

CONSTRUCTION ZONE

Work began this week by Greg Greer Excavating to tear down additions that were added to the historic courthouse in 1975. The original portion of the structure, built in 1885, will remain and a planned second phase of the project will complete the restoration process. The purpose of the building will then be determined by the fiscal court.

Magistrates vote for scaled down payroll tax

Bryant votes no, all magistrates vote yes

Following the defeat of a proposed occupational tax of .75 percent by County Judge Larry Russell Bryant, the fiscal court approved first reading of an ordinance that sets a .5 percent tax the first year and .25 percent the second.

In a compromise, Bryant offered to support a .75 percent tax during Tuesday's fiscal court meeting, although he previously called for a 1 percent tax. Only Bryant and magistrate Terry Hadley voted for the proposal as the item came up on the agenda.

Hadley and Bryant both talked about the county's opportunity to recruit new business and industry and suggested an occupational tax would help with that. Hadley stood as he issued a passionate plea, saying, "this is what it's going to take this county to succeed."

Bryant said additional funding is needed for employee salaries, but there are also other needs. He said the county needs a "rainy day fund" in case of emergencies, such as tornadoes or a flood.

He mentioned the opportunity to receive grants from state government that cover 80 percent of the project but did not elaborate on what those grants are for.

He said the state does not offer those grants to a community that cannot cover the remaining 20 percent of the costs.

Bryant spoke on potential economic development opportunities now in the works. He said the county needs revenue for minor infrastructure for industry that is interested in moving into this county.

See **MAGISTRATES**, page 2

Beshear highlights local project during weekly presser

FRANKFORT – Gov. Andy Beshear highlighted a new economic development project coming to Adair County during his weekly press conference last Thursday.

Beshear introduced Ross Hutchison and Daniel Griffith, co-founders of Pennyroyal Barrel Co., a new concept in the bourbon industry that will locate in the Green River Commerce Park.

"Expanding the bourbon sector into counties that have not previously seen growth in this area is a huge accomplishment for the commonwealth, and I want to thank Pennyroyal leadership for their commitment to bringing it to Adair County," Beshear said.

Hutchison and Griffith joined Beshear at the podium, and Hutchison shared information about the company.

"We wanted to bring a unique concept to the area. We wanted to be a missing piece to the bigger bourbon industry puzzle," said Hutchison. "While Adair County's less than an hour from the traditional bourbon trail, it's a wonderful central location. Two hours from Louisville, two hours from Lexington, and then two hours from Nashville."

Hutchison said the company is providing a model that is the first of its kind in Kentucky and perhaps the world. Pennyroyal Barrel Co. will serve as an incubator to

small and medium bourbon brands, providing warehousing, blending, and bottling; meeting and public event space, as well as private events space. The campus will include rick houses and a storefront to purchase each brand's product and apparel, a wooded amphitheater and walking trails.

"We hope to create a home for each of our clients, and in turn, a unique tourist experience where a guest can experience a number of different brands in their own unique ways in one location," Hutchison said.

He said he is asked why they decided to locate in an area that is not already

See **BESHEAR**, page 10



Pennyroyal Barrel Co., a new economic development project in Adair County, was recognized by the governor during his weekly press conference last Thursday. Joining Gov. Andy Beshear are (from left) Ross Hutchison, co-owner of Pennyroyal Barrel Co.; (Beshear); Dan Griffith, co-owner of Pennyroyal Barrel Co.; Paige Nickle, Adair County Tourism Director; Heather Bryant, consultant with Columbia-Adair Economic Development Authority; and Rep. Amy Neighbors.

Local man charged with child sexual exploitation offenses

The Kentucky State Police Electronic Crime Branch located and arrested Bruce Allen Spoon, 42, on charges related to a child sexual abuse material investigation.

Spoon was located, interviewed, and arrested

as the result of an undercover Internet Crimes Against Children investigation. The KSP Electronic Crime Branch began the investigation after discovering that sexually explicit images had been uploaded online.

