



## Students attend free art class

■ Lifestyles, 10A



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# CHRONICLE & TIMES

Tues.-Wed., November 20-21, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

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## AG suggests PSC 'seriously consider' Southern-Prestonsburg water merger

### PSC, AG accuse Southern Water of taking on 'unauthorized debt'

By **MARY MEADOWS**  
STAFF WRITER

The Kentucky Attorney General's Office of

Rate Intervention told the Kentucky Public Service Commission recently that it should "seriously consider" a merger be-

tween the Southern Water & Sewer District and the Prestonsburg City Utilities Commission.

The attorney gener-

al's office made that suggestion on Nov. 7 while filing comments in a rate increase application that Southern Water filed this

year with the PSC.

In the case, both the attorney general's office

See **MERGER**, Page 8A

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Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows  
Floyd County Circuit Judge Thomas Smith speaks to students during "Truth and Consequences" at Floyd Central.

## Floyd Central students learn about 'Truth and Consequences'

By **MARY MEADOWS**  
STAFF WRITER

Community partners came together on Friday to teach Floyd Central High School students a few life lessons.

Hosted by the Floyd County UK Cooperative Extension Office on Nov. 16, "Truth and Consequences: The Choice is Yours" was a substance abuse prevention program designed to teach students about the impact of using drugs or illegal substances and/or making other poor choices that could



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows  
A Floyd Central student wears goggles that blur vision as if he was under the influence.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows  
Floyd County Deputy Coroner Omery Chuck Hall speaks to a student during the "Truth and Consequences" event at Floyd Central. Hall brought a gurney and body bags to the event.

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## Former student charged as adult in gun case

By **MARY MEADOWS**  
STAFF WRITER

A former Betsy Layne High School student accused of bringing a gun on school property has been charged as an adult.

"Any allegation that involves someone bringing a gun to school grounds is a serious allegation," Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner said.

Andrew Jacob Prater was 17 years old when he was arrested in March for allegedly bringing a gun onto the school's property.

See **CHARGED**, Page 2A

## Indictment issued in police assault case

By **MARY MEADOWS**  
STAFF WRITER

A Floyd County man accused of spitting in the face of sheriff deputies is among a list of more than 30 people who were indicted by a Floyd County grand jury last week.

The Floyd County Commonwealth Attorney's office reports that Joey Lewis, 34, of Dana, was indicted on three felony counts of third-degree

See **ASSAULT**, Page 3A

## Christmas light display, carnival begins on Thanksgiving

A **FLOYD CHRONICLE**  
AND **TIMES** STAFF REPORT

Thanksgiving marks the opening day for the Christmas lights display at Archer Park.

Prestonsburg Parks officials have been working for months to install the lights in the park—a holiday season traditions that brings thousands of visitors to Prestonsburg very year.

Parks Director Ritchie Schoolcraft estimated that Archer Park is filled with at least one million lights throughout the holiday season. Last year, more than 45,000 vehicles

See **LIGHTS**, Page 2A





# Man charged with failure to register as sex offender

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

A man convicted in another state for sexual crimes is accused of failing to register as a sex offender in Floyd County.

David Chris Puente, 38, of Printer, appeared in Floyd Circuit Court Nov.

13 for an arraignment in a case in which he is charged with failure to comply with sex offender registration, a felony.

Puente, represented in court by public advocate Brandis Bradley, entered a not guilty plea in the case and Circuit Judge Tom Smith as-

signed Puente a \$2,000 or 10 percent bond, under the condition that he register as a sex offender.

Puente registered on the Kentucky State Police Sex Offender Registry on Nov. 15, the KSP website shows.

It reports that he was

convicted in Michigan on two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Smith scheduled a pretrial conference in this case for Feb. 21.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo courtesy of KSP Sex Offender Registry  
**David Chris Puente**

## LIGHTS

Continued From Page 1A

passed through the park between Thanksgiving and New Year's, he said.

Admission is free, but donations are accepted. Schoolcraft said donations may be placed in the yellow mailbox that will be stationed near the bridge at the tennis court and playground area of the park during the weekdays, while a park volunteer will collect donations on the weekends.

Park officials say visitors can expect the light show to begin at about 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving, but driving through to see the display is just

one of several things residents can do at the park this holiday season.

Casey's Rides is offering a carnival with about four rides, games and food vendors every week day and weekend at Archer Park.

Starting this week, the carnival opens at about 5 p.m. each evening, officials said, and discounts are available for large groups.

Archer Park will also offer sleigh rides and officials there will also welcome visits from Frosty, Rudolph, the Grinch and other characters from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 22.

Santa Claus is also

expected to be on hand to greet children during that time on Saturdays, officials said.

Archer Park will also host Christmas in the Park on Dec. 6, with another local organization providing hundreds of gifts to children that evening.

This year, Archer Park will also collect donations for the Floyd County Animal Shelter and non-perishable food items for local pantries. Those donations may be dropped off in a van near park's bridge, located near the tennis courts and playground.

Prestonsburg is planning its annual Christmas parade for Dec. 8.

## CHARGED

Continued From Page 1A

Now 18, Prater was indicted by a Floyd County grand jury on Oct. 31 and his arrest warrant was filed in Floyd Circuit Court on Nov. 13.

Prater appeared in Floyd Circuit Court on Nov. 15 for an arraignment on felony charges of unlawful possession of a weapon on school property and first-degree wanton endangerment, misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving on a suspended license and a violation of minors not to possess or purchase

alcohol.

Former Floyd County Schools Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble reported in March that Prater, whose name was not released until recently, had stopped attending BLHS several months before he allegedly brought a gun there.

An adult told authorities that Prater had a gun and was going to go to the school, but officials reported at the time that no threats were made and officials received no information that Prater was coming to the school for any purpose. Prater arrived at the school after the dismissal bell had

rung, officials reported in March.

Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt said the department confiscated a handgun, ammunition, scales, drug paraphernalia and a "large amount of cash" from the vehicle.

Prater, represented by Athanasia Lewis in court, entered a not guilty plea in the case on Nov. 15, and Circuit Judge Johnny Ray Harris scheduled a pretrial conference for January.

Harris ordered Prater to stay 1,000 feet away from a local resident and not to possess any type of weapon, including any gun or knife.

Harris also scheduled a bond hearing to be held on Dec. 3 for Prater. He is currently being held on a \$10,000 cash bond.

# Wheelwright police officer to resign

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

Wheelwright Mayor Don Hall reported last week that the city's new police officer is resigning.

Hall reported during a Nov. 14 meeting that police officer David Cole Pridemore has tendered his resignation and his last day of work will be Dec. 15.

The city hired Pridemore, who also works for the U.S. Marshal at the federal courthouse in Pikeville, on a part-time basis in September. He was hired to temporarily replace Wheelwright Police Chief Randy Johnson, who has been off work due to health issues.

Commissioners Andy Akers and Bobby Akers asked Hall whether he had spoken with Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton about entering into an inter-government contract that would allow Prestonsburg Police to serve Wheelwright residents — a suggestion that was raised at a pre-

vious meeting.

Hall said he is still waiting to hear from Stapleton on the matter, and Bobby Akers asked him to reach out again.

Hall said Johnson said he may be able to work around Dec. 15.

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## BSCTC announces new SkillsU director

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

A woman who has spent decades helping local residents further their education was named as the new SkillsU director at Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

Tammy Meredith-Castle is no stranger to helping eastern Kentuckians.

She began her career in 1992 as the Adult Education Director in Johnson County.

In 2000, she began work on her principalship and then became a foster care specialist before joining the Commonwealth Education Opportunity Center, where she covered 36 counties.

During her work with CEOC, she referred students to admissions and financial aid offices to help them obtain a college degree. When a position for SkillsU director at Big Sandy Community and Technical College, she knew her next step.

"I am excited about the changes in adult education and the partnership between KCTCS and SkillsU, and for me, I wanted to come full circle in my career and work in



Tammy Meredith-Castle

Adult Education again," said Castle. "I was impressed with how BSCTC has become involved in serving adult learners and I wanted to be a part of helping to get them ready to join our workforce."

BSCTC reports that adult education is now called "SkillsU" at KCTCS. Each student in SkillsU will have a schedule of courses which can include evening and distance learning courses to help them obtain their GED.

Also, with the new format, as a student works to obtain his or her GED, they will also work with a career navigator who can help them earn short-term training or complete a degree.

