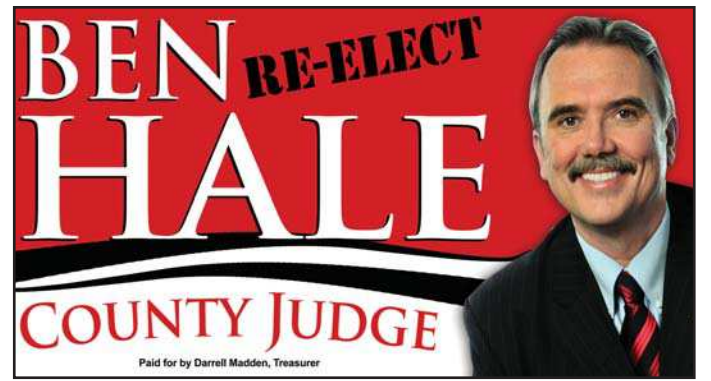




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CHRONICLE & TIMES

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

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Gearheart secures funding for Allen Police

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in years, the Allen Police Department qualifies for the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund.

Allen City Commission members praised the work of Police Chief Tommy Gearheart during an April 2 meeting. The city has been working to obtain this funding for years, and wasn't able to do so until Gearheart came on board and worked with state officials to file required documentation.

"That's pretty awesome," City Attorney Beth Shortridge said when Mayor Sharon Woods announced the department qualifies for the KLEFPF. "They've been working on that since I started."

"For years," Woods said.

Gearheart said a state official conducted an audit on the department, went through his time-keeping, record-keeping, department policies and his certifications so the department could qualify. He reported that he qualified for the Marshal

See FUNDING, Page 4A



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Allen Police Chief Thomas Gearheart was praised by city commissioners during the April 2 meeting of the Allen City Commission for securing funding through the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund.

Double Kwik opens in Prestonsburg

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

Local officials and community members celebrated the opening of Prestonsburg's newest Double Kwik loca-

tion at CentrePointe on Monday.

It is one of 42 stores — six of which are now in Floyd County — operated by Childers Oil, a family-owned

See OPENS, Page 7A



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Officials cut the ribbon to open the new Double Kwik location in Prestonsburg on Monday. The store opened to the public Tuesday.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
The new Prestonsburg Double Kwik features a mural of photographs by local photographers.

Annexation discussed; occupational tax off the table in Allen

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Allen City Commission continued its discussion about the annexation of businesses along Ky. 1428 last week, and it appears an occupational tax is off the table.

Annexation of businesses located along Ky. 1428, in Old Allen and toward the Martin

city limits has been discussed several times by the commission. On April 2, members addressed things the city needs to do before the annexation can move forward.

Commissioner Elmer Parsons asked City Attorney Beth Shortridge if she's made any progress.

She said she needs the city ordinance in which Ky. 1428 was an-

nexed by the city, so she can determine whether a new survey needs to be done for the new annexation.

"Yeah, I need the ordinance that took in the roadway," she said. "Because ... there should have been a map. The law requires there to be a survey done for that roadway, and I need to see how far the footage

is to see if we have an additional survey to take in the businesses."

But getting that ordinance may be a problem, Mayor Sharon Woods and Parsons explained. They said the Ky. 1428 annexation occurred in the 1950s and the city's ordinance is missing.

Woods suggested that Assistant City Clerk Bill Parsons may be able

to find it, but Parsons said there may be no map.

"He's already told me that they lost one between Allen and Martin," Parsons said. "So, as far as what we got is a sign up there that says, 'Welcome to Allen.'"

"I mean, there's no, there's no map back here that shows ... ?"

See ALLEN, Page 8A

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FCHS student selected for Craft Academy

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

A Floyd Central High School student was recently selected to join 60 other students from across the state at the Morehead State University's Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Math.

Floyd Central student Katlin Stumbo, daughter of Kayla and Nick Stumbo, is honored to be selected among the academy's Class of 2020.

Stumbo is the only student in Floyd, Johnson, Pike, Magoffin, Martin and Perry counties to earn the honor.

Students were selected based on ACT scores, academic grades from their first two years of high school, interest in advanced STEM careers, responses to application essay questions, interview by the Academy selection committee and recommendations from teachers and others who can attest to the student's need and preparedness for the program.

"Craft Academy welcomes its fourth class; the Class of 2020. These young people represent some of the best and brightest students in the Commonwealth who have an expressed interest in pursuing a STEM career," said Dr. Carol Christian, Craft Academy director. "Craft Academy and Morehead State University look forward in expanding the goals and aspirations of these students as they dedicate their academic efforts to Imagine, Invent and Impact, Kentucky and beyond."

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is geared to meet the "unique educational needs of academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors," a press release from MSU



Katlin Stumbo, Floyd Central

said.

"A college-level curriculum will allow students to finish high school while also completing up to two years of university coursework," it stated. "It will offer a residential college experience and environment to promote innovation and a creative enterprise, developing the full potential of the state's brightest minds and most promising future leaders."

At the end of the two years, students will have earned a minimum of 60 credit hours, finished high school and have the opportunity to further their education at MSU or transfer to any other college/university in Kentucky or elsewhere.

Other local students selected for the Craft Academy Class of 2020 include Lawrence County High School students Haley Roberts, daughter of Nancy Roberts and Charles Roberts; and Jacob Kessinger, son of Michael and Leah Kessinger.

We saved her life so she can help save yours.

Regina Baker, RN, has been an oncology nurse at PMC for 15 years. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2017. She completed chemotherapy treatments, then underwent a mastectomy and began reconstruction in June.

Regina is now cancer free.

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Floyd Chronicle and Times file photos

The Billie Jean Osborne Kentucky Opry will begin its summer season in June at the Mountain Arts Center.

MAC announces summer opry season

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Mountain Arts Center recently released the lineup for its signature concert series.

The 28th summer season of the Billie Jean Osborne's Kentucky Opry will begin on June 16 and continue every Saturday evening through Aug. 4, concluding with a special showcase featuring the Jr. Pros on Aug. 11. Shows will be performed in the Willard and Lucy

Kinzer Theater at the MAC.

Osborne launched the Opry more than two decades ago, holding performances at the local community college and elsewhere before the MAC was built and opened in 1996. The opry is now MAC's longest-running concert series, with series of concerts featuring dozens of musicians—and an in-house comedian—every summer and winter.

MAC officials reported opry members are currently pre-

paring for this season, developing themes and picking out medleys and songs that will be highlighted at these concerts.

"As usual, the antics of resident comedian Munroe will be in full force as he continues to pursue his dream of becoming the star of the show," the opry's press release said. The opry's Junior Pros—young musicians from throughout the region—will open every opry show.

Kentucky Opry producer

and emcee Clayton Case said in that release that the cast is eager to get back on stage.

"Coming back together to discuss details, create the new show, and rehearse gets everybody excited," Case said. "This cast and band never cease to amaze with the pure talent and work ethic they exhibit year after year."

Organizers will continue the MAC's newest tradition of inviting former opry members and local musicians to perform

with the opry. Special guests for the summer season include Brittany Tayler, Troy Burchett, Clarke Sexton, Nathan Arnett, Jason Gobles and others who will be announced at a later date. These special guests will perform on specific nights throughout the season.

Tickets range from \$12 to \$16 and can be purchased by visiting macarts.com or by calling, (888) MAC ARTS.

