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Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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St. Vincent Mission brings American Chestnut back to David

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

DAVID — People traveled hundreds of miles last weekend to participate in the plant-

ing of two American Chestnut trees in David.

The event was filmed by a Berea College student production crew, which is working on a documentary about Appala-

chia.

St. Vincent Mission hosted a "Blessing of the Chestnut Trees" ceremony on March

See MISSION, Page 2A



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

Chris Barton, professor of the forestry department at the University of Kentucky and director of its Appalachian Center, works with Lori Gearheart, who oversees the Grow Appalachia program at St. Vincent Mission, to plant an American Chestnut tree on the property.

Prestonsburg approves Spradlin Branch annexation

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Prestonsburg City Council moved forward with annexation plans this week — approving its intent to annex Spradlin Branch, tabling a vote on an intent to annex Lakeview Village and surrounding an ordinance declaring its intent to annex a Stephens Branch property.

On March 19, the council approved the second reading of an ordinance declaring the city's intent to annex Spradlin Branch, located on Rt. 321. The proposed annexation, which is surrounded by properties the city has already annexed, contains more than 120 acres and ties into the right-of-way of the Stonecrest access road, which is Ky. 3024.

The vote was 6-2, with Council Member Roy Roberts absent and Council Member Harry Adams opposing it. Adams said after the meeting he does not agree with state laws that require

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Floyd schools to participate in 'Day of Action' in Frankfort

Several Eastern Kentucky districts to close for event

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

Floyd County schools will be closed on Wednesday, March 21, for a rally that's being hosted in Frankfort by the Eastern Kentucky Education Association.

Facing a pension reform proposal that would change retirement plans for teachers, the Floyd County Board of Education approved the closure

of schools, in November, to allow teachers and staff to travel to Frankfort if a rally were to be coordinated. The school district announced, in a press release on March 19, that schools would be closed for the event.

"This is a crucial time for teachers, staff and students because of the current budget proposals and other legislative bills which will have an effect

See ACTION, Page 7A



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Chase Ellis

The casket of fallen Pikeville Police Officer Scotty Hamilton is loaded for transport to the final burial site following his funeral service held Sunday at the East Kentucky Expo Center. Community members, family, friends and law enforcement officials from multiple states came to the Expo Center to honor the life and the service of Hamilton, a 12-year police veteran.

Honoring a hero

By RUSS CASSADY
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

partment, where Hamilton dedicated 12 years of life.

Hamilton was killed Tuesday when, police said, he was shot while accompanying a Kentucky State Police trooper in an

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Scholarship fund opened for daughter of slain officer



Photo courtesy of Community Trust Bank

Community Trust Bank, Inc. has announced the establishment of a scholarship fund for Brynlee Hamilton, the infant daughter of Pikeville Police Dept. Officer Scotty Hamilton, who was killed in the line of duty on March 13. The thoughts and prayers of Community Trust's directors, officers and employees go out to Officer Hamilton's family and friends at this difficult time. Anyone may donate to this savings account by going to any one of Community Trust Bank's 80 branch offices, or by donating to; Brynlee Elizabeth Hamilton Scholarship Fund, Community Trust Bank, P.O. Box 2947, Pikeville, Kentucky, 41502-2947.



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MISSION Continued From Page 1A

offering prayers, Biblical readings and songs prior to the planting. The trees were planted on both sides of mission's Caritas Volunteer House, which opened last year.

Chris Barton, professor of the forestry department at the University of Kentucky and director of its Appalachian Center, helped plant the trees and shared American Chestnut tree's story. He is the founder of a nonprofit agency, Green Forests Work, that has for years been planting American Chestnuts on surface mine sites in Appalachia, as a means of repopulating the species and providing revenue through the harvesting of chestnuts.

He said one of every four trees in Appalachian were American Chestnuts decades ago, but that blight wiped them out.

"It really is a great story, about the American Chestnut," Barton said. "People refer to it as the cradle-to-grave species because your crib and your coffin could have been made by chestnut trees. It was the dominant tree in the forests of Appalachia until an invasion of an exotic blight came in and wiped it out. Some consider the demise of the American Chestnut as the greatest ecological disaster in the 20th century."

He said the forestry service started an American Chestnut program about 60 years ago by breeding American Chestnut trees with Chinese Chestnut trees, which are highly resistant to the blight.

"What they've tried to do over the last 60 years is back-cross all of the genes out of the hybrid that they have, remove all of those Chinese traits and keep the American traits," he said. "The Chinese Chestnut is the smallest tree. The American Chestnut would have been the biggest tree in this forest. And so, what we have here is a tree that is 15 parts American and one part Chinese. We hope that the part that's Chinese is the one that will keep it from getting the blight."

He said he and others planted about 1,000 American Chestnut trees

in Pike County 10 years ago, and they are producing nuts, and there are few planted elsewhere in Floyd County. Some of those trees do have the blight, but some of them are surviving.

"There's some that shows some blight, but a lot of them don't, so we have faith that this is going to be what we can use to return this species back to our forests," he said.

It was Barton's fifth or sixth tree planting ceremony with Father John Rausch, a priest from Stanton who has spent decades advocating for the poor and fighting for environmental issues in Eastern Kentucky.

Rausch led the "Blessing of the Chestnut Trees" at St. Vincent, asking attendees to take time to appreciate the nature around them.

"You realize this," he said. "Trees can live without us, but we can't live without trees."

He said society needs to slow down and celebrate nature.

"I hope as a result of our prayer and planting, these ideas will remain with you and tomorrow, you keep thinking about it and you say, 'That was a nice thing. Trees are good. Planting trees, that's for the next generation, for my children and my children's children,'" he said. "So, we're now into something that's much larger than taking two little sticks and putting them in the ground. We're actually refurbishing and we are co-gardeners, with creation, with God."

Sister Eileen Schepers, a St. Vincent board member, echoed his comments.

"For me, it's just a sign of us being in touch with our roots, with the soil, and how important that connection is in our lives, whether we realize it or not," she said.

Sister Kathleen Weigand of St. Vincent Mission said planting these trees near the mission's newly-opened volunteer house is a sign of rebirth.

"For me, it's a sign of rebirth," she said. "If we try, if we put effort into things, they can change and new life can begin."

Carol Francis Johnston, a professor environmental theology and ethics at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana,

said she learned about the American Chestnut blight 40 years ago.

"So, to discover that 60 years of breeding programs has finally produced a blight-resistant chestnut is just a huge thrill to me," she said.

She traveled to David after offering a lecture at Berea College, where attendees Dr. Elna Boesak and Dr. Allan Boesak are visiting faculty members. The couple, from South Africa, were also in attendance.

Dr. Allan Boesak said he was thankful to be there, telling participants about growing up in a country in which the government forced people to move into areas that didn't have trees.

"The government had laws that forced our people who were not white out of areas that they had declared white, and those were beautiful areas," he said. "And they always put us into the most arid and barren places, so whenever I can be close to trees, I love that."

Dr. Elna Boesak brought Berea College students who are working on a documentary about Appalachia to the tree planting ceremony. Her students also participated in a panel discussion on strip mining at the mission and an afternoon tour of strip mining in Magoffin County.

"We're trying to create a documentary that is justice-based and locally-rooted, but globally relevant," Berea College student Tyler Guffey said. "We kind of wanted to focus on this local region of Appalachia and then kind of have a global emphasis, as well, context that would complement the documentary as well."

Dr. Elna Boesak said students learned about the role of journalism in times of change prior to their trip to Floyd County. They are tentatively scheduled to visit Harlan County later this month.

A representative from the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth invited attendees to attend "Lunch and Community Conversation with the Poor People's Campaign," which is scheduled to be held March 29 at the Benham School House Inn in Harlan County. The event is part of a national listing tour by the Poor People's Campaign.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Attendees follow along with selected readings for the "Blessing of the Chestnut Trees" at St. Vincent Mission. Pictured are, left to right, St. Vincent Mission Director Erin Bottomlee, Carol Francis Johnston, a professor environmental theology and ethics at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Dr. Allan Boesak, a visiting faculty member at Berea College who is from South Africa.

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HERO

Continued From Page 1A

investigation at Hurricane Road.

However, much of the talk of Hamilton during his funeral, attended by hundreds of people, including police officers from across the state and the nation, did not focus on how he died, but rather how he lived — a life, some said, which made others' lives brighter.

Scotty Hamilton knew the risks of the job he took on, according to his brother, Jeff Hamilton.

"The careers that we have chosen, we knew were dangerous, so we met on several occasions and we talked about what

we would want to be said if I stood over my brother's body or he stood over my body," Jeff Hamilton told the crowd at the East Kentucky Expo Center. "He wanted me to let everybody know — do not grieve him, but celebrate his life."

Jeff Hamilton said his brother died doing what he loved.

"Scotty did not want to do anything else for his career," Jeff Hamilton said. "This line of work was in his blood and he enjoyed it and he felt complete by going to work each day."

Scotty Hamilton wanted to ensure his wife, Chelsi, and his daughter, Brynlee, knew what they meant to him, Jeff Hamilton said.

"Scotty wanted me to express to you that he loves you more than anything and you mean everything to him," Jeff Hamilton said. "He told me over and over again that there is nothing more important to him."

Prestonsburg Police Sgt. Ross Shurtleff, who grew up around the Pikeville Police Department and worked for a time as a dispatcher there before becoming a Pike County Sheriff's Deputy then officer with the Prestonsburg Police Department, said Scotty Hamilton set an example for him of what a police officer should be.

"We can't make sense of what has happened, but we can find comfort in knowing that Scotty

isn't really gone, but, as usual, is just a few steps ahead of us and we'll see him again in a little while. He was a brilliant cop," Shurtleff said. "It wasn't able to serve him on Tuesday, as a coward crept in the shadows to commit the most heinous of crimes, to rob Chelsi of a husband and Brynlee of a father."

However, Shurtleff said, he believes Scotty Hamilton would have repeated the incident on Tuesday in order to save someone else.

"What makes Scotty so extra special is that he would have walked right back into that situation again, knowing the outcome, to save one of his brothers, to save somebody that he had never even met," Shurtleff said.

Shurtleff said that what has happened in the days since Scotty Hamilton's death has sent a message to the world.

"The world now has seen what we are capable of, that we band together in these mountains like nowhere else in the world," he said.

Rev. Brad Smart, senior pastor of Pikeville United Methodist Church said he has also seen that banding together.

"Sadly, we have grown accustomed to reading about tragedies in other communities," Smart said. "We have become familiar with hearing about violence and suffering in other parts of the country and other parts of the world.

But, this week, tragedy became personal, it hit home, and the names in the headlines were the names of our loved ones."

Smart pointed out the outpouring of sympathy and shared mourning that has echoed throughout the community, region and state.

"This past week, every time I have witnessed one of your expressions of love and kindness, it has been like a light shining in the darkness," Smart said.