The Kentucky Ca-

reer Centers have also joined in with SkillsU and have reformatted their structure to incorporate business and industry partners, who will share office space. Once a student has completed his or her GED, they will have a contact on site for companies looking to hire.

BSCTC SkillsU has four site locations in Johnson, Floyd, Magoffin and Pike counties to serve residents. Additional sites are being secured to reach into some of the more remote areas to help potential GED seeking students.

For more information, contact Stephanie Bunyard at, (606) 788-2887.

## Hampton visits science center



Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows

Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton visited the Eastern Kentucky Science Center on the Prestonsburg campus of Big Sandy Community and Technical College on Friday, Nov. 16. She spent time with David School students in the center's exhibit hall and watched a planetarium show. Science center director Steve Russo said he met Hampton at the Russell May exhibit in September and invited her to tour the science center. He said, "We are really excited to have the Lt. governor visit the Science Center today. And what makes it even more special is that she has an engineering degree with a background in spaceflight. She understands how important the Science Center is to the youth of our area, in trying to educate them in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) careers. We were honored to have her here."

## ASSAULT

Continued From Page 1A

assault of police officers, as well as misdemeanor counts of menacing and resisting arrest.

Lewis was arrested following an alleged June 27 incident that occurred, the Floyd County Sheriff Department reported in June, as deputies attempted to serve arrest warrants on him.

According to court records filed by Floyd County Sheriff Deputy Justin Szymchack, Lewis resisted arrest when the deputies attempted to serve the warrants and was found hiding in a cabinet under a bathroom sink.

"We gave Mr. Lewis several commands to show us his hands and come out from the cabinet," the citation says. "Mr. Lewis did not comply. I then grabbed Mr. Lewis by the hand and pulled him from the cabinet then escorted him to the floor."

During the arrest, Szymchack reported that Lewis spit in the faces of Deputy Kevin Thacker and Sgt. Oliver Little. The citation said, "Sgt. Little was temporarily blind due to Mr. Lewis spitting in his eyes which caused him to escort Mr. Lewis to the ground."

The assault charges against Lewis alleges that he "intentionally caused physical injury" to all three officials and the menacing charge alleges that he "intentionally placed" them in "reasonable apprehension of imminent physical injury."

Lewis is scheduled to be arraigned on the charges on Jan. 2.

Other indictments released by the Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney include:

- Jan Michael Hicks, 29, of Martin: theft of identity
- Nathan J. Ham-

ilton, 34, of Teaberry: second-degree criminal mischief

- Thomas Shepherd, 44, of Martin: second-degree fleeing/evading police, second-degree burglary, theft by unlawful taking, first-degree persistent felony offender

- Brandon Perkins, 32, of David: criminal possession of a forged instrument, menacing, first-degree persistent felony offender

- Kevin D. Moore, 28, of Hi Hat: driving on a suspended license, failure to produce insurance card, illegal possession of a legend drug, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of handgun by a convicted felon

- Shaun Reynolds, 39, of Prestonsburg: driving on a suspended license, no or expired registration receipt, no registration plate, failure to produce insurance card, failure to maintain insurance

- Trisha Risner, 35, of Prestonsburg: driving under the influence, fourth offense, no or expired registration receipt, no registration plate, failure to produce insurance card, failure to maintain insurance, driving on a suspended license, no tail lamp, second-degree persistent felony offender

- John Barker, 29, of Ashland: speeding, two counts of first-degree fleeing/evading police, disregarding stop sign, driving on a suspended license, reckless driving, resisting arrest

*Editor's note: An indictment is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.*



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# Probation revoked in assault, theft cases

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

Floyd County Circuit Judge Tom Smith revoked the probation of a man who was sentenced

earlier this year in three cases against him.

The order came following a Nov. 13 hearing in Floyd Circuit Court.

Mason C. Adams, 30, of Georgetown, was in

court for the revocation hearing in three cases in which he was charged in 2016 and 2017 with two counts of second-degree assault, felony theft and theft of medical records.

In March, he was sentenced to five years in those cases, but that sentence was suspended after service of two years and he was placed on probation for three years.

He was also ordered to pay \$6,000 in restitution to a victim in the case.

Adams was arrested recently and charged with illegally possessing drug paraphernalia and

second-degree fleeing/evading police.

Officials alleged he absconded from drug treatment, a reason the revocation hearing was held.

## STUDENTS

Continued From Page 1A

harm their lives or the lives of others.

Students were given scenarios where they faced all sorts of problems—arrests due to illegal drug use or possession, driving under the influence, getting in a fight and other issues—and they were required to visit various agencies to learn how the choices made in those scenarios would impact their lives.

Students laughed when they tried on goggles geared to blur their vision as if they were impaired, but having to visit Floyd County Circuit Judge Tom Smith or Deputy Coroner Omery Chuck Hall or Jailer Stuart Bear Halbert didn't appear to be as enjoyable to them. Hall brought a gurney and a body bag to show students what happens to people who overdose on drugs, while Halbert and the Floyd County Jail team brought an inmate bed and outfit and other items, including a shank, or weapon, once found at the jail.

"We're trying to raise the hair on the back of

their neck," Halbert said.

Smith said he believes the program is "eye-opening" for students.

"It's wonderful for the kids to get to see what they have to deal with even with the smallest of slip ups, and, that even when they're with the wrong people they can end up in the juvenile justice system," Smith said. "And there's no good place to be in the juvenile justice system.... They get to see that it's serious business. A lot of the kids in here are nervous when they come to talk to us when they know it's pretend. If it's for real, it gets amped up a whole lot."

Andrea Slone, county extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, thanked partners who helped host the event.

"One of the students came up to me and told me this is a great program because it shows them the options students have to make, from one bad choice or a good choice," she said. "Our community partners are showing them the options and the outlets that they have other than choosing that scenario or

following through with that bad choice."

As part of the program, students also received presentations from Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt, Misty Borders of Addiction Recovery Care in Louisa, First Presbyterian Church Rev. Stephen Saunders, Danielle Harmon and Stacy Crum from Highlands Health and Melissa Hounshell from the UK Markey Cancer Center.

Other community partners included the school district, Operation UNITE, Big Sandy Community & Technical College, ARH, Floyd County Justice Center, Kentucky State Police, Howard Family Pharmacy, Passport Health, Parkview Pharmacy and others.

"We're very appreciative of this program coming to our school and the messages that they are giving to our kids," Floyd Central Principal Greta Thornsberry said. "These are real-life situations that could have a huge impact on them. Our goal for this is for them to make good decisions, better decisions."

Assistant Floyd County Attorney Meka Hall-Castle, who has

worked on juvenile cases for more than five years, praised the program, calling it "extremely helpful" to them.

"It lets kids know that, like when I bring it to their attention that you could potentially be charged as an adult for doing certain things, having an illegal substance, depending on what that is, you could be tried as an adult. That opens their eyes and they're like, 'Oh, really? I can be?'" They don't realize that...It's good because it brings their attention to what all they can be charged with, the consequences of happens because of their actions," she said.

Hall-Castle said a new law impacted juvenile law. She said juveniles who commit crimes now get three diversions through a court designat-

ed worker before they are brought into court and prosecuted.

"I don't necessarily think that's the best thing, because kids don't get to come as court as often ... It makes it hard to do much because they're not getting in front of a judge. They're not getting in front of me. It's like after they get so bad, then we see them."

She encourages parents to educate their children about what could happen if they make the wrong decision or hang out with the wrong crowd.

"Educate your kids," she said. "We see a lot of parents take up for their kids more than try, you know, we try to do the best for the kids that we see and we want to make sure that we do what's best for them and their

future, and sometimes it's good to just sit back and let the legal system try to help you. We're not trying to hurt you."

She also encourages parents with troubled children to reach out for help.

"I get a lot of calls and I have principals that reach out to me and anytime you have a child beyond control, they haven't really done something that's amounted to a criminal charge yet, but as juveniles, they have something called beyond control that we can get them services working with them," she said. "I always encourage, I take all of the phone calls when any parent has a concern like that. I always encourage them to do that beyond control and head off the problem before it gets worse."



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## EDITORIAL

# We're thankful for those who care

The community partners who came together last week to host "Truth and Consequences: The Choice is Yours" at Floyd Central High School should be commended.