The investigation resulted in executing a search warrant at a residence in Columbia last Thursday. Equipment used to facilitate the crime was seized and taken to KSP's forensic

See **LOCAL**, page 2

School board approves bid for middle school

The Adair County School Board has accepted bids for the first phase of construction for a new middle school, and the second phase is expected to come very soon.

The board held a working session on July 18 to review details pertaining to the project prior to voting to move forward during last Thursday's regular meeting.

Additional consideration became necessary after bids came in at more than \$52 million, well over the current construction funding the district has available.

The project was rebid with the assistance of construction manager Codell Construction Company, and bids came to \$47 million the second time around.

While that is still a higher cost than the district can currently fund, Superintendent Jason Faulkner said they are confident they will be able to complete the entire project without a delay.

"We are working with our state legislators to get gap funding," Faulkner said. "In order for us to get the building project started, we have to start it in phases."

The board agreed to move the construction of a gymnasium and an auditorium to phase 2 and begin the remainder of the project as phase 1 at a total cost of \$41,275,723.

While Faulkner said he is 100 percent confident they will receive the additional funds needed to complete the full project, it was imperative that construction get underway immediately. A total of

See **SCHOOL**, page 10

Mouser sentenced to 27 years in federal prison

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – An Adair County man was sentenced to 27 years in prison for child pornography offenses.

U.S. Attorney Michael A. Bennett of the Western District of Kentucky and

Special Agent in Charge Jodi Cohen of the FBI Louisville Field Office made the announcement.

According to court documents, Matthew Ross Mouser, 41, produced videos of his sexual

abuse of a minor victim, traded images of child pornography via the internet, and discussed sexually abusing children with others

See **MOUSER**, page 2

Magistrates vote for scaled down payroll tax

FROM PAGE 1

“It would not have to be a lot but, we need to be there with open arms and welcoming them and asking them if we can do some small things for them, such as road tiles and gravel work and such.”

He said he would like to see the county’s hospital tax and a debt the county has on an energy reduction paid off. He said money is also needed for the animal shelter.

He then returned to the topic of job growth. “This is the time we need to figure out, do we want to progress forward for our next generation and maybe even the next generation. We’ve got the opportunity now; do we need to prepare our county for jobs for our next generation of young people that is coming on or do they need to continue to be looking for

jobs somewhere else?” he said.

The motion died as magistrates Chris Reeder, Sammy Baker, Daryl Flatt, Tony Denton, Billy Coffey and Mark Humphress voted no and Hadley and Bryant voted yes.

The meeting continued with regular business, then Flatt presented an alternative tax proposal during other business near the end of the meeting.

He proposed a tax that sets a .5 percent tax on payroll in the county for one year then drops to .25 percent the second year. The court would have to vote again after the two years or the tax would expire. The proposal does not include a net profit tax.

Flatt said the city receives around \$1.4 million from a 1 percent occupational tax on people who work with-

in the city. Comparing to that, Flatt said the county would bring in more than \$700,000 the first year and \$350,000 the second year with his proposal.

He recommends the new revenue be used for a \$1 an hour raise for county employees and to pay for increased insurance costs. Currently, he noted, employees are taking home less this month than last month due to an increase in insurance costs. Flatt said his proposal would also cover the addition of one deputy and the purchase of a police vehicle for the sheriff’s office.

Bryant said he would compromise and support a .5 percent but called the .25 percent a “slap in the face.” He has proposed a \$2 raise for employees and two additional officers in the sheriff’s department.

All magistrates voted for the first reading of the tax and Bryant voted no. The ordinance will require a second reading and calls for the tax going into effect on Oct. 1

Animal shelter director asks for help

Tammy Crew, director of the Green River Animal Shelter, told the fiscal court that she is out of space at the shelter.

“Inside I have 22 kennels. Right now, I have 11 court case dogs,” she said. Crew said all the kennels are filled with dogs that cannot be adopted out for various reasons and she cannot move any of them from the facility.

There are three outdoor kennels and she said with some work they can be adapted to hold six dogs. Even with that space, however, they are over capacity and

they are expecting more dogs from Green County, whose animals they also house for a fee.

