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A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Kentucky Public Service Commission issued an order Thursday in the rate case filed by Kentucky Power, and announced the agency had "trimmed, by about four-fifths, a base rate

increase sought by Kentucky Power."

In addition, the PSC said in a statement, the agency "substantially" scaled back the companv's demand-side management programs and the customer surcharges that pay for those programs.

the two orders issued today will be that residential customers using the same amount of electricity will pay less in 2018 than they did last year." the PSC said in a statement. "Rates for all other classes of customers also will be lower than the

"The net effect of

amounts requested by Kentucky Power."

The PSC said in the statement that the average monthly residential bill has been \$157.83, a figure that includes base rates and all surcharges, but not local government fees and taxes. That same bill, the statement

said, will be \$151.45, a decrease of \$6.38, or about 4 percent. Individual bills will vary with usage.

According to the statement, key actions taken in the case include: Reduced — from

See RATE, Page xx



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Snow day



Floyd leaders remain optimistic about Big Shoal

Officials say questions raised in Pike County about company, project aren't dampening enthusiasm

By MARY MEADOWS

OBITUARIES, 6A

Billy Joe Crace Tanya Hadden "Trip" Stewart

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

Kevin Ousley of Maytown brought his son Kevin Ousley, 11, and daughter Lyndsay Ousley, 10, to Prestonsburg on Jan. 17. They played in the snow near the Prestonsburg Senior **Citizens Center.**



May Valley Elementary student Kevin Ousley, 11, slides down the hill near the Prestonsburg Senior Citizens Center on Jan. 17. He was there with his sister Lyndsay and father, Kevin Ousley of Maytown.

> **Floyd Chronicle and Times** photos by Mary Meadows

Floyd schools would lose \$2 million with proposed cuts, officials say

BY MARY MEADOWS STAFF WRITER

Program eliminations and reductions proposed this week by Gov. Matt Bevin would cost the Floyd County School District more than \$2

million, officials said.

The budget calls for the elimination of 70 programs statewide, and some of those programs have benefited Floyd County students for years.

State Budget Director

John E. Chilton explained in a letter to Bevin that K-12 funding is the largest category of spending in Kentucky. The proposed budget keeps per-student SEEK

See CUTS, Page 8A

STAFF WRITER

It's been three years since Kentucky declared a \$193 million investment by RCC Big Shoal LLC as one the state's Top 10 accomplishments for 2014, and officials report that the scope of the project has increased and those tax incentives are still on the table.

David Farmer and Bill Johnson, the owners of RCC Big Shoal and its parent company, RCL Chemical Conversion, as well as a representative from Synergy Financial Partners and others affiliated with the project, reported traveling to Floyd and Pike counties this week to speak with local leaders about it.

Floyd County Judge-Executive Ben Hale and County Attorney Keith Bartley would not discuss specifics, citing a confidentiality agreement, but they expressed optimism about what it could mean for the region, and they're both crossing their fingers in hopes that it will come to fruition.

"We're excited and hopeful that this project will come to fruition," Hale said. "This project is not something small. It is a massive project and there's a lot of different ends that has to be tied on to it. Any kind of economic development project like that, something this massive, it's going to

See OPTIMISTIC, Page 7A



Deeds, marriages filed

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

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

Marriages

Ronnie Jessie Newsome, 21, of Prestonsburg, to Hannah Brooke Reed, 20, of Salyersville

Anne E. Collins, 46, of Prestonsburg, to Gerald V. Frasure, 52, of Prestonsburg

Angelina R. Reynolds, 47, of Martin, to Donnie E. Elkins, 42, of Tram

Charles Edward Williams III, 35, of Prestonsburg, to Sandra Jean Frazier, 47, of Prestonsburg

Erica Crum, 27, of Printer, to Benjamin Ray Kidd, 34, of Printer

Sunni Carla-Rae Staton, of Prestonsburg, to Richard Casey Bickford, 52, of Prestonsburg

Property Transfers

Master Commissioner, Barbara Akers, Tracey Akers, Bonnie Faye Bryant, Verla Hamilton, Vern Hamilton, Gregory Isaac, Commonwealth of Kentucky to Tax Ease Lien Servicing LLC; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 518)

Master Commissioner Ashley Tackett Laferty, Brenda S. Allen, Ronald D. Allen, Martha L. Brown, Margaret Ann Conn, Susan Compton, William A. Morris, Kentucky Housing Corporation, Legal Recoveries Inc.; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 496)

Master Commissioner Ashley Tackett Laferty, Lisa Johnson, Crystal Lafferty, Barry W. Marsillett, Dallas R. Marsillett, Debra Marsillett, Kevin E. Marsillett, Frank Rudder, John Rudder, Wayne Wright, Tax Ease Lien Servicing LLC to Oliver Little; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 554)

Bonita Compton, Susan Compton, to Hoods Fork Reclamation LLC; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 563)

Loretta Sue Newman to Hoods Fork Reclamation

LLC; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 560)

Marsha Lynn Newsome Gutmans, Russell Gutmans to Jennifer Newsome; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 502)

Kimberly Hall, Marilu Mora to Nicholas J. Martin; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 566) Leonard Hall, L&B Real

Estate LLC to Kentucky Power Company, agreement location unlisted; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 570)

Jeremy Todd Howard, Vylinda Howard to Vylinda Howard; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 582)

Lakeview Loan Ser-

vicing LLC to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, property in the Richmond Subdivision, Prestonsburg

David A. Lewis to Crystal Lynn Jarrell Howell, Timmy Lee Howell; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 586)

William Martin to Wilma Nickels Hughes, Bobbie Nickels, Victoria Nickels, Betty Nickels, Harold Nickels, Robert Nickels; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 524)

Mountain Metal Company, Mountain Metal Company, Inc. of West Prestonsburg to Mountain Metal Recyclables; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 534)

Derrick Newsome, Jennifer Marie Newsome to Jennifer Marie Newsome; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 502)

Brittany Pennington, Ryan Pennington to Kentucky Power Company; agreement location unlisted; (Deeds Book 634; pg. 568)

Charles W. Reichenbach, Delores M. Reichenbach to Tina Renee Hall; property in the Wills Subdivision

Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance Inc. to Alice H. Skupnick, Andrew Ale Skupnick; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 546)

Sheriff's office transports residents during inclement weather

BY JOSH LITTLE STAFF WRITER

Earlier this week, the Floyd County Sheriff's Office made numerous trips taking residents to and from work, picking up prescriptions and providing other services during inclement weather conditions.

As of midday Wednesday, Sheriff John Hunt said the department had completed nearly 17 runs, which consisted of transporting residents to work, to doctor's appointments, dialysis appointments with the transports, which al-

and other services. He said several more runs were scheduled Wednesday.

Hunt said the department has been implementing this plan — Operation Winter Time, as Hunt refers to it for years.

"Usually, in the winter time, when the cold starts moving in, we get in our winter mode ... and we start getting our four-wheel-drive vehicles ready and we start getting our drivers prepared," said Hunt.

He said volunteers help

lows the department to help more people in the county.

"It's times like this when volunteers are priceless," he said. "They come out and help us whenever we need them."

A snowstorm in 2015 resulted in the department completing nearly 75 transports, Hunt said. Numerous different scenarios have been completed during the implementation of the program. He said in 2015, the department helped to get a newborn baby and its family home safely.

"It's just people who have

found themselves stuck, or who are worried about getting out in the inclement weather conditions," he said.

Hunt said the department makes medicine runs for people, grocery runs, oxygen-tank refills, kerosene runs and other types of necessary services.

In addition to the transportation services, the Floyd County Sheriff's Office extends its hours until nearly 4 a.m. or 5 a.m., compared to the normal 2 a.m. During this extended time, officers drive around the county making

sure no one is broke down, Hunt said.

During times of inclement weather, residents can contact the sheriff's office at, (606) 886-8965 or (606) 886-6711 for transportation during business hours. For 24-hour service, the office can be reached at, (606) 886-6171. Hunt recommends interested persons to give the department at least a twohour heads up to make arrangements.