This program, hosted by the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office and numerous local partners, is another example of the possibilities our community has when our agencies and businesses work together to help the younger generation among us.

The partners worked

for months to plan the event, and they developed scenarios through which students faced all sorts of problems — arrests due to illegal drug use or possession, driving under the influence, getting in a fight and other issues. The students were required to visit various agencies to learn how the choices made in those scenarios would impact their lives.

Some partners even brought props to drive the point home for these students, including a gur-

ney and body bag provided by the Floyd County Coroner's office and inmate bedding and clothing used by the jail.

Jailer Stuart "Bear" Halbert said his staff wanted to "raise the hair on the back of their neck," talking about a homemade shank, or weapon, the jail brought to show students what could happen if they ended up in jail.

Students who attended this event learned what could happen if they made the wrong

choice or hung out with the wrong crowd. They learned about laws they could break without even realizing it, and they learned the consequences they could face for making the wrong choice.

Our younger folks have plenty of places they can gather information nowadays, but a program like this does more than that. They got to experience it. They experienced the possible consequences of their actions by walking up and talking to that judge,

or the sheriff or that assistant county attorney. They could have walked up and touched the body bag provided by the coroner's office, but students weren't brave enough to do that while we were there.

The partners who participated in this event could have spent half of their day somewhere else, but they chose, instead, to take the time to teach students how to make good choices, to talk one-on-one with them about things they

should know.

This program is among the best high school programs we've seen, to date, because it gives students the ability to see and understand things they need to know about the importance of making the right choices. In a way, if they're listening, they can learn from their mistake before it's made. The people who host this program and participate in it deserve a pat on the back.

We're so thankful they care.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# We are not powerless to opioid epidemic

These days, there are efforts from across the nation to fight our country opioid epidemic.

It can often feel like we are powerless against this metaphorical monster, creeping into our communities and eating away at our friends, family and loved ones.

However, a recent report shows the many efforts to battle the epidemic may be paying off, if even slightly.

According to Kentucky Health News, national and state reports showed the number of deaths related to opioids might be at a plateau.

KHN's Melissa Patrick reported the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention's preliminary data shows the 12 month period ending March 2018, the most recent data compiled, saw a decline of nearly 3 percent in the number of reported overdose deaths, to 68,690, when compared to the 12 month period ending November 2017, when the number of overdose deaths was at its highest ever, 70,780.

"The same CDC report shows an even greater drop in Kentucky of 9.2 percent," Patrick reported. "In the 12-month period ending November 2017, Kentucky reported 1,594 overdose deaths — also its peak — and in the

12-month period ending in March of this year, it reported 1,446 deaths.

"A preliminary report from the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center also shows a drop in overdose deaths in Kentucky between the last quarter of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018, with declines in deaths involving fentanyl and heroin, but not in the number of fatalities involving methamphetamine.

KIPRC's provisional data shows between the fourth quarter of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018 the total number of overdose deaths dropped from 366 to 344; heroin-related OD deaths dropped from

57 to 44; fentanyl-involved OD deaths dropped from 187 to 180, and ODs involving methamphetamine increased from 79 to 82, Patrick reported.

While these bits of good news are hopeful, they are no reason to celebrate a victory over this disease just yet.

The good news is some of the steps many groups — from the government to schools, churches, community groups, families, rehabilitation groups, detention centers, the courts and more — are working.

We need to look at those things that are working and continue to mold and shape pro-

grams that will be even more beneficial.

This monster, this epidemic, is one we believe can be stopped.

Will we ever see the complete end of drug use in our country?

Probably not.

But we think there is a future where it does not plague our nation as it does now and a time when people who fall victim to drugs will find the necessary resources to recover.

This new data is proof there are things we can do.

We are not powerless to this epidemic.

— *The Winchester Sun*

CHRONICLE & TIMES

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# FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES OBITUARIES

## Donald Branham

Donald E. "Don" Branham, 71, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018.

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

## Roy Duncan

Roy Ray Duncan, 70, of Hueysville, died Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.

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

## Vienetia "Granny" Scott

Vienetia "Granny" Scott, 95, of Somerset, formerly of Wheelwright, died Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018, at the Jean Waddle Hospice Center in Somerset.

She was the daughter of the late Elbert and Cordelia Hall Powers. Also preceding her in death were her husband Posey Scott, Jr., whom she married in August 1946, daughter Sharlon Kaye Bates, sons Clyde Scott, Ronald Scott and Donald Scott, one grandchild and three great-grandchildren.

She is survived by one daughter, Bonida Scott of Cedar Bluff, Ala.; two sons, Bobby (Kathy) Scott of Somerset and Frank (Lisa) Scott of Weeksbury; nine grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

She attended church at New Life Mt. Assembly Church of God. She had been a devout Christian of the Pentecostal faith for 65 years.

Funeral services were held at the Southern Oaks Funeral Home chapel on Sunday, Nov. 18, with Rev. Glen Dusina, Pastor Doug Walden and Rev. Anthony Waters officiating.

Interment followed in Oak Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Hospice of Lake Cumberland and/or the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Southern Oaks Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements. This is a paid obituary.

## Edward Studer

Edward Allen Studer, 51, of Minnie, died Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

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

## Alan Stumbo

Alan Edward Stumbo, 56, of Martin, died Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

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

## Green Wakeland

Green Wakeland, 57, of Printer, died Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018.

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

## AARP participates in 'Day of Service'



The Jenny Wiley AARP chapter collected 1,070 lbs. of nonperishable food items and \$470 in donations during its Day of Service food drive at Food City on Saturday, Oct. 17, for God's Pantry, which assists all Floyd County food pantries. The chapter is also shared a Thanksgiving meal with residents and staff at the Turning Point domestic violence shelter on Tuesday.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows

## Pikeville rescinds lease option for AppHarvest, extends SilverLiner payback

By CHASE ELLIS  
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

PIKEVILLE — A lease option offered from the City of Pikeville to AppHarvest in September, which included 11 acres of land for development at the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park at Marions Branch was rescinded by a vote at the meeting of the Pikeville City Commission.

The move frees the property back up as officials look for a "more efficient" use of that area, Pikeville City Manager Philip Elswick said this week.

On Sept. 12, the city commission extended the lease option to AppHarvest and CEO Jonathan Webb for an 11.5-acre tract at the industrial park. In Aug. 2017, AppHarvest, during its initial planning as a high-tech greenhouse startup, had announced plans for a 1.8 million square foot state-of-the-art greenhouse to be built at the park.

In September, the commission voted to extend the lease option to AppHarvest despite worries about AppHarvest. Since its initial announcements, plans had been discussed through commission and planning meetings that included multiple downsizes of the scope of the project for AppHarvest.

City officials said in September and October other leaders of areas and cities in Eastern Kentucky reached out to the City of Pikeville after Webb and AppHarvest had approached their respective areas, alerting Pikeville officials of potential planning changes.

After presenting the lease option to AppHarvest in September, Elswick said this week that the city had still not had any reply from AppHarvest, be it negative or positive.

"It has been a couple of months and we have not heard anything from them. There are a few companies that could be interested in that property at the park," Elswick said. "We felt it was best to take that off the table and start marketing that again."

Elswick said with the developments and expansions of SilverLiner, a local-based tanker truck company, and EnerBlu, Inc., a soon-to-be-Lexington-based high power tech company, the city will look for businesses that can compliment and support those two companies.

"It would be a third company, complimentary to those businesses, but it will be a new employer," Elswick said. "The commission is very supportive of any business that will bring jobs to the area."

As the park has changed from planned agriculture, like AppHarvest, to current industry, like SilverLiner, there has been a bonus come with the changes, officials said.

"It has been very warmly received. The industrial-type jobs will pay a higher wage that other industries would and employ more people as well. From that perspective, the commission and I believe the community has received that change very positively," Elswick said. "It is a more efficient use

of the space, more jobs in a much smaller footprint and more room to grow for those businesses."

With that anticipation of growth in those businesses, the city commission also approved an addendum with SilverLiner in which the company will now have longer to repay money owed to the city for the building at the park.

"It extends their payback period so that capital is available for startup for their new business," Elswick said. "Anytime a business grows, there are very positive effects for the employees, the city and the region as a whole. By delaying that payback for just a few years, that allows Silver-

Liner to begin production with a little more flexibility in their operations."

Elswick said the way SilverLiner owner Chris Tomlinson has built relationships inside of the region helped the city make the decision to extend the period.