Home and Garden Expo to be held this weekend

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office is kicking off the spring season a Home and Garden Expo this weekend.

The free event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the extension office, located at 3490 Ky. Rt. 321 in Prestonsburg.

The expo will feature Floyd County Farmer's Market vendors, homemaker clubs that will offer demonstrations and

crafts, educational exhibits, informational resources, a kid's craft corner hosted by 4-H, and other activities. Items will also be given away to attendees, officials said.

Highlights of the day will include workshops hosted by local farmers and Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild members.

Dwight Slone, who has earned numerous awards for his giant pumpkin growing, will share a few tips about raising pumpkins during a workshop that will be

held from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

East Point resident Alan Moore, who grows blueberries, will present a workshop on blueberry

production from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Floyd County Homemaker Club member Brenda McKenzie, a member of the Nimble

Thimble Quilt Guild, and quilt guild member Janice Mitchell will offer workshops at 11 a.m. McKenzie will talk about paper piecing, while Mitchell will

share tips about using rotary cutters for speedy quilting.

For more information, call, (606) 886-2668.

Community calendar

- Through April 13: Pride Spring Cleanup; free tipping fees at Garth transfer station and with Prestonsburg Spring Cleanup pick-ups. Call (606) 886-9193 in the county; (606) 886-2335 in the city.

- April 11; April 11; 10 a.m.: Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center will host an informational session and sign up's on their Other Training Programs that are offered through Big Sandy Community & Technical College at the center located at 478 Meadows Branch Rd. Prestonsburg, KY. 606-433-2265

- April 11; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: The Wool Club meets, Floyd County Extension office. (606) 886-2668

- April 11; 1 p.m.: Story Time, Eastern Library. (606) 377-2860

- April 11, 5 p.m.: Wheelwright City Commission meets, city hall. (606) 452-4202

- April 11-12; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Big Sandy Community & Technical College, Pikeville, to host underground mine retraining. (606) 218-1228

- April 12, 12 p.m.: Floyd County Communities Against

Drug Addiction meets at Prestonsburg First Presbyterian Church

- April 13-14: TVS Productions presents John C.C. Mayo, written by John H. (Butch) Preston, Mountain Arts Center. School matinees are at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on April 13; showtime for the public is 7 p.m. both days. (606) 886-9125

- April 14; 9 a.m. to noon: Floyd County Extension Office to host Home and Garden Show Expo, with Farmer's Market vendors, homemaker clubs, educational exhibits and presentation, 4-H youth activities and items for sale and demonstrations. Free admission

- April 14; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Volunteers sought for Park Day cleanup at the Middle Creek National Battlefield. Please bring your own equipment. Lunch, refreshments provided. T-shirts will be given to volunteers as supplies last.

- April 14; 2 p.m.: For-nite Battle Royale, Prestonsburg library. (606) 886-2981

- April 16; 3:30 p.m.: Mommy and Me Sewing Class, Prestonsburg Library. (606) 886-2981

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FUNDING

Continued From Page 1A

service recently — a certification that allows the city to meet its requirements — and reported that he underwent criminal justice training when

he was hired.

He pointed out, “It’s actually, what we went through initially was to certify the city so, you know, if we ever hire someone else, the city’s already certified. Once that officer is certified, or they’re already certified, or they’re already coming in as certified, then they’ll automatically pick

up the KLEFPF once their training’s active and maintained.”

“That’s awesome,” Shortridge said again.

“It’s great,” Woods said. “But we had somebody that knew what to do.”

The fund, administered through the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety

Cabinet’s Department of Criminal Justice Training, is offered to police officers across the state who meet requirements. It comes from a portion of the revenues raised by the state’s surcharge on casualty insurance premiums and is geared to help police officers get training they are

required to have.

Gearheart told commissioners that he’s been working on a policy manual for the department and will bring it to the commission so it can be reviewed and adopted it at a later date. He said he’s been using model policies the Kentucky League of Cities provides to its members to update that policy.

These aren’t the only things he’s been doing to improve the Allen Police Department since he came on board last year. He requested an evidence locker that can be secured to the walls and works closely with other law enforcement officers and the neighborhood watch group in New Allen. Another noticeable change are the Kentucky State Police troopers that

he said “volunteer” there frequent the Allen City Hall, from which they are able to file their reports to Post 9 in Pikeville.

Gearheart, who also works at the U.S. District Courthouse in Pikeville, told the commission that he knows of an employee there who wants to volunteer to be on the police force in Allen.

“I’ve got one guy, at least, that’s a certified officer right now,” he said. “He’s kind of looking at wanting to volunteer some. This is a guy that actually works at marshal security with me, so that’s one possibility.”

Woods said she would check with the city’s insurance carrier, Elite Insurance, to determine whether a volunteer officer would be covered by the city’s policy.

“It’d be a good thing,” Gearheart said. “He wants to come in, maybe five, 10 hours a week at the most and do some volunteer stuff. And since he’s certified, he can be sworn and he’s academy-trained, spent 10 years full time.”

Commissioner Eilene Kinzer asked if volunteers officers worked before with Gearheart. He explained that Kentucky law allows certified auxiliary officers to work with police departments.

After the meeting, Gearheart said getting the city certified for KLEFPF wasn’t difficult. It just took a “lot of leg work,” he said. He reported this program should provide \$3,000 annually that he can use for training.

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EDITORIAL:

Government must change how it's dealing with public employees, public

From legislature to governor's office, this week is vital opportunity to make things right

It's apparent that people, in large numbers, are dissatisfied and distrustful of the governmental bodies elected to represent them. From the local to the federal level, it's difficult to deny that people simply don't believe government acts in the best interests of the people, but instead in the interests of a party or self-interest.

And the way things have gone in Kentucky over the past few weeks hasn't exactly instilled a newfound confidence in those elected at that level.

The good: For the first time in a long time, the Kentucky legislature took action to deal with a growing pension crisis. The bad: The legislature and

Gov. Matt Bevin botched the passage by inserting it as a last-minute amendment on a completely unrelated bill.

It passed, but not without raising the ire of educators and other public employees, and, likely, not without escaping the course of judicial review of the measure.

Added to that was the passage of House Bill 366, which made several cuts to agencies, including education, and House Bill 200, which made changes to tax structures that are still being assessed and not universally seen as positive. Beyond that is the fact that State Budget Director John Chilton informed Bevin via letter on

Friday that the measures likely overstate, by as much as \$50 million, how much revenue would be created. Part of the problem: Chilton's office just began examining the bill April 2, the same day it was approved.

Thankfully, Bevin announced Monday he will veto House Bill 200 and House Bill 366. And we're glad that he's taking a chance to, at least potentially, right that rushed wrong.

The pension bill, however, obviously needs to be worked on, because it lacked the one vital thing the other two measures did as well — a lack of input from anyone who will be

affected by it.

The holdup on the budget and tax bills are a good start, but there's now another level of trust that's been lost.

When, as in these situations, there is an unwillingness on both sides to even let the word "compromise" escape their lips, that's not a call for unilateral action, even though that may be the primary impulse of the side with the greatest balance of power.

Instead, it's a reason for a much more concerted and dedicated effort to bring all sides to the table to work out the issues, no matter how much time it takes.

There's too much at stake

for this to remain unresolved. There's not going to be a way to make every person satisfied with so many issues on the table. But we'll never know how much can be resolved if we don't listen to each other's voices.

