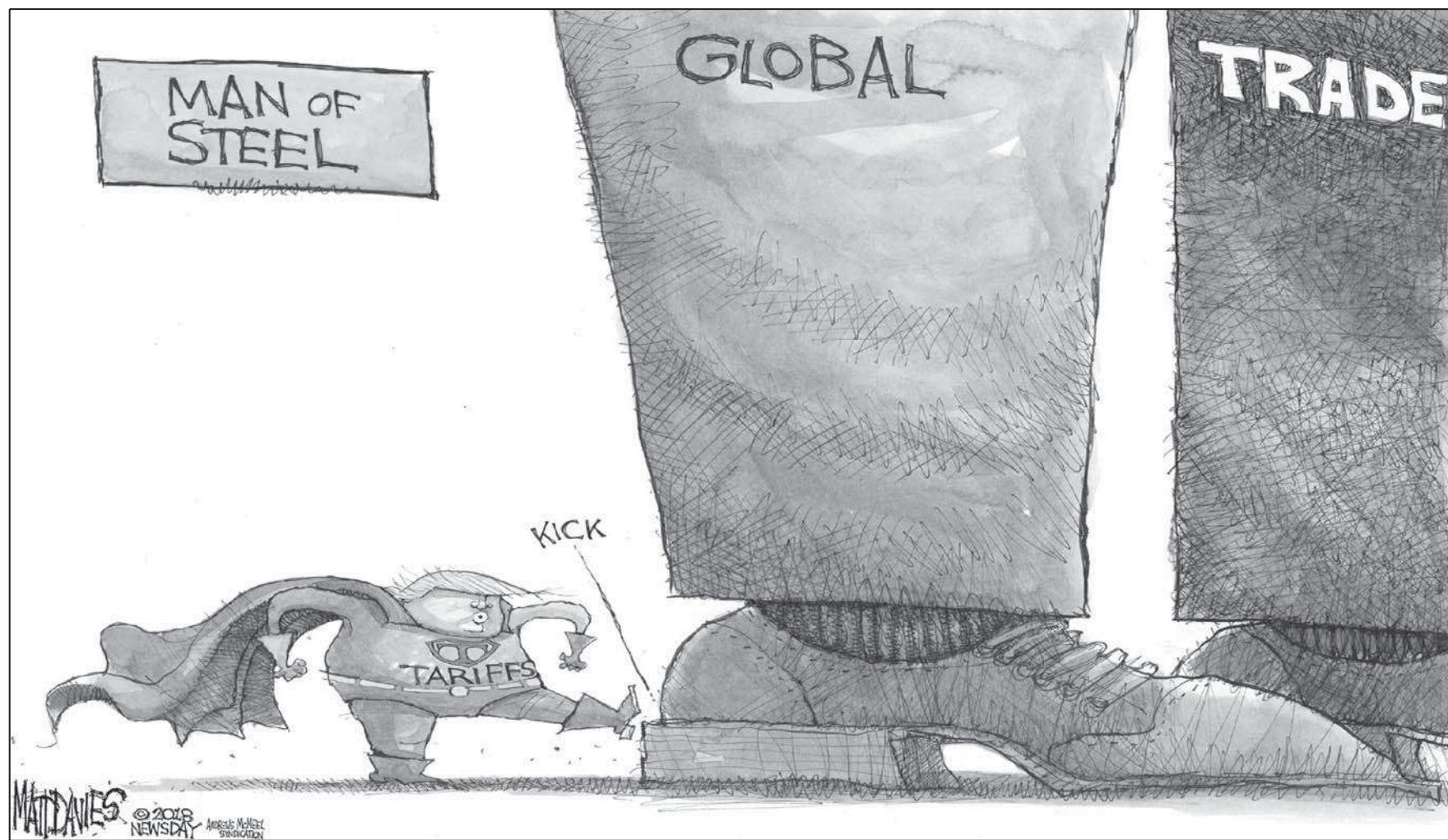
Two other budget bills that are important, yet usually receive much less fanfare than the Executive budget and state revenue bill, are the budgets for the Legislative and Judicial branches of state government. They

also passed the House on votes of 83-7 and 84-8 respectively.

Now, even those who praise what they consider to be the good points in the spending and revenue bills we will pass this session acknowledge that the bills aren't perfect. HB 200 doesn't propose to restore all funding cuts in earlier budget proposals, nor does it provide all the funding state agencies, universities and local agencies need or want. Then there's the revenue bill which, although necessary in some form, is not the broad-based tax reform that some in the House want to push through this session.

In short, these bills coming out of this House last week are starting points for possibly something greater by the time this 2018 budget session is over. It's our hope — for state government and all of Kentucky — that the end result will justify the means by the time our work is finished in April.

Please continue to stay informed of all legislative action during the 2018 Regular Session by reading the daily Legislative Record, which is found on the Legislative Research Commission website at, www.lrc.ky.gov. You can also leave comments for your state Representatives and Senators by calling the Legislative toll-free Message Line at, (800) 372-7181.



CHRONICLE & TIMES

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Steven Dalton

Steven Edward Dalton, 35, of Oil Springs, died Tuesday, Mar. 6, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of Preston Funeral Home of Paintsville.

Connie Miller

Connie Rashelle Miller, 39, of Wayland, died Tuesday, Mar. 6, 2018.

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

EAGLE

Continued From Page 1A

According to Hutchison, he immediately called wildlife officials for help and the bird was taken to the Liberty Nature Center to undergo extensive rehabilitation.

"It had an infection in its left leg, we found a hole there and it couldn't grasp anything with that leg," said Jayson Plaxico, wildlife biologist for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "It was probably 15 degrees that night, and Bob found it on his property. If he hadn't found it, it probably wouldn't have made it to the morning."

After completing her rehabilitation and regaining the ability to eat, to use her feet and to fly, Eleanor returned to the wild on March 3 to the applause of a crowd of people gathered at the marina to witness her release.

Eleanor's release follows up on a record-breaking year for bald eagle nesting in Kentucky, according to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, officials said, in 2017, 164 pairs of bald eagles nested in Kentucky, nearly doubling the amount recorded just seven years prior.

The bald eagle was once a protected species, but measures from the U.S. government, including banning DDT, which caused their eggshells to be thinner than usual, banning the killing of the birds or disturbing their nests and working to reintroduce them helped the species climb back to a fully-fledged, healthy population, according to Fish and Wildlife.

"We've not documented a nest on Paintsville Lake," said Plaxico, "But, you can spot about three or four of the eagles there pretty regularly. If anybody has knowledge of an eagle's nest in Floyd or Johnson counties, we'd really like to see it."

Plaxico said the best thing to do if you spot a nest is to call Fish and Wildlife at, (800) 858-1549, and report it.

AG sues AmerisourceBergen for allegedly supplying 'dangerous levels' of prescription painkillers to Ky

KENTUCKY PRESS NEWS SERVICE

FRANKFORT — By filing suit Thursday against national opioid distributor AmerisourceBergen, Attorney General Andy Beshear now seeks to hold a group of distributors responsible for supplying 85 percent of opioids in Kentucky.

The lawsuit against AmerisourceBergen alleges unfair, misleading and deceptive business practices for excessively distributing opioids in Kentucky and for failing to legally report suspiciously large volumes of these drugs to state and federal authorities, according to a news release from Beshear's office.

Beshear said actions by the Pennsylvania-based company, that's presumed to supply nearly 32 percent of opioids in the state, played a major role in fueling Kentucky's opioid epidemic.

Recent lawsuits by Beshear make similar claims against distributors Ohio-based Cardinal Health and San Francisco-based McKesson Corporation. Cardinal supplies 20.7 percent of pharmaceuticals nationally, and McKesson

supplies 32.7 percent.

Together, the three companies control 85 percent of the prescription drug market in the country. That market includes the supply of opioids into Kentucky.

"We must stop these large supplies of opioids fueling addiction in so many of our communities," Beshear said. "One way to do that is to continue to drag these billion-dollar opioid distributors into Kentucky court to seek damages for their irresponsible actions."