"Thursday evening, this community gathered just outside these doors for a candlelight vigil and you surrounded this family — you surrounded the officers of this police department — with your love and your support. You prayed for them. You cried with them. You embraced them. You held up your candle and you drove back the darkness and God received the glory."

Donovan Blackburn, who was serving as city manager in Pikeville when Scotty Hamilton was hired, said the hiring came at a time when city leaders were attempting to make changes to heighten the standard of the department.

"Our mission in 2004 was to create a better department and community — one that we could be proud of," Blackburn said. "With Scotty and his brothers in blue, we accomplished that."

Scotty Hamilton, Blackburn said, is a hero.

"Scotty is my friend," Blackburn said. "Scotty is your friend. Scotty is this community's friend. To many people here today, he's also a dear brother. And now, today he is everybody's hero."

All of the speakers at the funeral pointed out Scotty Hamilton's constantly happy demeanor and ability to brighten any room he was in.

"That smile never left his face," said Pikeville Public Safety Commissioner Phillip Reed. "He was a happy person and that happiness was contagious when you were near him. I don't think he realized how often he brightened the mood in everyone's day with his laughter and smile."

Pikeville Police Chief Chris Edmonds said that Scotty Hamilton was a "wonderful father, a great husband, a loyal son, a protective brother and a dedicated police officer." Edmonds said it's important that Scotty Hamilton be remembered for how he lived more than how he died.

"This community has a lost a great public servant," Edmonds said. "It isn't about how Scotty left us that makes him a hero, but it's about how he lived."

After the funeral, a procession carried Scotty Hamilton on one final patrol of downtown Pikeville before going to his gravesite. Hundreds of police officers stood along the procession route in salute to Hamilton.



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Cody Davis

Prestonsburg Police Sgt. Ross Shurtleff was one of many speakers Sunday. Shurtleff said Officer Hamilton set an example for him of what a police officer should be.



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Buddy Forbes

A sea of support surrounds Pikeville Police Department Officer Scotty Hamilton as his casket is brought out of the East Kentucky Expo Center Sunday afternoon. Law enforcement from around the state and nation gathered to join Hamilton in one last ride around the city before he was laid to rest at the Pikeville City Cemetery.

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- March 22; 10:30 a.m.: Storytime, Prestonsburg library. (606) 886-2981
- March 22, 5 p.m.: Floyd County Tourism meets, county courthouse. (606) 886-9193
- March 22, 5 p.m.: Highlands Health to host Diabetes Support group in meeting rooms A & B. (606) 886-7490
- March 22; 6 p.m.: Vegetable gardening program and seed give-away Floyd County Extension office. (606) 886-2668
- March 22, 6:30 p.m.: Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center students invite the public to a candlelight vigil at the Prestonsburg stage to raise awareness about youth violence. (606) 433-2265 or email her at wilson.jimmie@job-corps.org.
- Every Wednesday, 1 p.m., through May 2: Story Time, Eastern library. (606) 377-2860
- First, third Thursday, 8 p.m.: Comedy Night, Dewey's Bar and Grill, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. (606) 889-1790
- Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.: Lane of Roses Women's Bible Study meets at City Perk, Prestonsburg. ayngelaeastevens.laneofroses@gmail.com or (606) 367-2970
- Every Monday; 3:30 p.m., through May 7: Mommy and Me Sewing Class, Prestonsburg Library. (606) 886-2981
- Every Tuesday, Through May 1; 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Big Sandy Community & Technical College, Mayo campus, to host woodworking class. Registration accepted on any Tuesday. The class is for anyone interested in woodworking and building projects with wood. This course is specifically designed for working adults with beginner, intermediate, and advanced experience levels. (606)788-2832
- Big Sandy Community & Technical College hosts driver's education and refresher courses on an individualized basis. Basic River Motorcycle classes also available. Pre-register at (606) 218-1228

Officer's accused killer pleads not guilty

Details continue to emerge in case, as judge orders suspect held without bond

**AN APPALACHIAN
NEWSPAPERS
STAFF REPORT**

PIKEVILLE — A Pikeville man was ordered held without bond Friday after he entered a not guilty plea to a murder charge in connection with the death of Pikeville Police Officer Scotty Hamilton.

An attorney for John Russell Hall, 55, of Hurricane Creek Road, waived formal arraignment on charges of murder of a police officer and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, and allowed Pike District Judge Kelsey E. Friend Jr. to enter a not guilty plea on Hall's behalf.

Hall was arrested Thursday morning after a 36-hour manhunt which was sparked when, according to court

documents, Hall, "used a handgun to fire several shots at Pikeville Police Officer Scotty Hamilton, which struck him and caused Officer Hamilton's death at the scene on Hurricane Road."

Hamilton, a 12-year veteran of the department, was declared dead at the scene by Pike County Coroner Russell Roberts' office.

According to Kentucky State Police, Hamilton and KSP Trooper Matt Martin were conducting a criminal patrol Tuesday night on Hurricane Creek when they encountered a suspicious vehicle in the area. Officers spoke with the occupants of the vehicle and assessed the area around a nearby residence for possible subjects on foot, and, KSP said, the officers were separated. Gunshots were fired a short time later in close proximity to the residence and Trooper Martin located Hamilton, who had suffered a fatal gunshot wound, the statement said.

At 11 a.m. Thursday, KSP announced Hall was arrested in Floyd County without incident in the Stoney Brook area of Pike-Floyd Hollow, located in the Betsy Layne community, documents said.

Manhunt spans community

After the shooting, police have said, Hall fled and led officers on a manhunt that gripped the community, with state police and other agencies combing throughout Pike County and Pikeville, respond-

ing to reports of Hall's whereabouts.

The search for Hall moved into downtown Pikeville overnight Wednesday, with KSP and PPD receiving assistance in the search from the Prestonsburg Police Department and the Floyd County Sheriff's Office. Officers searched multiple locations in Pikeville after receiving tips, including areas along Julius Avenue and Jefferson Street in Pikeville Wednesday night, but were ultimately unsuccessful.

"Over the previous couple of days, we have followed up on numerous leads surrounding the fatal shooting of officer Scotty Hamilton. During the course of the investigation, information was relayed to the state police — a possible location for John Russell Hall," said KSP Public Affairs Officer Michael Murriell during a Thursday press conference.

Murriell said KSP troopers, officers with vehicle enforcement, officers from Pikeville Police Department, agents with the Bureau of Alcohol and Tobacco and the Federal Bureau of Investigation "responded to 1140 Stoney Brook Drive in the Betsy Layne community of Floyd County" at approximately 11:01 a.m. Thursday.

"Upon arrival, officers located Mr. Hall, arrested him without incident, and charged him at that time with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon," Murriell said. "Hall was transferred to the Pikeville Police Post. During that

time, additional investigative leads were followed up on, which led to Mr. Hall being charged with one count of murder involving a police officer."

Murriell said Hall was transported to and lodged in the PCDC.

"At this time, the investigation is still in the early stages. It is still evolving and still ongoing," Murriell said Thursday.

Murriell said there weren't many "specific details" available. However, he said, the departments found Hall's location thanks to "numerous tips of information" from "various sources."

"We would like to say thank you to (the media) for putting this out, for relaying information to assist us," Murriell said. "And we also want to thank the community. Not only for the support, but information that they have put out to us."

When asked how he feels knowing Hall is detained, Murriell said there is no "good outcome" to the situation.

"This is a tragic situation that, at the end of the day, there's not a good outcome," Murriell said. "We are glad that charges have been filed, but it's just a bad situation from every aspect."

'Relief' at suspect's capture

On Thursday, Pikeville Police Chief Chris Edmonds held a press conference at the police department to provide updates in the case and to thank the community for their efforts.

"This announcement

is to let each and everyone know in our community and around us that we do have a suspect in Officer Hamilton's murder in custody at this time," said Edmonds. "I was contacted by my detective and our community safety commissioner. They were down on the scene in Pike-Floyd Hollow. They contacted me and I knew in their voice that we had a suspect in custody."

At the time of the press conference, Edmonds was unable to comment on information gained during interviews with Hall, but that the department was "relieved."

Edmonds said the Kentucky State Police and local officers were crucial in helping the community during this time. Saying they stepped in and "took control of the scene."

"I knew when I left the scene that justice was going to prevail and he would be captured," Edmonds said. "Sure enough, this morning, I got that phone call."

According to Edmonds, the outpouring of support from the community has been "humbling."

"There's not enough that we, as a police department, could do for this community that they haven't done for us," Edmonds said. "They've overwhelmed us with their sympathy and their thoughts and it's been so humbling for us. It's forevermore changed us. I hope we heal as one. Not just one individual healing, but I hope we all heal, as a department and a community."

Edmonds said Hamilton's family, including his wife, Chelsi, and young daughter, would now be his department's focus.

"First, and foremost, I hope his family heals ... Us being a small community, their family's dear to me. I've known them my whole life. That's what makes it so much more difficult," Edmonds said. "They were so close to

me and, especially, Officer Hamilton. Ever since he started here, I was a peer to him and it's devastating to me. I'm going to do my best to help the family and give him what he deserves."

Suspect has limited criminal history

Pike County Attorney Howard Keith Hall said Friday that John Hall's criminal history, which was limited, showed no indication of any kind that he would commit an action like that which he allegedly committed Tuesday.

"He's got a thug record, but nothing that would make you think he'd be dangerous with a gun," Howard Keith Hall said. "There's nothing in his history where he's ever used a weapon."

Assault-related charges in his past, Howard Keith Hall said, were based on private citizen complaints and were worked out at the court level.

The felony cases John Hall faced, the county attorney said, were taken care of by the office of Pike Commonwealth's Attorney Rick Bartley and all information shows that John Hall had ultimately complied with the court's requirements and conditions.

Despite that, however, Howard Keith Hall said he wants to see capital punishment applied in the case.

"Everyone in this community wants Johnny Hall dead, and I share their feelings," Howard Keith Hall said. "I believe the death penalty is really too good for him. I'm as mad as the rest of the community."

Howard Keith Hall argued in court Friday to back up motions his office filed Thursday asking that John Hall be held without bond. Friend ordered John Hall held in the Pike County Detention Center without bond, pending a preliminary hearing in the case set for 1 p.m. Thursday.

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GUEST COLUMN:

Senate week in review

By **JOHNNY RAY TURNER**
29TH DISTRICT STATE SENATOR

The battle continues! A sea of red could be seen in front of the Capitol on March 12 as thousands of advocates lined the steps, rallying in solidarity, to show their dismay over Senate Bill 1. School employees, public employees and retirees continued to demonstrate their resilience this week after SB 1 — the pension reform bill — was recommitted on March 9 to the State and Local Government committee. There it will languish as we wait.