"Chris is a local businessman who has been extremely successful in every business that he has had. We have no reason to believe that SilverLiner will be anything less than successful. The relationships that Chris has developed makes us much more comfortable. The delay in payback is definitely offset by the positive things Chris and SilverLiner do," Elswick said.

## Community Events

•Through Dec. 10: Kentucky State Police Post 9, Pikeville, invites the public to donate non-perishable food items during Cram the Cruiser. Donations may be dropped off at any time at Post 9 or at Food City, 215 Cassidy Blvd., Pikeville, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 1.

•Nov. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild meets, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668

•Nov. 22, 5 p.m.: Floyd County Tourism meeting cancelled.

•Nov. 22, 12 p.m.: Thanksgiving day buffet begins, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park.

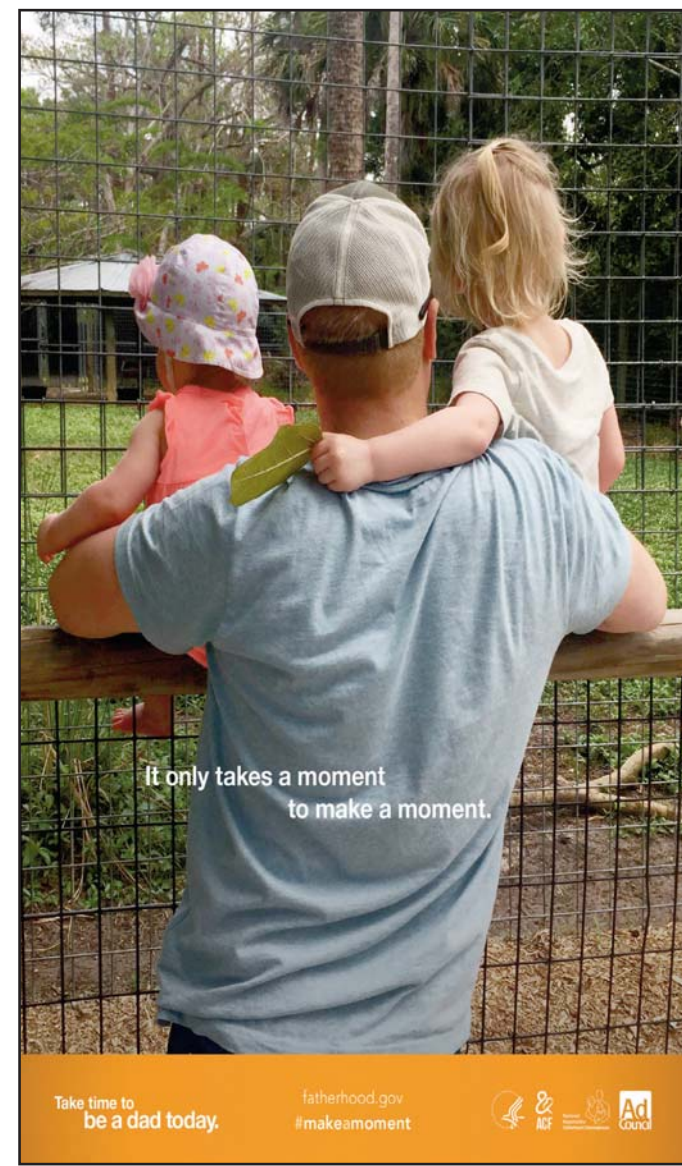
•Nov. 23, 7 p.m.: Christmas with Kory Caudill & Friends, Mountain Arts Center. macarts.com

•Nov. 22, 6 p.m.: Archer Park Christmas light display opens to the public. The park will offer sleigh rides from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., carnival rides and other events through Dec. 22. Carnival rides, games and food will be available, starting at 5 p.m. throughout the week. Group discounts are available for the rides.

•Nov. 26, 6:30 p.m.: Floyd County Board of Education meets, Betsy Layne Elementary (606) 886-2354

•Nov. 27, 5:30 p.m.: The I Quilt (IQ) group for beginning quilters meets, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668

•Nov. 27, 11:30 a.m.: Big Sandy Area Development District meets, Big Sandy ADD office. (606) 886-2374.



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# ANNOUNCE YOUR NEWS

## Welcome Baby Smith



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

## Birth Announcements

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

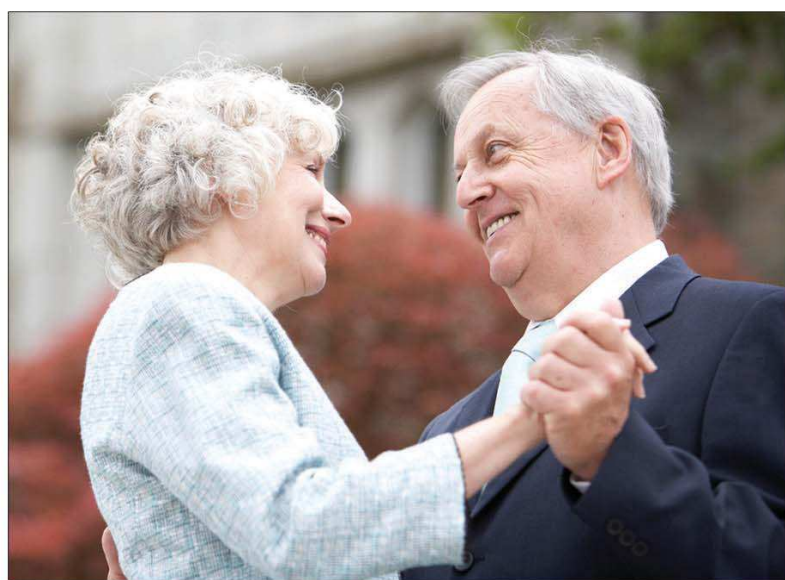
## Celebrating Birthdays



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

## Senior Citizen Center Birthdays

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



## Celebrating 55 years

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

Continued From Page 1A

and the PSC accuse Southern Water of violating state law by taking on unauthorized debt.

**AG proposes merger, not sale, of part of Southern's system**

In July, Southern Water, which serves more than 5,400 customers in Floyd and Knott counties, asked the PSC to allow it to increase its revenue by 33.12 percent, more than \$953,400, which would produce approximately \$3.8 million in total revenues and increase the average customer bill by 31.88 percent, or \$13.20.

But in an Oct. 24 filing, the PSC recalculated data that Southern Water used in its application, and in doing so, the PSC determined that Southern Water needs more revenue than it asked for — around \$1.1 million in additional revenues, an increase of about 37.87 percent in revenues.

Justin McNeil of the Attorney General's Office of Rate Intervention said the office does not agree with the PSC's recommendation, however.

He cites high poverty rates in Floyd and Knott counties as part of the reason, and, among other things, he equates Southern Water's decision to sell part of its system last year to the Prestonsburg City Utilities Commission to a "poor management decision."

Southern Water cited the company's "deteriorated" financial condition when it filed its application for a rate increase this year. In the filing, Southern Water alleged that the sale of part of its customer base to Prestonsburg City Utilities caused that financial strain.

In a letter filed with the PSC alongside a rate adjustment request on July 3, Paula Johnson, chairperson of the Southern Water & Sewer District Commission, wrote, "As a result of relinquishing 1,200 customers to the City of Prestonsburg, which had the approval of the PSC, our financial condition has deteriorated considerably. We are in dire need of this rate adjustment."

But the attorney general's office pointed out that Eddie Campbell, superintendent of the Prestonsburg City Utilities Commission, disputed that language, telling the PSC that Campbell emphasized the transfer "was not a hostile takeover" and it came about as Southern Water could no longer adequately perform wastewater operations.

"For the district to now suggest that it did not undertake the transaction with a clear understanding of the possible consequences is troubling," McNeil wrote.

He explained that Southern Water should have "sought to determine" whether a merger with Prestonsburg would have been better than

the sale.

"At the very least, had the District performed some analysis on the costs and benefits of a full merger for the Commission's consideration, it may have demonstrated whether the current dire circumstances could have been foreseen less than two years ago when this transfer was first proposed," McNeil wrote.

"The Attorney General is concerned that the District has now based the requested rate increase on the results stemming from this approved transfer, especially since the District recently received rate increases in 2009, 2012, and 2015."

He goes on to say that, "If the transfer of these customers has been so financially devastating as SWSD claims, then the Commission may need to seriously consider a merger scenario."