And that these issues focus most heavily on education makes this about more than just some numbers on a balance sheet or line item on a budget. It's about our children, their futures and, in a greater sense, the future of our state.

And that should be a reason for us to work to not just get it done, but to get it done correctly.

LETTERS:

Thankful for healing

My name is Randy Powers. I'm a lifelong citizen of Floyd County and a long-time reader of your newspaper. I don't have a big news story or an advertisement of my candidacy for a political office. What I do want to tell you is the absolute truth.

You see, on April 15, 1988, I married the love of my life, Sherry Fannin Powers. This coming Sunday, April 15, 2018, will be our 30th wedding anniversary. Over the past few years, she and I have had some serious health problems. But last year, after finding a lump in

her breast, my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. It felt like all the air in the room left me. All I could do is look at my wife and fight back the tears. Then she reached out her hand and put it on my cheek and said, "I'm gonna be alright honey. I've got faith God will be right here with me." I was completely in awe of her. Here she had just learned she has the type of cancer that take so many women from this earth way to oyoung and she is consoling me.

After the diagnosis, we

went to Huntington, West Virginia, to the cancer center there where she had a lumpectomy done. Then for the next several months, at the Highlands Cancer Center, she had nine rounds of chemo therapy and 38 rounds of radiation. During this entire time, she never once wavered on her faith. She never took a pain pill and the only tears she shed is when her hair started falling out. I remember she turned and looked at me and the tears were running down her cheek. That's when I put my hand on her

cheek and said, "Hair or no hair, you'll always be my gal."

Today, thanks be to the good Lord above and for all the physicians and nurses that have attended my wife, she is now cancer-free.

When I took the time to reflect on our marriage, we've been through some rough patches. I've battled chronic pancreatitis for several years now along with gastroparesis, and she's battled cancer not once, but twice; she was diagnosed early in our marriage with cervical cancer, and, by

God's grace, beat it both times. The doctors said she could never get pregnant. Once again, the good Lord blessed us with a beautiful daughter on December 31, 1997, Sanay Danielle Powers, and she is attending Big Sandy Community and Technical College, where she is wanting to go into the social work field. It seems each time we have been dealt a rough blow, God has always blessed us in another way.

I can honestly say, every time I look into her beautiful blue eyes and tell her I

love her, I honestly and truly mean it. She is my world — my love — my best friend and when Calvin Setser, our marriage preacher, said, "Do you promise to have and to hold in sickness and in health, in good times and the bad, for as long as you shall live?" I meant it when I said, "Yes!"

I'm not sure if you'll print this in the paper but whoever reads this now knows there's a Floyd County man who just wants everybody to know he truly loves his wife. After 30 years of marriage, he still feels that tickle in his stomach when he gives his wife a kiss and never lets the last word be goodbye on the phone, but it's always, "I love you," because the future isn't promised so live and love every day.

Randy Powers,
Auxier

CHRONICLE & TIMES

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



"Slash" Akers

Larry Gene "Slash" Akers

Larry Gene "Slash" Akers, 69, of Martin, died Friday, April 6, 2018.

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

Willard Barnett

Willard Barnett, 91, formerly of Martin, died Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

Arrangements were under the direction of Sims Funeral Services of Harrodsburg.

Ocie Slone Black

Ocie Slone Black, 89, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

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

Norma Jean George Daniels

Norma Jean George Daniels, 88, died Saturday, April 7, 2018, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

She was born at East Point, June 22, 1929, the daughter of the late Sammie and Lyda Burchett George.

She was a beloved sister and wife.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse Daniels; one

son, Samuel Daniels; and two sisters, Pauline Burton and Loretta Williams.

She is survived by one son, Lloyd Michael Daniels; one sister, Joann George; and several nieces and nephews.

She was loved and will be missed by many.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at the Carter Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Bill Collins officiating. Burial will follow at the Gethsemane Gardens, Prestonsburg. Arrangements are under the direction of the Carter Funeral Home of Prestonsburg.

The guestbook may be signed at www.carterfuneralhomeky.com.

This is a paid obituary.

Barbara Dunn

Barbara Dunn, 83, of Auxier, died Friday, March 30, 2018, at her son's residence, Fairview, N.Car.

She is survived by three children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 21, 2018, at St. Martha's Catholic Church.

Obituary courtesy of Asheville Mortuary Services of Asheville, N.Car.

Memorial contributions may be made to

the Floyd County Animal Shelter or to the World Wildlife Foundation.

This is a paid obituary.

Walter Fred Gayheart

Walter Fred Gayheart, 89, of Harold, died Monday, April 9, 2018.

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

Gary Wayne Hall

Gary Wayne Hall, 69, of Berea, formerly of Betsy Layne, died Friday, Apr. 6, 2018.

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



June Howard Stephens Hall

June Howard Stephens Hall, 90, of Pyramid, died Saturday, April 7, 2018, at Mountain Manor, Paintsville.

She was born in

Floyd County, Sept. 15, 1927, the daughter of the late Ellis and Lula Prater Howard. Both of her parents died early in her childhood. She and her five siblings were raised by their uncle Graydon Howard and his wife, Julia Prater Howard, sister of their mother.

She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pikeville and her Master's degree and Rank 1 from Morehead State University. She started her teaching career at the age of 18 at Spurlock Creek Elementary. She continued to teach and guide young children in Floyd County at Bush Creek Elementary and Clark Elementary with additional work in the head start program. She finished her lifelong commitment as an educator as a reading consultant with the Floyd County Board of Education.

In addition to her parents and adoptive parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, George P. Stephens; her second husband, Adrian Hall; two brothers, James Lowell Howard and James Lawrence Howard; one sister, Goldie Howard Stephens; and three special cousins, Clara Howard Stephens, Bryan Howard and Glad-

ys Howard Shepherd.

She is survived by one son, Dana Miles Stephens (Monica Gerkins Thompson); two sisters, Mildred Howard Whitaker and Bobby Howard Hale Prater; two grandchildren, Celia Leigh Stephens Gregory (Yancey) and Miles Lawson Stephens; a stepdaughter, Summer Diane Thompson; and a special cousin, Priscilla Howard Allen.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel with Clinton Deane Moore and Jimmy Hall officiating. Burial will follow at the Howard Family Cemetery, Pyramid. Arrangements are under the direction of the Hall Funeral Home of Martin.

The guestbook may be signed at www.hallfuneralservice.com.

This is a paid obituary.

Timmy Douglas Hall Jr.

Timmy Douglas Hall Jr., 36, of Grethel, died Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

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

Milford Johnson

Milford Johnson, 85, of McDowell, died Sun-

day, April 8, 2018.

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

Nellie Jane Mullins

Nellie Jane Mullins, 80, of Hi Hat, died Sunday, April 8, 2018.

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

"MC" Robinson

Milam Carl "MC" Robinson

Milam Carl "MC" Robinson, 67, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, April 7, 2018.

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

"Bessie" Stumbo

Mary Elizabeth "Bessie" Stumbo

Mary Elizabeth "Bessie" Stumbo, 80, of Martin, died Saturday, April 7, 2018.

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

John D. Tufts

John D. Tufts, 94, of Wayland, died Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

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

Prestonsburg tourism bids Pearson farewell

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Prestonsburg Tourism Commission members gave glowing remarks about their outgoing director this week.