Unnecessary fuel was added to the fire — in regards to the pension bill — when the Governor decided to take to the airwaves and proclaim his unfavorable positions on the status of the bill. In a fiery radio interview, the Governor made some remarkably mind-boggling statements about Kentucky's public education, schoolteachers, and public employees. If you have not heard the interview, I suggest you listen to it for yourself.

During the interview, the governor went so far as to call

teachers "uninformed," "selfish," "short-sighted," and "ignorant," on pension issues. Folks, this type of language is unproductive and unacceptable. These individuals are well informed and have sacrificed plenty for the betterment of our children, families, communities, and state.

I commend the efforts of this administration for bringing the pension issue to the forefront and for committing to fully fund the actuarially required amount. However, this demeaning rhetoric is anything but helpful in solving the challenging task before us and it must stop.

Recently, the Senate president said he doubts SB 1 has any serious hope of passing. Still, we must not back down. As the 2018 General Assembly comes to a close, we must remain committed to finding a solution to resolve the pension issue, sooner than later. A solution that is fair, upholds the inviolable contract, and one that works for ALL Kentuckians.

With only 10 working days left in the 2018 Regular Session, the fate of SB 1 looks bleak. Still, there is a possibility that the bill

could be put on the floor for a vote at any time; so stay engaged, stay involved, and continue to make your voice heard.

What is undoubtedly our most important and daunting task and our constitutionally mandated duty, a two-year budget still needs approval. The Senate has the House version in its possession and the Senate Republicans are hashing out their own proposal. I do not know when the Senate will begin hearings on the budget, but it should happen fairly soon. Even though time is short, I feel certain we will approve a budget in time to have override power for any vetoes made by the Governor.

An important part of the budget is the state's road plan. I have been working with officials from our district to prioritize projects to be included in the transportation proposals.

Action on the Senate floor this week includes approval of:

- Senate Bill 137 allows out-of-court statements from a sexually-abused child, considered to be hearsay, to be admissible in court, under certain circum-

stances. The bill allows a child's statements made out of court that are considered hearsay and inadmissible at trial to be used. I opposed this measure, in part, because the Kentucky Supreme Court and the state bar association are better equipped to address the issue. We certainly want to help prosecute individuals who have committed these heinous acts against children. I am just not sure it is appropriate to do it through the mechanism we are using to change the rules of evidence. I am afraid HB 137 will be abused, particularly in child custody cases.

- House Bill 101 expands third-degree rape or sodomy to include an adult having sex with a 16 or 17 year old if the age difference is 10 years or greater. This measure would stop an accused rapist from mounting a trial defense that the sexual intercourse was consensual when the victim was 16 or 17 and the defendant was at least 10 years older. Twenty-four other states have passed similar laws.

- House Bill 33 clarifies how motorists interact with bicyclists. The legislation would

require drivers to keep vehicles at least three feet away from bicyclists during an attempt to pass. If that much space is not available, HB 33 states that the drivers must use "reasonable caution" when passing cyclists. Another provision allows a driver to cross a yellow line to pass as long as the coast is clear. An amendment would prohibit cyclists from riding more than two abreast in a highway lane unless the roadway is marked for bicycle use.

- Senate Bill 6 requires a pharmacist to offer to sell or distribute a drug disposal product with every prescription filled for a drug containing an opiate, benzodiazepine, barbiturate, codeine or amphetamine. SB 6 would also require the pharmacist to consult with a patient about the importance of the proper disposal of unused, expired or unwanted prescription drugs.

- Senate Bill 210 increases the penalties imposed on a convicted felon for possession of a firearm during the commission of certain crimes.

See **TURNER**, Page 7A

GUEST COLUMN:

Cowardice on pensions spells disaster for state

By **JIM PAXTON**
THE PADUCAH SUN

We keep a September 27, 2013, essay by the Pew Charitable Trusts tucked away on our desk. We keep it as a reminder.

The headline reads: "Kentucky's Successful Public Pension Reform." This is followed by a sub-head, which reads: "The Bipartisan Effort in 2013 Resulted in Fair and Effective Retirement System for Employees and Taxpayers Alike."

The fawning report by the left-leaning Pew organization referred to changes to Kentucky's public employee pension program adopted by lawmakers during the second

term of former Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear. Beshear proclaimed at the time that he had "fixed" the troubled pension system.

Pew bought that one hook, line and sinker. It wrote that the 2013 reform "will create a new pension plan for anyone hired after Jan. 1, 2014, require that future cost-of-living adjustments be paid for before they are given (instead of occurring automatically) and include(s) a plan that commits the Legislature to full funding of pension promises in future years."

On that last point Pew said, "Accompanying legislation was passed that would raise an additional

\$100 million annually to help pay the estimated \$131 million a year needed to make up the gap in Kentucky's pension contribution."

This was less than five years ago. And as we all now recognize, it was a total fraud on the part of Beshear and the Legislature. At the time Pew estimated Kentucky's unfunded pension liability to be \$26 billion. Today it exceeds \$41 billion.

Pew claimed four-plus years ago that an extra \$100 million annually could save the funds. Today legislative leaders have committed \$3.3 billion over the next two years just to keep the pensions afloat.

The "new" pension

plan for workers hired in 2014 involved a "cash balance" program contributed to by both workers and the state. But it retained the provisions that continue to sink the funds today -- lifetime retirement stipends for current and future state workers including annual cost-of-living increases.

We recite this history because the same game has been playing out in the current foundering efforts to deal with the pension debacle. Republican lawmakers who hold supermajorities in both chambers months ago rejected the essential step. They wilted amid the uproar at Gov. Matt Bevin's attempt to cap future ex-

posure by converting all future teachers and state workers to 401(k) plans rather than ones that pay lifetime benefits.

Now it appears they can't even muster the courage to pass a far-more-modest proposal to reduce cost-of-living increases by one-third for up to 12 years. That move -- they claim -- would save \$3.2 billion over the next two decades. First we doubt that. Second it is wholly inadequate.

This mere wave at the problem would be on the same level of fraud as the "fix" glorified in the 2013 Pew report. In that regard the fact it is apparently being abandoned is no great loss.

But here is where it leaves Kentucky. We will now commit 15 percent of total state spending for the next biennium to keeping the pension funds afloat. We are doing that by cutting money for higher education and most other government services by more than 6 percent. And we are doing nothing to prevent future pension liabilities from continuing to spiral out of control.

This is a failure of our political system. Because of it we have now joined Illinois in a race to the bottom.

Kentucky's future is one of financial ruin. We don't relish the fact. But at least we are willing to tell the truth about it. That is a virtue our politicians appear unable to muster.

CHRONICLE & TIMES

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By Christopher Epling c 2018 Floyd County Chronicle and Times 03.21.18

Gary Bays

Gary Dee Bays, 62, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, Mar. 16, 2018.

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

Madeline Clark

Madeline Case Clark, 89, of Harold, died Sunday, Mar. 18, 2018.

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

Franceen Crum

Franceen Hicks Crum, 70, of Martin, died Friday, Mar. 16, 2018.

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

Lou Frasure

Lou Ellen Frasure, 79, of Grethel, died Thursday, Mar. 15, 2018.

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

Edna Harris

Edna Jeanette Bonar Harris, 83, of Langley, died Thursday, Mar. 15, 2018.

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

"Little Charles" Hicks

Charles Edward "Little Charles" Hicks, 42, of David, died Saturday, Mar. 17, 2018.

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

Wanda Jarrell

Wanda Gay Peters Jarrell, 95, of Galena, Ohio, died Wednesday, Mar. 14, 2018.

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

Thomas Kingsley

Thomas Wayne Kingsley, 65, of Harold, died Saturday, Mar. 17, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral

Home of Pikeville.

"Dick" Mosley

Richard "Dick" Mosley, 106, of Dwale, died Saturday, Mar. 17, 2018.

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

Nikolai Necessary

Nikolai Gage Necessary, infant, died Sunday, Mar. 18, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hall

Funeral Home of Martin.

Sharon Perkins

Sharon Kaye Tackett Perkins, 66, of Martin, died Thursday, Mar. 15, 2018.

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

Johnny Wright

Johnny Wright, 72, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, Mar. 14, 2018.

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

Review: Milsap gave 'legendary' performance at the MAC

By **STEVEN J. RUSSO**
MAC VOLUNTEER

The word "legend" is thrown around a lot these days, but last Friday, the stage at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg was graced by a true legend, Ronnie Milsap.

Before Milsap took the stage, there was a 30-minute performance by Tara Thompson, a young lady from Tennessee, who has a nice country sound and is actually a cousin to Loretta Lynn. She sounded great and I think she won over some fans with her performance.

Then Ronnie Milsap took the stage and opened up with my favorite song of his, "Prisoner of the Highway." That set the stage for one of the best concerts at the MAC that I have ever seen. He did full length versions of some of his classic hits, such as "What Goes On When the Sun Goes Down," "Lost in the 50's Tonight," "Back on my Mind Again," "Smoky Mountain Rain," "A Legend in My Time,"

and, of course, "Stranger In My House." He also did a medley of a lot of his hits from the 1980's, a Hank Williams song, and his lead female singer performed a few classic hits by Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline.

Ronnie Milsap was almost completely blind from birth, but that didn't stop him from becoming one of the most successful country crossover singers of the 1970's and 1980's. His music crossed from Country, into Soul and Pop, and during that time he had 41 number one hits. He has received over 25 awards and achievements, was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 1976, and was a 2014 Country Music Hall of Fame Inductee.

Although he hasn't had much radio airplay since the early 1990's, his songs are as fresh today as they were when they were first performed. The proof being that all he had to do was play the first two or three notes from any song, and the crowd at the MAC knew what song it was. His music stands the test of time.



Photo for the Floyd Chronicle and Times by Steven J. Russo

Ronnie Milsap performs on stage at the Mountain Arts Center. His March 16 concert was sold-out.

He ended his slightly more than an hour long set with "America the Beautiful," which brought the sold-out crowd of over 1,000 people to their feet, and I am sure that there were plenty of teary-eyed folks at that time. He then had a private "meet and greet" with

about 20 people, shook hands, took pictures and signed autographs.

Although he was straining a bit on some of the long, high notes, at the age of 75, he still sounds better than a lot of singers today, and he still has a way with his singing that gets

right into your heart and soul. In the perfect acoustics of the Mountain Arts Center, this was a performance that I am sure will go down as one of the best this area has seen.

Ronnie Milsap gave Prestonsburg an evening that was legendary!

Farmer's Market seeks vendors, has new location this year

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Farmer's Market is seeking vendors for the upcoming growing and selling season, which will be held in a new location this year.

In January, the organization's board approved moving from its 2017 location, near the gazebo in the city parking lot, to a larger, more visible space: The parking lot of the former Music Carter Hughes property that the city

acquired last year.

"Over the last few years, the market business had dwindled and several of the vendors felt that if we changed to a location with better visibility, it would be better," market board president Chris Steele said.

