



Floyd County Democratic Women's Club hosts scholarship event  
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# CHRONICLE & TIMES

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

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## Beshear: 'If it passes, I'll sue'



Appalachian Newspapers photo by Aaron K. Nelson  
Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear stopped in Floyd County last week to speak with retired teachers from multiple Eastern Kentucky counties to address Senate Bill 1. Beshear told the educators he would sue to block the bill if it is passed in its current form, as he believes it violates the "inviolable contract." Beshear discussed other topics with the gathered crowd as well, including promoting his office's "Scam Alerts" system for senior citizens.

## Judicial redistricting bill goes to governor

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

A judicial redistricting bill that would add court judgeships in a few areas of the state and remove judgeships from other areas received final passage by a vote of 63-31 in the Kentucky House on March 22.

Dist. 95 state Rep. Larry Brown, R-Prestonsburg, said he opposed the bill. State Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, and other local legislators voted against the bill, which would eliminate a Floyd County judgeship, according to a statement.

"I think the numbers were

See BILL, Page 8A

## One year now, and still no budget

BY MARY MEADOWS  
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Recreation, Tourist and Convention Commission's bylaws requires it to submit a proposed annual budget to the county no later than May 15 of each year.

It's been operating for about a year now, and it still has not filled that requirement.

The Floyd County Fiscal Court established the seven-member commission in February 2017, with an ordinance that mandated a 3 percent transient room tax and also speci-

fied a "county budget" depicting how the commission would use the estimated \$100,000 in revenue it would receive from the tax.

The commission has collected \$120,773 in taxes from hotels since it was created in February 2017 — more than what was es-

timated by the fiscal court's approved ordinance — and it has spent \$29,300, leaving a balance of around \$91,450.

The commission approved its bylaws last year, but it failed to adopt a budget and appears to be operating with the

See BUDGET, Page 8A

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## 3 Easter egg hunts to be held this weekend

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES  
STAFF REPORT

There will be plenty of Easter eggs in Floyd County this weekend.

Easter egg hunts are scheduled to be held on Friday and Saturday in Prestonsburg and Wheelwright.

Prestonsburg City officials are partnering with several businesses and organization to host its third annual Easter egg hunt, which will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 30, at the Little League ball fields at StoneCrest.

The city plans to hide 20,000 Easter eggs this year at the event, which will feature a special needs area that is wheelchair accessible. This hunt is open to children up to age 12 and special needs children of any age are also welcome to attend.

See HELD, Page 8A

## Lewis arraigned for sexual abuse charges

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES  
STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County man is denying sexual abuse charges against him.

Grover D. Lewis, 63, of Banner, appeared in Floyd Circuit Court on March 22 with his attorney Ned Pillersdorf, who waived formal arraignment and entered a not guilty plea for Lewis.

Lewis was scheduled to appear for a

trial for five felony counts of first-degree sexual abuse of a child and one count of intimidating a participant in a legal process on March 19, but that trial was stalled after a Floyd County grand jury issued a superseding indictment against him, charging him with additional crimes.

In the superseding indictment, which includes the prior charges alongside the

See CHARGES, Page 8A



Grover D. Lewis, right, who is blind, is led out of Floyd Circuit Court March 22, after his attorney entered a not guilty plea for several sexual abuse charges against him.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

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# Zylka attends conference in Washington

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Big Sandy Community and Technical College President Dr. Sherry Zylka recently attended a conference hosted by the American Association of Community Colleges and the American Association of School Administrators.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and share issues critical to advancing high-impact, collaborative strategies to improve and expand bridges between secondary and

post-secondary education and capture promising practices from K-12 and community college partners.

Zylka invited David Gibson, superintendent of Paintsville Independent Schools, to participate in and report on the partnership between the college and local high schools.

"We have great collaboration between our high schools and BSCTC," said Zylka. "I was honored to have the opportunity to showcase what we are doing in Eastern Kentucky."



Submitted photo

American Association of Community Colleges President and CEO Dr. Walter Bumphus, Big Sandy Community and Technical College President Dr. Sherry Zylka, Paintsville Independent Schools Superintendent David Gibson and Dr. Daniel Domenech, executive director of The School Superintendents Association, pose for a photograph during a recent conference.

# Floyd County Democratic Women's Club hosts scholarship event

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

On March 19, 2018 the Floyd County Democratic Women's Club Scholarship Event was held.

All the applicants received a certificate and a cash award.

It has become the club's practice to locate a local community professional to match the student's intended major in college. This gives the

high school senior additional support as they move on to the Kentucky College of their choice.

Students who receive mentors in the program include Hayden Halbert, Anna Elizabeth Rose, Briana Faye Little and Shawn Kidd.

The winner of the \$1,000 Floyd County Democratic Women's Club Scholarship will take place at the winner's Honors Event at the time of graduation.



Submitted photo

The Floyd County Democratic Women's Club held a scholarship event on March 19, recognizing students and teachers including, from left, Emily Rizzo-Connor, science teacher at Floyd Central, mentoring Hayden Halbert in secondary education science; Ylinda Howard, Director of pharmacy services at Highland Regional Medical Center, mentoring Anna Elizabeth Rose in pre-pharmacy; Jennifer Stewart, teacher at Prestonsburg Elementary School, mentored Briana Faye Little in elementary education; and Sharon Branham, Director of Appalachian Hospice, mentoring Shawn Kidd in nursing.

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# Group working to build 'arts hub' in Floyd

By MARY MEADOWS  
STAFF WRITER

Local organizers want to build an "arts hub" in Floyd County.

The effort comes as that group works on a proposal to obtain \$25,000 in a challenge that was created by Shaping Our Appalachian Region, One East Kentucky and AEP Kentucky Power.

Big Sandy Area Development Economic Development Coordinator Misha Curnutte, one of several people on a vision planning committee, said it plans to present its proposal to those three agencies next month. The challenge is open to

groups in nine counties, and several other groups are also developing proposals in an attempt to win \$25,000 in seed money to create their proposed projects.

Floyd County's group is planning a project that would create an arts hub, Curnutte said.

"We've gotten a vision group together, and the project we're going to do is an arts hub," she told the Floyd County tourism commission last week. "It's going to be the basis for an arts community, and what it will be is a website database that will connect artists."

She explained that the group wants to do an asset-mapping of all

the artists in the area, as well as venues and businesses that host events where artists perform or display their work and create an online database where people can find arts events and venues.

"The purpose is to involve as many community organizations as possible so that everybody is working together," Curnutte said. "The Floyd County Library, both of the tourism offices, the city, the county, the trail towns, the businesses, the arts community — all of those people to be on board and connecting."

She said this arts hub will benefit tourism and economic development

because it's geared to "build businesses around the arts community." She said part of the proposal calls for trainings that will help artists learn more about pricing their art-work and marketing.

"Culinary, poetry, authors, painters, woodworkers, musicians, needle-pointers, quilters, all of those kinds of things," she said. "We have a lot of those resources, but we don't have all of those resources in one place."

If the proposal is selected as the winner, Curnutte said the city of Prestonsburg will be the fiscal agent for that funding and will set up a committee to oversee the funding is spent ap-

propriately.

Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton is encouraged to see the discussion around this competition. He talked about how some Prestonsburg businesses are already supporting the arts with events like Star City Day, Tuesday Night Songwriters Scene and artist receptions and events.

A city official is part of the vision planning group.

"They're in the early process of it. They're trying to get it streamlined so they can figure out exactly what's they're going to be moving on, but, yes, there is going to be some money available out there for fine arts,

and they're trying to get some of it," he said.

He said it's "great" that community members are working to bring arts to the forefront.

"Fine arts are, sort of peripheral to most people's minds, and they're starting to branch out and they're getting people involved and it's great," he said. "They're trying to bring arts, fine arts, to light. It's always been here, it's just never been brought together, collectively."