At an April 10 meeting, Mitchell Pearson was commended for all of the things he has helped the tourism commission and Prestonsburg accomplish since he became director in January 2016.

Since then, Pearson has led Prestonsburg Tourism through several changes, including the adoption of its new name, logo, website and its' recently-launched #feeltheburg social media tag. Commission members thanked Pearson for helping Prestonsburg improve its brand

and marketing and for bringing tourists into the city.

"Mitchell, I want to tell you I appreciate you," Chairman Jim Ousley said. "One of my employees told me one time to judge what you've done by how you left it, and it is a lot better than it was when you came. I appreciate you, and I know the board appreciates you and I want to thank you."

Commissioner Julian Slone credited Pearson with changing the agency's direction.

"He's come in and changed the direction, changed and updated the way we do things," Slone said. "It's brought notoriety to Prestonsburg that I'm very happy to be a part of. I'm very happy with where we're going. And he did exactly

what he told us he was going to do when we interviewed him."

Farewell comments from Brooke Lemonds, the administrative assistant who works closely with Pearson, came with a few tears from her and Pearson.

"Me and Mitchell have become really, really close. I'm going to try not to cry," she said. "But, thanks for taking me on with stride. You helped me find my passion, and I've learned so much about myself and about what loving a community really is about. Even when times were tough, you held your head up and you kept going, and you did everything that you told them that you were going to do before I even showed up on the scene."

She continued, "I've gotten to take the ride with you and it's been the coolest, craziest ride, but the most rewarding thing I've done in my life, besides my child, honestly. Thank you for coming to Prestonsburg."

Commissioner Cliff Latta presented Pearson with a painting by Corbin Fouts that features

Prestonsburg icons, like the West Prestonsburg bridge and Pearson's own #feeltheburg creation.

Pearson thanked the commission members.

"My success really came from you all allowing me to have the opportunity to showcase what I have inside me," he said. "We've had road blocks. We've had hiccups, but you supported me and I did everything I could for your all's best interest and the community of Prestonsburg as well, whether popular or not. But I'm proud of what I've accomplished and I'm proud of who I am and you all really gave me such an awesome experience ...and I hope that my next board will be as supportive and as open-minded as you all are."

In other business, the commission also:

- Learned from Eastern Kentucky Science Center Director Steve Russo that the center will host science camps for students on Wednesdays in June and July and free Astronomy Day activities on April 21.
- Approved bills and the financial report,



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Prestonsburg Tourism Director Mitch Pearson laughs as Commissioner Cliff Latta presents him with a painting by Corbin Fouts at an April 10 meeting. The painting is a farewell present for Pearson, whose last day is April 13. Chairman Jim Ousley is also pictured, right.

showing \$20,600 in bills paid and \$63,600 in taxes paid to the Mountain Arts Center (\$16,300); Prestonsburg Parks Commission (\$20,700), StoneCrest (\$5,000), the tourism commission (\$20,700) and an administrative fee of \$800 to Prestonsburg. Pearson reported the agency is still waiting on matching grant funds of \$16,200 that should be paid in June.

• Reported that the Levisa Fork Paddlefest will begin May 26.

• Assigned a request for \$2,000 funding for a Hospice race to the grant committee.

• Discussed the possibility of adding meeting minutes, audits and other things to the commission's website to improve transparency, a recommendation made by Latta.

CSBG Grant Application Available for Public Review

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program has made an application for funding under the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) with the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services. This 2019 grant application will be available for public review the week of April 11, 2018, at the agency's central office in the Johnson County Courthouse, 230 Court Street, Paintsville, as well as at any of the agency's county service offices in Floyd, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike counties, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Interested parties may call (606) 789-3641 with questions or for additional information.

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Could protesting teachers be returning to Frankfort on Friday?

By MARK MAYNARD
KENTUCKY TODAY

Gov. Matt Bevin referred to the Kentucky Education Association, not the teachers who belong to the union, as the problem during his Monday press conference announcing he was vetoing the budget and tax reform bills.

Nevertheless, when lawmakers return to Frankfort on Friday to consider overrides to the governor's veto actions, they could be facing more protesting teachers, much like the massive showing on March 30 when thousands came to the Capitol to make their voices heard.

The Jefferson County teachers union said in a Facebook post that teachers with available personal days should take Friday off and travel to Frankfort for a protest. The post did say it would "not be

appropriate to use a sick day for this purpose."

Pike County Strong, a public education advocacy group, is asking its teachers to call in sick Thursday night so schools could close Friday and allow teachers to take their protest to Frankfort.

"Teachers on Thursday night need to start calling in with that sewer flu so that (Pike County Superintendent) Mr. Adkins can cancel school Friday and get us there," said Megan Smith, a Belfry Middle School teacher, in the group's video announcement.

The "sewer flu" refers to Senate Bill 151 that originally dealt with sewer regulations that was overhauled into a state pension system bill.

The storm seems to be brewing across the state.

Bevin made it clear in his press conference that a teacher walkout would be "illegal"

and "a mistake."

"It's illegal for them to strike in this state. I would not advise that, I wouldn't, I think it would be a mistake," he said.

Bevin insisted it wasn't the teachers but the KEA where the problem exists.

"The issue isn't the teachers. Teachers want to teach their children," Bevin said. "The KEA has been a problem."

In a statement, KEA President Stephanie Winkler bristled at the suggestion that the union is the problem.

"KEA is 45,000 women and men who serve in every community in Kentucky, supporting and training our children for the jobs they will do when they take their places in the adult world. KEA members live, work and pay taxes in every community in this state," Winkler said.

"If the governor wants to work with job creators and taxpayers' why does he insist

on insulting so many people who do both?"

The KEA has not asked for a walkout or sickout on Friday but teachers across the state are becoming frustrated.

The union encouraged teachers to return to work Monday and for people to "wear red for public ed."

Following Bevin's morning press conference, they are now asking teachers to call legislators and tell them to override the vetoes.

"The Governor's veto of a budget that includes hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue dedicated to public education is nothing short of reprehensible because it will harm every public school student in our Commonwealth," Jefferson County Teachers Association President Brent McKim said in a statement. "On behalf of the 6,000 dedicated public school educators JCTA represents,

we call on the members of the General Assembly to do the right thing for the children of our Commonwealth by overriding the Governor's budget and revenue vetos."

The KEA said in a Facebook statement they agreed with Bevin that House Bill 200 and House Bill 366 are far from perfect.

"But instead of sending the legislature back to square one and forcing a special session that the citizens of Kentucky should not have to pay for, the Governor should sign both bills and begin doing now what he should have been doing all along: engaging the legislature and the people of Kentucky in constructive, forward-looking, bipartisan discussions aimed at finding new solutions to the revenue challenges facing the Commonwealth."

OPENS

Continued From Page 1A

business that started 52 years ago in Letcher County and built its first 24-hour convenience store in 1977.

"It's a great addition to Prestonsburg," said Franklin D. Fitzpatrick, who leased two acres of property at CentrePointe to Childers Oil for the company's new location. The store sits between O'Reilly Auto Parts, which opened last year, and Citizens National Bank. A road has been constructed to both of those areas of the development, and Fitzpatrick said he met with transportation cabinet officials last week to discuss the possibility of expanding that road to nearby Archer Park.

The new Prestonsburg Double Kwik features the company's first drive-through, officials said, and it employs 35 people.