In the first quarter of the 2018 fiscal year, AmerisourceBergen announced its revenue was \$40.5 billion, up 6 percent compared to the same quarter in the previous fiscal year, reflecting a 5.8 percent increase in its pharmaceutical distribution services revenue.

In 2017, AmerisourceBergen profited from a 31.6 percent market share, the second highest in the industry.

Beshear said the company's hold on the market created "dangerous levels" of opioids in Kentucky communities across the state.

From Jan. 1, 2010, through Dec. 31, 2016, pharmacies in Bell County filled prescriptions for a total of 30,091,681

doses of opioid drugs. With a 31.6 percent market share, AmerisourceBergen would have contributed 9,508,971 of those doses or 340 doses for every man, woman and child in the county.

During that same timeframe, Clay County pharmacies filled prescriptions for a total of 25,429,897 doses of opioid drugs, with AmerisourceBergen contributing 8,035,847 of those doses, which is 381 doses for every person in Clay County.

Additionally, Floyd County pharmacies filled prescriptions for a total of 56,375,642 doses of opioids, with AmerisourceBergen contributing 17,814,702 of those doses, which is 461 doses for everyone in Floyd County.

From 2012 through 2016, Bell County had 81 overdose deaths, Clay County had 28 and Floyd had 89.

Beshear filed the AmerisourceBergen lawsuit in Floyd Circuit Court.

According to the lawsuit, AmerisourceBergen paid civil penalties and entered into a compliance memorandum of agreement with the government in 2007 for its role in its internet pharmacies.

Beshear's lawsuit against AmerisourceBergen is one of many filed across the nation. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey recently settled with AmerisourceBergen for \$16 million. It was alleged that AmerisourceBergen oversupplied West Virginia — from 2007-2012, a total of 132 million doses of hydrocodone and oxycodone were distributed to the state.

Beshear is working with AG Morrisey and Ohio AG Mike DeWine to find solutions to the drug crisis in their region of the country.

Beshear filed his first suit in November 2017 against Endo Pharmaceuticals and Endo Health Solutions for violating state law and directly contributing to state opioid related deaths and overdoses from its drug Opana.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tied a Southern Indiana 2015 HIV outbreak specifically to the injection of Opana ER. In doing so, the federal health agency identified 220 counties across the country at the greatest risk for similar outbreaks, including Hepatitis. Fifty-four of those counties, roughly 25 percent, are in Kentucky.

Inmate health costs to increase in Floyd

By MARY MEADOWS
 STAFF WRITER

Floyd County's healthcare costs for inmates is increasing again this year.

The Floyd County Fiscal Court recently approved its annual contract with Southern Health Partners, an organization that has been providing healthcare at the Floyd County Detention Center for years.

That base rate in that contract is less than it has been in prior years, but officials say that other changes round the increase to about the same as it has been in the past, around three percent.

"When you sit down with it, it's just like anything else. It's as broad as it is long," Jailer Stuart Halbert said. "I mean, that's basically it because we're saving \$5,000 on the contract, basically is what that 1.5 percent is equal to, but then, you're turning around and they're taking \$5,000 out of our pool for pharmacy."

This year's contract reflects an increase of 1.5 percent in the overall base fee, which is set

at more than \$153,000, or around \$12,700 a month. It's about \$189 more per month than the prior contract. That base rate is for an average daily inmate population of 140, and the county is required to pay \$1.39 per inmate daily for each inmate over 140.

In the letter to the fiscal court, Southern Health Partners Contracts Administrator Jeanette Rodriguez explained that the 1.5 percent increase is due to inflation, and she also outlined other changes in the new contract.

The company has set a limit for prescription drug services at the jail, she explained.

"When we initially began contracting with Floyd County our pharmacy program and contract terms were structured, like many others, with SHP covering the costs of all routine medications as part of the base in this area of costs," the letter states. "It has become increasingly difficult over time, however, for SHP to maintain unlimited exposure in this area of costs."

The contract, which is retroactive to Feb. 1, puts a \$20,000 cap on routine medications provided to inmates at the jail. Halbert said the prior contract capped prescription medications at \$25,000 and gave additional allowances for other medical expenses in what's called a cost pool.

Now, the cost-pool section of the contract, detailing a cost-sharing program between Southern Health and the county, sets Southern Health's maximum liability is \$20,000 for medications, biological products, emergency kits and supplies, dental services, x-ray procedures, and medical and mental health services rendered outside of the jail.

Halbert said the jail can't control those costs because it can't control the health of inmates being housed there, but he hopes the scanner the jail is planning to install will help save the jail on X-ray costs.

"That's something you can't control," he said about inmate health care costs.

He explained that

the jail's responsibility in terms of an inmate's health is to keep them "at the level of their health or better" than they were when they were booked into the jail.

"You know, we just can't let them get any worse, and they're not allowed any kind of narcotics, under any circumstances, any kind prescription narcotic, they don't get it when they get in here," he said.

He pointed out that inmates, particularly those who are addicted to drugs, are more likely to have poor health when they are arrested. Inmates are not covered by health insurance, he said.

"It just amazes me that people don't realize that once these people come through this door and are booked, I don't care what kind of insurance they've got, it's null and void," Halbert said. "Nobody in this jail has insurance. If you're incarcerated, that's a policy of every insurance carrier. It's in Medicaid, Obamacare. It's on everything. When you're incarcerated, you have

zero insurance."

He said there are occasions, however, where inmate hospitalizations can be funded by insurance companies.

"There's just so many loopholes in what we fight every day," he said. "Just to give you an example, if we have an inmate that qualifies, which 99.9 percent of our inmates qualify, if they go to the hospital and if we can get that hospital to keep them for 24 hours, Medicare will pick their tab up and pay their tab, and will even go back 90 days previous on anything that's associated with that sickness and will pick up anything that's 90 days forward, anything that's associated with that sickness. They'll go back and pay that. But if they keep them, anything less than 24 hours, then the taxpayers, you know, we have to pay that. That's the reason we try to keep a good relationship with the hospital."

Health care is a significant portion of the jail's approximately \$2 million budget.

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Several charged in Floyd District Court, civil cases filed

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Charges were filed against several recently in Floyd District Court. The charges included:

Lawsuits filed

Vada Collins vs. Joann Reed.
 Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. vs. Irene Moore, et al.
 U.S. Bank National Association vs. Rick Meade, et al.
 Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. vs. Timothy D. Hall.
 Estate of Millard Caleb Skeens, et al. vs. Dennis Hutchinson, et al.
 Ditch Financial, LLC. vs. Keith Hughes.
 Hannah Rebecca Messer vs. Marc Lee Messer.
 Amy Nicole Johnson vs. Steven Lynn Johnson.
 Lendmark Financial Services, LLC. vs. Johnny Lee Johnson.
 Cach, LLC. vs. James Ousley.
 U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee vs. Diana Jarrell.
 Ginger Ann Reed vs. Jeffrey Ray Reed.
 Rita Martin vs. Cassandra Martin.
 Miss Piggy's, et al. vs. High Standards, HVAC and Supply.