**Southern accused of taking on 'unauthorized debt'**

That wasn't the only issue that came to light recently in this case.

In the filings, both the PSC and the attorney general's office accuse Southern Water of violating state law by taking out two loans from First Guaranty Bank without permission.

The PSC reported that Southern Water did not ask for permission before it obtained two loans from First Guaranty Bank "in direct contravention" to state law.

"Southern District should be aware that the Commission may initiate a separate proceeding to more thoroughly investigate the possible violations of Commission Statutes and regulations," the PSC said in its report. "If a determination is made that there has been a willful violation of any provision of KRS Chapter 278 and 807 KAR Chapter 5, the members of the Board of Commissions may be held accountable."

The PSC reported in its filing that Southern Water had four outstanding bonds to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, four notes payable to the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and two loans payable to First Guaranty.

The PSC removed those First Guaranty loans when calculating Southern Water's debt service for the rate increase application, and it also removed two Kentucky Infrastructure Authority loans that have not yet been approved. The removal of those loans reduced Southern Water's debt service from about \$528,000 to \$447,000 annually for the next three years.

"Staff has determined that Southern District used the proceeds from the First Guaranty loan to pay for current operating expenses, and therefore finds that Southern District should not be allowed rate re-

covery of the associated debt service," the PSC filing states.

McNeil wrote in his filing that the Attorney General's office agrees with the PSC's assertion that it may open a separate case to "properly vet and address" any violations by the district.

"The Attorney General believes that an investigation into the violation of KRS 278.300 (1) is warranted and he would support the initiation of a separate matter to determine the extent of the violations," McNeil wrote.

**More than half of Southern's water is lost, PSC reports**

In these filings, Southern Water's high water loss rate also appears to be a sticking point for the PSC and the attorney general's office.

Southern Water expects to reduce its water loss rates by completing a water main replacement project that is currently pending approval with loans from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, according to the filings.

Southern Water reported a water loss rate of 42.85 percent to the PSC, while attributing 60

million gallons each for system flushing and fire department use. But the PSC reports that Southern Water was "unable to provide sufficient flushing records or records of fire department use," so it reduced those amounts reported by Southern Water to "zero gallons."

With that recalculation, the PSC increased Southern Water's water loss rate to 58.22 percent for this application.

State regulations mandate that for rate-making purposes, a utility's unaccounted-for water loss rate may not be more than 15 percent—something McNeil emphasized in his filing when he noted that the PSC is "placing greater emphasis on monitoring utilities that consistently exceed" the 15-percent water-loss threshold.

He reported that Southern Water recorded water loss rates of 41.05 percent in 2013, 39.43 percent in 2014 and 42.84 percent in 2015, and recommended that Southern Water be required to "demonstrate incremental progress" with its efforts to reduce its water loss.

The attorney gener-

al's office is asking the PSC to consider all of these matters, and others, in deciding whether to grant a rate increase for Southern Water.

McNeil referenced mismanagement of the Martin County Water District in this filing, saying that Southern Water "is not in the same position" as the neighboring district, but referencing "poor management decisions."

"Nonetheless, the point still stands that the Commission should refrain from simply granting the District the entirety of the recommended increase due to the District's own poor management decisions," McNeil wrote.

He asks the commission to impose reporting requirements for Southern Water's water loss, open an investigation about the loans taken out without approval and require Southern Water to "perform a feasibility and cost-benefit analysis on merging with PCUC."

**Southern has not relinquished assets to P'burg**

Southern Water has not yet relinquished con-

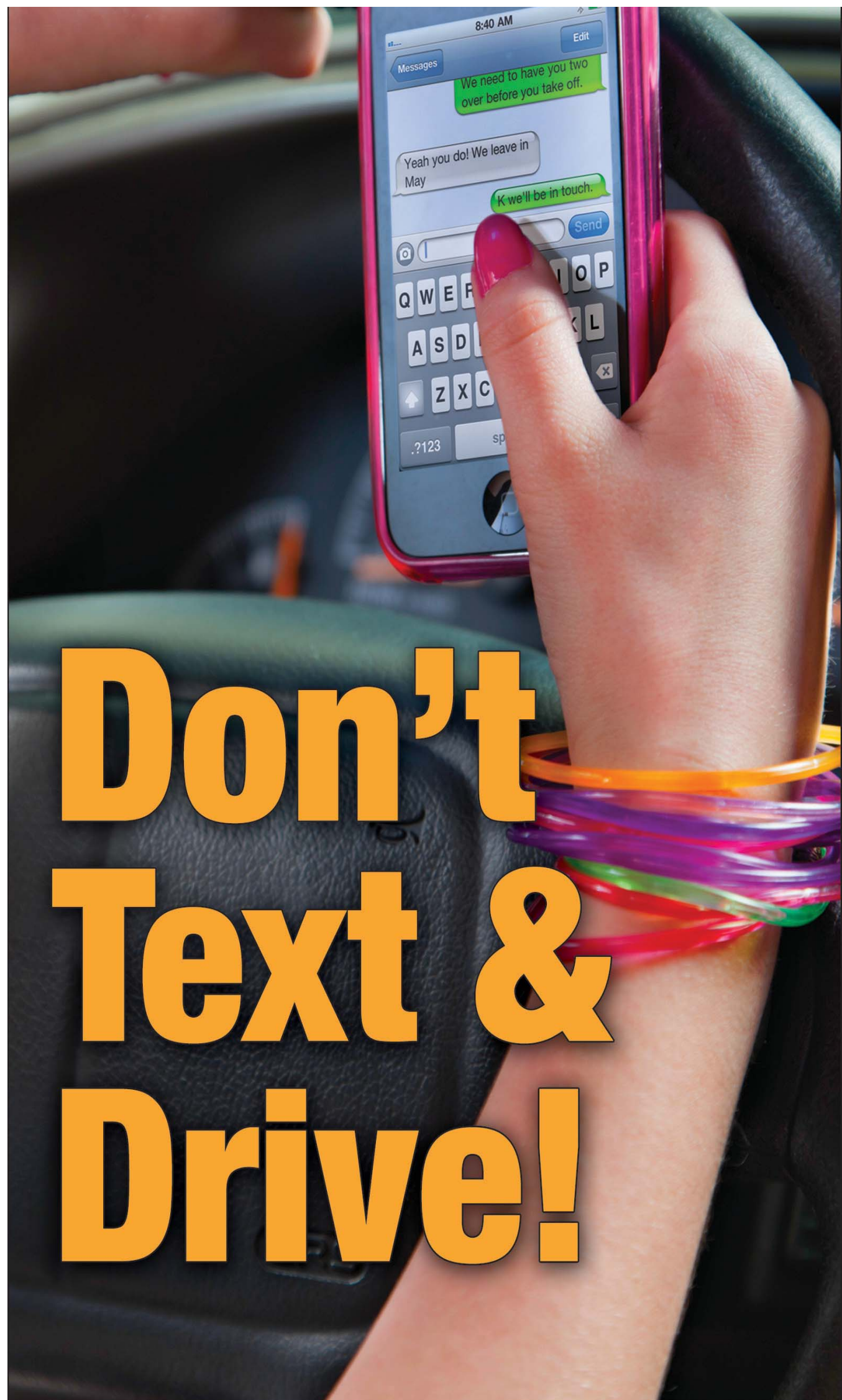
trol of the assets that it agreed to transfer to Prestonsburg last year, the PSC reported, and it is not collecting revenue for those customers.

Campbell was not aware of the recent filing when contacted by the newspaper last week.

He said the agency's commission would have to make a decision about whether it'd be possible to merge with Southern, as suggested in the filing, and he noted that the PSC could not order a merger.

"I don't think you can rule out anything anymore in the state of Kentucky, as far as the water districts go," he said. "They do struggle and the state is looking at, you know, potential mergers of water districts. But what you have there is a municipality that's not governed by the PSC and a water district that is governed by the PSC, so a suggested merger could be put out there, but there would be no force of law behind it."

Campbell and Prestonsburg Mayor Les Stapleton were issued subpoenas to attend a Dec. 18 hearing in this case.



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# Prestonsburg on list of proposed managers for Martin Water

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

The Kentucky Public Service Commission tossed Prestonsburg's name on a list of seven "qualified management entities" that could help the Martin County Water District come into compliance.