He said Curnutte is also working to find young artists who can paint murals at the swimming pool Prestonsburg plans to operate at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park.

# Terms end for some Floyd tourism members

## Three terms end; two resign; two may be reappointed

By MARY MEADOWS  
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Recreation, Tourist and Convention Commission is preparing to replace or reappoint the majority of its members.

The Floyd County Fiscal Court established the seven-member commission in February 2017.

The following month, the fiscal court appointed seven members, as required, with input from local hotels, restaurants, the chamber

of commerce and the Floyd County Fiscal Court.

Those appointments were made with staggered terms, and the terms of three members, Chairman Josh Hall, Dawn Slone and Ray Greer expire on March 31. Slone represents the hotel association. Hall and Greer were appointed by the county.

Greer told fellow members on March 22 that he is resigning from the commission because of health reasons, and Judge Executive Ben Hale reported that secretary Tammi

Patton, a newly-appointed member from the hotel association, also needs replaced because she is no longer employed with a hotel.

On March 22, only four members were present for the commission's meeting, with Patton, Mickey McKinney and Charles Hicks absent, and attending members were joined by Hale and Misha Curnutte, a Big Sandy Area Development District employee who volunteers to help.

Commission members did not take action on the mem-

bership vacancies on March 22, as Hale said he would gather names to fill the vacancies.

The bylaws approved by the commission requires the chairman to notify the judge executive of any vacancies due to resignations or expired terms and request that all nominations be submitted with an ordinance to the Floyd County Fiscal Court.

Treasurer David Tackett suggested reappointing Hall and Slone to their posts, saying that it's too soon to find

new members and that he thought the commission's bylaws allowed commissioners to serve consecutive terms. Hale said he would check into that issue before filling the vacancies.

The commission's bylaws relies on KRS 91A.360 to establish tenure for commission members, and that law says there is no limitation on the number of terms to which a commissioner is reappointed.



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# Burglary, theft to net a three-year sentence

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES  
STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County man is expected to serve three years in jail, after pleading guilty last week to charges in three cases against him.

Gregory Thompson, 31, of Harold, represented in court by Public Advocate Adam Gearheart, pleaded guilty on March 22 to theft by deception and two counts of burglary. One of the burglary charges stems from a June 2016 burglary of Clayton Mobile Homes in Harold.

While admitting to the crimes, Thompson acknowledged that his guilty plea comes with a recommendation from Floyd County Commonwealth Attorney Arnold Brent Turner. Turner's office recommended sentences of three years on both burglary charges and 12 months on the theft charge, all to run concurrently for a total of three years.

Thompson, who is incarcerated at the Floyd County Detention Center, will return to Floyd County Circuit Court on April 26 for his sentencing.

# KBC church security conference draws more than 1,000 people

By ROGER ALFORD  
KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT — Moved to action by mass church shootings like the one that left 26 people dead in Texas last year, Kentucky congregations are increasingly taking steps to beef up security, unwilling to remain soft targets.

Security experts with backgrounds in law enforcement and the military trained more than 1,000 church leaders from across the Kentucky on Saturday in ways to protect their people in an event sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"While I grieve that a conference like this one is needed, I'm thankful we could offer it," said KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "Headlines reveal that school children and churchgoers are the regular vic-

tims of deranged mass murders looking for high profile targets that will get the world's attention. Stopping a shooter from taking innocent life is nearly impossible, but stopping a shooter from taking everyone's life, especially in the Lord's house, isn't that difficult."

Churches that had been slow to take seriously the need for security were awakened by the mass shooting at First Baptist Church of Sutherland, Texas. It was the deadliest rampage at a house of worship in modern U.S. history.

Chitwood said the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the state's largest religious group with 750,000 members, opted to provide the training out of love for the churches.

"The response to this conference has been overwhelming," he said. "I'm encouraged that so many church leaders recognize the need to be prepared."

Since 2012, more than a dozen fatal shootings have been reported at places of worship in the U.S. That includes the 2015 rampage in which a white supremacist killed nine worshippers, including the pastor, at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston S.C.

In the crowd at Saturday's conference, which was held at Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, was Jim Thorne, a former resident of Daingerfield, Texas, where a gunman killed 5 people and wounded 10 others

at First Baptist Church in 1980. Now a member of McDowell Baptist Church in eastern Kentucky, Thorne has a message for churches that aren't taking security seriously: "You are playing with fire."

Church leaders received a broad range of advice in Saturday's conference, including to:

- Watch for warning signs to potentially prevent shootings, which are often preceded by visible signs of mental or emotional disturbance.

- Identify potential security weaknesses in facilities and make improvements.

- Create a response plan and conduct drills to maintain a state of readiness.

"Every church must think about church security in today's world," said Steve Rice, the Kentucky Baptist Convention team leader who organized Saturday's training event. "Every church should have a comprehensive church security plan and a church security team in place."

Both, Rice said, would go largely unnoticed by members of congregations.

"Having a church that is warm and accessible doesn't have to mean being vulnerable to people who want to do harm," said Rice. "There is strength in being prepared. Churches have long preached about spiritual attacks, but now, more than ever, churches need to be prepared for an outside, physical attack."

## Correction

A story published in the Floyd County Chronicle and Times on March 23 incorrectly stated that the city took out \$900,000 in loans to buy the former Music Carter Hughes property. It should have clarified that about half of that funding was also used consolidate other loans. The city paid around \$440,000 for the property and around \$436,000 to consolidate other loans, Mayor Les Stapleton said. A mention of salary pay scale changes in that story should have clarified that the city pay scales include a maximum and minimum amount. A landscaping employee was moved into another pay scale, which has a maximum salary that is about \$2,900 than his/her former position. The changes to the mayor's pay scale includes \$5,000 annual increases each year. That scale was previously set at \$30,000 for years two through five, and is now ranging from \$35,000 to \$50,000 in years two through five, and is set for \$55,000 to \$60,000 in years six and seven.

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## EDITORIAL:

# On the right trail

### Chatterwha Trace project could help move community, region forward

For many generations, the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy and its feeder creeks and streams have often been more of an annoyance or even danger, dependent on the situation, than something to be developed.

However, in recent years, with attention turning more toward tourism and attempting to attract people to our community, as opposed to simply exporting a product such as coal, we've had to assess what we have to offer.

Prestonsburg has been unique in terms of how wholeheartedly its leaders have seized upon using the rivers as not only an attraction, but also as a center focus of many tourism efforts, with the Levisa Fork Paddlefest and similar events focusing attention (and money) on the community.

Recently, the Floyd County Fiscal

Court approved entering into an interlocal agreement with several surrounding cities and counties to help form the Chatterwha Trace Water Trail throughout Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia.

Lara Pack, with the Paintsville/Johnson County Trail Town Committee and a leader in the effort, said that now is the time for such a regional partnership.

Pack said leaders in Floyd, Pike, Johnson and Lawrence counties, and the cities of Paintsville, Louisa, Pikeville, Coal Run Village, Elkhorn City, Catlettsburg and Ft. Gay, West Virginia, have already pledged their commitment to the interlocal agreement. The local governments of Prestonsburg and Boyd County have also been asked to participate, and the agreement infers that future partnerships

will expand to other areas, including Virginia.

"Now is just the perfect time for these things," Pack said. "These things are foremost in people's thoughts, a regional collaboration on anything. We have finally reached the apex and we've realized that we cannot stand on our own and be as successful as we can as a region."

Paddlefest alone, according to Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton, has attracted an average of 80 people each month during the season to the community. Those are people who not only rode the rivers, but also spent money at local businesses, ate at local restaurants, stayed in local hotels and used other amenities that helped bring in "outside" money to the area.