Felony charges filed

Austin D. Bowling, 22, of Greasy Creek, Shelbiana, trafficking in marijuana, following vehicle too closely, no insurance cards.
 Kevin Moore, 28, of Ky. Rt. 122, Hi Hat, driving on suspended/revoked license, no insurance cards, illegal possession of legend drug, first-degree possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, convicted felon in possession of handgun.
 Kimberly Cole, 28, of John M. Stumbo Drive, Langley, flagrant nonsupport (two counts).
 Maronda Gay Hamilton, 42, of River Run Street, Allen, fla-

grant nonsupport.
 Hayden P. Hamilton, 20, of Angola, Indiana, first-degree fleeing police, reckless driving, driving under the influence, no insurance, failure to produce insurance cards, improper passing, improper signal, no registration, second-degree wanton endangerment.
 Shannon C. Blanton, 40, of Long Fork Rd., Prestonsburg, flagrant nonsupport.
 Jan M. Hicks, 28, of Bucks Branch, Martin, first-degree trafficking meth, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia.
 James Coleman, 33, of Ky. Rt. 3380, Teaberry, flagrant nonsupport.
 Delmar P. Baldrige, 60, of South Circle Drive, Prestonsburg, rear license not illuminated, driving on suspended license, giving officer false identifying information, license to be in possession, no insurance cards, no insurance, possession of firearm by convicted felon, not wearing seatbelt.
 Johns William Ruth, 66, of Haynes Village Court, Pikeville, trafficking in marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia.
 Jeffery Tackett, 43, of Ky. Rt. 466, Weeksbury, rear license not illuminated, not wearing seat belts, no license, no insurance cards, first-degree trafficking meth, tampering with physical evidence.
 Antonia Cheyenne Vance, 21, of Ky. Rt. 3369, Grethel, first-degree possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana.
 Mark A. Samons, 30, of Cane Fork Rd., Martin, theft by unlawful taking over \$500.
 Kevin Moore, 28, of Hi Hat, first-degree promoting contraband, drug paraphernalia - advertisement.
 Ashley B. Taylor, 28, of Main Street, Martin, first-degree possession of meth, possession of marijuana.
 Steven Shane Stephens, 40,

of Alum Lick Rd., Martin, first-degree trafficking meth, first-degree possession of meth, possession of handgun by convicted felon, possession of drug paraphernalia.
 Lee Lafferty, 38, of Arkansas Creek Rd., Martin, third-degree possession of controlled substance, carrying a concealed weapon, driving under the influence.
 Selina Lawrence, 25, of Caney Fork Road, Martin, first-degree trafficking meth, first-degree possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia.
 Richard Mullins, 25, of Old County Rd., Harold, first-degree trafficking meth, first-degree possession of meth, possession of handgun by convicted felon, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Misdemeanor charges filed

Mindy G. Robinson, 39, of S. Roberts Drive, Prestonsburg, parent to send child to school.
 Johnny McKinney, 56, of Little Paint, East Point, third-degree terroristic threatening, harassment.
 Zachary Hicks, 30, of Wells Drive, Prestonsburg, reckless driving, operating ATV on roadway, instructional permits violation, disregarding stop sign, improper signal, third-degree possession of a controlled substance, prescription not in proper container, no insurance, no insurance cards.
 Misty Ratliff, 35, of Spradlin Branch, Prestonsburg, third-degree criminal trespassing.
 Shawn Justice, 27, of First Street, Prestonsburg, harassment.
 Alexander Skeens, 34, of Georges Branch, East Point, falsely reporting accident, public intoxication of a controlled substance.
 Lisa Hartwig, 53, of Plant City, Florida, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence).
 Jeffrey Mitchell Thompson, 63, of Town Branch, Prestons-

burg, driving under the influence, possession of marijuana, no insurance.
 Vick McCoy, 40, of Hunter Branch Rd., Printer, harassment.
 Dylan Shane Hicks, 22, of John Moore Branch, Garrett, giving officer false identifying information.
 David Ousley, 52, of Shawn Howell Subdivision, Prestonsburg, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence), violation of EPO.
 Tammy Glover, 35, of Ky. Rt. 122, Hi Hat, public intoxication of controlled substance, endangering welfare of a minor, possession of drug paraphernalia.
 Matthew McDonald, 30, of Nicholasville, public intoxication of a controlled substance, giving officer false identifying information.
 Jerry Iricks, 51, of Tom Creek Rd., Ivel, third-degree terroristic threatening, harassment.
 Kenneth Chapman, 39, of Road Fork Rd., Sidney, reckless driving, driving on suspended license, possession of marijuana.
 Donald Hagans, 27, of Mayo Trailer Court, Prestonsburg, careless driving, driving on suspended license, possession of marijuana.
 Zachary Stevens, 19, of Meade Bottom, Hi Hat, speeding (26 mph over limit), endangering the welfare of a minor.
 Tyler Thacker, 25, of Mockingbird Lane, Ivel, second-degree fleeing police, resisting arrest, menacing, second-degree disorderly conduct, public intoxication of a controlled substance.
 Kyle Slone, 24, of Slone Heights, Betsy Layne, carrying a concealed deadly weapon.
 Misty Lamartz, 32, of Left Fork, Betsy Layne, public intoxication.
 Courtney Harris, 35, of Florence Hall Estates, Prestonsburg, public intoxication of a controlled substance, third-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug par-

aphernalia.
 William Duke, 31, of Mayo Court, Prestonsburg, second-degree disorderly conduct, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence).
 April Stephens, 30, of Mayo Court, Prestonsburg, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence).
 Kendall Hackworth, 29, of First Street, Prestonsburg, no registration receipt, no registration plates, driving on expired license, no insurance cards, no insurance, trafficking marijuana, second-degree possession of a controlled substance, third-degree possession of a controlled substance.
 Elizabeth Little, 27, of Gardner Trail, Salyersville, alcohol intoxication in a public place.
 Troy Michael Sofinowski, 41, of Ky. Rt. 321, Prestonsburg, alcohol intoxication in a public place.
 Jonathan Morris, 39, of Central Ave., Allen, public intoxication of a controlled substance.
 Malia Crum, 35, of Manchester, Indiana, public intoxication.
 Jonathan Newsom, 20, of Ky. Rt. 979, Teaberry, driving under the influence, no registration plates, possession of marijuana, no registration receipt, no insurance.
 Johnda Smith, 39, of Shop Branch, Printer, theft by unlawful taking under \$500, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
 Brianna Holbrook, 22, of Emma Road, Prestonsburg, driving under the influence, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence).

Editor's note: The above list reflects people who are charged in Floyd District Court. The charges against them are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Marriages, property transfers filed in Floyd

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The following marriages and property transfers have recently been filed in the Floyd County Clerk's office:

Marriages

Carol Ann Ritchie, 47, of Prestonsburg, to Alex Eugene Hughes, 50, of Prestonsburg
 Cody Ray Hall, 18, of Grethel to Karli Reid Tackett, 16, of Banner
 Christopher Scott Hammonds, 31, of Prestonsburg, to Shala Renee Spradlin, 26, of Allen
 Brianna Dyan Curry, 26, of Hueysville, to Brandon Kyle Waddell, 21, of Hueysville
 Rebecca Gene Hicks, 33, of Prestonsburg, to Robert Arthur Smith, 56, of Hillard, Ohio
 Molly Arlene Jervis, 34, of Prestonsburg, to Michael Joseph Waddles, 37, of Prestonsburg
 Michael Paul Butler, 48, of Drift, to Alicia Dawn Adam Nalle, 47, of Langley
 Alisha Dawn Akers, 19, of Banner, to Austin Ryan Yates, 20, of Banner

Property transfers

Miranda Samons to William Hale; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 340)
 Angelina Briggs, James Briggs to John Lewis, Lucreasie Lewis; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 345)
 Rachael Collins, Donald M. Collins to Charlie Johnson, Racheal Johnson; property location unlisted (Deeds Book

635; pg. 351)
 Donnie Patrick, Edna Patrick to Tonya Gayheart; property at Pumpkin Center
 Glenda Sue Hood, Barbara Merritt, Billy R. Merritt Family Trust, Donald Merritt, Phyllis Merritt Family Trust, Ronald Marritt to Brad Baker; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 359)
 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC, to J&L LLC; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 363)
 Anna Sue Akers to Carlos Devon Akers, Jennifer Anna Tackett; property on Hunts Ford Road, Dana. 367
 Michael Paul Hall to Carol Allen, Anna Isaac; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 371)
 Barbara Stanley, Gregory Dean Stanley, Regina Stanley to Lori Newsome; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 376)
 Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance Inc. to Amy E. McCarty; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 380)
 Hometown Medical Properties LLC to HHS Development Company, Prestonsburg LLC; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 384)
 Dorthy G. Marti, Gail Martin, Jerry Martin to Kermit F. Baldrige, Robin R. Baldrige; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 389)
 Charles Rodney Pratt, A Plus Rental & Storage, LLC, to Chris Bryant, Crystal Bryant; property in Wheelwright
 Kondaur Capital to Donna Spears; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 398)