The PSC listed the municipal water systems of Prestonsburg and Paintsville among seven entities it identified that could manage the Martin County Water system.

The recommendation came with a lengthy order the PSC issued for Martin County Water, which requires the district to seek requests for proposals for outside management services.

The Martin Water district serves 3,243 customers in Martin County.

"The Commission has repeatedly asked Martin District to hire a general manager, requested new policies and requested development of an improvement plan, to no avail," the PSC order states. "Martin District's current commissioners will either comply with the requirements of the rate increase and will proceed with contracted management or the (PSC) will be forced to pursue even more extraordinary means through appointment of a receiver who can implement the changes needed to provide safe, clean and reliable water service."

The PSC approved a rate increase for the dis-

trict this month, noting that "a failure to comply with the terms of the order could prompt the commission to either force a merger with another water system or seek appointment of a receiver to operate the Martin County Water."

The rate increase order also authorizes a temporary monthly surcharge for Martin County Water customers that takes effect "only if" the district obtains outside management services and submits and receives PSC approval for "a plan to repair its crumbling water system."

The PSC gave Martin Water one year to submit that plan.

This year, the PSC has approved rate increases that collectively increase Martin Water customers bills by 44 percent. The state agency imposed "stringent financial controls and reporting mandates" for the district, but a debt service surcharge the PSC previously approved will end on Jan. 30, 2019, unless the district complies with orders and obtains outside management services.

The order says Martin County Water customers "are suffering the dire consequences" of "years of incompetent management and inept decision makers," leaving them with "deficient water service or no water service at all."

It includes an 11-page opinion from PSC Chairman Michael J. Schmitt, who chides the Mar-

tin Water District for its shortcomings and points out that the district has been "unable to consistently" provide its share of the water required for the federal prison at the Honey Branch Industrial park.

"Instead, Martin District relies on purchases from the Prestonsburg City Utility Commission to meet the customer demand," Schmitt wrote.

The utilities commissions in Prestonsburg and Paintsville are the only local entities listed among the potential managers for Martin Water. The other names are from businesses and or utilities in Louisville, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia and Florida.

Prestonsburg Utilities Superintendent Eddie Campbell wasn't aware of his agency's inclusion on that list.

Campbell said it'd be hard to determine whether Prestonsburg Utilities could manage the Martin County system, noting that the agency is already "stretched a little thin" with three sewer project extensions underway and the waste water treatment plant at Betsy Layne that is expected to open next year. He said Prestonsburg Utilities officials would have to discuss that possibility in depth.

"Early on, it'd be a tough call," he said. "That's something that we'd definitely want to talk among our commissioners and get their ideas about it. That

would be a tough situation simply because of, you know, we'd be reaching a lot farther than we

would with Southern, as far as distance, and we're stretched to the max with what we already do to

take care of our own utility system. That would be a tough stretch for us."

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## Giving back:

BLES students help kids in need

**A FLOYD CHRONICLE  
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT**

Betsy Layne Elementary students doubled their donation to Operation Christmas Child this year.

This month, students at the school packed 200 shoeboxes with toys and other items for children in need all over the world. The shoeboxes will be distributed through Samaritan's Purse, a non-profit organization that hosts the shoebox donation drive every November.

Led by teachers Amanda Orsborne and

Ernie Walker, BLES students filled 200 shoeboxes with small drinking cups, soap, washcloths, fishing kits, matchbox cars, dolls and other items.

Last year, the school donated 100 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, which was hosted locally by Fitzpatrick Baptist Church.

In an email Friday, Principal John Kidd praised students, staff and community partners for the effort, saying the donation drive was part of the school's pledge of "Being a Solution."

He wrote, "Because

of BLES, 200 needy kids will get a box filled with items that they will treasure, yet we take for granted. These kids have nothing...what we have done here is being a Solution for so many desperately needy kids around the world."

Community partners included district bus drivers, Andy Bolden, Rural King, the school's Parent Teacher Organization, Harold Primary Care, Fitzpatrick Baptist Church, Lee Boyd Dentistry, Family Dollar, Lower Toler Church of Christ and others.



Submitted photos

Betsy Layne Elementary School students packed 200 shoeboxes with items for needy children during this year's Operation Christmas Child, a donation drive hosted by Samaritan's Purse that provides the shoeboxes to needy children all over the world.



## The gift of art



The Arty Bus Kids Art and the Kent Rose Foundation hosted a free painting class and prizes for children and teenagers at Green Acres on Saturday, Nov. 16. The event was made possible with funding raised during the "Russell May: A Retrospective" arts festival held earlier this year at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. May's work was on display at the facility, and students were also treated to May-themed art instruction from artists Jenna McGuire and Leslie Heinz, who launched the Arty Bus this year.

Submitted photos



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# Floyd woman indicted for trafficking after allegedly trading pills for ride

By CHASE ELLIS  
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

PIKEVILLE — A Floyd County woman was indicted this week by a Pike grand jury on a felony trafficking charge after an arrest in September.

Crystal G. Asher, 39, of Ky. 979, Beaver, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (oxycodone) along with two misdemeanor charges of third-degree possession of a controlled substance and having a prescription drug not in proper container connected to her arrest during the first week of September.

Pikeville Police Officer Austin King wrote in his citation that he performed a traffic stop on a vehicle leaving the Hatfield and McCoy Motel on U.S. 23 and came into contact with Asher and others inside of the vehicle. King located 13 oxycodone pills in the possession of another woman inside of the vehicle and stated Asher had traded her the pills in exchange for a ride to the motel, the citation said. King wrote in the citation that Asher admitted to trading the pills in exchange for transportation.

Pike Commonwealth's Attorney Rick Bartley said that Asher had been prescribed oxycodone and had filled her prescription earlier the day of her ar-

rest. "She had a bottle of oxycodone ..., but there were already about 40 tablets missing, including the 13 that the passenger had," Bartley said.

When questioned about where the other pills were, Bartley said that Asher stated "she wasn't sure, maybe she had taken them." That, in part, led to the trafficking charges for Asher.

"She was charged with trafficking for two reasons. Number one, the passenger said Crystal Asher had given her the pills and it was obvious there were more pills missing than that, in just the one day," Bartley said. "She was also found to be in possession of gabapentin that she didn't have a prescription for, so she was charged with that. And the gabapentin were in the bottle with the oxycodone, so she was charged with having the gabapentin in the wrong bottle."

The grand jury had questioned Bartley about whether there was the need for the transfer of money to be made for a trafficking charge, which Bartley said was not the case.

"The typical case that we see is somebody selling pills for this certain

amount of money. But trafficking has multiple aspects. It certainly includes selling for consideration, but it also includes simply transferring the drugs," Bartley said. "If you just give someone a controlled substance, that is considered trafficking. In this case, the consideration was ... a ride around town to several places."

Bartley said the case was interesting to him due to a major decrease in "black market oxycodone" in the area compared to just a decade ago.

"The medical profession has gotten much better at recognizing the danger of this pill and has greatly restricted the prescriptions for it. Plus, the proliferation of methamphetamine that we have seen has replaced OxyContin as the drug of choice for people," Bartley said. "That is because of pure economics. For \$20 they can get high on meth, but it may cost double that or triple that for a single OxyContin. The limited availability is driving that fact."

Bartley said this case did highlight, to him, that oxycodone is still out there on the streets and prosecutors still need to be aware of it.