Construction on the 5,070 sq. ft. store start-

ed in Aug. 2017, and it opened Tuesday with a full-service drive-through, a seating area back-dropped with a mural of photographs from local photographer Kaye Willis and others, counter kiosks for customer orders, a smoothie bar and Uptown Coffee. Rustic wood panels decorate the interior of the building.

Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton and Floyd County Judge-Executive Ben Hale praised Childers Oil for its expansion.

"We've been struggling on this side of town for quite some time, trying to get things in place...and this is a great asset to the city," Stapleton said. "Ninety percent of the people come into town here on (Rt.) 114, and it's going to give them something to fuel up on. It's going to give them a reason to stop off (US) 23, get fuel, and then start looking around."

Talking about how Childers Oil founder Don

Childers helped raised his family when he worked for a food delivery company, Hale said Floyd County is "tickled" that Double Kwik opened its new location in Prestonsburg.

"They're special people. They're great to work with. You won't find a better entrepreneur coming into your area," Hale said.

Don and Peggy Childers opened Childers Oil Company in Whitesburg in 1966, specializing in providing bulk petroleum to retail and industrial companies. Childers Oil opened its first 24-hour convenience store in 1977, and has since expanded that part of the business to 42 locations.

It is still family-owned and operated, with Don Childers' youngest daughter, President Missy Matthews, in the lead. She said her father still works every day and can often be found in the company's diesel mechanic shop.

"Local people and 50

years," he said, answering a question about how his company became successful. "It's been spent doing our thing. You know, we didn't venture too far away from what we knew how to do."

When the company opened, he said he didn't know whether it would be successful. The first store that opened in the 1970s is "still going strong today," he said.

He jokes that "I just mostly take up space and hang around" the business.

"Don't let him fool you," Matthews said. "He works 10 hours a day and he'll be 87 this year."

She said Childers is "always been the first one at work and the last one to leave."

"I would strongly rec-

ommend that," she said, when asked for advice for small business owners. "A lot of businesses you work with nowadays, they take that freedom of owning their own business to having a lot of time off. And, he never took a lot of time off. That wasn't a sacrifice that he chose."

Childers said working like that takes dedication.

"It's dedication," he said. "If you want to keep people in work, you've got to be dedicated to what you're doing and stay put."

Matthews said her father has "always remained humble" about his success, saying she's learned a lot about running a business from him.

"He's very active and he loves to be involved," she said. "He doesn't

have a hobby, so he loves to work. We have a lot of employees that have been with us a long, long time, and, so he loves to come and be with him."

The Prestonsburg Double Kwik is open 24 hours a day and its drive through is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and until midnight on weekends.

Fitzpatrick said his property management company is in talks with other businesses that are interested in moving to CentrePointe. The Double Kwik lease was negotiated over a period of about six years, he previously reported.

Double Kwik already operates another store in Prestonsburg and stores in Martin, Allen, Ivel and Harold in Floyd County.

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Ky Democrats applaud Gov. Bevin for blocking budget and tax bills

By PHILLIP M. BAILEY
AND THOMAS NOVELLY
LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL

The Kentucky Democratic Party sided with Republican Gov. Matt Bevin on his decision to veto the entire tax reform bill and budget proposal — but for different reasons.

Bevin scolded the General Assembly on the need for “fiscal responsibility” during a 40-minute press conference on

Monday. He said the state still faces a financial crisis and that lawmakers “came up short” on the two measures.

“The Republican-proposed tax bill increased taxes on the working class of Kentucky and the budget bill continues the war on public education,” said Ben Self, chairman of the state Democratic Party, in a statement. “Instead of passing a bad bill behind closed doors at the last minute with no public input,

we need to focus on bills that help the working class not the 1 percent.”

Legislators estimated the tax bill they approved a week ago would raise \$487 million in additional revenue during the 2018-20 budget period. That revenue was critical in providing the money needed for lawmakers to pass a budget bill that avoided deep cuts to public schools and other parts of state government — cuts proposed by Bevin last January.

But Bevin slammed the legislature’s efforts on several fronts, including how it has roughly \$600 million more in spending than the plan he recommended and for lacking sufficient emergency funding.

Democratic state Sen. Morgan McGarvey of Louisville said state leaders “have to find funding” and urged in a tweet for his colleagues to do so in a bipartisan way. Both the budget and tax bills passed exclusively with

Republican votes.

McGarvey also urged lawmakers to put a casino gaming measure on the ballot and approve medicinal marijuana as a revenue source. Bevin has rejected both of those ideas in the past.

McGarvey tweeted the budget and tax bills were “written in total secrecy and passed without time for meaningful consideration or debate. I truly hope we can do better this week.”

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ALLEN Continued From Page 1A

Shortridge asked.

Parsons said, “It disappeared out of that ordinance book.”

He was talking about an ordinance book that Allen officials reported in 2016 had went missing.

“Well, there should have been something filed,” Shortridge said. Annexations are filed with the county and state. They are also supposed to be published in the county’s newspaper of record.

Shortridge said she also needs a list of all property owners in the area proposed for annexation so they can be notified.

“We should be able to do that,” Woods said.

Police Chief Thomas Gearheart said people in New Allen have expressed a desire to be annexed. Shortridge pointed out the city could do a consensual annexation if property owners agree, prompting a response from visitor Dr. Lee Boyd, who owns a dentist office in New Allen.

“That’s why I’m here, to hear what’s going on,” Dr. Boyd said. “The business owners I talked to really aren’t for it, so.”

Woods said she’s heard both “likes and dislikes” about it.

“What they really want to know is what can be offered to them if they do come in,” she said. “I know they have that (neighborhood) watch over there. But they can’t provide what we could provide once they come in. We would have the law. You just wouldn’t have to call for the police to come to you, you know. He could go ahead and do it. But, we’ll get a meeting going and we’ll go through the questions and answers and it’s entirely up to you, you know. We don’t want to try to push nothing on nobody.”

Boyd said that’s what he was “kind of curious about.”

“Because from what I’m understanding, it could actually be pushed on us without us being allowed to vote,” he said.

“No, no no,” Woods said.

Commissioner Josh Kinzer told Dr. Boyd, however, his statement is true because the business owners may not be the property owners who are entitled to vote if annexation is put on the ballot.

“That’s why I’m concerned,” Dr. Boyd said.

Kinzer told him, however, that he would have the “opportunity to fight it.”

Woods said Allen wants “to do what’s best, not just for Old Allen, but everybody.”

“We try to do what’s right,” she said.

She and Parsons suggested that if New Allen isn’t annexed by Allen, it will be annexed by Prestonsburg.

“See, from what I can understand, the City of Prestonsburg is just waiting to see what we do because they’re wanting to move in and go all the way to that Appalachian Wireless and R&S company (in Ivel), and everything over here,” Parsons said. “If they take over, then you’ll have to have a permit to hang a picture on the wall.”

“Or drive a nail,” Woods said.

Woods said she has “fought tooth and nail” for a “good six years” to keep Prestonsburg from annexing New Allen.

“They was already to Dwale and we moved them back,” Parsons said. “But now, there’s the dilemma we got ... And if Prestonsburg takes over, every homeowner over there will pay city taxes. That’s something they got to look at. We don’t care one way or the other.”

Woods and Parsons said they’d “hate to see that happen.”