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9 House Republicans asking PSC for fast review of Ky. Power rate hike proposal

BY TOM LATEK KENTUCKY TODAY

from Eastern Kentucky, including 95th Dist. state Rep. Larry Brown, have sent a letter to the state Public Service Commission, asking them to review a rate hike sought by Kentucky Power. The nine want the PSC to conduct an expedited review of the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act so the utility can offer rate reductions to their customers. On Dec. 28, the PSC issued orders to for-profit utilities, telling them to track their savings under lower corporate tax rates that took effect Jan. 1, going from 35 percent to 21 percent, paving the way for those savings to be passed on to customers in the form of lower electric, gas or water rates. In two orders, the PSC noted investor-owned utilities recover their federal tax expenses from ratepavers. Under the federal tax law enacted earlier

this month, the corporate income tax rate will decline from 35 percent to 21 percent next year, substantially reduc-Nine Republican House members ing the tax burden on for-profit, investor-owned utilities. "Since ratepayers are required to pay through their rates the tax expenses of a utility, any reduction in tax rates must be timely passed through to ratepayers," the PSC said in the orders. The nine said a rapid response from the PSC is prudent, "as the winter months in Eastern Kentucky are a particularly critical time for many residents. Reductions to utilities' federal income taxes will allow the company to lower power rates, and ease the financial strain on customers in Appalachia." The letter was signed by Reps. Jill York of Grayson, Chris Fugate of Chavies, David Hale of Wellington, Danny Bentley of Russell, Tim Couch of Hyden, Brown John Blanton of Salyersville, Scott Wells of West Liberty and Toby Herald of Beattyville.

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Burchett to host album launch party at the MAC

By Josh Little Staff Writer

Floyd County resident and former Big Sandy Singers member Troy Burchett will host an album release party at the Mountain Arts Center Feb. 9 beginning at 6 p.m.

Burchett, a native of Floyd County, has lived in the area for the entirety of his life, excluding a small stint of time he spent pursuing his musical dreams in Nashville.

His latest album, Turn Back Time, includes 10 tracks, all of which are written by Burchett. The album was recorded at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg. He said the album reflects on important aspects of his life.

"Each song is really about a part of my life," said Burchett. "I think music is like therapy. I was once told that the best songs and the best music are ones that when you listen to them they help you relive a part of your life ... I like to write songs that have some kind of meaning to them; something I've lived, experienced, loved or lost." The album is orchestrated by a full band and backup singers. A full band will also be on hand at the launch party to perform some of the songs from he album. Local musician Jason Goble will open the show for Burchett.

Burchett said he learned a lot about performing during his more than four years as a performer with Big Sandy Community and Technical College's group — the Big Sandy Singers. Upon graduation from BSCTC, Burchett tried his hand at music in Nashville where he auditioned for numerous television shows, performed at the Wild Horse Saloon and other places. He has also performed on national television on a show titled "Virginia Dream."

Burchett performs on Tuesday nights with Goble in different businesses in the area at what has become known as Songwriter Scene.

All money raised from ticket sales on the night of the release party will be donated to the Animal Alliance of Eastern Kentucky, plus free food will be provided at the party for guests.

Planning underway for Operation Clean Sweep

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Officials at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park are seeking volunteers and organizations that want to help plan the annual Operation Clean Sweep event.

The park invites the public to a planning meeting about the event which will be held at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the May Lodge.

Several organizations and numerous volunteers usually participate in Operation Clean Sweep each year. The park provides lunch for all volunteers and, last year, the Friends of Jenny Wiley offered door prizes.

The annual event helps park officials clean up the park in time for the tourist season. Last year, Operation Clean Sweep volunteers picked up more than 300 bags of trash from Dewey Lake and the park.

JWSRP Interpreter Trinity Shepherd said the event will be held on March 17 and JWSRP is seeking organizations that want to sponsor the event and/or volunteer.

For more information, call Shepherd at (606) 889-1790.



Burchett's album is titled Turn Back Time.



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Kimi May, PharmD Pharmacist

Martin man arrested for allegedly stealing vehicle parked at Floyd church

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Martin man was arrested Monday following an incident in November in which, officials say, he allegedly stole a vehicle parked at a Prestonsburg church.

Fork, Martin, was charged with theft by unlawful taking of an automobile (more

than \$10,000, less than \$1,000,000).

According to a warrant of arrest, Prestonsburg Police Officer Ross Shurtleff said Bates allegedly stole a 2011 Acura SUV from a methodist church parking lot in Prestonsburg in Nov. 2017.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled Rodney Clyde Bates, 43, of Caney at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 22 in Floyd District Court. Bates was released on a \$2,000 cash bond.

Former Schwan's employee arrested for stealing from company

of Peddler St., West Lib-

erty, was charged with

theft by deception over

lice Officer Adam Dixon

stated in the arrest war-

rant that, between May

24, 2016 through July 8,

Po-

Prestonsburg

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A West Liberty man was arrested in Floyd County after he allegedly wrote checks for nearly \$3,000 in fraudulent customer purchases in order to receive refunds to his personal account.

2016, Ousley, an employee of Schwan's, creat-

\$500.

Devin W. Ousley, 24, ed fraudulent customer

purchases to "deprive his employer." The warrant said Ousley used the accounts to refund money on his own personal credit card, which totaled \$2,993.62. The warrant was issued in Aug. 2016.

A hearing is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 31 in Floyd District Court.



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GUEST EDITORIAL:

Continued division along race, culture, class lines only harms us all as a community, nation

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Just a little less than a year ago, the tensions, which are still running through our nation along lines of race, class, party and other divisions, came to the forefront in Pikeville, as several groups of white nationalists and their opposition chose Main Street as the location for a standoff.

The threats in the months and days leading up to the event were of violence, the words spoken, words of hate.

Thankfully, the violence never materialized, as it would just a few months later in Charlottesville, Virginia.

However, we were confronted

with a reality that our nation's public discourse has taken a turn for the worse in the past several years, that these divisions are not, as some would have us believe, false. We were confronted with the reality that we are in real danger in the United States of losing what many have died for over the years

Monday, we observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an occasion to recognize a man who forced us, as a nation, to take a look in the mirror and decide that we didn't like what we saw. Amongst all the quotes and speeches which are always broadcast on television, social media and other mediums, there was a line which ran through King's words that loudly proclaimed the inherent value of every person.

And, if all people are valuable, then it is incumbent upon us as individuals to consider the causeand-effect that our words and actions have, not just on those close to us, but also to our greater com-

munity.

Sadly, it seems, civility has taken a backseat in our society to pragmatism — what works is what we do, no matter the cost to others.

This sense of pragmatism and a self-centered focus only on what benefits us as individuals are part of the factors driving the very division this nation faces. After all, if we only have ourselves on which to focus, if only our own opinions and emotions matter, then it's easy to dismiss the "other."

It is in this self-centered space in which the "other" is lesser that it becomes acceptable to use a demeaning racial epithet, an insult about another's disability. In that space, it becomes acceptable to lump all people who struggle financially, both in poverty and out, as victims of their own actions, deserving of nothing, no help.

In that space, it becomes acceptable to define someone who has different political, social or religious beliefs as an "enemy," dehumanized to the point that it becomes acceptable to destroy the person emotionally or even physically.

Dr. King had a faith that informed his words and actions, and that faith spoke to him that, at the core of everything was the fact that all people had value and deserved an opportunity to live in the nation promised to them, a nation whose founding documents set forth that all men are created equal, deserving of the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Unfortunately, King's words are not simply for us, an example of a time in the past in which it was necessary for men and women to lay their lives on the line, just so people who had a different color of skin, a different racial background, could be recognized as human. King's words and actions still speak to where the United States of America is as a country.

There's been progress, sure, but we're not there yet, and in the current climate, we appear to be going somewhat backward.

At this time, it's more important than ever that we not just listen to Dr. King's voice and read his works as a way of understanding the past. It's time that we take heed of what he said then as a way of understanding what's happening in our nation, state and community now.

As Dr. King wrote, "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

If we allow injustice, hatred, division and violence to occur to "others," the cost is just as great to the fabric of our nation as it is to those we wrong.

Appalachian
News-Express

GUEST COLUMN:

On the governor's budget

REP. JIM WAYNE 35th House District Representative

One of my favorite spots in Kentucky is on top of a steep knob overlooking the Rolling Fork River valley in Marion County. The reward ing for themselves and their children. Kentucky offered opportunities to farm, build communities and financial security.

Nearly 200 years later, as I sit staring through the naked trees on the land I love, I question why our Commonleaders so short sighted and lacking vision to invest in our people?