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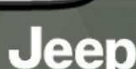
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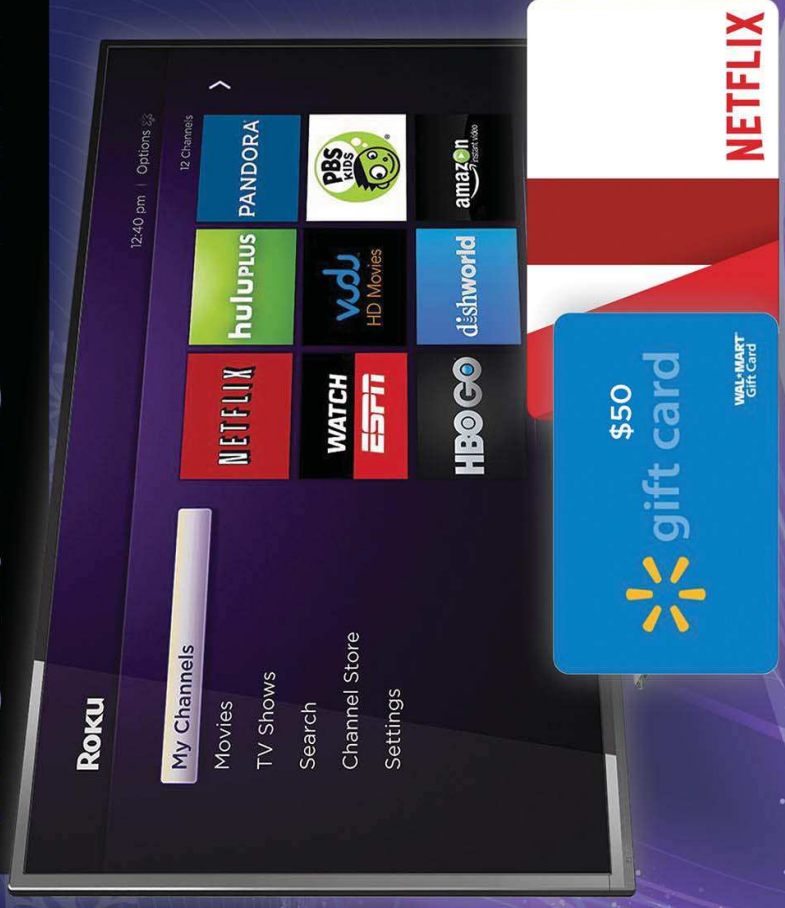


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Floyd Chronicle and Times file photo by Steve LeMaster

Floyd Central's Katie Moore works to chase down a loose ball during a home game versus 58th District rival Lawrence County during the 2017/2018 season.

## 58th District Girls' Basketball Preview

By STEVE LEMASTER  
SPORTS WRITER

Heading into the 2018/2019 girls' high school basketball season, reigning 58th District girls' basketball champion Floyd Central remains the frontrunner.

However, Prestonsburg is continuing to improve under second-year head coach Brandon Kidd.

A look around at the 58th District girls' basketball teams follows.

**Floyd Central:** Defending 58th District champion Floyd Central returns its talented group. Sophomore Katie Moore (15.1 points per game, 8.9 rebounds per game), senior Kaylee Moore (8.5 ppg, 9.7 rpg), junior Brook Stumbo (7.7 ppg), eighth-grader Abby

Maggard (11.0 ppg) and freshman Grace Martin (5.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg) are experienced returning starters for the Lady Jaguars.

Katie Moore led Floyd Central throughout last season, ranking as the Lady Jaguars' top scorer and second-leading rebounder.

One of the state's top young girls' high school basketball players, Maggard started for Floyd Central as a sev-

enth grader.

Floyd Central, under the direction of head coach Justin Triplett, reached the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament semifinals in its first season.

Prior to making an extended region tournament appearance, Floyd Central defeated Lawrence County 60-51 in the 2017/2018 58th District title game.

Former Johnson Central standout Lauren Preston is a talented newcomer for the Lady Jaguars. A senior, Preston ranked among the top players in the 15th Region when she was a member of tradition-rich Johnson Central girls' basketball program.

Eighth-grader Kennedy Harvell will also contribute for the Lady Jaguars.

See PREVIEW, Page 3B



Former foes Caroline Ariaz (2) and Alivia Slone (21) are teammates for the 2018/2019 season. Ariaz transferred to Prestonsburg from Betsy Layne.

Floyd Chronicle and Times file photo by Steve LeMaster

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UPIKE'S THOMAS SPEARS

# Spears named First Team All Mid-South Conference Appalachian Division

**SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD**  
CHRONICLE AND TIMES

PIKEVILLE — Fresh off the final game of a 6-5 season and finishing third in the Mid-South Conference Appalachian Division, nine UPIke football players were named among the best in their

division, league officials announced Thursday.

Junior quarterback Bowen Smith, junior running back Xondre Willis, and sophomore offensive lineman Thomas Spears were named First Team All Mid-South Appalachian Division. Spears is a Prestonsburg High

School graduate.

Senior tight end Braxton Whitmore, sophomore wide receiver Arites Clark, junior running back Willie McCloud, senior defensive back Sean Cook II, junior offensive lineman Stephen Richardson and sophomore offensive lineman Jalen Stone were

all named to the Second Team All Mid-South Appalachian Division.

After a shaky first game, Smith settled in and was a steady hand at the quarterback position all season, passing for 1,726 yards and 17 TDs and just four interceptions. He also rushed for

five more TDs.

Willis was the catalyst for the rushing game with his second-straight 1,000 yard season at 1,074 yards, the 20th most in the NAIA, and eight TDs. His partner in the backfield, McCloud, was much more than a change-of-pace back for the Bears this season, taking command of drives at times. Serving as the lead kickoff returner as well, McCloud accounted for 1,044 total all-purpose yards on the season.

Spears, Stone and Richardson all combined to provide strong protection for Smith and lanes for the running backs all season as the offensive line only surrendered 19 sacks and allowed Bears runners to rush for 2,472 yards, the 11th most in

the country.

Cook made his presence felt throughout the defense with a team-high 61 tackles, often finding running backs and receivers near the line of scrimmage, and team-high tying two interceptions.

Whitmore had a down year by his standards, but still made the most of it with 212 yards, which was enough to move him into fourth place on the UPIke all-time receiving list.

Clark is just behind him after his sophomore season as his 337 yards this season moved him into sixth all-time with 1,006 career yards. The sophomore is also already third in career receiving TDs with 16, five this season.



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### Prestonsburg's Reesce Endicott

#### PREVIEW

Continued From Page 1B

Floyd Central is slated to tip off the 2018/2019 season on the road at Magoffin County next Monday. The Lady Jaguars are scheduled to host a holiday tournament December 20-22.

**Prestonsburg:** Brandon Kidd guided Prestonsburg to a dozen wins in his first season as the Lady Blackcats' head coach. With numerous accomplished returning players and multiple talented newcomers, Prestonsburg is expected to show much improvement this season.

Prestonsburg returns three starters. Senior Reesce Endicott (18 ppg), sophomore Alivia Slone (16 ppg) and junior Allison Campbell (eight ppg) are the returning starters for the Lady Blackcats.

Key reserves back for Prestonsburg are Grace Trusty (Jr.), Celina Mullins 8th), Faith Lazar (Fr.), Maggie Nelson (8th) and Alexis Beatty (8th).

During the off-season, Prestonsburg added transfers Kaitlyn Keathley (Sr.), Caroline Ariaz (So.) and Kylie Stephens (So.). Keathley transferred from Pikeville. Joining her and the rest of the Lady

Blackcats, Ariaz made the move from Betsy Layne.

Keathley spent last season as a member of 15th Region runner-up Pikeville. As a sophomore at Pike Central one season earlier, Keathley averaged 14.6 points per game.

In addition to the three transfers, soccer standouts Jillian Kidd (Sr.) and Makayla Ousley (Jr.) have made a transition to the hardwood.

The Lady Blackcats fared well throughout the offseason and carried momentum into the pre-season.

Prestonsburg is scheduled to tip-off the season on the road at Belfry next Tuesday.

**Lawrence County:** A newcomer to the 58th District in 2017, Lawrence County managed to finish runner-up to Floyd Central.

Junior Alexis Ratliff (14.2 ppg, 7.4 rpg) is back for the Lady Bulldogs. Ratliff led Lawrence County in scoring during the 2017-18 season.

Lawrence County lost second-leading scorer Kendra Spaulding (12.6 ppg) to graduation but also returns senior Kelly Davis (7.8 ppg, 8.7 rpg), its leading rebounder.

Along with Ratliff and Davis, senior Sheree

Hay is another returning starter for the Lady Bulldogs.

The team's best defender, senior Kylie Maynard, is back for her final high school hoops season.

Sophomore Ellie Webb, freshman Kyleah Ward, eighth graders Kensley Feltner and Brooke Neal and seventh grader Kaison Ward will also chip in for the Lady Bulldogs.

The Melinda Feltner-coached Lady Bulldogs made the move from the 60th District to the 58th District in 2017.

Lawrence County is slated to tip off the 2018/2019 season at home versus former 16th Region counterpart Morgan County next Wednesday

**Betsy Layne:** Former perennial 15th Region title contender Betsy Layne lost its top three scorers from the 2017/2018 season. The trio combined to average 45 points per game for the Lady Bobcats.