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FAITH

Weekend Edition, March 9 - 11, 2018 • Page 8A

March album releases



Million Lifetime
by River Valley
Worship
Genre: Praise &
Worship



Trial & Triumph
by I Am They
Genre: Praise &
Worship



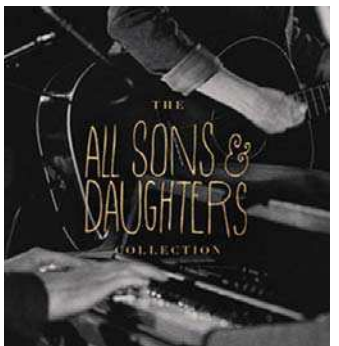
God Knows
by FLAME
Genre: Rap/Urban



Make Room
by Jonathan
McReynolds
Genre: Gospel



Future
by Jordan Feliz
Genre: Pop/Rock



**The All Sons
& Daughters
Collection**
by All Sons And
Daughters
Genre: Praise &
Worship



**God's Not Dead: A
Light In Darkness -
Songs From And
Inspired By The
Motion Picture**
by Various Artists -
Soundtracks
Genre: Pop/Rock



**I Can Only
Imagine - The Very
Best of MercyMe**
by MercyMe
Genre: Pop/Rock

Protecting students from mass shooters



By JAMIE BECKETT
CHRONICLE & TIMES

My cousin, Willis May, Jr. was sitting in his coaching office with three student athletes and two college representatives when the nightmare begin. Someone over the walkie talkie asked if the noise they heard was fireworks. Willis' good friend, and assistant football coach, Aaron Fies, responded saying it wasn't fireworks. It was the last words Willis would ever hear him say. My cousin, and the others in his office, went on lockdown, carrying out what they had prepared for in their drills.

Fies was among the 17 people killed that day at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Nikolas Cruz, 19-years-old, entered the school and opened fire with an AR-15 style semi-automatic rifle. The school shooting has brought the topic of gun control at the forefront yet again. Huffington Post reports, "Teenage survivors, angry and emotional, got in front of cameras and demanded changes to the country's gun laws. They denounced the National Rifle Association [NRA] and lawmakers who

take its money as the cause of inaction." Responses were made. "Trump promised action on gun background checks and called for banning bump stocks, which are attachments that enable a semiautomatic rifle to fire faster." Some GOP lawmakers who had been unmovable, had a change of heart. And companies cut ties with the NRA.

People are understandably upset about the threat of a person coming into their child(ren)'s school and opening fire. Mass shootings are on the rise. I can remember a time when mass school shooting were not a concern. They weren't even a blimp on the radar. But now, parents, students and school employees fear the worst. Schools are undergoing training to prepare for such an attack. People are fed up with the loss of innocent lives. Action is wanted. Stricter gun laws — such as upping the age limit or closing loopholes — are demanded, making it harder to obtain certain weapons. Bans are called upon. People want to know their children are safe. However, the question remains: Will these methods help?

In 2013, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev bombed the Boston Marathon with pressure-cooker bombs packed with shrapnel and hidden in backpacks, as recorded by history.com. Three spectators died. More than 260 other people were wounded. And sixteen people lost

legs. Are pressure cookers going to be outlawed?

In 1995, Timothy J. McVeigh and Terry L. Nichols used a rental truck filled with explosives outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. According to CNN, the blast killed 168 people and more than 500 people were injured. Are we going to outlaw rental trucks?

In 2017, James Alex Fields, Jr. drove his car into a crowd of protestors at a white nationalist rally in Virginia. One woman was killed and 19 others were injured according to NBC News. Are we going to outlaw cars? Are we going to ban rallies?

On September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. Two crashed into the Twin Towers. One crashed into the Pentagon. Passengers were able to prevent the fourth from crashing into the U.S. Capitol. Instead, it went down in a Pennsylvania field. CNN reports a total of 2,977 people were killed. Are we going to outlaw planes?

Are we going to outlaw everything that has the possibility of hurting someone? Which could, literally, be almost everything. People are strangled, burned, beat to death, poisoned, drowned, etc.

I know that we want children to be safe in schools. Children *should* be safe while at school. I'm not trying to be insensitive to the subject. But what I want people to consider

is, just because we outlaw or ban something doesn't mean it's going to completely erase the probability that some type of attack could happen. They could find another way, such as the four examples I just gave you — vehicles, explosives, homemade bombs and planes.

I know you've heard it before, but guns do not kill people. People kill people. Guns are not the problem. The problem is the hearts of people. We are told in the Bible, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12)." Until the hearts of people change, evil will continue to exist. Innocent lives will be taken.

There is one single answer to the problem of mass shootings, as well as all the problems in the world. That answer is Jesus Christ, the son of the Living God. If we become people who turn to God and allow Him into their lives, He can heal our great nation. If we keep God first and allow Him into our schools, He can protect us. No amount of laws can alter someone's heart. But the love of Christ can change people. Christ can turn a persecutor into a follower, just look at the apostle Paul (Acts 7:54-60, Acts 9:1-19). So, while we're trying to prevent another school shooting, remember that Christ is the key to all our answers.

Listen more *and* talk less

The Book of Proverbs notes that "The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice." (Proverbs 12:15 NIV) We all know that we learn more by listening than by speaking, but even so, many of us are tempted to talk more than we listen. This is often just sheer egotism. We all seem to love the sound of our own voices and can't wait for the other person to stop talking so we can jump in and have our say. Often-times, our egotism rises to the level where we actually believe that we can change someone else's mind by simply talking. This doesn't happen very often, but sometimes the act of listening to others patiently and asking them questions about their beliefs will get them to change their minds. And why are we so bent on changing other people's minds in the first place? Why can't we just be content that people believe different things, especially in the realms of politics and religion? One way to be a good friend and to heal the divisions that often arise over differences of opinion is to let others talk and to merely listen, asking questions to clarify, but giving up the egotistic notion that you need to change their minds.



— Christopher Simon

"Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions."
— Proverbs 18:2 NIV

Local Church Directory

PRESTONSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST

88 Ky Hwy 1428, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-6223
Minister Shawn Slone
SUNDAYS
Worship — 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Service — 7 p.m.

PRESTONSBURG SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

421 Jack Arnette Branch, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-3459
Pastor Tony Kelley
SATURDAYS
Sabbath School — 9:30 a.m.
Worship — 11 a.m.
TUESDAYS
Evening Prayer Meeting — 7 p.m.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

137 Bryan Street, Pikeville, Ky.
Phone: 606-437-6117
Father Richard Watson
SATURDAYS
Mass - 5 p.m.
SUNDAYS
Mass — 10 a.m.

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

562 University Drive, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-8046
The Rev. Sr. Judy Yunker, Vicar
Email: stjamesdiolex@gmail.com
Website: www.stjamesdiolex.org
Diocese: Lexington

ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

60 Martha's Vineyard, Prestonsburg, Ky.
606-874-9526
Fr. Bob Damron
SATURDAY
Services — 5 p.m.
SUNDAY
Services — 11:15 a.m.

VOGEL DAY METHODIST

US 23, Harold
Pastor Dennis Love
SUNDAY
Sunday School — 10 a.m.
Worship — 11 a.m.
Healing Service — 7 p.m. on last Sunday of month
WEDNESDAYS
Prayer Meeting & Youth Fellowship — 6:30 p.m.
AA Meeting — 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

147 Burke Ave, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-8087
Pastor John Carwell
www.cumcprestonsburg.org
SUNDAYS
Sunday School — 10 a.m.
Worship — 11 a.m.
Evening Worship — 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Bible Study — 7 p.m.
Youth/Children — 7 p.m.

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Allen hires commissioner's cousin as contract laborer

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

After two months of debate, the Allen hired a new assistant clerk as a contract employee.