As a state legislator for over 27 years I am frustrated and angry with a status quo in Frankfort that condemns so many to limited economic and academic opportunities, telling us for years about our downward spiral. Still the power brokers of Frankfort refuse to act, or perhaps more accurately, do not have the leadership abilities and moral courage to act to raise revenue and invest in our people. of money to invest in Kentucky, these Republicans (and some Democratic accomplices) starve our people of life giving programs and services. This strategy is killing people. This strategy feeds the decline of our Commonwealth further, redirecting our resources and energies into our people is now. Delaying compounds our many troubles and pushes us further behind in every category of wellness as a people.

The hopes and dreams in the hearts of my ancestors who settled in the geographic center of Kentucky are my hopes and dreams as we face the challenges before us: to build a community of caring, well educated, thriving people in a state with an abundance of natural resources, beauty and talent. Unless we collectively invest in ourselves we face a present and a future of increased poverty, ill health and ignorance, a widening economic gap, and environmental degradation. What can you do? Raise the bar on your legislators. Tell them to refuse the governor's budget proposal and demand tax reform now so we save ourselves.

of a strenuous hike to this peak is sitting on a limestone outcropping on a clear winter day seeing the log home of my great great grandparents, the wide river valley pasture below, spotted with Angus cows and, beyond the river, the forests and fields of Casey County. This spot is a place of inspiration and imagination.

My ancestors migrated to this land of knobs and lush valleys because they sought a better way of livwealth has failed to live up to its potential. Why do we have nearly one in four of our children living in dire poverty? Why do we have such a sick people? Why are opportunities for higher education so expensive? Why are so many of our public schools struggling? Why are so many suffering mental illness? Why are our young people being sent to early graves by guns and drugs? Why do our prisons continue to house far too many? Why are our political

poor mental and physical health, violence and environmental degradation.

Right wing Republicans and timid Democrats wait for the free market to miraculously save us, like Deus ex machina, in a Greek drama.

The free market will not rescue us. It never has and never will because it is based on profit and greed, not the common good. Economists, health experts and sociologists from each end of the political spectrum have been The budget proposed by our Republican governor is a disgrace. It does everything to make the state of our Commonwealth worse: disinvesting in education, healthcare, environmental protections, public protections, the courts, child and adult protections, foster care, transportation and drug rehab.

Instead of building coalitions of citizen and legislative groups to enact fair, adequate and modern tax reforms to boost the amount

moving us closer to becoming a third world country.

No state budget should be passed this legislative session without first revamping our tax system. Do the leaders in Frankfort have the skill and moral fiber to tackle this long delayed policy emergency?

If they refuse or can't, as so many leaders in both parties have refused or couldn't during the last 20 years, then the people of Kentucky must replace them. The time for

CHRONICLE & TIMES

LETTERS OR COMMENTS:

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Billy Joe Crace

Billy Joe Crace, 69, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018.

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



Tanya Hadden

Tanya Leigh Martin Hadden, 57, died peacefully Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018, with her family by her side.

She was preceded in death by her father, Donald Martin.

She is survived by her sons, Wesley Hadden (Kourtney) of Lexington and Zachary Hadden (Shaya) of Louisville; her daughter, Lindsay Hadden Chupek (John) of New Kent, Va.; her mother, Charlene Patton Johnson of Langley; her stepfather, Larry Johnson of Langley; her brothers, John Martin of Stanton, James Martin (Tammy) of East Bernstadt; six granddaughters, Anna, Caroline, Emelyn, Madilyn, Laurel and Kinsley; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Tanya was born at Martin, Sept. 24, 1960. She grew up and spent most of her life in both Central and Eastern Kentucky. She is a graduate

ture. Later in life, Tanya returned to EKU, where she received her Masters of Teaching degree and taught for many years at Montgomery and Bourbon Counties, as well as Indianapolis (Irvington), Indiana. She had a great passion for educational policy, which led her to gain her Masters of Educational Leadership and Principal licensure from Ball State University. She was a member of the Kentucky Education Association. Tanya was an avid gardener, cook, lover of books, music and animals. She had a remarkable smile and sense of humor. She was a loving mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend to many.

A memorial service and reception will be held at 12 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, at Grace Way United Methodist Church at Langley. Arrangements are under the direction of the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to: Grace Way United Methodist, 8410 KY-80, Langley, KY 41645, or The American Brain Tumor Association 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 550, Chicago, IL 60631-3225.

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

This is a paid obituary.

"Trip" Stewart

Randall Marvin "Trip" Stewart Randall Marvin "Trip" Stewart, 62, of Hi Hat, died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018.

Ethics commission has a copy of Hoover's secret sexual harassment settlement

By DANIEL DESROCHERS LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER

FRANKFORT — A prosecutor for the Legislative Ethics Commission has a copy of a secret settlement that four Republican House members made with a legislative employee who accused them of sexual harassment.

Garry Adams, an attorney representing the former legislative employee, said the prosecutor had already obtained the settlement when Adams met with the prosecutor to hand over subpoenaed text messages between his client and the House members.

"They showed us that document and asked us to verify," Adams said.

Kara Daniel, a lawyer for the commission, said the settlement will not be made public until the commission makes a ruling on an ethics complaint against the lawmakers that it is investigating.

Attorneys representing Jeff Hoover, the former speaker of the House, and the three other lawmakers decided Tuesday to waive a preliminary hearing on whether there was probable cause for the complaint against them.

"That does not mean they said they were guilty," said George Troutman, chairman of the commission. "It doesn't mean they imply that they're guilty."

It does mean that the case against Hoover, R-Jamestown; Rep. Jim DeCesare, R-Bowling Green; Rep. Michael Meredith, R-Oakland; and Rep. Brian Linder, R-Dry Ridge, will proceed to an adjudicatory hearing.

"The complaint, barring some legal technicality, will not be dismissed," Troutman said. "The complaint will be acted upon, either you take the handcuffs off, you're free to go home, or you're guilty as charged and the appropriate punishment would be determined."

The hearing will be public, and Troutman said he will set a date in the next two weeks.

The ethics commission is acting on a complaint filed by Rep. Jim Wayne, D-Louisville. The House Republican leadership team also filed a complaint, but Troutman said he chose to investigate Wayne's complaint.

"I had to pick one, and that's the one I picked," Troutman said.

Wayne filed his complaint Nov. 15, just 10 days after Hoover announced that he would resign from his position as Speaker of the House of Representatives and acknowledged that he and three other lawmakers had secretly settled a sexual harassment complaint made by an employee.

RATE **Continued From Page 1A**

the 9.75 percent in the settlement to 9.70 percent - the authorized return on investment for company shareholders.

· Accepted a settlement provision that defers \$50 million in expenses related to Kentucky Power's purchases of power from the Rockport plant in Indiana, which is owned and operated by another company within the American Electric Power Co. (AEP) system. Those costs will be addressed in a future rate case. The contract is schedment efforts in Kentucky Power's service territory. Company shareholders contribute a matching amount. The settlement called for the residential fee to be cut from 15 cents to ten cents, and for commercial customers to begin paying into the fund at \$1 per month. The PSC eliminated the residential charge altogether and reallocated the residential customer contribution into a fund to assist low-income ratepayers who are having trouble paying their bills. As a result, the monthly charge for the assistance program will increase from the current 15 cents to

 Accepted a settlement provision that increases the monthly service charge for residential customers to \$14. Kentucky Power's application called for a monthly service charge of \$17.50.

• Approved Kentucky Power's 2017 environmental compliance plan, which includes \$3.9 million in expenses associated with air pollution controls at the Rockport plant. Those costs will be recovered, as permitted under Kentucky law, through the company's environmental surcharge. Despite the added project, the available to as many as surcharge initially will 1,000 customers on an 30 cents, rather than the decline as a result of the federal corporate tax cut.

tended to 30 schools on a pilot basis, to be made permanent and available to all schools. The PSC found that continuation of the rate could not be justified based on the power usage characteristics of the schools, and because it would result in other customers subsidizing the schools.

· Approved a pilot program that will structure rates in a way that is designed to save money for residential customers who are able to shift their usage away from times of peak system demand. Kentucky Power will make the program experimental basis. Kentucky Power officials did not immediately comment Thursday on the order, saying they had not had a chance to review the document.

of Allen Central High School. After graduation, she went on to Eastern Kentucky University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricul-

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

uled to expire in 2022.

 Rejected a settlement provision that called for residential customers to continue paying a monthly charge to fund economic develop20 cents proposed by Kentucky Power. Company shareholders will continue to match ratepayer payments into the both funds.