Betsy Layne returns two of five starters from the 2017/2018 season.

Sophomore guard Lauryn Watkins and sophomore guard/forward Katie Kidd are the most experienced places back for Betsy Layne,

which lost to newfound rival Lawrence County in the opening round of the 58th District Girls' Basketball Tournament last season.

Betsy Layne head coach Kristal Allen expects freshmen Madi Meade, Amelia Blackburn, Kenadie Boyette and Kim Akers to be key contributors.

Senior Hannah Tackett and junior Allie Jarvis

will also contribute for the Lady Bobcats.

Betsy Layne lost the talented duo of Megan Frazier (19.7 ppg, 9.3 rpg) and Destiny Compton (15.4 ppg, 9.0 rpg) to graduation. Frazier and Compton helped to pace Betsy Layne throughout their high school careers.

With Caroline Ariaz making a move to Prestonsburg, Betsy Layne has faced the tough

task of replacing three starters from its 2017-18 team.

The Ladycats missed out on advancing to the 2017/2018 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament.

Betsy Layne is scheduled to host longtime non-district opponent Paintsville for a season opener in its new gym on Tuesday.

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Floyd County Chronicle • Tuesday - Wednesday, November 20 - 21, 2018 • Page 4B

**TO OUR READERS**

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD



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

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

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

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**LEGALS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Gilbert Stambaugh has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet for placement of 120'x225' fill in the right descending floodplain of Little Paint Creek at about stream mile 1.1 with coordinates of N 32.733535, W 82.787454 near Auxier, Floyd County. Directions to the site are as follows: US 23 North from Prestonsburg to Bays Branch/Highlands Regional Connector Road. Turn right for 200', then left onto State Rt. 1100 N for 1.5 miles. Site is on left near the mouth of Crider

**LEGALS**

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Jerry A. Patton, Jerry A. Patton, P.S.C., Attorney at Law, 252 East Court Street, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653, has been appointed Warning Order Attorney by the Floyd Circuit Family Court to notify Unknown Owners or Occupants, of the nature and pendency of a certain lawsuit filed on or about November 8, 2018, in which Unknown Owners or Occupants was named as a Defendant. Said suit has been filed in Floyd Circuit Court, Division No. II, and is represented by Civil Action No.: **18-CI-00727**. The basis of the suit is to collect a debt. Unknown Owners or Occupants shall have fifty (50) days from the date of the Warning Order to file an Answer with the Floyd Circuit Court Clerk if he/she desires to do so. If he/she does not appear in the suit and defend it, a Judgment will be entered at the discretion of the Court. Anyone having information concerning Unknown Owners or Occupants, please contact Honorable Jerry A. Patton at (606) 886-1779. Jerry A. Patton, Esq. Jerry A. Patton, P.S.C. 252 East Court Street Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653 (606) 886-1779

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-5689**  
In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Mason Coal, Inc. P.O. Box 869, 100 East Mountain Parkway, Salyersville, Kentucky 41465 has applied for an underground coal mining operation located 1.4 miles south of the Grethel Post Office in Floyd County. The proposed operation will consist of approximately 8.82 acres of surface disturbance making a total area of 1343.43 acres within the proposed permit boundary. The proposed operations area is approximately 6.0 miles southwest Kentucky 979's junction with Kentucky 1426 and located 0.01 mile east of Mud Creek. The proposed operation is located on the M c D o w e l l U.S.G.S. 7 1/2-minute quadrangle map. The surface to be disturbed is owned by Levi Tackett. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653. Written comments, objections, and requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Ky. 40601. **This is the final advertisement of this application.** All comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

**Classifieds Work**

**LEGALS**

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**LEGALS**

**ADVERTISE-MENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed bids for the public housing Modernization project K Y 3 6 P 0 3 5 - 501(18) will be received by The Housing Authority of Prestonsburg, Kentucky, on December 11, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., (local time), and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. The Project consists of: Bathroom 7 Kitchen Upgrades The information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Drawings, Specifications and other contract documents may be examined at the following locations: C S Design, Inc. 1088 Wellington Way Lexington, Kentucky 40513 The Housing Authority of Prestonsburg #12 Blaine Hall Street Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653 Additional information is provided in the bidding documents. Copies of the bidding documents may be purchased at the following location to be eligible to submit a bid for this project. Lynn Imaging

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

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

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.

**LEGALS**

328 Old Vine Street Lexington Kentucky 40507 Telephone: (859)255-1021 Attention: Plan Distribution Department www.lynnimaging.com A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 29, 2018, at 1:30 a.m. (local time) at the Housing Authority's main office for purposes of answering Bidders' questions and to consider any suggestions. The Housing Authority of Prestonsburg By: Rhonda Burchett, Executive Director

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

**Project Director**

Operation UNITE is seeking a full-time Project Director for the "Rural Health Opioid Outreach Project" in the Kentucky River region. The position requires travel throughout Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry and Wolfe counties. Qualifications shall include a Bachelor's degree in social services, health care, education, or related field, 5 years experience working with public service organizations, or equivalent combination of education and experience; competency in Microsoft applications (including Excel, Word, and Outlook); and ability to communicate effectively. Contact Debbie Trusty for questions and additional details (dtrusty@centertech.com) (606-889-0422). A cover letter and resume should be submitted to: **Debbie Trusty via email to dtrusty@centertech.com or mailed to 100 Resource Drive, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. Resumes must be received by 5 pm Friday, December 14, 2018**



**POSITION AVAILABLE**

Operation UNITE is seeking an individual to fill the position of **Administrative Assistant** for the **KY HELP Statewide Call Center** located at the Big Sandy Area Development District in Prestonsburg, KY. Operation UNITE is a non-profit organization that works on solutions to the substance use disorder (SUD) problem in a 32 county region of southern and eastern Kentucky. The **KY HELP Statewide Call Center** accepts calls from every area of Kentucky with the intent of providing an appropriate option for treatment/intervention to each caller. Send a cover letter and resume via email to mvance@centertech.com. Resume's will be accepted through Friday, November 30th, 2018.

**Administrative Assistant** – Will be required to perform general office duties that include, but are not limited to, the following: answering the phone; filing and scanning documents; operating copier and fax machine; working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and possess good communication skills. Must have one of the following: Associate degree from a college or university in accounting, business administration, management or other related field; two years' experience in financial, budgetary, or programmatic work experience in federal or state programs; and knowledge of modern office terminology, technology, practices and procedures, business English, spelling, grammar and math. Preference will be given to candidates with experience working in a human service or behavioral health office.

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**Advertisement for Business-Community Leaders**

The Floyd County Board of Education is accepting nominations for business-community leaders to serve on the Floyd County School's Local Planning Committee, until November 26, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Members of the Local Planning Committee (LPC) will be responsible for the development of a District Facility Plan for the Floyd County Schools that will assist in determining future school facility construction priorities and major renovation needs.

The Floyd County School board will select three (3) members from nominations received to serve on the Local Planning Committee (LPC). Residence in the school district is a requirement. Please submit nominations, including a letter of agreement to serve on the Local Planning Committee to:

L.P.C. Search  
Floyd County Board of Education  
Maintenance Department  
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Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Danny Adkins, Superintendent  
Floyd County Schools

**Public Notice  
City of Wheelwright  
1479 KY RT 306, Wheelwright, KY 41669**

**Notice for Bids**

The City of Wheelwright is accepting bids for the repair work on the Wheelwright Fire Department building. Bids will be received by the City of Wheelwright at City Hall, 1479 Ky. Rt. 306, Wheelwright, Ky. 41669 until November 26, 2018 at 4 p.m.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waiver any informalities. Awarding of bids shall be made on the basis of best value.



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# Letters To Santa

Santa wants to know what all of you girls and boys want for Christmas. We at the *Floyd Chronicle & Times* have agreed to help him out. Santa can read all your letters right here in our paper! All you have to do is email or mail (Santa prefers email these days) your “Letters To Santa” to one of the following:

**EMAIL TO (preferred method):**

**[eburchett@floydct.com](mailto:eburchett@floydct.com)**

**Mail to: Santa Claus c/o Floyd Chronicle & Times  
PO Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653**

**Your letters will be published in  
our special Christmas section!**

Make sure you write  
your letters neatly with  
your full name, age,  
and address.

**All letters must be  
RECEIVED by  
MONDAY,  
DEC. 3, 2018**