A regional effort, coupled with what's already going on in commu-

nities such as Prestonsburg can only bring even more people in. As we've seen throughout the area, when a person can, within a 50-mile radius, enjoy several different attractions and events, it's more likely they'll spend more time in our region, supporting our businesses over an extended period of time.

Between Prestonsburg, Paintsville, Pikeville, Hazard, Whitesburg, Hindman and numerous other communities in our region, there are countless unique attractions for visitors. And bringing them in for one, while using efforts such as the Chatterwha Trace Trail to market the rest, can result in a holistic boost to our local economy.

If everyone gets on board, we can float toward a future economic footing which is more sure than the one on which we stand.

## COLUMN:

# Senate week in review

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

The two-year state budget passed out of committee and landed on the Senate floor for a vote by the full body last Tuesday. However, we did not take up the House proposal, but rather an amended plan from the Senate Republicans. Despite my opposition, it passed our chamber.

I voted against the tentative plan because I have concerns about reinstating the Governor's recommended reductions of 6.25 percent in most budget areas. The Senate plan does that, with the exception of veteran affairs and state police. I also am skeptical of the language addressing layoffs, furloughs, and reduced hours for executive branch employees. I do not support eliminating merit system securities for our state employees. Nor am I

pleased with funds appropriated to charter schools. My fear on the latter is that existing public school funding could be funneled off to support charter schools.

But, as Yogi Berra said, "it's not over until it's over." As of now, the amended budget bills have been referred to a conference committee comprised of representatives from both chambers. The conferees are working to find a compromise. The goal is to craft a plan both chambers can agree to before we recess for the Governor's possible vetoes. Once differences are ironed out, the budget will come back to the full Senate for another vote. I feel confident that will be achieved, as no legislator wants to postpone approval of the budget and lose the ability to override the Governor's vetoes.

I remain hopeful and will continue to fight to protect public education, move

our public employee and teacher retirement plans in the right directions, and invest in our infrastructure, while still looking out for our most vulnerable citizens.

The session itself is far from over. In these final days, we will pass important legislation that will impact Kentuckians across the Commonwealth.

Some bills receiving approval in the Senate this week:

- House Bill 2, as amended, will not impact injured workers currently receiving workers' comp benefits. However, in future cases, it will limit benefits to workers with certain injuries to 15 years, with a chance after 15 years to be recertified to continue receiving benefits. I oppose this bill because it makes it harder for injured workers to recover benefits they are due. We can be for business without being anti worker and that is what this

bill is. I voted no.

- Senate Bill 231 creates the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship to ensure that all Kentuckians who have not yet earned a post-secondary degree have affordable access to an industry-recognized certificate or diploma.

- House Bill 46 allows security freezes to be requested by for consumers to request a replacement personal identification number or password in the same manner as the original security freeze request. This measure also removes the expiration of a credit freeze after seven years.

- House Bill 70 puts Kentucky in compliance with a Supreme Court's opinion that our current law relating to sex offenders is unconstitutional. It prohibits registered sex offenders from knowingly using electronic communications to solicit, or contact, anyone under the age of 18.

- Senate Bill 155 requires employees of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet who have access to, or use of, federal tax information to submit a state and federal criminal background check.

- House Bill 198 establishes the standards and rules for the Attorney General when awarding contingency fee personal service contracts for legal services. This bill favors the interests of corporations, not Kentuckians by capping attorney fees. It makes it harder for the AG to go after the biggest settlement cases on behalf of Kentucky taxpayers. I voted no.

- House Bill 132 mandates financial literacy as a high school graduation requirement. This requirement will go into effect beginning with students entering the 2020-21 as freshmen. Coursework or programs that would meet the requirement would be

determined by the high school's school-based decision making council or principal. Guidelines for the coursework or program would be developed at the state level with local programs aligned to the state standards. Kentucky currently rates 48th in financial literacy.

- House Bill 68 provides mental health and wellness support for law enforcement officials who encounter tragic and horrific events while on the job. At the center of the measure is a post-critical incident seminar, or PCIS. It is a program established by the FBI in the 1980s and first adopted by South Carolina. Kentucky would be about the 10th state to adopt it. The initiative will be paid with donations, grants and money from the state Department of Criminal Justice Training budget.

- House Bill 128 requires public middle and high schools to teach students about the Holocaust and other internationally-recognized acts of

See **TURNER**, Page 7A

## CHRONICLE & TIMES

### LETTERS OR COMMENTS:

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By Christopher Epling c 2018 Floyd County Chronicle and Times 03.28.18



**'Jenny' Jarrell** 2018. Virginia B. "Jenny" Jarrell, 94, of Dana, died Friday, Mar. 23, 2018. Arrangements are under the direction of Hall Funeral Home of Martin.

**Jack Shepherd** Jack Denton Shepherd, 68, of Langley, died Friday, Mar. 23, 2018.

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

**Jerry Wicker** Jerry Lowell Wicker, 50, of Estill, died Wednesday, Mar. 21, 2018.

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

## McConnell is fighting hard to get hemp off a controlled substances list

By **BETH WARREN**  
LOUISVILLE  
COURIER JOURNAL

A major push to legalize hemp is underway and led by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who made the announcement Monday in Frankfort because of the bill's potential boost to Kentucky's economy.

The bill would remove hemp from the federal list of controlled substances.

McConnell joined Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles for a media briefing detailing the Hemp Farming Act of 2018 to boost the economy and provide more jobs amid the commonwealth's pension crisis.

Both have been avid supporters of a crop some call marijuana's kissing cousin and are pushing for the federal bill, which would remove the crop from the federal list of controlled substances. They also called Kentucky's existing program a "national model."

McConnell was key to the passage of the 2014 "Farm Bill" that allowed Kentucky and other states to pass laws to grow and market industrial hemp, but the law is interpreted in conflicting ways. You must be part of a state-monitored program overseen by agricultural officials in Kentucky to grow it or process it.

Because its pointy

leaves so closely resemble marijuana, participants must register their GPS coordinates and allow inspections by law enforcement officials, who may order testing of the THC amounts.

Politico magazine characterized McConnell's advocacy as a "love affair with hemp," calling him one of Washington's top drug policy reformers.

McConnell and Quarles have publicly challenged the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and its stance that consumable hemp products are illegal, even though federal law limits the THC amount in hemp to a non-intoxicating level.

## Second volume of statewide single audit released

SPECIAL TO THE  
FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

FRANKFORT — Auditor Mike Harmon last week released the second volume of the annual Statewide Single Audit of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (SSWAK) for Fiscal Year 2017.

Volume two of the SSWAK covers compliance with federal requirements for federal awards, and contains 19 findings regarding the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), Department of Workforce Investment (DWI) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). Eight of the findings are repeats from the SSWAK Volume II audit for Fiscal Year 2016, and two findings are carryovers from the SSWAK Volume I audit for Fiscal Year 2017 released in February.

"Our office is committed to making sure all cabinets and agencies within

state government are compliant when it comes to the Commonwealth's use of federal taxpayer dollars," Auditor Harmon said. "I urge leadership at the cabinets and agencies identified in this year's SSWAK report to review our findings, and implement our recommendations. We owe it to the people of Kentucky to be good fiscal stewards of the dollars they provide."

Kentucky spent over \$12.42 billion in cash and noncash awards received from the federal government in FY 17, which is an increase of \$90.7 million compared to federal funds spent by the Commonwealth during Fiscal Year 2016. The 2017 SSWAK Volume II has questioned costs related to federal funds of more than \$663,000.

The report, along with the responses to the findings, can be found on the auditor's website.

## Lawmakers' personal texts and emails stay private under change to controversial bill

By **TOM LOFTUS**  
LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL

FRANKFORT — A compromise could be in the works to address concerns of open government advocates who say pending legislation would blow a hole in the Kentucky Open Records Act.