On March 5, the city commission voted 3-2 to hire former city clerk Bill Parsons, the cousin of Commissioner Elmer Parsons, as assistant city clerk on a contract basis. City officials said he will earn \$800 per month.

The city did not create an assistant clerk position prior to this vote. No written contract was available during the meeting, and the commission did not specify his exact duties or set a start or end time for this contract, but City Attorney Beth Shortridge advised the commission that a written contract is needed.

She clarified the vote, saying Parsons would be hired, contingent on the budget being amended, but Mayor Sharon Woods said after the meeting that she didn't care if he started on March 6.

Woods, Elmer Parsons and Clyde Woods voted to hire the former clerk, saying that he will help the city get its financial records up to date. Commissioners Josh Kinzer and Dr. Eilene Kinzer opposed it. Eilene Kinzer repeatedly questioned the decision.

The topic came up after she asked City Clerk Krystal Spurlock about the training she is undergoing. Last month, the commission voted to move her to full time, contingent on funds available. Spurlock said her full time employment would probably cost the city an extra \$400 a month.

As they were talking about amending the budget to do that,

Mayor Sharon Woods stated, "We can't wait. We've got to get the back ones done. We have a gentleman that don't want to work on and on and on, that he just wants to get everything straightened for us, and Krystal can learn a lot from him."

"You talking about Bill? Yeah, he could," Clyde Woods said.

Mayor Woods said, "Within two months, he can have everything up and running, I'm sure of that."

Elmer Parsons said last month that his cousin no longer wanted to work for Allen. This week, he said the 84-year-old does not want a permanent job.

Josh and Eilene Kinzer suggested moving Spurlock to full time instead.

"But again, before we even decide that, we have to amend the budget, we have to post the posting, we have to take job applications, we have to do interviews," Eilene Kinzer said.

"Unless you're hiring him as a contractor," Shortridge said. "Are you hiring him as a contractor?"

"That's what it would be," Elmer Parsons said.

When Elmer Parsons reported that Bill Parsons worked as a city clerk in Allen for 30 years, Eilene Kinzer asked whether he was clerk during the time in which the city is missing paperwork.

"No. No," Elmer Parsons said.

He reported that Bill Parsons probably worked for the city from 1960 to 1980 and Mayor Woods, said he was also employed in the 2000s.

"Isn't that when we're missing paperwork, during that timeframe?" Eilene Kinzer asked.

"No," Mayor Woods said. "Everything is fine. He can give Krystal better knowledge of what needs to be done, you know."

According to the last financial statements the city filed with the state, Bill Parsons worked for the city in the 2007 fiscal year, when a certified public accountant could not classify more than \$5,400 that the city spent, and in 2008, when the CPA could not classify more than \$11,700 in expenditures. One of those payments was a single purchase for \$7,570.

Elmer Parsons, Bill Parsons, Sharon Woods and Clyde Woods have all worked together in the city before. In October 1992, Elmer Parsons, a commissioner at that time, was appointed as mayor, following the resignation of a mayor. The following month, he quit, citing issues he had with Bill Parsons who was city clerk at that time. When Elmer Parsons and other commissioners quit, the city operated for some time without a government, as Chris Waugh, the city's former mayor, was the only commissioner left.

Waugh said this week that he believes Bill Parsons will do a good job for Allen, referencing his work with the city when he was mayor.

Eilene Kinzer suggested that laws have changed since the last time he worked with the city, but Mayor Woods said "he's still updated" with city laws because he reads them online.

"But that's something Krystal can do," Eilene Kinzer said. "So, that's why, I guess, I'm not quite understanding how we shouldn't give the opportunity to Krystal."

Mayor Woods said his em-

ployment will help Spurlock "in the long run."

Questioning the hiring of Bill Parsons, Eilene Kinzer said Spurlock has already gotten the city's paperwork up-to-date. For the past several months, Spurlock has given commissioners financial reports detailing expenditures and available funds.

"Why are we hiring someone to do the same thing Krystal has already done?" Eilene Kinzer asked.

Elmer Parsons said Spurlock is working on current reports, and Bill Parsons will work on paperwork the city is delinquent in filing in the past.

"But I thought we were going to move forward," Eilene Kinzer said.

"We've got to get the back done, too. We want the back done, too," Mayor Woods said, later pointing out that Spurlock is doing an "excellent job."

Elmer Parsons said, "What we got to do is get the books up to snuff for the past two years to where we can get our road money, so we can start getting some grant money."

Noting that Spurlock has worked with the city for more than two years, Eilene Kinzer continued asking why the city needs to hire Bill Parsons.

"I guess I'm just not quite understanding, if our goal is to move forward. Krystal has our paperwork up for this past year, why do we need to hire someone to go backwards?" she asked.

When Mayor Woods emphasized a desire to get paperwork for prior years in order, Eilene Kinzer asked, "But how can he get the books in order if the paperwork isn't present and that's what the CPA said?"

She was referring to the city's former CPA, who quit citing missing documents in Allen.

"I don't know, but he will find it," Elmer Parsons said about Bill Parsons. Mayor Woods said he will "go through the paperwork and everything, and if he don't find it, he won't get paid."

Shortridge advised that the city cannot withhold his paycheck, but it can set a performance-based rate of pay for Bill Parsons.

Mayor Woods said, "I just want the paperwork done. There's nothing being hid or nothing. I just want it done. I want road money and everything that's due to us."

Before the vote was taken, Eilene Kinzer asked whether there are conflicts of interest with anyone voting to hire him. The city's ethics ordinance does not reference cousins.

After the vote was recorded, Mayor Woods said, "Thank God."

She told Spurlock, "Krystal, you're not going to fall through the cracks, trust me."

Eilene Kinzer sat shaking her head.

Bill Parsons is not the only contract employee in Allen. Elmer Parsons is also paid on a verbal contract as the city's maintenance department supervisor.

During the March 5 meeting, he said that he and/or Mayor Woods recently re-hired a maintenance worker named Clarence. That hiring was not approved or discussed by the commission. Mayor Woods suggested getting him to sign a written contract, but Parsons told her he is an hourly employee. She asked him to install a time clock in city hall.

QUESTIONS

Continued From Page 1A

supervisor, until he was reappointed as the head of another department this year.

The issue came to light in February 2017, when newly-elected Commissioner Josh Kinzer questioned a potential conflict of interest with Parsons' employment. City Attorney Beth Shortridge said she would seek an opinion from Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear.

On March 5, she presented the commission with the attorney general's response — a Feb. 2 letter detailing conflict of interest laws in Kentucky.

"It's kind of like what I said before," Shortridge told the commission, "that there's certain requirements required by law, that, if he is a contractor, and he is hired by the city, that has to be put out there on record."

Commissioner Eilene Kinzer suggested having a written contract for Parsons, instead of a verbal contract, "since the state says there's no conflict," but the letter does not offer an opinion about Parsons' employment. It only states the requirements of the law.

Taylor Payne, assistant attorney general, detailed KRS 61.252 in the letter. That law states that no officer or employee of a city may undertake any city contract unless the contract began before "an elected officer filed as a candidate for city office, before an appointed officer was appointed to the office, or before an employee was

hired by the city."

KRS 61.252 forbids city officials and employees from benefitting from any city contract, but it does offer exceptions, including if contracts are competitively bid, or, if the "specific nature" of the transaction and the "nature of the officer's or employee's interest in the contract are publicly disclosed at a meeting of the governing body of the city or city agency."

Violation of the law is defined as a "Class A misdemeanor, and upon conviction, the court may void any contract entered" and the "shall be grounds for removal from office or employment."

Mayor Sharon Woods said Parsons was hired during a city meeting.

"He was hired verbally in a meeting," she said.

"The following meeting, he was hired through that."

Parsons said, "If you've got somebody else, I'll give it up."

"They ain't nobody going to take it," Mayor Woods said.