• Eliminated a separate rate for schools. The settlement called for the rate, which had been ex-

Community calendar

• Jan. 19: Big Sandy Community & Technical College to host respiratory therapy program pre-admission conference. (606) 788-2822 or Melissa.skeens@kctcs.edu

• Jan. 19; 10 a.m.: Floyd County Fiscal Court meets, county courthouse. (606) 886-9193

• Jan. 20; 11 a.m.: Ryker and Riley's Unique Home Furnishings, 233 West Court St., to offer Learn to use chalk paint, waxes and glazes. \$35. (606) 339-2937

• Jan. 20; 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park hosts elk tours. \$30 per adult; \$15 for children; free for kids age 12 and under. (606) 889-1790

• Jan. 20; 7:30: Dressed to Kill, a Kiss tribute band, to perform at the Mountain Arts Center. 888-MAC-ARTS

• Jan. 20; 8 a.m.: East Kentucky Bee School, Hazard Community & Technical College. (606) 886-2668

• Jan. 22; 6:30 p.m.: Floyd County Board of Education meets at May Valley Elementary School. (606) 886-2354

• Jan. 22; 5 p.m.: Southern Water meets, Southern offices, McDowell.

• Jan. 23; 11:30 a.m.: Big Sandy Area Development District meets. (606) 886-2374.

• Jan. 23; 12 p.m.: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park invites the public to a planning meeting at the May Lodge to discuss Operation Clean Sweep, which will be held March 17. (606) 889-1790

• Jan. 23; 6 p.m.: Martin City Council meets, city hall.

• Jan. 23; 7:30 p.m.: Tuesday Night Songwriters Scene, Mosby's at Quality Inn. (606) 886-1341

• Jan. 23; 5:30 p.m.: Artisan FastTrac course will teach artists how to market and sell their work, with the first meeting at the Pike County Cooperative Extension office. The class will continue for six weeks, with weekly meetings at the extension office on Tuesdays and online classes on Thursdays. \$25. Register at maced.org or call (606) 264-5910

• Jan. 23; 5:30 p.m.: Floyd County Extension Office to host Basics of Home Vegetable Garden, session 1. (606) 886-2668

• Wednesdays, Fridays: Big Sandy Community & Technical College hosts lowcost dental clinic. (606) 886-7352

• Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.: Lane of Roses Women's Bible Study meets at City Perk, Prestonsburg. ayngeleastevens.laneofroses@gmail.com or (606) 367-2970

• Every Monday; 3:30 p.m., through May 7: Mommy and Me Sewing Class, Prestonsburg Library.

• Every Monday, 11 a.m.; Thursday at 5 p.m.: Free Gentle Yoga class at the Floyd County Health Department.

• Every Tuesday, 9 a.m.: Free Gentle Yoga class hosted by Saint Joseph Martin at Graceway United Methodist Church, Langley

 Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center accepting applications for its off-center training program, offering certification to people ages 16-24. (606) 433-2265

· Registrations accepted for 2018 Kentucky State Parks Family Adventure Quest, a digital photo scavenger hunt that requires travel to various state parks. Prizes offered for those who complete at least 10 quests by Dec. 2018. parks.ky.gov



Candidate filings continue in Floyd

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

candidates Eight filed paperwork to seek offices serving Floyd County residents recently, bringing the total number of candidates seeking election to 44.

The newest state filings include three nonpartisan candidates for the 7th Appellate District of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, the seat previously held by Janet Stumbo, who announced her retirement recently. The candidates include Donald Howard Combs of Pikeville, and Larry E. Thompson of Pikeville, as well as David Allen Barber of Morehead.

In another nonpartisan race, Brittainy Branham of Prestonsburg filed her paperwork to seek a return to her seat on the Prestonsburg City Council.

The recent filings also filled out the ballot in other local races. There are now at least three candidates for every voting seat on the Floyd County Fiscal Court.

Floyd County Judge-Executive Ben Hale of Blue River filed his paperwork to seek re-election, and will face James "Jimmy" Rose of

Caney Fork and Marvin incumbent, Bryan Lafferty of Prestonsburg in the Democratic Primary.

Incumbent Magistrate Mike Tackett of Wheelwright also filed his paperwork recently for a return to the District 3 magisterial seat. He will face former magistrate Warren Jarrell of Printer and Ryan Slone crat of Drift in the Democratic Primary. Three candidates will also face on in the Democratic Primary for the District 1, District 2 and District 4 magistrate seats.

The latest filings included another candidate for Constable in District 3, with Willie Hall of Melvin filing his paperwork to seek that office. He will face Democrats Joey Collins of Frasures Creek and Ernie Ray Moore of Mc-Dowell in the Primary.

And Floyd County Circuit Court Clerk Douglas Ray Hall found a challenger. Former District 3 Magistrate Donnie Daniels filed his paperwork to seek the that seat.

The candidates who have filed their paperwork include:

U.S. Representative, 5th Congressional District

Harold "Hal" Rogers,

Somerset, Republican

Gerardo Serrano of South Tyner, Republican

95th State Representative

Larry D. Brown of Prestonsburg, incumbent, Republican

Ashley Tackett Laferty of Martin, Demo-

Floyd County Judge Executive

James "Jimmy" Rose of Caney Fork, Democrat

Marvin Bryan Lafferty of Prestonsburg, Democrat

Ben Hale of Blue River, incumbent, Democrat

Floyd County Attorney

Keith Bartley of Prestonsburg, incumbent. Democrat

Floyd County Jailer

Stuart "Bear" Halbert of Martin, incumbent, Democrat Glennis Caudill of

Melvin, Democrat

Floyd County Property Administrator

Connie Hancock of Langley, incumbent, Democrat

Floyd County Circuit Court Clerk

Douglas Ray Hall of McDowell, incumbent, Democrat Donnie Daniels of Melvin, Democrat

Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney

Arnold Brent Turner of Prestonsburg, incumbent, Democrat

Floyd County Coroner

Greg Nelson of Dwale, incumbent, Democrat

District 1 Magistrate "Big John" John Goble of Prestonsburg, incumbent, Democrat Mark D. Crider of Prestonsburg, Democrat David A. Gearheart

of Prestonsburg, Democrat

District 2 Magistrate Randy Davis of Da-

vid, incumbent, Democrat George Ousley of Goose Creek in Eastern, Democrat

Todd Hansford of Council Valuation Wayland, Democrat

> District 3 Magistrate

Ryan Slone of Drift, Democrat

Warren Jarrell of Printer, Democrat Mike Tackett of

Wheelwright, incumbent, Democrat

District 4 Magistrate

Ronnie Akers, of Harold, incumbent, Democrat

Lennix Cola Ray Akers of Harold, Democrat William L. Slone of Dana, Democrat

Floyd County District Judge 31st/2nd Jimmy "Blue" Marcum of Prestonsburg, incumbent Eric D. Hall of Allen,

incumbent

Court of Appeals, 7th Appellate District

Donald Howard Combs of Pikeville Larry E. Thompson of Pikeville

David Allen Barber of Morehead

Prestonsburg Mavor

Les Stapleton of Prestonsburg, incumbent

Prestonsburg City

Brittainy Branham of Prestonsburg, incumbent

District 1 Constable

Larry (Boss) Jarrell of Slick Rock, incumbent, Democrat

Bobby Hamilton of Prestonsburg, Independent

William "Bill" Callihan of Auxier, Democrat

District 2 Constable

Samuel Duncan, of Garrett, incumbent, Democrat

Gary Nelson of Lackey, Democrat

District 3 Constable

Ernie Ray Moore of McDowell, incumbent, Democrat

Joey Collins of Mc-Dowell, Democrat

Willie Hall of Melvin, Democrat

District 4 Constable

"Junebug" Allred Newsome of Grethel, incumbent, Democrat

Green Wakeland of Printer, Democrat

The filing deadline is Jan. 30 for most races, and some nonpartisan candidates, including those for local city governments and the school board, have until next August to file their statement of candidacy.

Local legislators again back rural jobs act

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Local legislators are seeking to grow Eastern Kentucky through the Kentucky Rural Jobs Tax Credit Act of 2018.

filed the bipartisan measure, House Bill 6, on Jan. 17.

The bill would establish a new tax credit against the taxes imposed on insurance companies and financial institutions and would allow payments made by those companies to be placed into rural growth funds that make investments in businesses that operate in rural areas of the state.