Shortridge presented an occupational tax ordinance, telling commissioners that because of the city’s size it cannot implement a percentage-based occupational tax. She said it would have to be a flat license fee rate that is paid once.

Kinzer voiced opposition to it.

“Personally, I thought about it a lot. I just don’t know if I can support a new tax on the people,” he said. “Because, the business license thing is one thing, because you’re participating in the market, you’re getting something out of it. What this is just taxing any worker, here, right?”

“Right,” Shortridge said, pointing out that she drafted the ordinance because she was asked to do so at the last meeting.

“Let’s just hold that,” Woods said.

Commissioner Eilene Kinzer said officials should “talk to the town” before they move forward.

'Perfect storm' leads to painful cuts at EKU

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

RICHMOND — The Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents on Friday announced the termination of 153 full-time positions, the closure of a regional campus and the elimination of two athletic teams to try and recoup \$25 million in recurring costs mostly due to the state funding cuts and pension increases.

"It truly is a perfect storm and financial reckoning the likes of which EKU has never seen in its long and storied history," said EKU President Michael Benson. "The reality of recouping \$25 million is daunting, and our scarce resources simply cannot support every program we have in the past."

A Budget Advisory Committee, appointed by Benson and representing a cross-section of the campus community, developed its recommendations based on several key strategies:

- Finding increased revenue through new online baccalaureate degrees.
- Elimination of a vice presidential position and other ad-

ministrative roles.

- A return by athletics to 2013-14 funding levels in line with other Ohio Valley Conference institutions. The University's men's and women's tennis teams were eliminated. Athletics, which shouldered the largest percentage of the total budget cuts, will launch a women's beach volleyball program, a move that is expected to be revenue-neutral.

- Closure of the University's regional campus in Danville.

- Employee reduction of 153 full-time positions, to include 96 filled positions, 57 vacant positions and an additional 37 retirement transition program-partial lines.

- Suspension or transition of academic programs.

In all, the committee recommended hundreds of cost-reduction strategies, with yields ranging from approximately \$1 million to \$300. The Board accepted all but one of the strategies, choosing to table discussions regarding the suspension of the specialist degree in school psychology until its June meeting to discuss a possible transition to an online or hybrid format.

The suspended programs, identified because of enrollment trends, degrees awarded, potential growth and, in one case, changing professional requirements, are:

- Theatre, two certificates and two minors. It was noted that the School of Music will continue to produce a musical each academic year, and that a theatre club may be established.

- Economics, BA degree and minor. General education and support courses will be retained.

- Associate Degree Nursing, ASN degree. The program has been successful; however, in light of performance-based funding criteria, the University is reducing stand-alone associate degree programs. Because most high-acuity hospitals in the region require a bachelor's degree within two years of hire, Eastern is prioritizing growth of its baccalaureate degree nursing program.

- Nursing and Nursing Administration, MSN degree concentration only.

- Family and Consumer Sciences Teaching, BS degree.

- Exercise and Sport Sci-

ence (Physical Education), Physical Education and Health/Teaching, BS concentrations.

- Deaf Studies, BA degree. More students may pursue a bachelor's degree in American Sign Language as a result.

- American Sign Language Studies, MA degree, a degree that was scheduled to begin in 2017 but enrolled no students.

- Risk Management and Insurance, BS degree, with students transitioning to a BBA degree in the same field.

- Business and Marketing/Teaching, BS degree, with a plan to develop a concentration in the general business degree.

- Chemistry, BA degree, with students moving to the BS degree program in chemistry.

- Mathematics Teaching, BS degree, with students transitioning to an option under the BS degree in Mathematics.

- Mathematical Sciences, MS degree, with students transitioning to the MA degree in Mathematics.

- Art/Design Studio and Sculpture, BFA concentrations.

- Religion, minor.

EKU will "teach out" each program to meet the educa-

tional needs of students currently pursuing a degree in all the affected programs.

"No plan is perfect, and we can only attempt to do our best," said Board Chair Craig Turner. "Unfortunately, we cannot cut our way out of the current situation. The ultimate answer is we must increase enrollment and optimize our most successful programs. Eastern Kentucky University is a great institution. It is our collective obligation to see that it remains that way."

Turner lamented the loss of jobs.

"There is no way to reach the University's financial obligations without a reduction in force," he said. "It is by far the most painful part of this process. Considering the magnitude of our financial shortfall, unfortunately, there is no choice but to reduce the number of employees at the University. It is by no fault of theirs that positions must be eliminated, but it is a brutal reality of the budgetary times in higher education."

Former governor, WWII veteran receive Spirit of Kentucky award

By Judy Owens
For Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON — Former Gov. Martha Layne Collins and Capt. Helen Evans are the recipients of the Spirit of Kentucky Award for Patriotism from the Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution.

Collins was the first and only female governor of Kentucky and is known for landing the Toyota Assembly Plant in Georgetown.

Evans was an early volunteer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, or WACS, and served in France and Germany during World War II.

The awards were conferred by State Regent Leslie Miller at the DAR State conference held in Lexington on March 31.

Born in Bagdad, Ky., Collins was an excellent student, with a strong interest in extracurricular activities. Her parents were active in local politics and she stuffed envelopes and accompanied her parents canvassing in local elections. After earning a degree in home economics at the University of Kentucky, she married Billy Collins and taught high school at Seneca and Fairdale.

Collins eventually became a candidate herself, first winning a race

for clerk of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, then defeating Republican Hal Rogers for lieutenant governor in 1979. In 1983, Collins was elected the first woman governor of the commonwealth. Her best-known achievement was landing the Toyota Assembly Plant. What is lesser known is her comprehensive education plan in 1985, which included a 5 percent pay raise for teachers, a reduction in class sizes in public schools and a plan to provide more equal funding for poorer school districts.

After leaving the Governor's Office, Collins served as president of Saint Catherine College, directed the International Business and Management Center at UK, and served as chairman of the Kentucky World Trade Center.

In 2011, Collins became a member of the Isaac Shelby Chapter of the DAR.

The Bluegrass Parkway was renamed for her in 2003 and the Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award was created to be given annually by Women Leading Kentucky.

Like Collins, Evans started her professional life as a University of Kentucky graduate and high school home economics teacher. Born on June 11, 1920 in Fortville, Indiana, she was

one of a group of young women who dared each other to apply for the newly created Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942.

Although she was only 21, Evans was accepted for Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She trained in army food service and served as the Office of the Quartermaster General inspector for state side WAC mess halls. By early 1945 she was assigned to the European Theatre of Operations with the Office of the Quartermaster General outside Paris, France. At the war's end, she was working along the banks of the Rhine where she was feeding German prisoners of war.

After the war, Evans was a senior training officer for the Veteran's Administration in Louisville until 1951. She held a number of posts in Frankfort, including director of the Lieutenant Governor's Mansion and director of the state meeting house. She has served as an executive officer of the Kentucky Mansions Preservation and Mary Todd Lincoln house since 1985.

A past regent of the Captain John Waller Chapter, Evans joined the DAR in 1948 and on April 17 she will be a 70-year member of the society. Her experience as a WAC is archived

as part of the Veterans History Project in the Library of Congress and at the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries.

In honoring these women, Miller, the state

regent, said: "Thomas Jefferson wrote to his friend George Wythe in 1786 that public education was the key to maintaining our democracy, saying that 'no other sure foundation can be devised for the pres-

ervation of freedom and happiness.' Perhaps no Kentucky citizen has better embodied the Jeffersonian combination of commitment to education and civic engagement than these honorees."