Shortridge reported last year that Parsons started getting paid for his work with the city of Allen in 2014—two years after he was elected to the commission. He told the newspaper last year, however, that he has been employed with the city for about 10 years. On March 5, he reported he has been employed about 15 years.

He said this week that he was hired as a contract employee before he became a city commissioner, but he could not recall the year that his contract employment started or the years

in which he was elected.

Floyd County Clerk Chris Waugh, a former mayor of Allen, said Parsons ran for the city council in Allen the first time in November 1985, and he "led the ticket" that year with 44 votes. Waugh reported that Parsons continued winning seats on the city government through July 1991, when only one person was on the ballot and the rest were voted in as write-in candidates.

"But there's no record of that, because I was even one of them who ran as a write-in," he said. "But with no record in there, they didn't write them in there, but I know he would have been there for that term, which would have been until 1993."

The Floyd County Times reported that Parsons was appointed mayor in October 1992, but quit the following month. Parsons did not seek election again, Waugh said, until 2012 and he has been re-elected for new terms ever since.

It is still unclear, however, how long Parsons has been employed by Allen. The newspaper is seeking that information through an open records request and the city requested 30 days to find the paperwork.

He earned \$600 in 2007, according to the last financial statements the city turned into the Kentucky Department of Local Government. That filing showed he was paid \$150 of that amount for "labor at city hall" and \$450 for "repairs" that year. The filing did not list him as an employee that year. He was also

not listed as an employee or as receiving any city payments in the city's 2008 financial statement. His wife was on the city commission during both of those fiscal years.

Regardless of when he was hired, the Allen City Commission did not discuss Parsons' contract employment at any city meeting between July 2015 and February 2017.

When asked whether she believes not having a public discussion on Parsons' contract employment since 2015 posed a possible violation, Shortridge reiterated things she told commission members during the meeting.

"Just for the record, my legal advice would be we need to have a written contract ... for Mr. Parsons' business, and I think you all need to read that in at the beginning of every fiscal year," she said. "And that way there are no issues and nobody can say anything."

Shortridge advised the commission to have written contracts for all contracts the city enters. She said it might be a conflict or ethical issue for her to write the contract for Parsons because he is a commissioner. He said he would write it and Commissioner Josh Kinzer, an attorney, said he could help Parsons complete it.

Mayor Sharon Woods said he performs general maintenance, vehicle repairs and stores city equipment and vehicles on his property.

When this issue was raised last year, the Floyd County Chronicle and Times questioned the designation of his work

as a contractor, citing information published by the IRS and the Kentucky Labor Cabinet.

On its website, the IRS offers a comparison between independent contractors and employees with three categories that show the relationship between the person employed and the employer: Behavior, financial and type of relationship.

"If you hire a worker with the expectation that the relationship will continue indefinitely, rather than for a specific project or period, this is generally considered evidence that the intent was to create an employer-employee relationship," the website states.

It also notes, "If a worker provides services that are a key aspect of the business, it is more likely that the business will have the right to direct and control his or her activities. ...This would indicate an employer-employee relationship."

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet detailed similar information on its website.

"An independent contractor's work is not a regular and recurring part of the possible employer's business," it states. "It is usually for a specific project with a beginning and ending date. An independent contractor provides the same services for other customers."

SUDOKU & CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Matters pertaining to your reputation and status will be disruptive if you aren't careful how you handle others. Be a good listener and a practical adviser, but don't share personal matters or take part in someone else's pursuits. Look out for your interests and invest in yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – An opportunity is apparent if you are insightful and progressive in the way you handle the information that other people give you. Gather the facts to know exactly how to get ahead.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – Emotional issues will surface when discussing your ideas or plans. Be careful how you voice your opinion and whom you butt heads with. It's easier to make progress if you can eliminate arguments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Your diligence will pay off. Leave nothing to chance and question anything that doesn't appear to be reasonable or truthful. Protect your reputation and don't make unnecessary changes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Legal matters will be worrisome. Your willingness to be transparent will encourage others to be so as well. Uncertainty and troubles will only go away if dealt with ethically.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Emotions will escalate if you don't get along with your peers or an employer. Be cautious of what you say and how you handle sensitive information.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Honesty should be your prime concern when dealing with a friend or relative. If demands are put on you, look for a way to put the onus back on the other party.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Be reasonable and listen. You'll find it easier to come to

**DAILY
ASTROGRAPH**
by Eugenia Last



terms with a situation if you are willing to work with, instead of against, whoever else is involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – Listen attentively and nurture your relationships with the people you live with or deal with daily. Understanding all sides of an issue will help you make the right choice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Deal with matters concerning siblings, parents and friends. Listen, observe and offer up solutions that are unique, reasonable and include everyone who will be affected by the outcome.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Make things happen. Not everyone will agree with you or want to pitch in and help, but that shouldn't stop you from forging ahead on your own.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – An unexpected change of plans will land you in a quandary. Don't let anyone dump responsibilities that don't belong to you in your lap. Distance yourself from users.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – The demands that others put on you should not make you feel obligated. Only offer what's reasonable and say no to anyone using pressure tactics. A former friend or flame will take advantage of you.

TODAY'S SUDOKU PUZZLE

**HOW
TO
PLAY:**

- Each column has to have numbers 1 to 9
- Each row has to have numbers 1 to 9
- Each 3x3 Box has to have numbers 1 to 9

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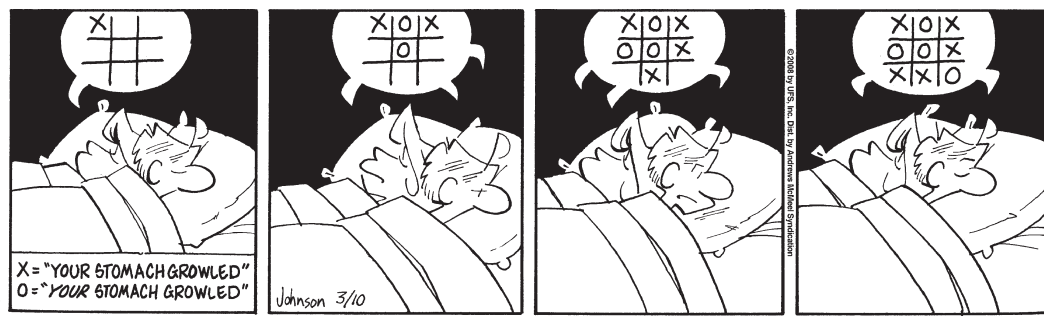
All answers are in today's Mingo Messenger

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

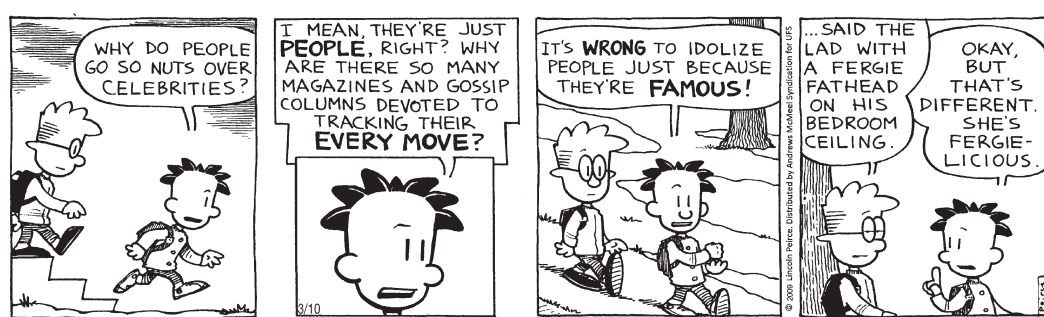
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- ACROSS**
- Drop feathers
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 - Paper mill need
 - Nope (hyph.)
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 - Omani title
 - Arizona river
 - Fundamental
 - Domed recess
 - Asks for
 - Corn Belt state
 - Slat
 - Brummell or Bridges
 - Mineral analysis
 - Plumbing fixtures
 - Foretellings
 - Theater awards
 - Dogpatch's — Abner
 - Tear apart
 - it up (have some laughs)
 - Director — Preminger
 - Chinese "way"
 - Fishing lures
 - Buenos —, Argentina
 - Calls to account
 - Use a machete
 - Modern-day diary
 - Impresses deeply
 - What bees spread
 - Gym shoes
 - Theatrical award
 - Public persona
 - Physiologist — Pavlov
 - Unruly manes
 - Dazed, with "out"
 - Tijuana tot
 - Gnat or mouse
 - Abrasive mineral
 - Slide suddenly and accidentally
 - Major artery
 - Blur, as ink
 - Mexican gent
 - Contests
 - Sonic's prefix
 - Falls for
 - Enjoy a puddle
 - Securing a package
 - Whalers' wear
 - Liver output
 - Worry, plus
 - Cruising
 - Most competent
 - File up
 - Like an neglected garden
 - Grandeur
 - Clarinet kin
 - Facial features
 - Capable of thinking clearly
 - Fiendish
 - Rajah's consort
 - Ginger cookie
 - Pop's companion
- DOWN**
- Big coffee cups
 - 17th state
 - Temporary slowdown
 - Formerly Siam
 - External boundary
 - Reluctant
 - Chuck
 - MacGraw of the movies
 - Noisy
 - Goober
 - Refs
 - Kudrow or Bonet
 - Chief exec
 - Coral islets
 - Pleased sighs
 - River edges