She said Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton suggested the move and it was unanimously approved by the board.

"We're excited," Steele said. "We're really, really hopeful that this will be a good year."

She said the city's willingness to allow farmers to set up on city property has helped the market grow.

"It's a big deal, I think ... Being on the city property has really allowed

the market to grow, so it means a lot. It's one big worry out of our to do list," Steele said.

She explained the organization would likely have to pay to lease space and purchase liability insurance if the city did not provide space — requirements that would be difficult for the small group to fund.

Steele said 14 vendors, many of whom have sold items at the market in the past, have already committed to being part of the Floyd County Farmer's Market this year, and there is space for others to participate.

"We are looking for vendors, always," she said.

Steele said the market is tentatively sched-

uled to open in May, and throughout the season it will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in its new location. The market will continue its Double Dollars program, through which people who receive Snap benefits and WIC vouchers can get double the amount of food for every dollar they spend.

To sell at the Floyd County Farmer's Market, vendors have to grow their own produce and complete training offered by the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office. They must also fill out an application, which is available at the extension office. Vendors can sign up for day-only sells for a fee of \$5 or for the entire

season for \$45.

Vendors who want to sell canned food or baked items are also required to have additional training or certifications, and information about those requirements are available by calling the extension office at, (606) 886-2668.

For more information about the vendor application process or the farmer's market, call Steele at, (606) 263-1669, email her at, steele_3@mac.com, or visit the Floyd County Farmer's Market on Facebook.

Potential vendors are invited to join a monthly meeting, held on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the extension office.

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JWSRP to host 'Wildlife Women' conference

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Jenny Wiley State Resort is hosting a special weekend getaway for women who love the outdoors.

The park will host its Wildlife Women conference on March 23-24.

It's geared for women who are experienced hunters, as well as those who are just learning how to hunt. Semi-

nars are also targeted to reach outdoor enthusiasts who want to learn more about field care for the harvest, turkey calling, shotgun and archery safety, hunting ethics and other topics.

Participants are welcome to bring their children to this event. Kids age 12 and under will get free admission.

Admission is \$15 per adult or \$25 for two adults for the seminars, and \$5 for children

between the ages of 13 and 17. The park is offering overnight packages with this program that includes lodging, meals and access to all seminars.

For details, call, (606) 889-1790.

TURNER Continued From Page 5A

- Senate Bill 228 revises the Uniform Athletes Agents Act to broaden the requirements for athletic agents to better protect student athletes. The bill requires agents to register with the state and expands the definition of those required to register. An amendment exempts a parent or legal guardian from having to register as an agent unless they receive or expect to receive money. SB 228 also increases penalties from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for those found in violation of the act and it allows universities to seek actual damages including attorney's fees from agents.

- Senate Bill 152 allows local officials to raise the salaries of teachers in

struggling public schools in order to make the positions more attractive to job applicants. SB 152 would only apply to schools that the state education department considers to be in "targeted" or "comprehensive support and improvement" status. Local school districts would be in charge of developing the incentive packages. The incentives would apply to all teachers within a designated school but would not apply districtwide.

- House Bill 191 regulates online businesses offering prescription eyeglasses and contacts to individuals who take vision tests on their computers or smartphones. One provision would require the person taking the online test for a prescription to be 18 or older and have received an in-person exam within the last 24 months. The online services would also be required to have

doctors licensed in Kentucky signing off on the prescriptions or findings of the virtual exams. Other provisions of HB 191 would hold online exams to the same standards as in-person exams, require the online companies to register with the state attorney general and require them to carry liability insurance.

With only a few more working days remaining, the session is quickly winding down. There is still time, though, for important measures to become law. I encourage you to take this opportunity to have your voice heard in this legislative session. Citizens can offer feedback to lawmakers by calling the General Assembly's toll-free Message Line at, 800-372-7181. Or you can email me directly at, johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov.

ACTION Continued From Page 1A

on Floyd County Schools for many years to come," Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble said in the statement. "We need to take this opportunity to stand up for the future of education for the students of Floyd County and across the state."

In a telephone interview, Trimble confirmed he will joined Floyd County teachers and staff at this rally. He said several Eastern Kentucky School Districts, including those with schools in Pike, Lawrence, Martin and possibly Johnson counties, are also closing schools to participate in the event.

Talking about proposed budget cuts to education and pension reform proposals on the legislative table this session, Trimble said it's "vitaly important" for educators to speak out.

"We support our

teachers and our staff and our students," he said. "This is, kind of, a once-in-a-lifetime situation that may not come around again for 20 years. I feel like it's vitally important that we voice our concerns now. Once they make the decisions, it's too late."

Angela Coleman, president of the Floyd County Education Association, said teachers and staff are attending this event to "stand up for our kids and our teachers." She and other association members recently hosted a rally to protest pension proposals in Prestonsburg.

She said this "Day of Action" will give educators a chance to "make our voices heard" and the opportunity to stand up for their future and the future of education in Kentucky.

"At the end of the day, when it all shakes out, it will affect our kids," Coleman said, "and we can't

allow that."

Kentucky law prohibits its teachers from striking, and this rally would not be possible without the support of the Floyd County Board of Education and its decision to close schools for this purpose.

Coleman said the support from the board is "amazing" and "overwhelming."

Trimble said the East Kentucky Education Association will pay for bus transportation for Floyd County School District teachers and staff who want to participate in the rally. Planning for this event has been underway for at least a week, and Trimble said 183 people had already signed up to attend by early Monday. He expects that number to be larger by Wednesday.

The group will depart at 8 a.m. on Wednesday at the former Allen Central High School.

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ANNEXATION
Continued From Page 1A

property owners to gather a petition of names that must be certified before proposed annexations can be placed on the ballot.

Mayor Les Stapleton and council members addressed citizen concerns about annexations of Spradlin Branch annexation and Lakeview Village at a question-and-answer session, held March 12 at the Mountain Arts Center. The council tabled the second reading of the Lakeview Village annexation this week, with Stapleton reporting more research is needed about how that annexation would impact ISO ratings for residents who live there.

His comments came after Judith Greer of the Auxier Volunteer Fire Department questioned the city's need to annex Lakeview at the meeting.

"What we would like to know is what you would offer Lakeview Village any more than what we have," Greer said. She said Auxier VFD has a Class 3 ISO rating, which helps homeowners on home insurance costs, because its fire department is located about two miles from Lakeview. She said insurance would increase in that area if Prestonsburg annexed it because its fire stations are located more than seven miles away.

"That would put more taxes and more insurance on the residents of Lakeview Village," she said.

Stapleton agreed that those residents may pay higher insurance rates if the city annexed the property, but said their

tax rates would not. He confirmed the department's ISO, its mutual aid agreement with Prestonsburg and its distance from Lakeview, reporting that the vote would be postponed.

Several residents attended the meeting to voice concerns and ask questions about the Spradlin Branch annexation, leading Stapleton to explain the petition process residents should undertake to oppose it. Residents have until May 21 to submit a petition of 50 percent of the voters or property owners who oppose the annexation, he reported, and the city will forward that petition to County Clerk Chris Waugh, who is required to certify it before the petition can be placed on the ballot.

A part of the annexation process, the council approved a certified list of more than 45 property owners in Spradlin Branch — something Adams said he's never done before during his 17 years on the council. Stapleton said the city is following state annexation laws, and Adams joked about legal issues surrounding the former city mayor.

Spradlin Branch resident Scotty Howell asked several questions about the annexation, wanting to know, among other things, why the city is stopping at Spradlin Branch and not continuing down the road to annex Highlands Health.

Stapleton said residents requested annexation.

"We will be annexing more eventually," he said. "We have to get some infrastructure in place before we can do that."

Council Member B.D. Nunnery said the city

does not want to grow too quickly.

"I think the goal is we don't want to reach out too far, too fast," he said. "Spradlin Branch is really close to the center of the city. We have annexed areas beyond it and around it."

Answering questions from Howell and others, Stapleton explained that prior annexations left "holes" of unincorporated areas throughout the area due to "spot annexes," and the city is fixing that issue with this and other annexations.

As he mentioned in the March 12 meeting, Stapleton reported that Spradlin Branch residents who are annexed will receive numerous services, including fire and police protection, garbage pickup and recycling services, road maintenance, access to the city's enhanced 911 app and, among other things, participation in AirEvac partnership through which residents are not charged above what their insurance will pay to receive a medical air transport.

He also reported that if the annexation goes through, residents will no longer be required to pay the city's North Floyd Fire District tax, a reduction of about 10 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, and they will have lower utility bills because they will no longer pay out-of-city rates. City Clerk Sharon Setser said that would equal an approximate 25 percent reduction on water and sewer services. Stapleton confirmed that property insurance may increase by about two percent, however.

Nunnery said these residents will find that

the city's services are "second-to-none" and "well worth it."

"And I don't think anybody here is trying to force—I know there's always going to be, you know, not everybody's going to agree on it, but I don't think anybody's trying to force the majority of people to come into the city that don't want to be here."

He talked about how residents will see a "little difference in cost" and a "big difference in the amount of services you'll receive and the quality of the services you'll receive." He also talked about how annexation could increase property values there.

He said in his time on the council, he's never had a resident tell him they regretted annexation after they started receiving city services.

"I hope that if we go that route, that you all feel the same way," he said.

Woody Branham, who described himself as a trustee of his daughter's property on Spradlin Branch, complained about the annexation. He and resident Peggy Nelson said they would sell their properties instead of paying city taxes.

"Well, does anybody want to buy place on Spradlin Branch?" Branham asked. "Mine's going to be for sale and I'm moving to Martin County, where you don't have to put up with this bull."

He continued, laughing, "My daggone cow died and I don't need your bull."

Adams responded by telling him, "Good luck with water and gas over there," referring to services offered by Martin County.

Stapleton explained the city's zoning laws, reporting that annexed areas will be classified as R1 for residential, but residents can ask the zoning board to change the designation so they can house farm animals. He said the city is not attempting to keep people from having farm animals.

When Branham claimed that the annexation is about money, Stapleton challenged residents to submit open records to view the city's financial records.

"Money is not the issue," Stapleton said. "We don't get that much money, believe it or not. With the services you all get, we're not going to get that much money. We will, over a period of time, but it's not going, it's not going to raise, my budget much at all to operate...for next year."

"Well, just, if you don't want the money, and you're not going to use the money, leave us alone," Nelson said.

Stapleton said the city wants to close the "holes" in the city left from prior "spot annexes."

"We're trying to close up all the ranks, basically close up all the ranks," he said. "There's big holes in this city where there's been, where there's been just spot annexes. We're trying to close up the holes so we can start expanding, get all of our services on board and our infrastructure going."

The council also held the first reading of its intent to annex property belonging to Gaye and David Cooley on Stephens Branch Road.