“Today alone I’ve turned down 21 dogs,” she said.

After several questions, Crew said adapting the outdoor kennels would help her a lot but she needs the materials and someone to do the work. The court voted to provide the funding to make the needed changes and Bryant and several magistrates said they would take a look and help determine how to get the project completed.

Park Update

The court discussed the Jim Blair recreation center and gave Judge Bryant approval to oversee construction of bathrooms at the park. The project must stay under \$40,000 since it is not going through the bid

process, and Bryant said he would make sure it was completed for under \$35,000.

Security at the park was discussed, with Sheriff Josh Brockman saying they had dealt with several cases of destruction and vandalism. He suggested the park be closed by 10 p.m. each night. The court had several ideas on who could close the park nightly and gave Brockman approval to follow up on those leads.

In other business, the court approved first reading to set a 35 mph speed limit on Purdy Sano Rd. The court hired Jamie Neat for litter abatement and Kevin Rogers for the road department. Doyle Lloyd was reappointed to the Economic Development Authority board of directors.

By Sharon Burton

Taylor Co. man arrested

On July 16 at 1:07 a.m., Sonny Ethan Caudill, 22, of Taylor County, was arrested on suspected Fentanyl charges. The arrest stemmed from a traffic stop initiated by K-9 Deputy Chandler Staten, nine miles north

of Columbia on KY 55.

A roadside investigation and search resulted in multiple pressed pills containing suspected fentanyl being seized.

Caudill was lodged in the Adair Regional Jail on charges of possession

of a controlled substance 1st degree (opiates); speeding 12 mph over; no registration and failure to transfer motor vehicle.

K-9 Deputy Chandler Staten was assisted by Deputy Josh Durbin.

Mouser sentenced to 27 years in federal prison

FROM PAGE 1

online.

Mouser was sentenced to 27 years in prison followed by a lifetime term of supervised release, for producing, distributing, and possessing child pornography. In addition to the 27-year prison sentence, Mouser was ordered to pay restitution to a victim in the amount of \$3,000. There is no parole in the federal system.

The case was investigated by the FBI, with

the assistance of the Adair County Sheriff’s Office.

Assistant U.S. Attorney A. Spencer McKiness prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Led by the United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation

and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit www.usdoj.gov/psc.

For more information about internet safety education, visit www.usdoj.gov/psc and click on the tab “resources.”

Local man charged with child sexual exploitation offenses

FROM PAGE 1

laboratory for examination. The investigation is still ongoing.

Spoon is currently charged with 10 counts of possessing matter portraying a minor under the age of 12 in a sexual performance. This charge is a Class-C felony punishable by five to ten years in prison. Spoon was lodged in the Adair County Jail.

The Kentucky Internet Crimes Against Children

Task Force is comprised of more than 26 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

The mission of the ICAC Task Force, created by the United States Department of Justice and administered by the Kentucky State Police, is to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in developing a response to cyber enticement and child sexual abuse material investigations.

This support encom-

passes forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, prevention and community education. The ICAC program was developed in response to the increasing number of children and teenagers using the internet, the proliferation of child sexual abuse material, and the heightened online activity of predators searching for unsupervised contact with underage victims.



It’s Christmas in July at Columbia Baptist Church. The church kicked off their efforts for the 2023 Operation Christmas Child packing season Tuesday night when they hosted their annual July packing party. One of the youngest to participate was Clayton Jackson the son of Matt and Valerie Jackson.

AC-22-104: Don't miss out on this opportunity! 23.9 acres of beautiful land, lovely 3-bedroom 1 bath home with half basement, 2 car detached garage, 30'x30' shop building and also a barn! Original hardwood floors, beautiful family room addition with views of the farm and wildlife. This home and property have been cared for to the highest standards. You absolutely want to be sure to schedule a time to see this home and take in all that it has to offer.



RC-23-164: The one you've been waiting for! Some of the most beautiful building sites you'll find anywhere. The backside of this property joins the beautiful Cumberland River, and it is only minutes from the boat ramp at Winfrey's Ferry Road. Land is partially fenced and has a great barn. It would support livestock hunting, ATV/Horseback Riding, and would make a wonderful place to live. Water, power, and a septic system is available from a previous mobile home and would make a great place for a cabin or RV parking.