At issue is a measure that stunned government watchdog groups when it surfaced last week: Exempting from public disclosure any government business done by public officials using privately owned smartphones and computers.

Senate leaders delayed consideration of the bill to allow Senate staff to discuss concerns about the measure with the Kentucky Press Association.

David Thompson, executive director of the association, said he spoke with a Senate staff attorney Monday and offered a compromise he said would protect access to public records while addressing concerns of Senate leaders about the privacy of their personal emails.

Thompson said his proposal would add a new exception to the Open Records Act covering "communications of a purely personal nature unrelated to any government function."

Thompson said the offer was made as "a temporary fix" until the issue can be examined in-depth before the 2019 legislative session.

And Tuesday morning, Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer, who proposed the bill, said he plans to offer another change.

"I haven't seen the language yet, but we've been working with the KPA. And we're filing an amendment today," said Thayer, R-Georgetown.

House Bill 302 remains on the Senate's agenda and is eligible for a vote as soon as Tuesday afternoon. Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, said Monday evening he had not been briefed on the discussion between Thompson and the attorney on his staff.

Meanwhile, a collection of interest groups from various points on the political spectrum issued a statement Monday saying the bill "gravely threatens open and accountable government."

"This proposal eviscerates the commonwealth's open records and meetings laws by authorizing public officials and employees to avoid accountability and transparency by using their private electronic devices to communicate about the public's business," reads the joint statement authored by executives of the Bluegrass Institute, a free-market think-tank, and Bruce Maples, publisher of the

progressive Forward Kentucky blog.

Also joining the statement were the ACLU of Kentucky, United Kentucky Tea Party, Bluegrass Activist Alliance, Indivisible Kentucky, Central Kentucky Tea Party Patriots and Indivisible NKY District 4.

As originally filed, HB 302 was a simple reorganization of the state Public Protection Cabinet. But during a committee meeting last week Thayer inserted an amendment that removes the current law's inclusion of electronic communications by public officials on any privately owned cell phone, other electronic device or email account as a public record.

Thayer told the Senate State and Local Government Committee he was simply putting into state law an opinion issued by former Attorney General Jack Conway, a Democrat, in late 2015. The committee approved it, sending it to the Senate floor.

On Monday Stivers cited the 2015 opinion, saying, "When people start questioning what it is, it is a reflection of Jack Conway's attorney general opinion — one of the few times that we've agreed on something."

When they delayed the floor vote last week, Stivers and Thayer each said they are committed to open government, but that they strongly believe the law must protect the personal communications of public officials from public disclosure.

"I will protect — if it's the last thing I do here — the right for a private citizen to be able to communicate on his phone without being subject to open records requests," Thayer said.

But Thompson said purely personal communications are already protected under current law.

The joint statement issued Monday said Conway's 2015 opinion is "legally unsupportable and judicially untested." If HB 302 passes, the statement said, "Kentucky would have the dubious distinction of being one of the few states — if not the only state — codifying the right of a public official to conduct business in secret."

Amye Bensenhaver, director of the Bluegrass Institute's Center for Open Government, said she had no problem with the press association's proposal.

"But we still need to address the larger issue here of enlightening public officials that these communications about public business on private devices are a public record," Bensenhaver said. "...We have this problem of people more commonly using their private device, and we have to address that as a management issue. I think that's where this discussion needs to go."



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# Seismologists measured ground movement miles away when tower tumbled

By **HOLLY McCLURKIN**  
THE STATE JOURNAL

When the Capital Plaza Tower tumbled, seismologists had a rare opportunity.

Implosion of the tallest building in Frankfort recently offered a chance to measure how the event affected the movement of the surrounding areas and locations many miles away from Frankfort.

Before the implosion, seismologists from the Kentucky Geological Survey placed three, strong motion accelerometers, which record ground acceleration, and high-speed cameras a quarter mile and 420 meters from the tower in different directions. The strong motion accelerometers are similar to seismometers, which are monitors used to measure earthquake data. By comparing the information on the accelerometers to what was happening on the camera, Seth Carpenter, a seismologist from the Kentucky Geological Survey, was able to interpret the data, which showed the implosion caused some ground movement.

Carpenter said when he heard the tower would be imploded, he knew he would want to be there and gather data.

"It was an immediate interest. We were interested in the absolute ground motions themselves. We are interested in the comparison between rock and soil effect. In seismology, that's called site effect," Carpenter said.

Carpenter and his team from the Kentucky Geological Survey, Zhen-

ming Wang and Andrew Holcomb, were present and capturing data during the implosion. Each of them was set up at one of the three sites surrounding the tower.

"We recorded the whole sequence from the detonation to the collapse until it all settled," Carpenter said.

Carpenter was stationed at a monitor in a front yard on Kentucky Avenue. Another station was located on a rocky site at the old quarry behind the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet building. The last was 420 meters from the tower, across train tracks in downtown Frankfort.

"Our purposes were, at large, to compare what you would record on rock, which should not amplify waves as much as it would on soil," Carpenter said.

Though it hasn't yet written a full report, the Kentucky Geological Society has begun interpreting the data from the implosion, which shows some natural ground movement — resonance — in addition to movement caused by the implosion.

"As a playground swing goes back and forth, it swings at a particular rate. Everything that would behave as a vibrator can have its own natural frequency. There's evidence of the own natural frequency within the (Kentucky River) valley," Carpenter said.

At the site on Kentucky Avenue, where Carpenter was set up during the implosion, many children were waiting to watch the tower

fall. They were curious about the equipment that Carpenter had set up.

"While I was there and setting up, I gave little discussion and presentations to the kids, that were around. The kids looked at the instrumentation. I described what we were doing and how the instrumentation works," Carpenter said.

Also, adults were interested to hear what the seismologist was doing and how the equipment worked, he said.

Another temporary station was set up about two-and-a-half miles away from the implosion site in northern Franklin County. Ground motions, from the implosion, were also detected at that site. The temporary station wasn't set up specifically for the implosion, but Carpenter and his team were able to witness some ground movement at the site related to Capital Plaza's implosion.

Although the data show there was ground motion during the implosion, people near the implosion said they did not experience the ground shaking.

Benjamin Lee — designer and employee at the Milam House, a florals, gifts and home accessories store on Washington Street — said he was in front of the store during the implosion and saw one of the seismologists set up behind the store.

"At the time of the implosion, if I hadn't have heard it, I wouldn't even had known it happened cause it didn't shake at all," Lee said.

Still, monitoring equipment elsewhere in

Kentucky was precise enough that it detected ground movement resulting from the implosion. A site in Floyd County — far eastern Kentucky — picked up trace amounts of ground movement corresponding to the implosion, according to data provided by the Kentucky Geological Survey.

The difference in ground motion, natural versus related to the implosion, is seen in a ground motions graphic released by the Kentucky Geological Survey, and ground movement from the implosion in Eastern Kentucky is just a small blip on the graph.

The most significant ground movement stemmed from the collapse of the building after explosive charges detonated. However, graphs provided by the Kentucky Geological Survey also show ground movement near the Capital Plaza Tower related to the detonation of explosive charges.

"The collapse itself generated a lot more ground motion than the detonations themselves," Carpenter said.

The Capital Plaza Tower implosion will add to the trove of data collected on a regular basis by the Kentucky Geological Survey, which is a research center within the University of Kentucky.

It monitors earthquakes and ground movement across and near Kentucky, using the Kentucky Seismic and Strong-motion Network (KSSMN), which is operated by the University of Kentucky.

The Central U.S. Seismic Observatory is located in Fulton County, in western Kentucky. Another seismic station, in Grayson, records data in Eastern Kentucky. Multiple other stations monitor ground motion between the two locations.

The Kentucky Geological Survey has a temporary project that will be completed this year, similar to the one at the Capital Plaza implosion, happening in Eastern Kentucky.