The council also:

- Honored Pikeville Police Officer Scotty

Hamilton, who was recently killed in the line of duty, with a moment of silence at the meeting.

- Heard a presentation from student ambassadors from the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center, who invited officials to attend a candlelight vigil on Thursday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the city stage. The event is part of the center's Youth2Youth anti-violence initiative.

- Unanimously approved paying \$26,000 in bills. Council Member Don Willis asked to postpone approval of a \$587 bill from Hutch Ford, saying another invoice would be submitted.

- Unanimously approved awarding a \$35,755 bid to Pop's Chevrolet for the purchase of Tahoe, contingent on whether the bid included all specifications requested. The other bids ranged from \$35,831 to \$36,529.

- Discussed a proposal for the Perfection Group to help the city save money by updating facilities and equipment. Stapleton said the city will have to take out a \$2.5 million loan for the work and savings are expected to be around \$3.5 million for Prestonsburg. Council Member Shag Branham suggested the city look closely at the proposal to determine if some of the work can be done in-house to save money, making comments that Adams agreed with. Council members Shag Branham, Brittainy Branham, Mike Lafferty and Don Willis volunteered to serve on a committee that will review the proposal and make recommendations.

Floyd residents among those charged with assisting, hiding alleged cop killer

AN APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS STAFF REPORT

Several individuals are being held in the custody of the Pike County Detention Center on charges that they assisted and hid alleged cop-killer John Hall during his 36-hour flight from justice this week.

Hall, 55, of Pikeville, was arrested by Kentucky State Police Thursday morning in connection to the Tuesday night murder of Pikeville Police Officer Scotty Hamilton,

KSP said. Hall, who has been charged with murder of a police officer and being a convicted felon in possession of a handgun, was located at the Betsy Layne residence of Gregory Dean Slone, 54, of Stoney Brook Drive, court documents said.

Greg Slone was arrested along with Michael T. Slone, 39, of South Rise Road, Banner; Amanda F. Dotson, 37, of Right Fork of Island Creek, Pikeville, and Jeanne Blackburn, 44, of the Left Fork of Toler Creek, Harold, court records show.

Michael Slone and Dotson were contacted by Hall, by telephone, as he was being sought for questioning and for a warrant in connection to the death of Officer Hamilton, the citation said. Hall, according to the citation, requested to be transported to another location and Michael Slone and Dotson "picked up and transported the wanted fugitive to the residence of Gregory Slone."

Blackburn was present at the residence when Hall was brought

there by Michael Slone and Dotson, the citation said.

Each of the four were arrested on a charge of first-degree hindering prosecution or apprehension, court records show. Greg Slone was further charged with first-degree promoting contraband after deputy jailers located two separate types of pills he had attempted to conceal in his socks, the citation said.

All four were arraigned on their charges Friday morning in Pike District Court, court re-

ords show. Pike District Judge Kelsey E. Friend Jr. ordered the four to be held in the custody of the Pike County Detention Center on a \$10,000 cash

bond, court documents show.

All four remained in the custody of the jail as of presstime Friday.



Jeanne Blackburn



Michael Slone



Gregory Slone



Amanda Dotson

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Indictments issued in Floyd

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County grand jury recently issued 35 indictments, alleging crimes against children in two cases and charging three people for using counterfeit money and three people for burglary.

The majority of the indictments, however, included drug-related charges, as the grand jury charged 11 people for trafficking meth, heroin and marijuana and issued indictments for dozens of other cases that included allegations of illegal drug possession and/or use.

The cases involving children were issued for a David resident, Randall D. Wright, Jr., who faces six counts of third-degree criminal abuse, and Prestonsburg resident Kenneth Lewis, who faces two counts of possession of a matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor.

Wright, 34, is accused of hitting an unnamed victim or victims with a belt between February 2017 and Sept. 13, 2017.

Lewis, 50, is accused of possessing photographs depicting a sexual performance by a minor from December 2016 through January, 2017. He is expected to be arraigned later this month.

The counterfeiting indictments stem from two separate reports made in 2017.

Wyatt E. West, 19, of Marengo, Ohio, faces a charge of first-degree possession of a forged instrument for possessing and passing counterfeit \$50 bills on March 11, 2017.

Kevin Hamby, 21, of Hi Hat and Brent C. Reed, 24, were also indicted for allegedly using counterfeit \$20 bills on Oct. 19, 2017. They each face theft

charges in addition to the first-degree possession of a forged instrument charges against them. They are expected to be arraigned in April.

The indictments allege that Hamby unlawfully used counterfeit bills to pay for gas at Cardinal Mart and that Reed unlawfully used counterfeit bills to buy a pre-paid debit card and to load \$2,000 on the card at the Dollar General store on that day.

Two of the burglary charges stem from the Sept. 7, 2017, burglary of the home of Gail Stumbo. Jeremy Boyd, 34, of Banner and Johnny Fogle, 50, of Banner, are both accused of burglary, and they were each also charged with two counts of trafficking meth and heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia in the indictments. Fogle was also charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Boyd is expected to be arraigned this month, while Fogle will return to court in June for pretrial conferences in this case and two other criminal cases pending against him.

Roy M. Gibson, is also accused of burglary for unlawfully entering the residence of Tammy Caudill while being armed with a deadly weapon on Jan. 9, 2018. He also faces an alcohol intoxication charge.

Other indictments issued by the Floyd County grand jury include the following allegations:

- Travis Conn, 44, of Martin: marijuana cultivation (five or more plants); drug trafficking (marijuana); two counts of endangering the welfare of a minor; possession of drug paraphernalia; second-degree persistent felony offender (one previous felony)
- Jason Stumbo, 40,

of Hi Hat: drug trafficking (meth); tampering with physical evidence; possession of drug paraphernalia

- Judy L. Skeens, 44, of Auxier: first-degree drug trafficking (meth); possession of drug paraphernalia; failure to wear seatbelt; third-degree drug possession (unspecified); improper equipment; driving under the influence; no or expired registration receipt; failure to produce insurance card; failure to maintain insurance

- Jot J. Marsillett, 58, of Prestonsburg: drug trafficking (meth); possession of drug paraphernalia; first-degree wanton endangerment for endangering the life of Trooper Darvin Marsillett on Nov. 20, 2017.

- Shanda Music, 33, of Martin: first-degree drug trafficking (meth)

- Donald R. Wright, 49, of Sitka: drug trafficking (marijuana); driving under the influence; failure to maintain insurance; failure to produce insurance card; no or expired registration receipt; failure to notify address change to Department of Transportation

- Richard Brandon Mullins, 32, of Harold: first-degree drug possession (meth); first-degree drug trafficking (meth); third-degree escape by escaping from custody of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department on Sept. 5, 2017; first-degree fleeing/evading police; third-degree criminal mischief

by damaging/destroying property belonging to the Floyd County Sheriff's Department

- Timothy Thomas, 26, of Martin: first-degree drug trafficking (meth); first-degree drug possession (hydrocodone); possession of drug paraphernalia

- Christopher Hamilton, 40, of Grethel: first-degree drug possession (meth)

- Bonita Boyd, 35, of Grethel: first-degree drug possession (meth)

- Larry Mullins, 21, of Printer: first-degree drug possession (meth); possession of drug paraphernalia

- Richard Brandon Mullins, 33, of Harold: first-degree fleeing/evading police; resisting arrest; menacing; giving an officer a false name or address; second-degree persistent felony offender (one previous felony)

- Shawn Henson, 37, of Hueysville: first-degree drug possession (meth); third-degree drug possession (Neurontin); possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia

- Jody Carroll, 39, of Prestonsburg: possession of a handgun by a convicted felon

- Misty Carroll, 35, of Prestonsburg: possession of a handgun by a convicted felon

- Jessica Hackworth, 28, of Martin: first-degree drug possession (meth); possession of drug paraphernalia; endangering the welfare of a minor; public intoxication

- Charles Wade, 41, of Drift: first-degree drug possession (meth); second-degree drug possession (Suboxone); third-degree drug possession (Diazepam and Lorazepam)

- Timothy W. Thomas, 26, of Martin: first-degree drug possession (meth); possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; second-degree fleeing/evading police; resisting arrest; menacing; second-degree disorderly conduct

- Christopher S. Sword, 41, of Martin: driving under the influence; failure to maintain insurance; failure to produce insurance card; reckless driving; possession of a controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia

- Shonda L. Music, 33, of Martin: drug possession (meth); possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia

- Roger D. Collins, 39, of Langley: first-degree drug possession (meth)

- William J. Noble, 34, of Langley: first-degree drug possession (meth)

- Rodney C. Bates, 43, of Huntington, Indiana: speeding 26 miles over the limit; first-degree fleeing/evading; four counts of first-degree wanton endangerment for endangering the life of Trooper Derek Coleman, Lula Shepherd, Rachel Jervis and Jimmy Moore on Nov. 6, 2017; resisting arrest; receiving stolen property over \$10,000 by

having property belonging to Martin Osborne; no operator's license; no or expired registration receipt; failure to produce insurance card; failure to wear seatbelt; improper signal; fraudulent use of a credit card under \$500 for unlawfully using a credit card belonging to Clara Osborne

- Richard Brandon Mullins, 32, of Harold: first-degree promoting contraband for bringing contraband into the Floyd County jail on Nov. 14, 2017; second-degree drug possession (Buprenorphine); third-degree drug possession (Gabapentin)

- Robert L. Blanton, 44, of Salyersville: theft by unlawful taking or disposition, over \$500

- Michael Sanders, 39, of Prestonsburg: three counts of first-degree assault for physically injuring William L. Mullins, Kyrie Kimbler and Aaron Kimbler when he struck them with his vehicle on July 3, 2017; failure to maintain insurance

- Delmar Baldrige, 60, of Prestonsburg: driving under the influence; operating a motor vehicle on a suspended/revoked license; possession of an open alcoholic beverage; giving a false name or address; reckless driving; possession of drug paraphernalia; second-degree persistent felony offender

Indictments are allegations. Those who have been indicted are presumed not guilty unless and until the courts prove otherwise.

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Submitted photo
The Betsy Layne High School Science Olympiad team earned the runner-up spot in the recent regional science Olympiad. Pictured, in the back row, are: Coach Brandon Pascarella, Cameron Kimbler, Connor McGlone, Casey Hall, Nathan Kidd and Nate Mims; and in the front row are: Seth Howell, Bretton Jervis, Rachel Williams, Sierra Conn (Captain), Kade Meade (Captain), Cali Campbell and Jordan Slone.