The bill states, "Businesses in the rural areas of this state have found it difficult to attract capital necessary to make investments that would stimulate economic development activity and create new jobs for the residents of rural areas; therefore, a need exists to attract capital to rural areas that promotes the retention and expansion of existing jobs, stimulates the

creation of new jobs, attracts new business and industry to the state, stimulates growth in business, and fosters job creation in this state."

The rural growth fund would be open to businesses with less than 250 employees who live in rural areas. To gualify, businesses would need to operate in one or more rural areas of Kentucky and earn no more than \$15

million the preceding year.

Businesses would follow a process to become certified as a rural growth fund entity and investors could receive tax credits collectively totaling \$60 million.

Rep. John Blanton, R-Salyersville, supported by Rep. Larry Brown, R-Prestonsburg, Rep. Angie Hatton, D-Whitesburg, Rep. Chris Fugate, R-Chavies, and others,

Blanton, backed by Brown and others, filed a similar bill during the last legislative session, but it was never called for a vote.

OPTIMISTIC Continued From Page 1A

take quite a bit of work, getting the certain players involved and making sure they are comfortable with everything before investments are made."

He and Bartley spoke with company executives at a luncheon on Tuesday at Pig in a Poke in Prestonsburg, and Hale walked away feeling "optimistic and cautious."

"I feel comfortable," he said about the project, "because we've been getting good updates. But I don't want to be too overly optimistic. I want to be optimistic and cautious until we see all the pegs going into the right holes."

The facility was initially planned to be constructed in Pike County, but RCC Big Shoal decided, instead, to build its headquarters in Pike County and the facility in Floyd County near the Markwest plant in Langley. The move ruffled feathers in Pike County because officials there claimed they weren't aware of the change before the decision was made.

ty have also expressed concerns about not being given regular progress reports, which were required under the terms of the agreement.

RCC Big Shoal received \$400,000 in economic development funds from the Pike County Fiscal Court for the project, and another \$100,000 from the Floyd County Fiscal Court — funds made available through a Kentucky Power grant program for site development - and, in 2012, a \$250,000 grant for research and development from the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation in Lexington.

Bartley said he understands the concerns Pike County officials have expressed about the project, but he believes their opinion will change as work progresses.

If everything works out the way it's been explained by the company, Bartley said he believes "Pike County will be more than satisfied. I think, in the end, if everything goes as planned, it will be beneficial to both Pike County and Floyd County and, probably, the entire region," he said.

Johnson declined

Officials in Pike Coun- an interview request from the newspaper this week, but he answered a few questions about the project over the phone. He said the company is working toward making an announcement next month.

> He said the project's scope has increased by about 20 percent since it was initially announced and the company wants to build two or three facilities at the plant in Langley. The company will convert natural gas into "value-added products," he said. There will be more than one phase of construction, he said, and site preparation and infrastructure changes will be required.

Johnson said the plant will be built off-site and moved to the property in Langley, and the company will seek local fabrication companies to complete that work. He said the company is completing the last part of the engineering phase, has taken steps toward obtaining permits it needs, is working on licensing agreements, and is "anxious" to move forward.

"We're looking forward to being a permanent resident in the Eastern Kentucky area," he said.

He said he is "very pleased" with dialogue he's had with officials from Floyd and Pike counties.

The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority gave preliminary approval of \$18 million in tax incentives for the company's proposed gas-to-liquids facility in August 2014about six months after RCC Big Shoal registered as a business in Kentucky — and the KEDFA renewed that incentive agreement in August 2017, state officials confirmed last week.

Jack Mazurak, communications director for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, reported that the KEDFA board approved a 12-month extension for the incentive agreement with RCC Big Shoal on August 31, 2017. The memo attached to that board's meeting agenda reports the company requested the extension.

The preliminary approval was authorized under the Incentives for Energy Independence Act, one of several tax incentive programs the state offers to spur eco-

nomic development. Through that program, RCC Big Shoal will qualify to receive the \$18 million in tax incentives if it adheres to promises it made to the state, such as its pledge to provide at least 30 jobs with an average wage of \$34.16.

Mazurak reported that IEIA incentive agreements must receive final approval before the company can begin construction, as project-related expenses like site preparation and construction undertaken prior to the final approval date do not qualify for the incentives.

"A company might use the time between Preliminary and Final to raise money, go through the permitting process and accomplish the design and engineering," he said in an email.

Once final approval for the incentives is given, RCC Big Shoal will have five years to complete the project, but time extensions may be available. Mazurak said these types of projects usually take years to complete.

Eligible tax incentives include refunds of up to 100 percent of taxes the company pays on tangible personal property made to construct, retrofit or upgrade a facility, 80 percent of taxes the company pays on the purchase or severance of coal or natural gas, 100 percent of its corporate income or Limited Liability Entity Tax, as well as a wage assessment of up to four percent of gross wages of each employee.

The tax incentives are available for up to 25 years, and RCC Big Shoal could receive, in that time, tax incentives worth up to 50 percent of its initial capital investment, and that would be a significant amount, as company officials have reported that the investment has grown since the project was initially planned.

In 2014, KEDFA reported the that the total investment from RCC Big Shoal would be \$193 million — with approximately \$149 million going to equipment and \$10 million going to construction, among other costs.

But when the project announcement was made, the company reported the investment would top \$500 million.

Several charged in Floyd District Court, civil cases filed

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

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

Lawsuits filed

Jessica Partin vs. port. Bryan M. Partin.

Mary Lou Bailey, et al. vs. Peggy S. Jarrell, et al.

Cody Collins vs. Tosha Cooper.

Wells Fargo Bank N.A., as trustee for AB vs. Jean Tackett.

Shirley M. Hall vs. Wildfire Designs KY, LLC.

Judy Wright vs. Michael Wright.

Kenneth Scarberry vs. Jessica L. Scarberry. MTAG as CF/MGD-Holding Company, LLC., et al. Felicia Pecina vs. Joseph T. Johnson.

Felony charges

Jesse Steven Little, 38, of Osborne Branch, Hi Hat, flagrant nonsup-

Dorothy Jane Slone, 36, of Back Street, Wayland, flagrant nonsupport.

Michael A. Marcum, of River Front Rd., Lovely, flagrant nonsupport.

Bert Allan Rose, 43, of Prestonsburg, unauthorized use of motor vehicle, theft by failure to make required disposition of property (more than \$500).

Rodney Clyde Bates, 43, of Huntington, West Virginia, theft by unlaw-KY, LLC. vs. Big Branch ful taking of automobile (more than \$10,000, less

than \$1,000,000).

Basel Moore, 34, of Frasures Creek, McDowell, flagrant nonsupport. James Williamson, of Maynard Fork Rd., Pikeville, flagrant nonsupport. Mark Vance, 45, of Nelson Dr., Dwale, first-degree criminal mischief.

Devin W. Ousley, 24, of Peddler St., West Liberty, theft by deception over \$500.

Misdemeanor charges filed

Tonya Lynn Gayheart, 33, of Thompson Dr., Prestonsburg, public intoxication of a controlled substance.

Joshua D. Rowe, 32, of Julius Ave., Pikeville, public intoxication of a controlled substance, second-degree disorderly contact, loitering,

third-degree criminal trespassing.

Benjamin T. Hicks, 27, of Wells Dr., Prestonsburg, violation of EPO.

48, Rt. 850, Prestonsburg, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence).

Benjamin Hicks, 27, of Wells Drive Goble Roberts, violation of EPO.

Like E. Risner, 35, of Conley St., Salyersville, third-degree criminal trespassing.

Kidd Fork Rd., Banner, violation of EPO.

Amy N. Cunningham, 43, of Rt. 7, Wayland, third-degree terroristic threatening.

Russell D. Kidd, 37, harassment.

Jonathon Endicott, 29, Of Jockey Hollow, Prestonsburg, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence).

Leslie Keith Maynard, James G. Burchett, 38, of Blacklog Rd., Inez, third-degree criminal trespassing.

Jonathan Martin, 27, of Goose Creek, Eastern, public intoxication of a controlled substance, second-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Natasha L. Frazier, 26, of Eastern Lane, Russell D. Kidd, 37, of Prestonsburg, possession of drug paraphernalia, second-degree possession of a controlled substance, prescription controlled substance not in proper container.

Freddy Adkins, 55, of Kidd Fork Rd., Banner, of Frank Adkins Rd., Grethel, second-degree

wanton endangerment, third-degree terroristic threatening, second-degree criminal trespassing

Homer T. Smith, 32, of Spradlin Vill, Prestonsburg, public intoxication of a controlled substance, second-degree disorderly conduct, third-dearee criminal trespassing.