"We have an ongoing project in Eastern Kentucky, related to fracking and wastewater projection. Those activities are ongoing in Eastern Kentucky. There was a potential for even more activity in a shale play that was discovered a little more than a decade ago," Carpenter said.

Fracking is the use of water to extract oil and natural gas from shale plays, which are formations that contain a significant amount of natural gas.

In several central U.S. states, oil and gas development have been linked to causing minor earth-

quakes and tremors. Induced seismic events are small earthquakes caused by human activity. Although induced seismic events, caused by fracking and wastewater injections, are not known to have happened in Kentucky, they have happened in areas surrounding Kentucky, including Arkansas, the Indiana-Illinois border, Ohio and West Virginia. Kentucky Geological Survey has responded to the issue by installing a temporary system of sensitive seismographs in Eastern Kentucky. Kentucky regularly experiences induced seismic events as a result of mine blasts in coalfields.

As a result of this study, the Kentucky Geological Society plans to establish background levels of small magnitude earthquakes, determine if oil/gas development and wastewater injections cause low-level seismicity, and identify characteristics that are unique between natural and manmade seismic events.

To gather data about the projects in eastern and western Kentucky, the seismologists use equipment similar to what they used during the Capital Plaza implosion.

## TURNER Continued From Page 5A

genocide. HB 128 will be known as the "Ann Klein and Fred Gross Holocaust Education Act" in honor of Gross, who survived the Holocaust as a child to go on to teach about it, and Klein, a survivor of Auschwitz and a Holocaust educator who died in 2012.

• House Bill 290 sets conditions that allow home-

school students to compete in state-sponsored interscholastic sports. The bill will not allow homeschool students to participate in sanctioned KHSAA tournaments.

• Senate Bill 238 mandates that medical professionals — who have always been on the forefront of identifying sexual assault and violence — receive three hours of sexual violence awareness training as part of their continuing education requirements. It does not require additional

hours and there is no fiscal impact.

As the session draws to a close, I encourage you to stay in touch. To leave a message for any legislator, call the General Assembly's Message Line at, (800) 372-7181. People with hearing difficulties may leave messages for lawmakers by calling the TTY Message Line at, (800) 896-0305. You may email me directly at johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov.

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# 20 lawmakers poring over 2-year spending plan

By TOM LATEK  
KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT — While most members of the Kentucky General Assembly are enjoying a recess until Tuesday, a group of 20 House and Senate members spent Friday and Monday trying to hash out an agreement on a state spending plan for the next two years.

The Budget Conference Committee began work shortly after 9 a.m. Friday, going line by line over the budget documents.

In the past, the media and public have been kept out of the proceedings, having to rely on conferees coming out to take a break to find out what is going on inside. But this year, KET cameras are being allowed inside, and a feed is being made available on the screens in another committee room, as well as online, at least for the opening session.

In opening remarks, House Speaker Pro Tem David Osborne thanked Legislative Research Committee staff for their work on putting together the budget, and side-by-side documents to compare the versions approved by the two chambers.

"You have put together a product that is very conscious of taxpayer dollars," he said. "We are committed to finding a compromise to this that will be a good plan for the taxpayers."

House Minority Whip Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, told reporters during a break that there are significant

differences between the two versions.

"Dealing with public education is one of those," Adkins said. "Health insurance for active teachers was eliminated from the Senate budget. (The) 6.25 percent cuts to higher education were reinstated by the Senate. Public education overall is a top priority without question. Removal of almost a billion dollars from teacher retirement to other retirement funds is pretty significant."

Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, says although Republicans have a majority in both chambers, "There really is no difference than past budget negotiations, it's just earlier."

Stivers said working with the committee is a "more relaxed atmosphere. When you're dealing with a multi-billion-dollar budget, you're subject to make mistakes, just because of the volume and complexity. When you do it late, you're tired and you're pressed for time, you're more likely to make mistakes."

Conference Committee members from the Senate are Republicans Christian McDaniel, who is serving as Chairman of the Senate delegation, President Robert Stivers, Majority Leader Damon Thayer, President Pro Tem Jimmy Higdon, Majority Whip Mike Wilson, Majority Caucus Chairman Dan Seum and David Givens. For the Democrats, Minority Leader Ray Jones, Minority Whip Dennis Parrett and Minority Caucus Chairman Dorsey Ridley are on the

panel.

The House delegation includes Republicans Steven Rudy, who chairs the House delegation, Osborne, Majority Leader Johnathan Shell, Majority Caucus Chair David Meade, Majority Whip Kevin Bratcher, John Carney and James Tipton. Democratic House members are Adkins, Minority Caucus Chair Dennis Keene and Minority Whip Wilson Stone. Osborne, who named the House members, said Rep. Sal Santoro will replace Tipton on the revenue bill.

Since all 20 members are white men, that drew some negative response, including Rep. Attica Scott, D-Louisville, who took exception to the lack of diversity on the panel on Twitter.

"We've just had three conference committees appointed that have NOOOO women serving to add to the debates," said Scott. "You're dreaming if you think that invisibility and sexism do not exist in Government and politics."

The full General Assembly reconvenes on Tuesday for two days, primarily for concurrence votes. They will then take a 10-day recess, before returning to Frankfort for two days beginning April 1, to consider voting to override any vetoes by Gov. Matt Bevin. Thus far this session, he has not vetoed any legislation.

They finished in late afternoon Friday and returned at 10 a.m. Monday to continue work.

## BILL Continued From Page 1A

askew," said Brown. "And I think we're being unfairly punished in Floyd County by losing a circuit judge who has done nothing but his job, and done it above and beyond the call — having to go to different circuits and take care of business there as well."

House Bill 348, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Hoover, R-Jamestown, and Rep. Jason Nemes, R-Louisville, would add family court judges to the judicial circuit serving Pulaski, Lincoln and Rockcastle counties and the judicial circuit serving Boone and Gallatin counties. A third family judge would be added in Bullitt County, where a district judgeship would be converted to a family court judgeship to accommodate the change.

Judgeships that would be eliminated as of 2023 to help pay for the new seats include a circuit judgeship in Floyd County and district judgeship in far western Kentucky. The western Kentucky position would be created by combining two districts — one in Fulton and Hickman

counties and one in Carlisle and Ballard counties — into one district.

Nemes said HB 348 adjusts judgeships according to caseload when he spoke on the bill before the House Judiciary Committee in early March. He said the circuits in southern and northern Kentucky which are slated to receive new judges under the bill especially have "a tremendous need."

"There's a lot of places in Kentucky where judges are working extremely hard but in those two places — I don't see how they're even getting the job done, they're so overworked," said Nemes.

The legislation would also require the Kentucky Supreme Court to certify the need for any changes in the state's judicial circuits or districts based on an eight-year review of the courts by the Administrative Office of the Courts. That review may be ordered by the state Supreme Court starting in 2020.

HB 348, which was approved by the Senate on a vote of 32-5 on March 21, now goes to the governor to be signed into law.

# Lawmakers trying to make sense of expensive Kentucky Wired project

By TOM LATEK  
KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT — The House-Senate Budget Conference Committee spent the morning talking about funding for Kentucky Wired before breaking for lunch.

The 20-member panel convened around 10 a.m. and discussed the troubled project, which has seen delays and cost overruns since it was announced by former Gov. Steve Beshear in 2014.

Blake Brinkman, Gov. Matt Bevin's chief of staff, and Kentucky Communications Network Authority Executive Director Phillip Brown made a presentation

to the panel before answering questions from the lawmakers.

Kentucky Wired is to be a 3,200-mile broadband network across the state, including some unserved or underserved locations, and although its original completion date was to be in 2018, only 708 miles have been built, putting it 18 months to two years behind schedule.