Submitted photo
Prestonsburg High School Science Olympiad members Samantha Mendes, Mckenzie Wireman, Isabella Harlow, Carly Hyden, Emily Hamilton, Alyssa McClanahan and Jillian Shepherd in the front row; and Hannah Stratton, John Rose, Hannah Jude, Alex Scot, Alexia Hall, Katherine Bailey, Cameron Goble, Samson Allen, Dalton Bentley, Eric Armstrong and George Thornsby in the back row. Participants who are not pictured include: Emily West, Mckinley Smith, Alyssa Blair, Kaitlen Meade, Alpha Coach Kenneth Bradley and Omega Coach Amy Chalmers.

Betsy Layne, Prestonsburg science Olympiad teams headed to state

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES
STAFF REPORT

Science Olympiad teams at two Floyd County high schools earned the right to compete at state during a regional competition held this month at the University of Pikeville.

Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble congratulated the winning teams and coaches in a press release issued

recently.

"The board team and I congratulate Coach Brandon Pascarella and Betsy Layne High School on being the regional runner up!" he said. "We also want to congratulate Coach Kenneth Bradley, Coach Amy Chalmers and Prestonsburg High School's Alpha and Omega teams taking 3rd and 5th places! We're proud of these outstanding kids and wish BLHS and PHS

Omega the best of luck at state competition on April 21 at Western Kentucky University."

At Betsy Layne, first-place winners included Rachel Williams, Sierra Conn, Casey Hall, Cali Campbell, Nathan Kidd, Kade Meade, Cameron Kimbler, Jordan Slone, Bretton Jervis and Nate Mims. Second place winners at the school include Kade Meade, Jordan Slone, Sierra Conn,

Rachel Williams, Nate Mims and Seth Howell. Third place winners at the school included Kade Meade and Connor McGlone.

Prestonsburg's Omega team winners include Mckenzie Wireman in first place; second place winners Cameron Goble, Hannah Jude, Hannah Stratton, Samantha Mendes, Alex Scott, Isabella Harlow and John Rose; and third place winners Hannah

Stratton, Samantha Mendes, Emily Hamilton, Katherine Bailey, Hannah Jude and Isabella Harlow.

Prestonsburg's Alpha team honors include second place winners Alexia Hall, Alyssa Blair, Carly Hyden, Eric Armstrong, Samson Allen, Jillian Shepherd and Alyssa McClanahan. Its third place winners include Carly Hyden, Alexia Hall and Samson Allen.

BLHS robotics team earns honors

SPECIAL TO THE
FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Superintendent Steve Trimble announced this week that the Betsy Layne High School Robotics team placed first and second at the Robo Challenge Xtreme regional competition, held on

March 10 at Paul Blazer High School in Ashland.

Trimble said, "The board team and I congratulate these students on their regional title and we're very proud of the kids and the coaches. In this year's competition, Body Works Challenge,

See HONORS, Page 11A



Submitted photo
Betsy Layne High School Robotics White team members include first place winners Jordan Slone, Nathan Kidd, Casey Hall, Cali Campbell, Seth Howell and Kade Meade.

Virtual opportunities improving education in Floyd

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES
STAFF REPORT

Thanks to funding through a program called "Get Online and Learn" (G.O.A.L.), classrooms in eastern Kentucky received equip-

ment that enables students to have virtual educational experiences.

The funding was made available through Kentucky Power with assistance from the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation,

See EDUCATION, Page 11A



Submitted photo
Students in Cortney Kidd's biology class at Floyd Central learn about photosynthesis from an educator in Canada, thanks to a program that's funded by Kentucky Power and the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation.

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Nimble Thimble members cut ribbon for barn quilt block

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild cut the ribbon in honor of its new barn quilt block at the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office last week, and officials hope the project inspires others to decorate their properties and businesses with quilt blocks.

On March 16, Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild members cut the ribbon on its Kentucky Star quilt block, which was constructed and installed in the extension office's lower parking lot by students from the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center.

"The quilt guild voted on several different stars and they selected that one, the Kentucky Star," said Andrea S. Johnson, Floyd County extension agent for family and consumer sciences. "They stuck to their original theme. It is blue and green. The blue represents UK, where we're with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, and the green can represent 4-H and youth development...and it can also represent AG, as well, so it shows extension as a whole."

The quilt guild has been working on the project for about a year in hopes to revive the Kentucky Quilt Trail in Floyd County. Johnson said this trail started in the early 2000s, but it has since "died out," with only a few barn quilt blocks on display in the county. The extension

office's quilt block is one of only two in Prestonsburg, Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild President Nan Tournier said.

The extension office has 13 quilt block patterns available that Floyd County residents can use to add barn quilts on their properties. Officials there can also assist residents with tips and informational resources about this and other programs. All of these services are provided free of charge.

Tournier, who has been quilting for decades, invites all Floyd County residents who quilt to become a member of one of the group's clubs. She said sewing is her "creative outlet."

Throughout the year, Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild members work on numerous projects, including child-size quilts that are given to foster care children. Tournier said the club is also considering a project to provide quilts to homeless veterans in the future.

The Nimble Thimble group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Wool Club meets on the second Wednesday at 10 a.m. The Women of the Bible Quilt Group meets on every fourth Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. and the I Quilt group, open to beginning sewers, meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third and fourth Tuesday of each month.

For more information about obtaining a quilt pattern or participating in one of the extension office's quilting clubs, call Johnson at, (606) 886-2668



Submitted photo

Betsy Layne High School Robotics Blue team members include second place winners Corey Maynard, Ethan Hamilton, Kristin Chaffin, Noah Thornsberry and Jared Justice.

HONORS Continued From Page 10A

missions focused on topics like repairing broken bones, collecting blood samples and delivering a heart for transplant." Trimble continues, "The Bobcats have a strong robotics program as they've competed at this level and advanced to state for five consecutive years and claimed 1st

and 2nd placed the last three years."

The Betsy Layne High School Robotics team is divided into a varsity and a junior varsity team. Both teams will travel to Rupp Arena on March 29 to compete at the Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) state competition.

Trimble said, "We wish the Betsy Layne High School Robotics team the best of luck at

state and hope this program continues to excel and grow."

The first place winners include White Team members Jordan Slone, Nathan Kidd, Casey Hall, Cali Campbell, Seth Howell and Kade Meade. The second place winners include Blue Team members

Corey Maynard, Ethan Hamilton, Kristin Chaffin, Noah Thornsberry and Jared Justice.

EDUCATION Continued From Page 10A

and it is benefiting Floyd County students, who get to tour other states and countries virtually, as well as teachers, who hold virtual meetings for professional development and other things.

In February, Cortney Kidd's biology classes at Floyd Central High School visited Canada to learn more about photosynthesis during a G.O.A.L.-supported video conference they had with Karen Davidson-Taylor, education officer for the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, Ontario.

"This opportunity allowed me to network with Karen Davidson-Taylor before students 'visited' her at the Royal Botanical Gardens," Kidd said. "I was able to communicate to her what students had learned, what areas needed further explanation and where we were going next so that she could tailor the opportunity to my students."

She said virtual experiences like that video conference also give educators the opportunity to schedule field trips in a "more flexible way" that benefits students. Upcoming virtual experiences for her students include learning about DNA from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

"My students will have virtual experience meeting professionals and visiting other places they may not have had without this funding," she said.

On March 12, another Floyd Central teacher took advantage of these virtual learning tools.

Christina Crase, who teaches algebra there, is planning to virtually connect her classroom with the Challenger Learning Center in Hazard to allow student to "conduct" a space flight mission. That event was scheduled for March 12, but was postponed after school was canceled due to inclement weather.

"During this connection, my students will

be able to apply their content knowledge or parabolas to real-life applications about flight training, microgravity, oxygen tank failures," she said in an email. "I am excited my students have an opportunity to get an answer to 'why do we need to learn this?' or 'how is this used in real life?'" she said.

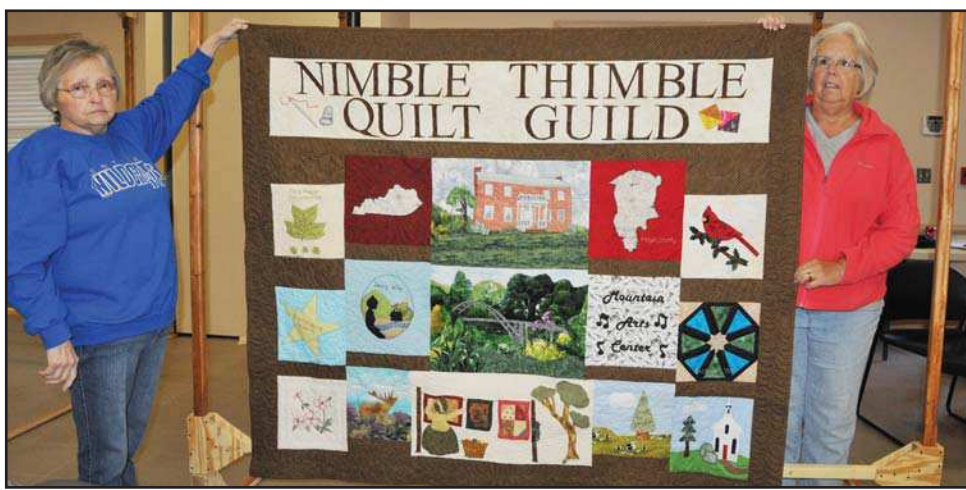
She talked about a catapult lab, where her students constructed catapults, launched gummy bears, wrote an equation for the flight of their gummy bear and used the equation to predict a new distance when the launch height changed.

"The catapult lab and the virtual opportunity allow my students to make connections while learning challenging and rigorous curriculum in algebra 2," she wrote.

Later this month, Crase will join teacher Michelle Martin to virtually connect advanced placement Spanish students with the Cleveland Museum of Art.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild members cut the ribbon for its new barn quilt block, depicting the Kentucky Star quilt pattern, at the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild members Linda Lyon and Judy Childers display the club's recently-completed banner, which depicts several Floyd County treasures, including the West Prestonsburg bridge and the historic May House.

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From PHS to UPike: Mitchell signs to play soccer as a Bear



photo courtesy of Prestonsburg High School Girls' Soccer
 Prestonsburg High School senior midfielder Christin Mitchell signed with the University of Pikeville women's soccer program on Monday. Mitchell recorded eight assists and scored three goals for Prestonsburg during her senior season.

Lady Jaguars fall to East Ridge, 9-4, in season opener



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Floyd Central's Katie Conley winds up for a pitch Monday evening against East Ridge.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Floyd Central's Katie Moore runs down East Ridge's Haley Parks Monday evening at East Ridge. The Lady Jaguars fell to the Lady Warriors, 9-4.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Floyd Central's Grace Martin connects with the ball Monday evening against East Ridge.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Randy White

Floyd Central's Alexandria Samons fields a ground ball Monday evening against East Ridge.

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Spurlock makes transition to softball



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster, FILE

Floyd Central's Kevin Spurlock walks the sideline during a basketball game at Floyd Central this past season.