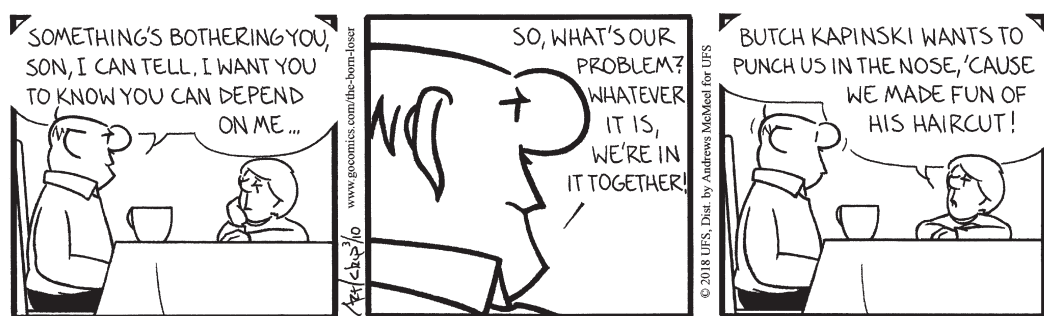
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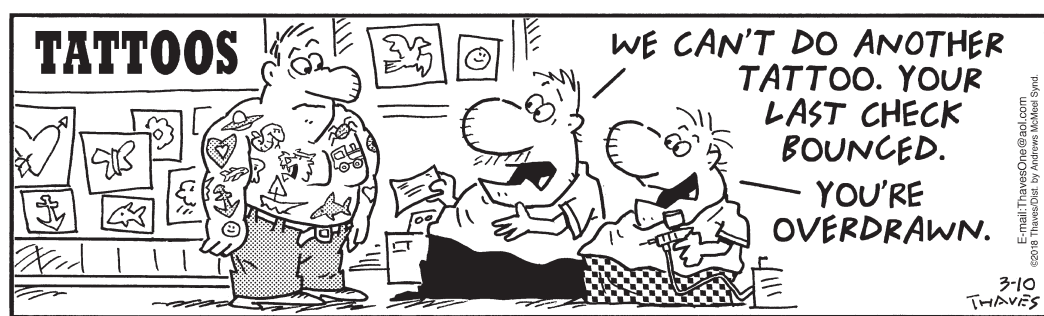
BIG NATE



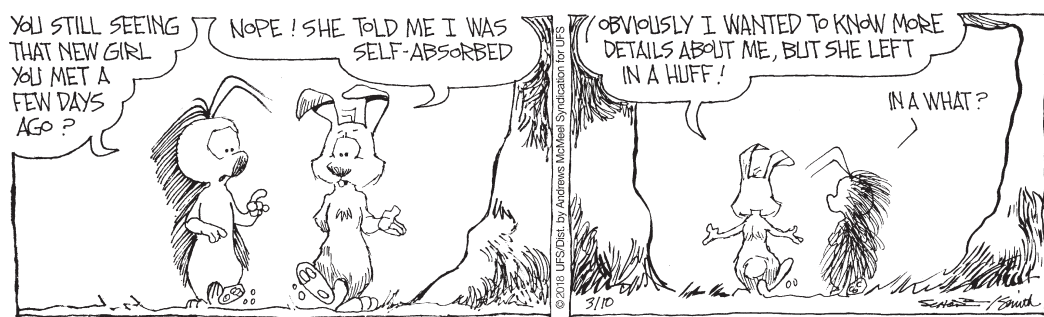
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Moore, Martin earn All-Tournament honors

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
 SPORTS WRITER

Freshman guard Katie Moore and eighth-grade center Grace Martin represented Floyd Central on the All-15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament Team.

In Floyd Central's two games in the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament, Moore scored 24 points and pulled down 16 rebounds. Moore led Floyd Central past Sheldon Clark 49-46 in the opening round of the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament, scoring 17 points and grabbing seven rebounds for the Lady Jaguars.

The productive Moore, who ranks as one of the area's top young girls' high school basketball players, averaged 15.1 points and 8.9 rebounds for Floyd Central during its debut season. Moore led the Lady Jaguars in scoring and ranked second in rebounding. She was one of only two Lady Jaguars to average double figures in the scoring column.

Martin scored 12 points and grabbed eight rebounds in the Lady Jaguars' two games during the 15th Region Tournament. She scored a team-high 10 points in Floyd Central's season-ending loss to Pikeville.

Martin, who helped to provide a lift for Floyd Central during the regular-season and in the postseason, averaged 5.8 points and 4.8 rebounds as an eighth-grader.

Eventual runner-up, Pikeville, eliminated 58th District champion Floyd Central from the postseason, pulling away to defeat the Lady Jaguars 61-42 in the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament Semifinals.

After leading Johnson Central to the 15th Region title, junior forward Alaina Castle was named the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament Most Valuable Player. Along with Moore and Martin, the All-15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament Team included Madison Thompson (Sheldon Clark), McKenzie Maynard (Belfry), Kelly Davis (Lawrence County), Cassidy Mullins (Pike County Central), Summer Rose (Shelby Valley), Cassidy Rowe (Shelby Valley), Kelsey Jo Tackett (Pikeville), Grace Bartley (Pikeville), Alivia Gearheart (Pikeville), Sammi Sites (Johnson Central), Ashlee Belcher (Johnson Central), Jana Jarvis (Johnson Central) and Morgan Hopson (Johnson Central).



Cornett, Tackett named to All-Tournament team

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
 SPORTS WRITER

At the conclusion of the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament, Prestonsburg senior guard Phil Cornett and Floyd Central senior guard JR Tackett were recognized as all-tournament selections.

Cornett, who has signed with the Union College men's soccer program, scored a game-high 23 points in Prestonsburg's loss to eventual runner-up Johnson Central in the opening round of the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament. He was four of 12 (33.3 percent) from three-point range. Cornett shot 52.9 percent (nine of 17) from the field. Chipping in on the backboards, Cornett grabbed three rebounds for the Blackcats in the season-ending loss. Johnson Central held on to beat the Blackcats 76-65.

Cornett ranked as Prestonsburg's leading scorer in the 2017/2018 season, averaging 12.4 points per game. He scored 371 total points for the Blackcats. With Cornett leading the way offensively, Prestonsburg finished runner-up to Floyd Central in the 58th District and compiled a 14-19 record in Brandon Gearheart's debut season as head coach.