The original cost was \$324 million, however delays, including getting easements and rights to hang fiber on other utility poles, has caused Kentucky Wired to enter into an \$88 million settlement, part of a \$188 million cost overrun.

House Majority Caucus Chairman Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville, told his fellow lawmakers that he does a slow burn every time he thinks about the project and the additional costs.

"These numbers sound like something Tony Soprano would have his fingers in," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Ray Jones, D-Pikeville, said the project is a core of the SOAR initiative and is strongly backed by Congressman Hal Rogers, R-Somerset, "and that \$188 million versus the cost of future litigation, if the project is dropped, is a no-brainer." The project is seeking

\$88 million over the next two fiscal years.

Sen. President Robert Stivers blames unrealistic timeframes in the original contracts for the issue.

"We're looking at damages and if we do not complete it, there will be more damages," Stivers said. "It's like we spend more money to get out of the hole, or we're going to be looking at greater money if we don't fill the hole up."

The budget conferees are expected to meet late into the evening to hammer out an agreement before the General Assembly returns to work on Tuesday.

## BUDGET Continued From Page 1A

erating with the budget laid out in the county's ordinance.

That ordinance designates the county will spend the \$100,000 transient room tax proceeds by allotting \$3,000 for accounting, \$10,000 for advertising, \$2,000 for office supplies, \$84,000 for parks and the golf course and \$900 in miscellaneous expenses.

With just months left in the fiscal year, the commission has spent around \$28,000 for parks and \$1,000 for event advertising.

Members didn't discuss the budget on March 22, but they did take action to make it easier to spend some of that money. They approved a partnership/sponsorship funding request form, which will be

distributed to all organizations seeking funding for tourism-related promotions and events.

That form says the commission's funding assistance to groups will not exceed 33 percent of the total event costs. The funds are limited to advertising and media promotion, and preference will be given to promotions placed outside of a 50-mile radius of the county. The form notes that applicants must offer a presentation to the commission, submit post-event evaluations and agree that funding is subject to auditing.

The commission is working to develop a website with the help of Misha Curnutte of the Big Sandy Area Development District. She said a copy of that form will be available on the website, and members will have copies available as well.

## CHARGES Continued From Page 1A

new ones, Lewis now faces a total of 10 charges: Eight felony counts of first-degree sexual abuse of a child, one felony count of first-degree sodomy and one count of intimidating a participant in a legal process.

On March 23, Pillersdorf asked that Lewis' blindness be noted on

the record and he requested the dismissal of at least one charge, saying it was repetitive. Floyd County First Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Amy Turner requested time to review the case, saying there could have been an error in the indictment. Circuit Judge Thomas M. Smith granted five days for that review.

Pillersdorf declined the option for a pretrial conference, reporting

that charges in the new indictment are similar to those in the previous indictment and that several pretrial conferences have already been held. Smith set the trial date for Aug. 6.

Floyd Commonwealth's Attorney Arnold Brent Turner previously reported that the first indictment came from allegations made by a child and the superseding indictment came with allegations made by

three adults, who claim Lewis sexually abused them as children.

The dates of the sexual abuse charges in the superseding indictment range from January 1969 to December 1969; from 1979 to 1981; from 1974 to 1975 and from 2012 to 2015. The sodomy charge is alleged to have occurred from 2012 to 2015 and the intimidation charge stems from incidents alleged in 2016.

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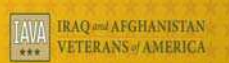
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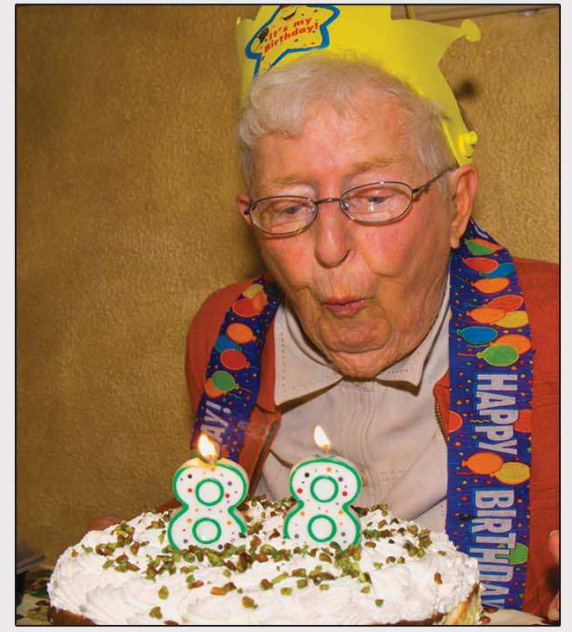


John Caleb Smith, the son of Aaron and Christy Smith of Allen was born Wednesday, December 6, 2017. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Dave and Thelma Ratliff of Allen and John and Dorothy Smith of Wheelwright, Ky.

## Birth Announcements

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

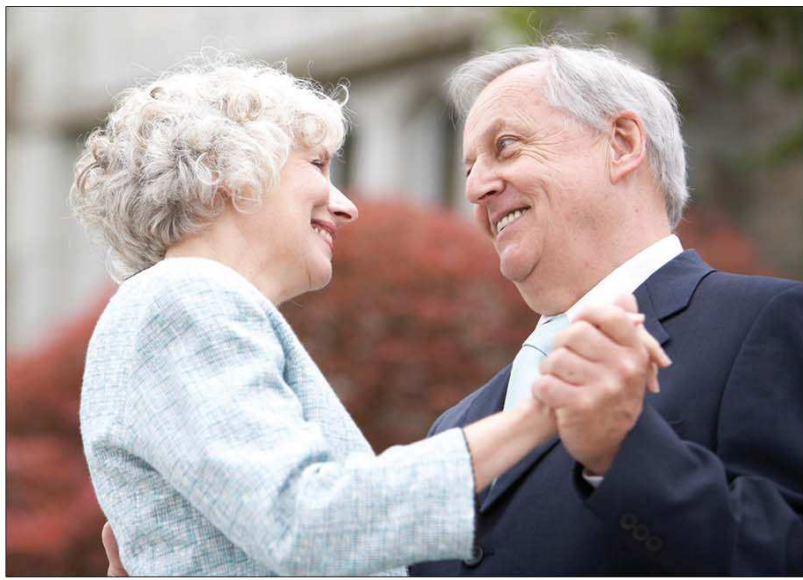
## Celebrating Birthdays



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

## Senior Citizen Center Birthdays

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



## Celebrating 55 years

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

## Wedding Anniversaries

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

## Dotson-Simpkins



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

## Engagement

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

## Wedding

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

## Hatfield-McDaniel



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

# CHRONICLE & TIMES

FLOYD COUNTY

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## Quilters from several counties participate in Quilters' Day Out

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES  
STAFF REPORT

Sewing enthusiasts from Floyd, Pike, Johnson, Martin and Magoffin counties traveled to Prestonsburg earlier this month for the annual Quilters' Day Out event.

Quilters' Day Out is held annually on the third Saturday of every March in honor of National Quilt Day, in one of five Big Sandy counties.

This year, the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office's Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild hosted the event with a "Construction Zone" theme, complete with highway safety vests that were decorated with quilt blocks and gift-filled toolboxes that guests were given to take home. It was dedicated to the memory of quilters Alice Rowe and Jean Watson.

More than 100 people attended the March 17 event, with quilting club members from every county showcasing the best quilting projects they completed in the past year. The Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild also displayed its new banner—a project that was completed recently, featuring quilt

blocks depicting the guild's recently-installed Kentucky Star barn quilt, the historic Samuel May House, the West Prestonsburg bridge and other area highlights, including a portrait of the state bird.

Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild member Bruce Austin demonstrated his antique sewing machines at the event, and Carl D. Perkins Job Corps students provided lunch for attendees. Activities included door prizes from vendors and the Nimble Thimble group, as well as a raffle of several items, including a handmade quilt created by the quilt guild.