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

EASTERN — After guiding the Floyd Central boys' basketball team to a 58th District championship, Kevin Spurlock is in the hunt for another title. Spurlock will be looking to guide the Floyd Central softball team to a 58th District championship in May. In addition to his basketball position, Spurlock is the head coach of the Floyd Central softball program.

"We are very excited about our Floyd Central High School Lady Jag softball team this year," said Spurlock. "We have a new field and facility which is super nice that also includes

locker room areas for both home and visiting teams. We also have access to the football field so that on days the field is too wet to play on we can go on to the turf and still get work in. We are excited about the depth of our team and the maturation that has taken place over the course of the year."

Members of the Floyd Central softball team went to work early in the school year.

"For the first time, we have incorporated a yearlong workout program that has been in place since Labor Day," commented Spurlock. "We have also established a middle school team for the first time ever on

the Beaver Creeks, which we feel will pay huge dividends for our program in the future. We are blessed with three amazing young women as assistant coaches: Michelle Martin-Sullivan, Vylinda Howard and Brandy Howard. They have led the offseason workouts which we feel has strengthened our basic fundamentals but most importantly, has helped develop what we feel are five quality pitchers that can throw strikes consistently which will give us a chance to compete at a higher level than in the past. We feel we will be above average in both fielding and hitting, plus we feel we have some depth which will allow us to play get

experience for additional players."

Floyd Central will face a tough schedule in its debut season. The Lady Jaguars are slated to host the Beaver Creek Classic May 11-12.

"We have strengthened our schedule in hopes of not only preparing us for post-season play, but mainly to show our kids the level that we strive for in establishing our program," added Spurlock. "We are pretty young overall but most of these players have played at the varsity level in the past so we won't use that as an excuse but we will get excited about it for the future. Our district has been strengthened with the

addition of Lawrence County, who is considered one of top tier programs in the 15th Region. We also know Betsy Layne is king of the hill in Floyd County softball until they are knocked off which will be very hard to do. We also know Prestonsburg will be a stronger team. All of this will make the advancement to the regional tournament very hard for us but we feel we can be capable of doing this by the end of the year if we can keep improving in all facets, especially at the pitching/catching positions."

Floyd Central will host the 58th District Softball Tournament in May.

Lawrence County favored to win 58th District softball crown

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

Newcomer Lawrence County is favored to win the 58th District softball title in its first season after a move from the 60th District. The Lady Bulldogs, under the direction of head coach Kenny Horn, captured the 2017 60th District title. Lawrence County, following a loss to former 57th District rival Johnson Central in the 15th Region Softball Tournament semifinals, finished the 2017 season 17-18.

Lawrence County was ranked third in the Kentucky Softball Coaches Association Preseason 15th Region Poll. The Lady Bulldogs are picked to finish behind Johnson Central and defending champion Pikeville, which occupies the poll's No. 1 spot.

Senior pitcher Ciana Bowen and junior catcher/third baseman Abby Fletcher are the top players back for the Lady

Bulldogs. Both Bowen and Fletcher have a vast amount of varsity softball experience.

Along with Bowen and Fletcher, sophomore utility player Halli Caudill is back for the Lady Bulldogs.

Lawrence County has reached the 15th Region Semifinals in back-to-back seasons. A tradition-rich program, Lawrence County captured 15th Region softball championships in 2008 and 2010.

Here's a look at the Betsy Layne, Floyd Central and Prestonsburg softball teams, all of whom will be pushing Lawrence County for the top spot in the 58th District.

Floyd Central: Kevin Spurlock is guiding the Floyd Central softball team in its debut season. The Lady Jaguars claimed the eighth spot in the Kentucky Softball Coaches Association Preseason 15th Region Poll. As was

the case with the sports of volleyball and girls' basketball earlier in the year, many former Allen Central Lady Rebels and South Floyd Lady Raiders are now teammates.

South Floyd finished runner-up to Betsy Layne in the 58th District in 2017, compiling an 8-15 overall record.

Finishing at .500, Allen Central carried a 12-12 record out of the 2017 season.

Several Lady Jaguars are making transitions from the gym floor to the softball field.

The Floyd Central roster features seniors Erin Caudill (1B/3B), Keeley Dye (1B/3B/P) and Shawna Holbrook (OF/C); juniors Lindsay Banks (OF) and Alex Samons (OF); sophomores Brook Stumbo (OF), Rheannah Spurlock (C/3B), Carly Akers (OF/IF), Emily Blevins (OF), Kayci Stumbo (2B) and Hailey Johnson (2B); freshmen Katie Moore (SS/3B/P), Dezirae Caudill (OF) and Alyssa Shep-

herd (2B/P) and eighth graders Grace Martin (C/1B), Katie Conley (P/SS) and Ashlee Bellamy (OF/IF/P).

According to Spurlock, a deep Floyd Central pitching staff boasts five different quality pitchers.

Betsy Layne: Reigning 58th District champion Betsy Layne has the tough task of defending its 2017 title in a much more competitive district. Betsy Layne has claimed back-to-back 58th District softball championships. The Lady Bobcats captured the 2017 58th District title despite struggling throughout the regular-season. Betsy Layne exited the 2017 season with a 6-15 overall record.

Senior shortstop Megan Frazier is the top player back for defending 58th District champion Betsy Layne.

Along with Frazier, Betsy Layne will feature pitcher Millie Blackburn (Fr.), catcher Lauryn Hall

(Jr.), left fielder Destiny Compton (Sr.) and third baseman Hannah Hamilton (Jr.), among others.

Nicole Castle (Jr.) is another pitcher for the Ladycats.

Other players set to take the field for Betsy Layne are center fielder Gabby Johnson (Jr.), second baseman Lauryn Watkins (Fr.), first baseman Kaitlyn Swain (So.) and right fielder Kendra Newman (Jr.)

Head coach Stevie Johnson guides the Betsy Layne softball team. Johnson is in his fifth season as the Lady Bobcats' head coach.

Prestonsburg: Rick Hughes is back for a second stint as head coach of the Prestonsburg softball team. Like Betsy Layne, Prestonsburg struggled throughout the 2017 regular season. The Lady Blackcats finished the 2017 season 3-19.

Hughes replaced Cathy Layne as Prestonsburg head coach.

According to Hughes, Prestonsburg will have the luxury of having four quality pitchers to use at any time during the current campaign. Senior McKenzie Wireman and junior Megan Music are two of the pitchers for the Lady Blackcats. Music pitched for Prestonsburg throughout the 2017 season.

Junior Haylee Niece is the Lady Blackcats' catcher.

Fresh off a stellar season on the hardwood for the Prestonsburg girls' basketball team, senior Nichole Burchett has returned to the softball diamond. Burchett is expected to be a key addition for the Lady Blackcats.

Prestonsburg defeated 15th Region newcomer Jenkins for two of its three wins during the 2017 season.



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Lady Bobcats to return to work during offseason

By **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

BETSY LAYNE — The Betsy Layne Lady Bobcats' 2017/2018 season ended with an uncharacteristic opening round loss in the 58th District Girls' Basketball Tournament. During the offseason, Betsy Layne will face the tough task of replacing the talented tandem of Megan Frazier and Destiny Compton. Frazier and Compton combined to average 35.1 points and 18.3 rebounds per game for the Lady Bobcats during the 2017-18 season.

"Our season ended earlier than we anticipated, but I feel that our underclassmen developed a lot throughout the season," said Betsy Layne coach Kristal Allen. "Replacing Frazier and Compton is going to be challenging, but I think that we have some talent ready to step in and face those challenges."

Betsy Layne exited the 2017-18 season with an 11-17 overall record. Lawrence County eliminated Betsy Layne from

the postseason, defeating the Lady Bobcats 66-56 in the opening round of the 58th District Girls' Basketball Tournament at Floyd Central High School.

Caroline Ariaz is the top player due back for the Lady Bobcats. Ariaz averaged 10.2 points and 7.4 rebounds per game for Betsy Layne during her freshman season.

Along with Ariaz, Lauryn Watkins (4.1 ppg, 2 rpg) and Katie Kidd (3.9 ppg, 2.8 rpg) are set to return for the Lady Bobcats. Both Watkins and Kidd are also freshmen.

Allen has a busy offseason planned for the Lady Bobcats, who will move into a new gym later in the year.

"We plan on hosting summer games in our new facility in early June," said Allen. "We will attend Transylvania University Team Camp to finish out the summer. We just plan on playing a lot of games and finding girls that are willing to step in and give us quality minutes and gain some experience on the floor."



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster
Guard Caroline Ariaz averaged more than 10 points per game for the Betsy Layne girls' basketball team during her freshman season.

Blackcats drop season opener to Russell

By **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

FLATWOODS — Prestonsburg dropped its season opener on the road at Russell as the Red Devils pulled away to win 19-0 in five innings in a high school baseball contest on Monday evening.

In a battle of former region champions, Russell thrived offensively while limiting the Blackcats' batting efforts. Prestonsburg managed to bang out only two hits in the lopsided loss.

Russell plated 19 runs via 17 hits. Also excelling defensively, Russell turned in an error-free performance in the field.

Both Grant Bates and Casey Hensley finished three for three for the Red Devils. Hensley delivered a game-high three RBIs for host Russell.

Jacob Thompson

added two doubles and two RBIs for the Red Devils in the winning effort. Bates, Ty Huffine, Ronan Moore, Seth Stone and Justin Manning also drove in two runs apiece for home standing Russell.

Manning earned the win on the mound, allowing only one hit over four innings. As part of an impressive outing, Manning registered six strikeouts and walked two on his way to claiming the victory.

Prestonsburg pitcher Blake Sizemore suffered the loss.

The Blackcats committed five errors in the setback.

Prestonsburg was scheduled to host Shelby Valley for a home opener at StoneCrest on Tuesday.

In another high school baseball season opener on Monday, host Shelby Valley edged Betsy Layne 5-4.



MARCH MARKDOWNS

 <p>2017 Mitsubishi LANCER ES WAS \$24,420 NOW \$17,990</p>	 <p>New Mitsubishi Outlander SPORT ES WAS \$23,435 NOW \$18,900</p>
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TO OUR READERS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

POLICIES

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

TO OUR READERS

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD

Please read your ad the first day it appears in the *Floyd County Chronicle and Times*. Report any errors immediately and we will gladly correct any errors published. Credit will be issued for one (1) day only. After the first day the ad can be corrected for the remaining number of runs, but credit will not be issued for days ad ran incorrectly.

PERSONAL AD POLICY

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

FOR SALE

NEED EXTRA CASH? Run a Classified Ad. They Work! Call (800)539-4054 Today!

APARTMENTS-UNFURNISHED

2BR DUPLEX, CENTRAL heat/air, total electric. Close to Prestonsburg. Call 606-886-9007 or 606-889-9747.