Stephanie Morrison, 23, of Bent Branch Rd., Pikeville, theft by unlawful taking under \$500.

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

Judge-Executive says he's monitoring proposed budget, cuts

By Josh Little STAFF WRITER

In addition to significant cuts to education programs, Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed budged for 2018-20 includes cuts to numerous programs in other areas including: health, agriculture and local government, among others, which would affect Floyd County.

Floyd County Judge-Executive Ben Hale said he and other local legislators are watching the budget process closely. He said Thursday that he is most interested in making sure the state's budget

doesn't, once again, reduce the amount of coal severance tax that coal counties receive. "In the previous budget

(the state government) actually put some general fund money in to try to supplement for the lack of coal production because, we were obviously way down in that area," said Hale.

Hale said that, in recent years, there was approximately \$300 million per year in coal severance funding. Now, there probably won't even be one-third of that for the next funding cycle, he

said.

"You can really tell what the affect is on the coal industry right now," he said. "A lot of counties depended on that money ... We are watching that."

The budget accounts for \$34 billion from opioid companies, which Hale said is a good thing, although he said he does not know how that money will be dispersed.

"Everything goes back to (the opioid problem), even the cost of our jails and our workforce," he said. "That's a major problem right now. Hopefully, the state will use

that money to try to help with rehabilitation."

One of the proposed program cuts that Hale said would directly affect Floyd County is the Area Development Fund, which Hale said the county generally used to fix water lines and lay new water lines in the county. He said the county, in the last few years, has received between \$15-\$20,000 in Area Development Funding.

Another program that if cut would affect the county directly is the Coal County College Completion Scholarship Program, which helps students in coal communities complete their four-year college degree.

proposed Other program cuts that could affect the county include: cancer screening programs; direct local aid, non-construction state aid for libraries; local jailer allowance; county cost - sheriff's expense allowance and others.

Hale said he is sure there will be a lot of tweaking to the budget once it makes it to the House of Representatives and the Senate. He said he is keeping a close eye on the budget.

CUTS **Continued From Page 1A**

guaranteed base funding at \$3,981 per student, but that pledge of continued SEEK funding comes with a caveat.

"However, due to the severely limited state resources, financial support

reserve funds or "other **SUDOKU & CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

\$950 million in reserve

funds in Kentucky and he

suggested local school

boards tap into those

fund sources" tion and certain teacher up for the revenue loss. related expenses is being He also pointed out that the budget "requires that reduced," Chilton wrote. In his letter, Chilton school boards adjust administrative and support reported that school districts collectively have staffing levels."

Floyd County School **District Finance Director** Matt Wireman said that pledge to preserve the base seek allocation is "smoke and mirrors."

"When they say they are leaving SEEK alone, they're leaving the guaranteed base of SEEK alone, but that's just one piece of a big puzzle. That's just one part of it," he said. "It's just smoke and mirrors form them." He explained that

SEEK allocations include that guaranteed base, as



egories like transportation, through which the district is allotted more than \$1.7 million in the current year.

The proposed reduction in transportation funding, Wireman reported, would decrease the district's revenue by nearly \$355,000, more than half of what the district will also lose if, per Bevin's proposal, the state eliminates the professional development fund, which provides nearly \$80,000 in Floyd County, the textbooks fund, which provides \$147,000 in Floyd County, and the community education fund, which gives the district \$20,000.

Those three program eliminations alone, combined with losses from the transportation cuts, Wireman said, would equal a revenue loss of nearly \$602,000 in Floyd County. The financial strain will cut deeper, he said, if other proposals made by Bevin are implemented.

He reported that suggested rate increases for county retirement will increase expenses by more than \$997,000 in the school district, proposed increases in health insurance requirements would cost around \$500,000 and mandated expenses for longevity pay will cost around \$1.5 million.

He estimates that if the programs are eliminated as suggested

changes are approved, the school district will realize a net loss of nearly \$2.1 million in all funds. The majority of that, \$1.5 million, will be in the general fund.

These cuts come alongside other state and federal cuts the school district has faced over the past year. Complaining about how changes in property assessments reduced the district's budget last year, Wireman said, "They've put the screws to Eastern Kentucky this year."

Floyd County Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble is thankful that Bevin's proposed budget includes funding for pensions and the guaranteed base for SEEK funding for schools, but he also has some concerns.

Although the proposed budget calls for the funding of state pensions, he is concerned because legislators are working to restructure the pension system, which would mean changes to benefits offered to educators. He is also concerned because program cuts will require the district to dip into its SEEK funding to keep programs ongoing.

"Any kind of cut, where you have to make up those things is out of SEEK funding," he said. "They didn't cut SEEK funding, but we'll probably have to use our SEEK funding to make up for some of these cuts."

"tough" for the district to cope with the proposed elimination of funds for professional development and Teach for Americatwo programs the district relies on to improve the quality of education in Floyd County. Wireman's calculations did not include financial changes that would be caused by the elimination of Teach for America.

On the proposed elimination of Teach for America, Trimble said, "In rural districts like ours, we have trouble finding teachers, so I'd hate to see that program cut."

Bevin's proposed budget also calls for the elimination of several higher education programs that help students in Floyd County and Eastern Kentucky, such as work study scholarships, early childhood scholardevelopment ships, the Kentucky Coal Academy, Kentucky Coal County College Completion Scholarship, mining engineering scholarships at the University of Kentucky and UK's popular Robinson Scholars program.

Trimble said, "Oh, no," when he learned the Robinson Scholars program was on the list of proposed budget cuts.

The proposed budget must be approved by the House and Senate before it's officials, and those bodies may make changes.



New book releases for January



Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus: How a Jewish **Perspective Can Transform Your** Understanding By Lois Tverberg



Stronger than the Struggle: Uncomplicating **Your Spiritual Battle** by Havilah Cunnington

Thoughfulness

he simple act of thinking about the needs and desires of others is often the seed of charity, compassion and mercy. Compassion depends on our ability to put ourselves in someone else's place and imagine what it would be like to be them. We often use the word "thoughtful" without really thinking about what it means. To be thoughtful really means to use your imagination and to try to see things from the other person's perspective. We often think we are being thoughtful when we are just

doing for the other person what we would want done, but to be truly thoughtful you should try to do for the other person what he or she would want done. People are not all the same. Some like things quiet and simple while others crave noise and excitement. Treating



someone to dinner at your favorite restaurant is nice for you, but treating them to dinner at their favorite restaurant is nicer for them. Some like to be the center of attention while others shun the limelight. In our ongoing quest to be more loving and compassionate to others, we should strive to imagine more fully what it is like to be the people with whom we share this world. God created each one of us a unique creature, and with seven billion different people on the planet, that gives us a lot to think about.

- Christopher Simon

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." -Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

Local Church Directory

FIRST BAPTI ST CHURCH (IRENE COLE MEMORIAL)

157 S. Front Street, Prestonsburg, KY 606-886-8681 Pastor Dr. Jerry C. Workman SUNDAYS Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship - 11 a.m & 6:30 p.m. WEDNESDAYS Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir – 6:30 p.m. OTHER Baptist Learning Center (1-5 years) Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PRESTONSBURG

660 North Arnold Avenue, Prestonsburg, KY Minister Kevin G. Jett SUNDAYS Morning Worship – 11 a.m. Sunday School/Junior Church - 11:30 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERI AN CHURCH

1430 North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg (606) 886-2214



Lacemaker By Laura Frantz



McLachlan

to Robust Christianity Douglas R. McLachlan Thirsting For Authenticity: **Calling the Church** to Robust Christianity By Dr. Douglas R.



Praying the Psalms: A G-Man's Journey **Down the Psalter** Trail By Bob Blecksmith

CHARLES F. STANLEY



Jesus: 365 Devotions for Kids

Every Day with By Charles Stanley



BY JAMIE BECKETT CHRONICLE & TIMES

Over the Christmas holiday, I read a couple of "Christmas" books. Think Hallmark movies, but books.

One of the stories was about a girl who wasn't able to completely move on from her ex-boyfriend. She shows up in his neck of the woods unannounced. Her plan was to resolve things in order to move on with her life. Instead, she finds that she is still in love with him. However, he has relocated and living in an area he absolutely loves. She debates about the possibility of moving to his town. She would be leaving behind her home and her family (i.e. parents and brother). She has a conversation with her mother, who actually did the same thing. Only instead of moving hours away, her mother moved completely across the county.