Participating vendors included Sew Many Blessings of Huntington, West Virginia, Vintage Rose Fabrics and Quilting of Jenkins, Lil's Fabric Stash of South Portsmouth, Little Red Hen Quilt and Fabric Shop of Ashland, Jan's Fabric Shop of Salyersville, Blissfully Banged of Van Lear, Sew-N-Love Shoppe of Prestonsburg, Mom's Cotton Shop of Greenup and Blue Bee Quilting and Fabric of Harold.

The 2019 Quilters' Day Out will be held in Johnson County.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows  
Quilters from every Big Sandy county attended Quilters' Day Out at the Floyd County Extension Office on March 17.

## Floyd student, team earn state Governor's Cup honors

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD  
CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Floyd County School District strengthened its academic team programs this year, and it paid off in the state Governor's Cup competition recently.

At the event, held March 19 in Louisville, one Floyd County student

ranked among the top 10 students in two categories and, for what school district officials believe is the first time, a Floyd County team earned honors for its Community Problem Solving Team and has been invited to compete nationally.

Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble announced these honors in

a press release, reporting that Floyd Central High School student Kade Scott placed eighth in written assessments for Arts & Humanities and in General Knowledge at the Governor's Cup.

"The board team and I are very proud of this outstanding young man," his statement said, in part.

Kentucky Academic Association Conference Program Director Brenda Darnell estimated that 20,000 students competed in Governor's Cup.

Trimble also commended Scott's school for earning honors with its Community Problem Solving Team, which was the state runner-up at the event.

"We believe this is the first time a Floyd County team has reached this level and been invited to international competition in La Crosse, Wisconsin this June," Trimble said. "The team, wanting to raise awareness about heart health after the death of a beloved community member, partnered with Appalachian

Regional Hospital to have blood pressure screenings and informational pamphlets at a basketball game, partnered with the school drama and media departments in creating audio and video public service announcements and held a meeting for a walking club. This team is committed to helping

See HONORS, Page 11A

Floyd Central High School student Kade Scott placed eighth in Arts & Humanities and in General Knowledge at the Governor's Cup competition in Louisville recently.



Submitted photo



Submitted photo

Floyd Central High School's Community Problem Solving Team earned a runner-up spot at the Governor's Cup competition recently and have been invited to compete nationally. Members include, left to right: Lindsay Caudill, Chloe Watson, Reece Terry, Savannah Price, Sahara Little, Isabella Stewart, Kelli Thomas. Not pictured: Victoria Sexton.

# Riverview

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# Community calendar

- March 28; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Women of the Bible Quilt Group meets, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668
- March 28; 3:30 p.m.: After School Crafts, Prestonsburg library. (606) 886-2981
- March 29; 7 p.m.: Front Porch Pickin', Mountain Arts Center. Free admission.
- March 29; 6:30 p.m.: Free movie night, "Justice League," Prestonsburg library.
- March 30; 6 p.m.: Prestonsburg Easter Egg Hunt, Stonecrest Little League Fields.
- March 31; 10:30 a.m.: Trail of Peter Rabbit Treasure Hunt, Prestonsburg library. (606) 886-2981
- March 31; 12 p.m.: Drive-Thru Passion Play; Prestonsburg Church of God
- March 31; 2 p.m.: Wheelwright Easter Egg Hunt, park near the city swimming pool.
- March 31; 2 p.m.: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park Easter Egg Hunt, campground.
- April 1; 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m.: Trinity Harvest Church, a non-denominational church located at 220 South Mayo Trail, Pikeville, invites the public to Celebrate Easter with three services, open to any person, re-

- gardless of background, church history or beliefs. (606) 437-2600
- April 2-3; 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Kindergarten registration open in all Floyd County elementary schools.
- April 2; 6 p.m.: Allen City Commission meets.
- April 3: AARP Tax aides available at Prestonsburg library.
- April 3; 7 p.m.: Tuesday Night Songwriters Scene, Mosby's. (606) 886-1341
- April 5; 4:30 p.m.: Appalachian Hospice Care hosts free grief support group meetings on at 1520 Ky. Rt. 1428 in Hager Hill and 1414 North Mayo Trail, Pikeville. (606) 789-3841
- April 6; 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Big Sandy Community & Technical College and University of Pikeville to host Leading Ladies Conference; Johnson Building, Room 102. (606) 889-4711
- Every Tuesday; 5 p.m.: Game Night, Prestonsburg library
- 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. ayngeleasteven.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 Monday, 6 p.m.: Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, Eastern Library
- 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

## Ireland Skye Boyd



Submitted photo  
Ireland Skye Boyd, daughter of Lewis and Madonna Boyd, and little sister of Carrigan Elise Boyd, of Prestonsburg, was born Tuesday, February 13, 2018. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

### HONORS

Continued From Page 10A

their community learn about heart problems and how to prevent them."

Chloe Watson, freshman team member said being a part of the team gave her a new outlook.

"Through this process I've developed a new perspective about my community. It's rewarding to think we are helping our friends and neighbors with one of the big challenges in our community," she said.

Team member Lindsay Caudill shared similar comments.

"This project made

me realize just how much little things can affect you," she said. "Even drinking more water or lowering your sodium intake can help you avoid heart problems."

Caudill continued, "I find it amazing that so many people don't know this and it's our mission to inform them."

Trimble thanked coaches, parents and the community for supporting academic team students.

"We're very proud of our academic team students and are excited to see more and more of our kids being competitive at the state level in academics," he said.

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## Lady Jaguars fall to Lady Commodores

By **STEVE LEMASTER**  
SPORTS WRITER

EASTERN — Floyd Central remained in the loss column earlier in the week as visiting Perry Central pulled away to

win 15-0 in five innings in an early-season high school softball game on Monday.

With the loss, Floyd Central fell to 0-4.

Perry Central moved to 3-0 with the win.

The Lady Jaguars faced tough pitching throughout the early-season matchup. One of the top teams in the neighboring 14th Region, Perry Central excelled defensively as well as offen-

sively.

Perry Central pitcher Kim Hughes tossed a two-hitter and earned the win. Hughes recorded five strikeouts.

Floyd Central hurler Katie Conley took the

loss. Conley recorded three strikeouts.

The Lady Commodores took an early lead, plating one in the top half of the first inning.

After holding Floyd Central scoreless during

the home team's initial plate appearance, Perry Central took advantage of multiple Lady Jaguar errors to push across four runs in the top half of the second inning.

See **JAGUARS**, Page 2B



**ABOVE:** Floyd Central freshman Katie Moore made her way down the first base line after connecting on a Perry Central pitch.

**RIGHT:** Floyd Central eighth-grader Grace Martin connected on a pitch.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Steve LeMaster

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# Bobcats drop double-dip to Dawgs

By **STEVE LEMASTER**  
SPORTS WRITER

ALLEN — Betsy Layne faced the tough task of hosting 58th District newcomer Lawrence County for a doubleheader in the first week of the regular-season. Perennial 15th Region title contender Lawrence County swept Betsy Layne in the 58th District double-header winning 18-0 and 12-0 at Stumbo Park on Friday. Lawrence county pulled away to win each district game in five innings via the mercy rule.

More on each Betsy Layne-Lawrence County baseball matchup follows.

## Lawrence Co. 17, Betsy Layne 0

Lawrence County scored nine runs in the first inning and crossed home plate five more times in the second inning on its way to beating host Betsy Layne 17-0 in five innings in the opening game of a 58th District baseball doubleheader at Stumbo Park on Friday.

On the mound for Lawrence County, Tyler Maynard worked three innings and allowed only one hit. Maynard picked up the win.

Helping his pitching cause at the plate, Maynard provided two hits, two RBIs and three runs.