3 BEDROOM 2 1/2 bath available for rent. \$950.00 per month. Includes stove, refrigerator and dishwasher. Washer/Dryer hookup is available. Call 606-432-4653 or 606-794-1463.

HOUSES FOR RENT

TWO STORY, ALL brick house for rent located in Mays Branch. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, large living room, kitchen, family room, and detached two car garage. Call 606-886-2306.

HOUSES FOR RENT

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

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Call me, **Gina Ferguson**, for all your advertising needs in the *Floyd County Chronicle and Times*. Enhance your selling power today! (800)539-4054

TOWNHOUSE/CONDO

2BR 1-1/2BA CONDO located on Lafferty Lane in Prestonsburg. Freshly painted. Hardwood floors. \$725mo. \$300dep. For more info call 606-264-5906.

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Franklin D. May, PO Box 396 Allen, KY. 41601, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to place fill. The property is located in Dwell off of Monument Street 82 43' 19.57 37 37' 49.59. Any com-

LEGALS

ments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Surface Water Permit Branch, Flood Plain Management Section, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410.

NOTICE TO BID

Floyd County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bid proposals for Buddy Hollow Bridge Remove and haul away old concrete deck and curbs. Replace 1 abutment wall 9' X 13' X 12", (2) wing walls 9' X 8' X 12" and deck 32' X 4' X 16".

Please submit Sealed Bids to the Floyd County Judge Executive Ben Hale's office by Thursday March 29, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m. Bids will be opened at this time by Judge Hale. Bids will be awarded by the lowest or best evaluated bid. Floyd County Fiscal Court has the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

For further information or to schedule a site inspection please contact Floyd County Road Supervisor Gary Garrett at 606-424-6299

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT PROGRAM-MATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DEWEY LAKE MASTER PLAN PROJECT FLOYD AND PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, by this Notice of Availability (NOA), advises the public that the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment

LEGALS

(DPEA) for the Dewey Lake Master Plan Project is complete and available for public review. The project is located in Floyd County and Pike County, Kentucky. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is anticipated for the proposed project. A Draft FONSI is included with the DPEA for public review.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 40 CFR 1501.4, the DPEA and draft FONSI must be available to the public in the affected area for thirty (30) days for review and comment. Final determination regarding the need for additional NEPA documentation will be made after the public review period, which begins on or about March 3, 2018. Copies of the documents may be viewed at the following location:

Floyd County Public Library
161 N Arnold Ave
Prestonsburg, Kentucky
Phone: (606) 886-2981

The documents may also be viewed at the following website: <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Missions/PublicReview.aspx>. Copies of the DPEA and draft FONSI may be obtained by contacting the Huntington District Office of the Corps of Engineers at (304) 399-5924. Comments pertaining

LEGALS

to the documents may be submitted by letter to:

Ms. Rebecca Rutherford
Chief, Environmental Analysis Section, Planning Branch
Huntington District Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Ember Energy LLC, 8 3 6 - 0 4 5 0 , 2/21/2018
Ember Energy LLC, 8 3 6 - 0 4 5 3 , 2/22/2018
Revelation Energy, LLC, 8 5 8 - 0 2 4 6 , 2/23/2018
Spurlock Mining, LLC, 8 3 6 - 0 4 4 7 , 2/27/2018

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-0417, Amendment No. 3

In accordance with KRS 350.070, notice is hereby given that MetElectric Energy LLC, 2533 Pas-

LEGALS

coli Place, Lexington, Kentucky 40509 has applied for an amendment to an existing surface and auger coal mining and reclamation operation located at Grethel in Floyd County, Kentucky. The amendment will add 53.31 acres of surface disturbance, will delete 0.88 acres of surface disturbance and will underlie an additional 46.82 acres of auger area making a total area of 737.20 within the amended permit boundary. The proposed operation is approximately 1.66 miles south from KY 979's junction with KY 1426 and located on Big Mud Creek. The proposed operation is located on the Harold and McDowell USGS 7 1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The operation will use the contour and auger methods of surface mining. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Eula H. Scott, Peggy A. Steele, Combs Brothers Investments Company, David Betscher, Curtis Marvin and Marie Tackett, Kevin Auton, Tom and Barbie Bow, Steve Conn, Alma Land Company, Timothy N. and Roma L. Newsome, and Carlos Akers.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held on April 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the offices of the Kentucky Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY for the purpose of examination of the witnesses of Kentucky Power in an Electronic Examination of the Application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of Kentucky Power Company From May 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017, Case No. 2018-00018.

The hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov
Ranie K. Wöhnhas
Managing Director
Regulatory & Finance

LEGALS

J & N Land Company, Inc., Keith and Sharon Newman, Dwayne and Julie Kidd, Gerald, Cathy and Andy Newsome, Kevin Auton, Tom and Barbie Bow, Steve Conn, Alma Land Company, Timothy N. and Roma L. Newsome, Curtis Marvin and Marie Tackett, William Jr. and Josephine K. Newsome, Zachery D. and Bonita D. Akers, Paul Conn, and Carlos Akers. The operation will underlie land owned by Eula H. Scott, Peggy A. Steele, Combs Brothers Investments Company, David Betscher, Curtis Marvin and Marie Tackett, Kevin Auton, Tom and Barbie Bow, Steve Conn, Alma Land Company, Timothy N. and Roma L. Newsome, and Carlos Akers. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources' Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg,

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED for 1-Bedroom Apartments for Persons 62 and older

Located on Mays Branch in Prestonsburg. All utilities included, rent is based on gross monthly income. Several activities such as line dancing, crafts, church services, hair salon. Furnished with stove, refrigerator, emergency alarm system and air conditioner. For more information, please call Highland Terrace at 606-886-1925, TDD: 1-800-648-6056 or 711 or come by the office for an application.

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

LEGALS

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.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application No. 836-5612, Renewal #3

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that FM Energy, LLC, 3420 CR 56, Auburn, IN 46706 has applied for a renewal of a permit for an existing underground coal mining operation located approximately 0.15 mile southwest of Eastern in Floyd County. The proposed operation will disturb 5.87 surface acres and will underlie 200.84 underground acres, and

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED for 1,2,3 & 4 Bedroom Apartments

Located in Prestonsburg is Highland Heights Apartments in Goble Roberts addition and Cliffside Apartments on Cliff Road. Rent is based on gross monthly income. All utilities included at Highland Heights and a utility Allowance at Cliffside. Learning centers at both sites with computers available. For more information, call Highland Heights at 606-886-0608 and Cliffside at 606-886-1819, TDD: 1-800-648-6056 or 711 or come by the offices for an application.

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the total area within the permit boundary will be 203.92 acres. The proposed operation is approximately 0.50 miles southwest from KY Route 550' junction with KY Route 80 and located 0.10 miles northwest of the Right Fork of Beaver Creek. The proposed operation is located on the Martin U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The surface area is owned by Fred and Monica Witmer. The operation will underlie land owned by Fred and Monica Witmer, Robert Martin & Joan S. Flannery, Willard Hicks Estate, Gregory Cooley Estate, Roger & Freda Tackett, Myrtle & Jobe Cooley, Ralph & Glenda Barnett, Floyd County Board of Education, Forrest & Cindi Hughes, Alda Hazel Gibson and Ronald & Dephina Reid. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. Written comments or objections must be filed with the Director, Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. All comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

ORDINANCE NO. 03-2018 AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE CITY OF PRESTONSBURG'S INTENT TO ANNEX TERRITORY OF SPRADLIN BRANCH INTO THE CITY. WHEREAS, the territory intended to be annexed is contiguous to the City of Prestonsburg; and, WHEREAS, the territory intended to be annexed is either urban in character or suitable for urban development without unreasonable delay because many of the residential and commercial lots in the area are in receipt of city services; and, WHEREAS, the

LEGALS

proposed territory to be annexed is all situated within the county of Prestonsburg, Kentucky, and not within another incorporated city or in the process of being incorporated, nor within an agricultural district; and, WHEREAS, all of the real property

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DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-866-713-1593

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DISH TV \$59.99 For 190 Channels \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-855-633-4574

DIRECTV

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owners within the territory proposed to be annexed have not given their consent to be annexed; and, WHEREAS, the City declares it desirable to annex the area further described in this ordinance and its attachment (Ex-

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ARE YOU IN DEBT? Get help now with a 30 minute Phone debt analysis. M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All eastern time. 1-877-616-2506

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LEGALS

hibit A). **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City of Prestonsburg, as follows:
1. Pursuant to KRS 81A.420, the City of Prestonsburg hereby declares it desirable to annex and hereby publishes its intent to

1-855-995-4780 mention code 51689NHJ or visit www.omahasteaks.com/dinner28

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a n n e x through the enactment of this ordinance the territory described below and shown on the map attached to this ordinance as Exhibit A. A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED ON SPRADLIN BRANCH, FLOYD COUNTY, KENTUCKY,

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AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS IN EXHIBIT A ON FILE IN CLERK'S OFFICE
2. All prior Municipal Orders or Ordinances or parts of any Municipal Order or Ordinance in con-

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flict herewith are hereby repealed and the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and, if any section, phrase or provision shall, for any reason, be declared invalid, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect the val-

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LEGALS

idity of the remainder of this Ordinance.
3. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to KRS 83A.060 in that it was introduced on February 19, 2018 and given final reading on March 19, 2018, and said Ordinance shall be

4508
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LEGALS

in full force and effect upon signature, recordation and publication in accordance with KRS 81A.060 and KRS Chapter 424. **Done this 19th day of March, 2018.** /s/ Les Stapleton, Mayor /s/ Sharon Setser, City Clerk

Statewides

FIRE DAMAGE can be devastating! We'll work with your insurance company directly. Immediate 24/7 response for all smoke/fire emergencies. 1-800-490-4140.

Spring SERVICE GUIDE

TIP OF THE WEEK: Water your lawn early in the day. Less water will be lost to evaporation. Limit watering to a few times per week, and less if you have had adequate rain. Avoid watering at night, which can expose the lawn to bacteria and attract insects.

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The 2018 Great Easter Egg Hunt

Clue #9

**Don't tell Kassidy or Lizzy or Maggie.
We don't want them to be unhappy.**

Official Rules:

1. Follow the clues. A new clue will be printed in each edition of the Chronicle & Times through March 30.
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!
4. Bring the egg and the enclosed certificate to the Chronicle & Times office at 3081 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, between 9am – 5pm weekdays, and you will win \$500!
5. Employees of Appalachian Newspapers, Inc. and their families are ineligible to win.
6. Appalachian Newspapers, Inc. and the Official Sponsors are not liable for any injuries, damages, or losses resulting from your participation. Your attempt to locate the egg is acknowledgment that you agree and hold said parties harmless.



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Easter Greetings

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"Honoring our community, one Elder at a time."

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REGULAR PRICE: ~~\$64,950~~
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