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SECTION 202 TOWN OF MARTIN EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD PROJECT FLOYD COUNTY, KENTUCKY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, by this Notice of Availability (NOA), advises the public that the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (DSEA) for the Town of Martin Emergency Access Road Project is complete and available for public review. The project is located in Floyd County, Ken-

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tucky. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is anticipated for the proposed project. A Draft FONSI is included with the DSEA for public review.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 40 CFR 1501.4, the DSEA 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 April 4, 2018. Copies of the documents may be viewed at the following location:

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Phone: (606) 886-2981

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Highland Heights and Cliffside Apartments do not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability or familial status.

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The documents may also be viewed at the following website: <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Missions/PublicRe->

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view.aspx. Copies of the DSEA and draft FONSI may be obtained by contacting the Huntington District Office of the

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Corps of Engineers at (304) 399-5924. Comments pertaining to the documents may be submitted by letter to:

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Ms. Rebecca Rutherford Chief, Environmental Analysis Section, Planning Branch
Huntington

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District Corps of Engineers 502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia
25701-2070



TIP OF THE WEEK:

Motorists who think trading in is the best way to unload their current cars can take various steps to improve the trade-in value prior to visiting the dealership. 1) Know the trade-in market. Drivers who want to get maximum value for their trade-ins may benefit by trading in a year or so earlier than they initially planned. 2) Address any issues. Dealerships will offer to tend to any repairs trade-ins may need, but that will come at a cost, which will be reflected in the trade-in value of the car. 3) Keep maintenance records, records illustrating that the vehicle was taken care of can help owners get more for their trade-ins. 4) Shop around.

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Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Some of the speakers at the Leading Ladies Regional Women's Leadership Conference included Dr. Genesis Kilgore-Bowling, Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton, Patsy Jackson, Dr. Lori Werth and Julie Paxton.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Students at Big Sandy Community and Technical College and the University of Pikeville worked together on projects during the Leading Ladies Regional Women's Leadership Conference.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Big Sandy Community and Technical College President Dr. Sherry Zylka speaks during the Leading Ladies Regional Women's Leadership Conference.

BSCTC, UPike partner for 'Leading Ladies' conference

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

More than 100 women, and a few men, gathered at Big Sandy Community and Technical College on April 6 for Leading Ladies Regional Women's Leadership Conference.

BSCTC partnered with the University of Pikeville to host the event, which also featured a co-conference for students of both institutions.

BSCTC President Dr. Sherry Zylka, who had to wait 20 years to get her doctorate because "life happened," highlighted a list of professions that women could hold throughout several decades, starting in the 1900s and 1920s, when women had to quit their jobs after marriage.

"In the forties, because of all the men going off to the war, women had jobs that were available to them that necessarily weren't in the past...But, again, the caveat was, they could be married and do those jobs, but once they got pregnant, they weren't allowed to work at all," she said.

Things changed for women in the 1960s and 1970s, she said, and women started taking more leadership roles in the 1980s.

"And now in the 2000s, we're on the verge of being able to do anything we want," she said, pointing out that women have "come quite a long way in the last 100 years."

One of seven children of parents who immigrated from Poland, Dr. Zylka said when she was growing up, boys were encouraged to go to college, while women were encouraged to get married.

"But, I took another route, and I'm glad I did. I really am," she said.

She wasn't the only conference speaker who expressed that same type of gratitude for taking an unconventional route into a leadership role.

Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is the first African American to hold a statewide office in Kentucky and the fourth woman to serve in her current role. She talked about growing up poor in Detroit, Michigan, and how her family didn't have a washing machine or television.

"I can actually remember washing clothes out of the bathtub," she said. "That's a multiple-day process because you've got to either hang them in the basement to dry or hang them outside, so when you don't have a lot, your attitude really, truly matters. When I look back on that, I can honestly say that I never envied other

families for what they had that we did not. But, instead, I focused on what we did have."

She said her dad disapproved of her decision to switch majors in college from business to engineering, and, after graduating, he disapproved of her decision to join the military.

"You'll never get to be a millionaire doing that." Those were my dad's words," she said.

He wanted her, instead, to join the company he worked with for 35 years.

"That was his dream. That was not my dream," she said.

She said her dad never understood that her goal was never to become rich.

"In his mind, everybody wanted to be wealthy, and everybody, that was their goal, to have as much money as they wanted," she said. "That was not my goal. My goal was just to have rewarding work."

Hampton's first job was part-time work in a bank. Later, she worked full time as a computer operator at a car manufacturer.

She walked away from "two awesome job offers" when she finished college to join the military and gained leadership skills while learning about jobs other people were doing when she worked at a cardboard box manufacturing company. She turned down a management job so she could learn how to do sales and discovered that she "absolutely loved it," because she was able to work and go to college.

"Sometimes God puts you exactly where you're supposed to be," she said.

She said her career path was "completely unplanned" and "sort of unconventional."

"I didn't set out at the beginning and say, I'm going to do this, then this, then this," she said. "But what I did do was I was

prepared for opportunity when it arose. It's been a blessed journey."

She said her political career was an "answer to a prayer," saying she never planned to run for office. After losing a legislative race in 2014, she met Gov. Matt Bevin at a Tea Party event. She was elected as his lieutenant governor the following year.

She highlighted several women who mentored her along the way, including her supervisor at one of her first jobs who was always "in improvement mode" and allowed her to "be a part of the team in a way she didn't have to."

"If you are in a position, if you are ever at an employer where someone allows you to explore like that, please take advantage of that because you'll be amazed at how much you can learn," she said.

She said part of her "driver" is that wherever she went, she wanted to make things better there than they were when she

started.

She encouraged women to teach girls how to negotiate and to surround themselves with the right people.

"When I speak to students, no matter the age range, the one thing I tell them is to surround yourself with people who lift you up, whatever that might be," she said. "Find those people and then, be that kind of person for other people."

Other conference speakers, attorney Julie Paxton, a former family court judge, UPike officials, Dr. Burton Webb, Dr. Lori Werth and Dr. Kay Webb and others, shared things they've learned about leadership and conducted exercises to exemplify their definition of success and leadership.

The importance of professional development, investing in each other, teamwork, civic and community engagement and other topics were discussed, and speakers also

gave their own definition of success.

"One of the things my father always said to me was, 'If you enjoy what you're doing, you'll make enough,'" Paxton said. "Don't take a job for the money. Don't get involved for what you're going to get. Get involved for what you can give and be involved in your community."

Dr. Genesis Kilgore-Bowling and Stephanie Stiltner of UPike led the co-conference for students with roundtable discussions from experts in their fields and activities focused on growing leadership skills, as well as the importance of learning skills that are transferrable to other professions and the difference between social media and social networking.

The conference is expected to be held at UPike next year.

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New Blackcat in charge

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
 SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Brandon Brewer is poised to guide the Prestonsburg High School football program as its new head coach. Brewer was introduced as the new head coach of the Blackcats during a meet and greet held at PHS on Sunday afternoon. As head coach at Powell County, Brewer compiled a 20-16 record

over three seasons, guiding the Pirates to an 8-5 overall mark, a Class 3A District 7 championship and a region runner-up finish in 2017.