Brad Parks, Hunter Crum and Jarrett Fairchild also pitched for Lawrence County in the victory.

Austin Roe went two for two and added two RBIs for the Bulldogs. Parks (one double, one RBI, two runs), Peyton Cyrus (one hit, three runs), Bryce Blevins (one hit, one run, two RBIs), Jarrett Fairchild (one hit, two runs, two RBIs), Hunter Crum (one hit, one run, one RBI), Jackson Feltner (one hit, one run), Blue Fletcher (one hit, one run), Samuel Collinsworth (one hit) and Kade Sword (one run) also contributed offensively as the Bulldogs won convincingly.

Connor Newsome, Cameron Kimbler and Cameron Hughes split time on the mound for the Bobcats. Combined, the three Betsy Layne pitchers allowed 11 hits and 17 runs, seven of which were earned.

The Bobcats committed three errors in the setback.

## Lawrence Co. 12, Betsy Layne 0

Visiting Lawrence County pushed across seven runs in the second inning on its way to winning 12-0 in five innings over Betsy Layne in the finale of a 58th District baseball doubleheader at Stumbo Park on Friday.

With the loss, Betsy Layne stumbled to 0-3.

Lawrence County moved to 3-0 with the win.

Through three games, 58th District favorite Lawrence County has outscored opponents 43-7.

Lawrence County pitcher Jackson Feltner earned the win. Feltner worked three innings, registering six strikeouts and allowing only one hit.

Chipping in offensively and helping his pitching cause, Feltner scored one run.

Jacob Fletcher, Tyler Blackburn and Peyton Cyrus split time on the mound for Lawrence County over the last two innings.

The Bulldogs were limited to three hits. But defensive miscues from host Betsy Layne aided Lawrence County. The Bobcats committed seven errors in the setback.

Peyton Cyrus provided two of Lawrence County's three hits and scored two runs. Cyrus delivered a double for the Bulldogs.

Lucas Maynard accounted for Lawrence County's other hit. Maynard doubled and scored twice for the Bulldogs.

Austin Roe (two RBIs), Tyler Maynard (two RBIs, one run), Jarrett Fairchild (one RBI, one run), Hunter Crum (one RBI), Brad Parks (three runs) were each active offensively for the Bulldogs.

Working on the mound for Betsy Layne in the shutout loss were pitchers Kolby McGuire, Tyler Sanders, Byron Tackett and Zach Bentley.

Offensively for Betsy Layne, Sanders connected for a single.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Floyd Central pitcher Katie Conley delivered a pitch during the second inning of the Lady Jaguars' home game versus Perry Central on Monday.

## JAGUARS Continued From Page 1B

Following a scoreless third inning, Perry Central added another run in the fourth frame to move out in front 6-0.

Finishing strong, Perry Central erupted for nine runs in the top half of the fifth inning to take a commanding 15-0 lead.

Remaining in control, Hughes held Floyd Central in check in the bottom half of the fifth frame to allow Perry Central to win via the mercy rule.

The Lady Commodores scored 15 runs on 17 hits. Six different Perry Central players provided two or more hits.

Leadoff hitter Lexi Haddix led Perry Central at the plate, finishing four for four with two RBIs.

Following Haddix, Rani McIntyre was three for three with one RBI for the Lady Commodores.

Kamryn Noe, Kim Hughes and Jamie Pollard were each two for four with two RBIs for Perry Central in the victory.

Another offensive leader for the Lady Commodores, Katie Pigman, finished two for four with one RBI.

Offensive-heavy Perry Central finished with eight doubles, one triple and one home run.

Haddix, McIntyre and Hughes delivered two doubles apiece for the Lady Commodores. The highly productive Haddix finished a single short of hitting for the cycle.

Perry Central turned in an error-free performance in the field.

Conley and Martin accounted for Floyd Central's two hits in the setback.

Floyd Central committed five errors in the loss.

The Lady Jaguars were visiting Shelby Valley at press time on Tuesday.

## Paintsville 9, Floyd Central 4

Despite owning an advantage in the hits column, host Floyd Central couldn't fend off Paintsville in its third game in five days. Visiting Paintsville took advantage of 10 Floyd Central errors to defeat the Lady Jaguars in an early-season high school softball game on Friday.

New rivals, Floyd Central and Paintsville hail from neighboring districts.

With the loss, Floyd Central dropped to 0-3.

Paintsville moved to 3-0 with the win.

Prior to hosting Paintsville, Floyd Central had dropped back-to-back games earlier in the week. Pikeville blanked Floyd Central 22-0 in three innings in the Lady Jaguars' first-ever home game on Thursday.

Floyd Central edged Paintsville 7-6 in the hits column in Friday's match-up.

Paintsville pitcher Anna Keeton worked six-plus innings and earned the win. Keeton threw 28 first pitch strikes and registered five strikeouts.

Floyd Central hurler Katie Conley suffered the loss.

The Lady Tigers moved ahead first, plating a pair of runs in the top half of the opening inning. However, Paintsville found itself even with Floyd Central after the initial frame. The Lady Jaguars plated two runs of their own in the bottom half of the first inning to pull even.

Paintsville regained the lead in the top half of the third inning and never trailed again. The Lady Tigers pushed across

three runs in the visiting team's portion of the third inning to take a 5-2 lead.

Floyd Central was able to push one run across in the home half of the fourth frame.

Following a scoreless fifth inning, Paintsville added two runs over its final two plate appearances. The Lady Tigers scored three runs in the top half of the sixth inning.

Paintsville needed only six hits to manufacture nine runs.

Katelyn Fitch provided two RBIs while Keeton and Williams drove in one run apiece for the Lady Tigers. Fitch doubled for Paintsville in the non-district win.

Clara Blair was the only Paintsville player to turn in a multi-hit game. Blair led the Lady Tigers with two hits.

Paintsville overcame three errors to claim the victory.

The Lady Tigers remained in the win column after posting wins over Pike Central and Jackson City earlier in the week.

Floyd Central is slated to visit Paintsville for late-season high school softball game May 8.



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# Floyd County archery tournament

By STEVE LeMASTER  
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Betsy Layne Elementary School, Adams Middle School and Prestonsburg High School captured team titles during the annual Floyd County Archery Tournament held at AMS on Saturday.

Adams Middle School's Grant Stratton was the top overall male in the Floyd County Archery Tournament. Stratton turned in a 282.

Prestonsburg High School's Jillian Link was the top overall female in the Floyd County Archery Tournament. Link posted a 291.

In the high school division, tradition-rich Prestonsburg, which is preparing to compete in the state tournament, finished ahead of upstart Floyd Central and Betsy Layne.

Adams, which fielded two teams, set the pace in the middle school division, placing in front of Duff Allen Central, Betsy Layne, Adams 2 and Allen.

Betsy Layne won the elementary division as it finished ahead of Allen and Duff Allen Central.

Floyd Central owned the top two spots in the high school male division as Cole DeRossett (280) and Dalton Gearheart (276) placed first and second, respectively.

Link occupied the top spot in the high school female division while Betsy Layne's Brianna Rowe (273) placed second.

Stratton edged out Duff Allen Central's Draven Salyer (281) and Grant Hall (281) in the middle school male division.

Duff Allen Central's Savannah Smith (282) prevailed in the middle school female division, finishing ahead of teammate Kristian Goodman (277).

Betsy Layne's Chase Kidd (249) and Allen's Allen Dixon (246) finished 1-2 in the elementary male division.

Allen teammates Kaila Wright (248) and Hannah Lee (246) placed 1-2 in the elementary female division.

Young student-athletes from schools throughout Floyd County competed in the archery tournament.



Prestonsburg High School claimed the Floyd County Archery Tournament championship over the weekend.

Adams Middle School took the title in the annual Floyd County Archery Tournament held on Saturday.

photos courtesy of Blackcat Archery

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