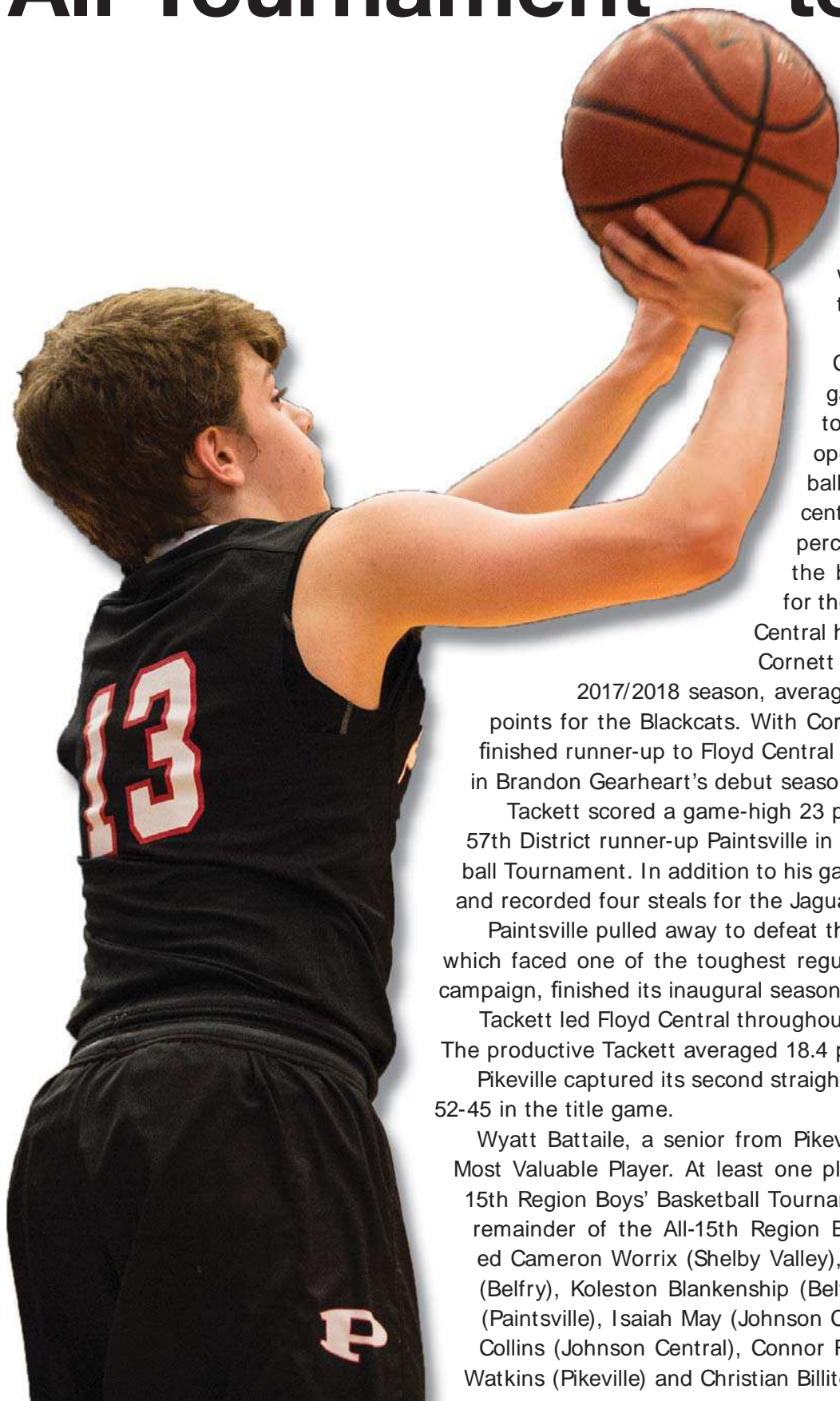
Tackett scored a game-high 23 points for Floyd Central in its season-ending loss to 57th District runner-up Paintsville in the opening round of the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament. In addition to his game-high scoring total, Tackett dished out three assists and recorded four steals for the Jaguars.

Paintsville pulled away to defeat the Jaguars 82-70. As a result of the loss, Floyd Central, which faced one of the toughest regular-season schedules in the state during the 2017-18 campaign, finished its inaugural season 19-12.

Tackett led Floyd Central throughout its debut season, scoring 572 points in 31 games. The productive Tackett averaged 18.4 points per game for the Jaguars.

Pikeville captured its second straight 15th Region title, defeating Johnson Central 52-45 in the title game.

Wyatt Battaile, a senior from Pikeville, was named 15th Region Tournament Most Valuable Player. At least one player from each of the eight teams in the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament made the all-tournament squad. The remainder of the All-15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament Team included Cameron Worrix (Shelby Valley), Levard Missick (Pike Central), Isiah Roblee (Belfry), Koleston Blankenship (Belfry), Seth Williams (Paintsville), Nick Keeton (Paintsville), Isaiah May (Johnson Central), Jacob Rice (Johnson Central), Dalton Collins (Johnson Central), Connor Roberts (Pikeville), Cade Byers (Pikeville), Kyle Watkins (Pikeville) and Christian Billiter (Pikeville).



Allen Central Middle School wins Volleyfest



photo courtesy of Allen Central Middle School

Host Allen Central Middle School won its Volleyfest on Saturday.



photo courtesy of Allen Central Middle School

Allen Central's Gabby Howard registered a kill.



photo courtesy of Allen Central Middle School

Ally Stumbo made a block recovery for Allen Central Middle School.

Softball: Floyd Central ranked eighth in preseason region poll

BY STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

EASTERN — Floyd Central is ranked eighth in the Kentucky Softball Coaches Association Pre-season 15th Region Poll. Floyd Central is preparing to take the field with a mix of former South Floyd Lady Raiders and Allen Central Lady Rebels.

Fresh off guiding the Floyd Central boys' basketball team to a 58th District title, Kevin Spurlock is set to guide the Lady Jaguars into a debut season on the diamond.

Heading into its first season, Floyd Central is already the favorite to win the 58th District championship. No other 58th District team made it into the Preseason 15th Region Softball Poll.

Floyd Central is ranked ahead of East Ridge and Shelby Valley. The Lady Jaguars are listed behind Magoffin County, Pike Central, Paintsville, Belfry, Law-

rence County, Johnson Central and Pikeville.

Betsy Layne, Jenkins and Sheldon Clark also received votes for the poll.

Pikeville is the defending 15th Region champion. Prior to Pikeville claiming the 2017 15th Region title, Johnson Central was the frontrunner in the 15th Region. Pikeville edged Johnson Central in the 2018 Preseason 15th Region Poll.

Pikeville shortstop Camryn Slone has been tabbed the top player in the region.

Betsy Layne shortstop Megan Frazier received votes for the Top 10 players list.

The preseason region rankings follow.

Kentucky Softball Coaches Association Pre-season 15th Region Top 10 Players: 1. Camryn Slone, Pikeville; 2. Alex- is Stanley, Pikeville; 3. Ciana Bowen, Lawrence County; 4. Kailee Rash, Belfry; 5. Cassidy Lowe,

Kentucky Softball Coaches Association Preseason 15th Region Top 10 Poll

1. Pikeville
2. Johnson Central
3. Lawrence County
4. Belfry
5. Paintsville
6. Pike Central
7. Magoffin County
8. Floyd Central
9. East Ridge
10. Shelby Valley

Others receiving votes: Sheldon Clark, Jenkins, Betsy Layne.

Pikeville; 6. Alaina Castle, Johnson Central; 7. Abby Fletcher, Lawrence County; 8. Lindsey McNamee, Pikeville; 9. Paula Dotson, Belfry; 10. Haley Howell, Pike Central. Others receiving votes: Halli Caudill, Lawrence County; Lindsey Lockhart, Pikeville; Emily Deaton,

Belfry; Alyssa Hedrick, Johnson Central; Abi Fannin, Johnson Central; Megan Frazier, Betsy Layne; Caitlyn Coleman, East Ridge; Anna Keaton, Paintsville; Kelsi Slone, East Ridge; Taylor Maynard, Belfry; Erin Bolen, Magoffin County; Britney Tackett, East Ridge.

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