Brewer replaces longtime Prestonsburg head coach John DeRossett. In DeRossett's final season in 2017, Prestonsburg captured the Class 2A District 8 championship and finished 7-5.

"It's a great honor for me to be able to add

my name to the list of great coaches that have coached here and be a part of a program with such great tradition," said Brewer. "I'm humbled and excited about the opportunity. It's big shoes to fill."

Brewer is anxious to work with his new team.

"I'm looking forward to getting started and working with all of you guys," said Brewer. "I'm going to make a commit-

ment to be here three days each week while I'm finishing out some other commitments for the remainder of the school year. I will be getting in the weight room and getting to know each of you."

Several players set to return to the field for the Prestonsburg football team were present for the meet and greet. Also present was Prestonsburg alumnus Tony Bur-

chett. A longtime assistant coach at several area schools and then head coach at Powell County, Burchett hired Brewer to be the Pirates' defensive coordinator earlier in the newest Blackcat's coaching career. Brewer will bring Burchett on as a member of his coaching staff for the 2018 season. He replaced Burchett as Powell County's head coach.

Prestonsburg has fi-

nalized and released its schedule for the 2018 season. Brewer's inaugural season as the Blackcats' head coach will include games against North Laurel, Lawrence County, Breathitt County, Floyd Central, Hazard, Leslie County, Shelby Valley, East Ridge, Betsy Layne and Perry Central. Prestonsburg is slated to kick off the 2018 season on the road at North Laurel on Aug. 24.



ABOVE: New Prestonsburg head coach Brandon Brewer talked with some returning players during a meet and greet held on Sunday.



RIGHT: Some returning players and new Prestonsburg head coach Brandon Brewer, along with alumnus Tony Burchett, who is set to be an assistant coach on the Blackcat coaching staff, posed together for photos on Sunday.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Steve LeMaster

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Isaac signs with Alice Lloyd

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

EASTERN — Floyd Central senior Kyle Isaac made his college choice official and made history at the same time on Monday when he signed with the Alice Lloyd College men's basketball program. Isaac is the first basketball player from Floyd Central to sign with a college.

Floyd Central coach Kevin Spurlock was quick to compliment Isaac on his work ethic.

"From day one, I can't remember Kyle missing a practice," said Spurlock. "He was very coachable and earned the respect of his teammates and coaches. He showed a lot of grit and passion and wanted the team to do

well. He never got caught up in all of the individual accolades and always put his team first."

Isaac averaged 6.6 points and 2.5 rebounds per game as a starter for Floyd Central during the 2017/2018 season. He ranked as the Jaguars' leading three-point shooter. Isaac was 53 of 142 (37.3 percent) from three-point range in 30 games for the Jaguars.

By signing with Alice Lloyd College, Isaac will have the opportunity to remain close to home.

Spurlock witnessed Isaac emerge as one of the leaders for the upstart Floyd Central boys' basketball program.

"Where he is now is because of his hard work," added Spurlock. "I'm proud of Kyle."



Floyd Central High School senior Kyle Isaac signed with the Alice Lloyd College men's basketball program during a ceremony held in the FCHS Theater on Monday.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Blackcats fall to Perry Central, 14-3



ABOVE: Prestonsburg pitcher Payton Burke delivered a pitch to home plate during the Blackcats' home game versus visiting Perry Central on Thursday.



RIGHT: Prestonsburg's Cameron Blackburn headed to first base after connecting on a Perry Central pitch.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Steve LeMaster

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Prestonsburg fell behind early and couldn't recover from its slow start as 14th Region title contender Perry Central pulled away to win 14-3 in five innings at StoneCrest Park on Thursday.

With the loss, Prestonsburg dropped to 1-7.

Perry Central improved to 7-1 with the win.

Braxton Cottongame (double) and Brody Dixon (single) provided run-scoring hits to allow Perry Central to take a 2-0 lead in the top half of the first inning.

Prestonsburg managed to push across one run in the bottom half of the second inning before Perry Central exploded in the following at-bat. Perry County erupted for nine runs in the top half of the third inning to move ahead 11-1.

Faring well on the mound for the Commodores, Dixon earned the win. He surrendered two runs on four hits over four innings, striking out five and

walking zero. Another Perry Central pitcher, Dylan Fields, closed the game out on the mound.

Payton Burke started on the mound for the Blackcats. Burke allowed seven hits and 11 runs over three innings, striking out one. Graham Burchett threw two innings in relief for host Prestonsburg.

Burke, Burchett, Brayden Slone, Ben Welch and Owen Greene collected one hit apiece for Prestonsburg in the setback.

Perry Central produced nine hits. Cottongame, Dixon and Zack Gayheart each collected multiple hits for Perry Central. Cottongame, who is headed to the University of Kentucky, finished 3-for-4 with six RBIs to lead the Commodores to the victory. He smacked two home runs and a double in Perry Central's triumph.

Prestonsburg tops Breahitt County: Prestonsburg returned to the win column on Monday, upending host Breahitt County 11-5 in Jackson.

With the win, which ended a three-game

losing streak, Prestonsburg improved to 2-7.

Breahitt County dropped to 5-5 with the loss.

Thriving late, Prestonsburg pushed across five runs in the seventh inning.

Collin Ousley started on the mound for the Blackcats. Ousley allowed no hits and two runs over five innings, striking out nine.

Cameron Blackburn worked the final two innings on the mound for the Blackcats.

Nick Correll started on the hill for the Bobcats. Correll allowed five hits and five runs over three innings, striking out five.

Two other Breahitt County pitchers worked out of relief roles.

Prestonsburg finished with eight hits. Blake Sizemore, Ben Welch and Brayden Slone led the Prestonsburg offensive effort with two hits apiece.

The Blackcats overcame four errors to earn the win.

Breahitt County struggled in the field, committing six errors. The Bobcats were limited to three hits in the setback.

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All-Mountain Third-Team and Honorable Mention

BY RANDY WHITE
REGIONAL SPORTS EDITOR

Appalachian Newspapers recently named its All-Mountain Team.

The All-Mountain team will consist of Player of the Year, Coach of the Year, First-Team, Second-Team, Third-Team and Honorable Mentions.

The All-Mountain

Team consist of Players from Mingo County, Pike County, Floyd County, Johnson County and Perry County and entire 15th Region coverage areas.

The All-Mountain Team was voted on by Appalachian Newspapers' sports writers: Randy White, Cory Vance, Steve LeMaster, Trevor Thacker and Mike Muncy.

The All-Mountain First- and Second-Team will be released in the Thursday edition of the News-Express.

All-Mountain Third-Team

Devin Varney - Belfry
Brady Whitaker - Magoffin County
Wade Pelfrey -

Hazard
Noah Back - Perry Central
Grant Orsborn - Betsy Layne
Isaiah May - Johnson Central
Kane Taylor - East Ridge
Phil Cornett - Prestonsburg

Honorable Mention

Cameron Worrix - Shelby Valley
Cameron Hess - East Ridge
Koleston Blankenship - Belfry
Seth Conn - Pike Central
Byron Hammond - Betsy Layne
Brady Dingess - Sheldon Clark
Blake Burke -

Shelby Valley
Josh Reed - Mingo Central
Levi Davis - Tug Valley
Jonathan Blankenship - Tug Valley
Nick Keeton - Paintsville
Chandler Caudill - Perry Central
Drake Nunnery - Prestonsburg