The daughter asked the mother for advice. Despite love, did she ever think she

she decide to move across the country and actually do it?

We do not change the words of the Bible

Her mother responded, "...but there was the story of Ruth from the Bible. My dad was real big on the Bible sometimes. Ruth left the family she knew and went with her new husband. She said, 'Your people shall be my people.' I know that's supposed to be biblical, but I actually found it romantic."

Wait. What?

That is not how the story goes!

Forget the "Christmas" story I was reading. I was instantly upset over this horrible error. This false retelling of the Old Testament story.

Ruth did not leave her family and go with her new husband. Ruth's husband died. The scripture doesn't specify how he died. But he died, in addition to his brother and his father. Ruth was left with her motherin-law Naomi and sister-inlaw Orpah. All three women had lost their husbands.

Naomi heard the Lord was providing food for his people in Judah. The three of them set out. Naomi told her daughters-in-law to return to their mother's home (Ruth 1:8). Orpah went. However, Ruth refused.

made a mistake? How did Ruth told Naomi, "Don't to Goodreads to see if anyurge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me (Ruth 1:16-17)."

The words the writer quoted in her "Christmas" story, was actually said by Ruth to her mother-in-law Naomi, not

The author

completely

her dead husband! The author completely disregarded the true Biblical story.

I was mad.

I like to read fiction. I'm perfectly fine with reading stories that are not true. It's entertaining. It's relaxing. It's a way to escape the problems we deal with in reality. However, do not take the Bible and misquote it or change what actually occurred in history in order to suit your own story.

It's been a couple of weeks since I read the book, and I'm still upset over this inaccurate depiction of the story. I logged on

one else had an issue with this. There's 455 reviews, so I didn't go through every one of them, but I glanced over a few. They mentioned character development, things being unrealistic, bad dialogue, etc. But none of the reviews (as far as I saw) mentioned anything about the inaccurate story of Ruth. I wonder if they don't know it's wrong or if they simply don't care. In the last chapter of the last book in the Bible,

we warned about changing the words of the Bidisregarded the ble. "I warn true Biblical story. everyone who hears the words

are

of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll (Revelation 22:18-19)."

The Bible is the Word of the God. We simply do not change the words of the Bible, even under the guise of a piece of fiction.

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FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES COUNTY CHRONICLE CHRONICLE COUNTY CHRONICLE COUNTY CHRONICLE COUNTY CHRONICLE COUNTY CHRONICLE

Weekend Edition, January 19-21, 2018 • Page 10A

Take a unique approach to money matters and how you earn your living this year. Refuse to let temptation lead to unnecessary expenses or poor health. Look for a creative or physical outlet. How you spend your time will make a difference to your success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – Refuse to let little aggravations bother you. Look for the simplest way to solve any problem you face. Refuse to argue or get involved in something that you cannot afford.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – Channel your energy into creative endeavors. Refuse to let self-deception cloud your vision or send you in a questionable direction. Assess your skills and focus on what you can accomplish.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – A physical change should be researched before you proceed. Don't take anything for granted. The information you receive will be limited and inconclusive. Romance will improve your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Learn from a situation you encounter. Get involved in educational pursuits that will increase your skills or add to your qualifications. Practice proper diet and stay fit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Make sure you are looking at an emotional situation clearly before you decide to take action. Someone is likely to mislead you in order to avoid an uncomfortable discussion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Your creative imagination will lead to interesting pastimes and people who can offer insight and enlightenment. Socializing, traveling and spending time with those who share your beliefs are favored.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Anger will surface if you act on an assumption. Ask questions and



look for alternatives that will help keep the peace and ensure that everyone is treated fairly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Make alterations at home that will help improve your cash flow. Cutting back on things you don't need or changing your living arrangements to lower your overhead will lead to more options.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – You will uncover secrets you didn't want to face. Looking back is the best way to help you move forward. Personal improvement and romance are encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – A creative approach to the way you live will help bring peace of mind and the desire to follow a less complicated path. Take better care of your health.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Emotional disillusionment will take control if you are naive or have taken someone at his or her word. Instead of being disappointed, get the facts and counteract what's being said.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – Prospective changes should be simple and within your means. Refuse to get caught up in someone else's enthusiasm regarding a product that promises the impossible. Discipline will help prevent a mistake being made.

today's sudoku puzzle

HOW TO PLAY:

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

		8		2		7	3	
	4				9		8	
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All answers are in today's Mingo Messsenger

today's grossword puzzle



ARLO & JANIS MMM, SWEETIE, AFTER THE WEATHER CHOCOLATE?! I OWE YOU ONE: WARMS UP! **BIG NATE** CHESTER, MY MAN! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DETENTION ? * CHUCKLE!* WELL, THAT DOESN'T SOUND ALL THAT BAD! SO I PUNCHED HE HE HIM IN THE FACE. SHOULDN'T BLED ALL HAVE I MADE THEN SOME



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5 Cunning 6 PR matter	69	Bone-tired		OPEC country Uses a crowbar			
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9 Forage fish	70	Wily		Prefix for directional			
20 Vikings	71	vviiy		Bigger			
21 Lazy swimmers?		DOWN		Deserve			
23 Jogged	1	Make a portrait		Courtroom fig.			
26 Discount event	2	Protective covering		Most taxi cabs			
27 Attempt	3	Dupe	52	Greasy			
29 Dots	4	White herons	54	2			
33 Israel's Golda	5	Wrench target	55	Tylenol competitor			
36 Golf hazard	6	Sundial numeral	56	Far from posh			
38 Cager Shaq	7	Canute's foe	57	Sketched			
39 Mess up	8	Shouts	58				
10 Apologize, maybe (2 wds.)	9	Veto	59				
12 Forensic science tool	10	Many	60	Appealing			
13 Jeweled coronet	11	Oats enthusiast	64				
15 Carpenter's wedge	12	Lab medium	65	Ewe's mate			
16 Assemble	13	Firms up					
17 Lady from Toledo	18	Late bloomer					
19 Jumpy		Lummox					
51 Eight, in combos		This, in Havana					
53 Saw-toothed mountains		Moves quickly					
57 Exciting	28	Basin occupant					



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FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES S Proge 12A

Kidd making strides with Lady Blackcats

By Steve LeMaster Sports Writer

PRESTONSBURG - Prestonsburg dropped to 5-11 following a loss to reigning champion Paintsville in the 15th Region All "A" Classic on Sunday. But the Prestonsburg girls' basketball team's record isn't indicative of how much the Lady Blackcats have improved. Under the direction of first-year head coach Brandon Kidd and his coaching staff, Prestonsburg is fully capable of competing for a 58th District championship and making a return to the 15th Region Girls' Basketball Tournament. The Lady Blackcats nearly knocked off district counterpart Floyd Central earlier in the month. Prestonsburg has also pushed former region champion Betsy Layne, another district rival.

"I could not be happier with my coaching staff," Kidd confided. "The time and dedication that each and every one of the assistant coaches put in is amazing.

Brandon Thacker, Ammie Thacker, Rick Ward and Cathryn Calhoun are the kind of people this program needed."

A few games into the 2017/2018 season, Prestonsburg started showing improvement.

"Anyone that has watched us this season can tell the changes we have made," Kidd commented. "Is our record what we want it to be? No. But we are playing hard, playing for each other and we are competing in every game we play.

"When I took this job, I told everyone it was a process. I honestly believe we are a few steps ahead of where I thought we would be and that's a testimony to our players and the hard work they put in each and every day."

Prestonsburg girls' basketball players bought in early.

"The girls have bought in to what we are tying to do here," Kidd noted. "The future is so bright for our program and I am excited to be their coach.

See KIDD, Page 13A





Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Reesce Endicott scored the 1,000th point of her high school career earlier in the month and continues to help lead the Lady Blackcats.

Jaguars to host Henry Clay for Homecoming/Alumni Night



By Steve LeMaster Sports Writer

EASTERN — Floyd Central is preparing to host Henry Clay for Homecoming/Alumni Night on Saturday. However, before then, students will return to the first-year school for the inaugural Floyd Central Winter Ball on Friday.

On Saturday, in addition to the varsity boys' basketball matchup, Floyd Central will play freshmen and junior varsity games. Floyd Central's new K-5 basketball league is also set to debut on Saturday.

Tipoff for the Floyd Central-Henry Clay varsity game is slated for 7:30 p.m..

"It's a full weekend of activities," commented Floyd Central coach Kevin Spurlock. "The Winter Ball will be held

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

See JAGUARS, Page 13A

Jaguar Brady Conn worked to make a move to the basket against Betsy Layne in a 58th District boys' basketball game at the Dome one week ago.



To submit sports news or comments, contact Regional Sports Editor Randy White or Steve LeMaster: Phone 606-886-8506 . e-mail sports@news-expressky.com

JAGUARS

Continued From Page 12A on Friday from 7-11:00 p.m. Saturday will get started with freshmen and junior varsity games at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. versus Lawrence County. We will have the opening day of our K-5 Basketball League from 12:30-4:30 p.m.. Homecoming will begin at 5:00 p.m. Then, we will host Henry Clay for junior varsity and varsity games at 6 and 7:30. players, coaches Any or managers from Martin, McDowell, Maytown, Garrett, Wheelwright, Wayland, South Floyd or Allen Central high schools are invited to join us for Alumni Night. Registration and hospitality will be from 5-7:00 p.m. and all alumni will be recognized at halftime of the varsity game."

Upstart Floyd Central is the clearcut frontrunner in the 58th District. Floyd Central is 10-6 overall and 3-0 in the 58th District. The Jaguars have won back-toback games on the road, rolling past 58th District rivals Prestonsburg and Betsy Layne. JR Tackett (17.3 ppg) and Brady Conn (13.4 ppg, 8.7 rpg) are pacing

the Jaguars. At press time, Henry Clay was 9-6 overall and 2-3 in the 42nd District. The Daniel Browncoached Blue Devils were scheduled to host Ballard on Thursday night.

Henry Clay has notched wins over Frederick Douglas, Tates Creek, Eastern, Paris, Garrard County, Male, Valley, Crockett County, Tenn. and Sayre. The Blue Devils have dropped games to Bryan Station, Doss, Ballard, Scott County, Bryan Station and Paul Laurence Dunbar. Results from the latest Henry Clay-Ballard boys' basketball matchup were unavailable at press time.

Floyd Central has additional regular-season games remaining versus Lawrence County, Betsy Layne, Paintsville, Pikeville, North Laurel, Magoffin County, Frederick Douglas, Scott County, Johnson Central and Belfry.

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Floyd Central eighth-grader Rylee Samons looked to trigger in the basketball during a 58th District matchup versus host Prestonsburg earlier in the month.

KIDD Continued From Page 12A

"Each and every girl has came so far since we started. People have to remember, only three of my 12 girls have ever played substantial minutes in high school basketball. So many of the 59th District counterpart Floyd Central for its annual Cerebral Palsy game.

"A huge highlight for us this season has been our Cerebral Palsy game," said Kidd. "What a huge night it was for our program. We were able to spotlight the amazing kids, men and women a proven leader for the Lady Blackcats and Kidd is quick to compliment the standout.

"I'm very proud of Reesce Endicott for becoming a leader for our team," said Kidd. "We just honored her for reaching 1,000 points in her career. Her future is toughness to our team." Inside, Nicole Burchett continues to help pace Prestonsburg.

"Nicole Burchett has been such a blessing to coach," Kidd exclaimed. "She goes out and gives us everything she has when she is on the floor and it's showing up in her such a great scorer and teammate."

Prestonsburg starters and reserves have combined to perform well under Kidd's direction.

"Alison Campbell has improved and continues to improve," said Kidd. "Her defense has came so far and it's because seventh-grader that has played some big minutes for us and there is no limit on this girl's potential," remarked Kidd. "I expect huge things from her here at Prestonsburg."

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

A former assistant coach for the Betsy Layne boys' basketball program, Kidd is in his first stint as

girls are getting their first-ever action at the high school level and doing a great job."

Prestonsburg pushed both Floyd Central and Betsy Layne for 58th District wins. Then, one week ago, Prestonsburg defeated Phelps in the 15th Region All "A" Classic. Prestonsburg hosted

that fight this disorder each and every day. We were able to send all of the proceeds from the game to charity. I tell the girls everyday - basketball is basketball, but this ladies is life. And to be able to spotlight these brave individuals is such a huge honor for us."

Reesce Endicott is

so bright."

Numerous players contribute for the much-improved Prestonsburg girls' basketball team.

"Madison Rainey is just a couple weeks back from surgery," Kidd confided. "Faith Lazar is an eighth-grader that brings a lot of energy and play."

Endicott and Alivia Slone have ranked as Prestonsburg's top two scorers throughout the season and make for a tough tandem.

"Alivia Slone is doing good and improving everyday," said Kidd. "It's hard to believe this girl is just a freshman. She's of her attitude and work ethic.

"Grace Trusty has been a blessing to coach as well. She gives us everything she has day in and day out. She is getting better everyday."

The Prestonsburg roster features multiple talented young players. "Celina Mullins is a a head coach and coaching girls' hoops.

"I am so blessed to be the coach of this amazing group of girls," said Kidd. "To see where we started and see the process and growth in these girls is amazing. They deserve all the credit that we get because they put in the work and want to win."

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Calendar Key (B) Bookmobile, (P) Prestonsburg Library (EB) Eastern Branch Library	Closed	2 Martin Senior Center (B), Warco Apartments (B), Grigsby Apartments (B), Game Night 5 PM (P)	3 Cliffside Apartments (B), Wheelwright (B), Story Hour I PM (EB), Afternoon Story Time 2 PM (P)	4 Adventure Learning Academy (B), Morning Story Time 10:30 AM (P), McDowell Senior Citi- zens Center Outreach, Mountain Comp (B)	5 Adams Middle School (B), Highlands Terrace (B), Teen Time 3:30 PM (P)	6	
2	8 Bright Beginnings (B), Wesley Christian Schools (B), Kids Sew- ing Class 3:30 PM (P)	9 Creekside Apt. (B), Ivy Creek Apt. (B), Game Night 5 PM (P)	10 Goble Roberts (B), Dixie Apartments (B), Story Hour I PM (EB), Afternoon Story Time 2 PM (P)	11 Adventure Learning Academy (B), Morning Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Betsy Layne Senior Citi- zens Center Outreach	Olivia the Pig Visits 3 PM (EB),	13 Olivia the Pig Story Time and Dress Up 11:30 AM (P)	
14	15 Bright Beginnings (B), Wesley Christian Schools (B), Kids Time 2 PM (EB), Kids Sewing Class 3:30 PM (P), Book Club (Circling The Sun) 5:30 PM		17 Cliffside Apartments (B), Wheelwright (B), Story Hour 1 PM (EB), Afternoon Story Time 2 PM (P)	18 Adventure Learning Academy (B), Morning Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Mountain Comp (B), Martin Senior Citizens Center Outreach	19 Adams Middle School (B), Highlands Terrace (B), Teen Time 3:30 PM (P)	20 Escape Room/Mystery Live Action Role Play 1 PM (P)	
21	22 Bright Beginnings (B), Wesley Christian Schools (B), Mod Podge on Wood 10 AM (EB), Kids Sewing Class 3: 30 PM (P)	23 Creekside Apt. (B), Ivy Creek Apt. (B), Game Night 5 PM (P), Wheelwright Senior Citizens Center Outreach, Lego Club 5:30 PM (P)	24 Goble Roberts (B), Dixie Apartments (B), Story Hour 1 PM (EB), Afternoon Story Time 2 PM (P)	25 Adventure Learning Academy (B), Morning Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Mud Creek Senior Citi- zens Center Outreach	26 Wayland (B), Garrett (B), Teen Time 3:30 PM (P)	27	
28	29 Bright Beginnings (B), Wesley Christian Schools (B), Kids Sew- ing Class 3:30 PM (P)		31 Cliffside Apartments (B), Wheelwright (B), Story Hour 1 PM (EB), Afternoon Story Time 2 PM (P)	We are hosting a SouperBow area. We are hosting walk-in 4th. Get your youth group in	Attention Chariti I. Get your charity involved is meals for lunch and supper of volved, your women's groups et your charity signed up to se	n donating soup/chili to out n Superbowl Sunday, February , your motorcycle group, etc.	

FOR QUICKER SERVICE AND SHORTER WAIT TIMES VISIT:



The Family Practice Building 184 S. Mayo Trail Pikeville, KY (Next to the Landmark Inn) 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. 7 days a week

The Walmart Clinic 254 Cassidy Blvd, Pikeville, KY 41501 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. 7 days a week

PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER Emergency Room 911 Bypass Road, Pikeville, KY 24 hours a day 7 days a week