AC-23-165: The ultimate hunting and getaway property, yet still only minutes from town. These 105 m/l acres has some of the best deer hunting in the entire area, and some of the most beautiful locations for whatever your heart desires. For the kids, or the kid in you. Spend hours chasing minnows and crawfish in Big Creek, that meanders approximately 2900 feet through the front of the property, and is the most inviting, wadable water you'll find anywhere.



AC-23-136: A good project that includes the rare bonus feature of 4.39 acres of prime property. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home is in mid-remodel with a lot of the hard work done. It's a blank slate for the right handyman. It has a solid 16'x24' garage/workshop building, all sitting on gorgeous acreage in a desirable area, not far from Columbia and the school campus. Call today for your private showing. There's lots of possibilities for this property.

AC-23-137: This is one of the nicest building sites you will find, offering privacy and convenience of location. This gorgeous property is approximately 22 acres with a good mix of woods and some beautiful building sites on the approximately 4 acres of cleared land. There's great building sites on both the cleared portion or in the woods. A few trails make those woods a pleasure to walk through. There's wildlife at every turn. It fronts on a quiet blacktop road with



RC-23-158: This is one of the nicest building sites you will find, offering privacy and convenience of location. This gorgeous property is approximately 22 acres with a good mix of woods and some beautiful building sites on the approximately 4 acres of cleared land. There's great building sites on both the cleared portion or in the woods. A few trails make those woods a pleasure to walk through. There's wildlife at every turn. It fronts on a quiet blacktop road with water, power and fiber-optic cable available. Centrally located just a short drive from Columbia, Russell Springs and Jamestown.

AC-23-159: 2 Houses for the price of one! Need room for lots of folks, or just lots of room in general? Here we have it. The main residence consists of a 1987 mobile with nice additions, bringing it up to approximately 1300 square feet. There is tons of room inside, and it is clean and neat. Central HVAC keeps you warm and cool, and a gas fireplace provides a warm spot for those cool mornings that are soon to arrive before we know it.



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Community Calendar

VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS DINNER

Columbia Lodge #96 welcomes all veterans and first responders to an annual appreciation dinner. The dinner will be held at VFW Hall #6097 on **Saturday, July 29** at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Bring friends and family to help honor our heroes. Plates will include pork loin or chicken quarters, baked beans, and potato salad for \$10 - veterans and first responders eat free. For more information call Curtis Grant at 270-385-1747.

SINGING

The Blakeys will sing at Cane Valley Christian Church, 2240 Cane Valley Rd., Columbia, on **Sunday, July 30** at 10:15 a.m. A meal will follow. Bro. Godfrey Jackson and congregation invite everyone to attend.

CONCERT

The Lindsey Family will be in concert at Mt. Carmel Church, 2472 Mt. Carmel Road, Columbia on **Sunday, July 30** during the 11 a.m. worship service. Pastor David Kemp and congregation invite everyone to attend.

60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The family of Willard Gene and LaVerne Hale Jesse will celebrate the couple's 60th anniversary on **Sunday, Aug. 6** from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Columbia Baptist Church located at 201 Greensburg St. Gene and LaVerne were married on August 2, 1963 in Byrdstown, Tenn. Please join family and friends for this joyous occasion. No gifts please but cards would be appreciated. Invitations sent to out-of-town guests only.

COLLECTING DONATIONS

The Bliss Club and Adair County Homemakers are collecting donations for their most recent project, Man's Best Friend. This project will serve the Green River Animal Shelter and donations needed include cleaning supplies (Odo Ban, bleach and bleach tabs), laundry supplies (detergent and fabric softener sheets), household supplies (air fresheners, candles, baking soda, toilet paper and paper towels), dog food (No Ashland Farms or For Health brands), dog treats and 10 x 10 tarps and zip ties (for the winter). Donations can be dropped

off at the Adair County Extension office **between through Aug. 4**. If you have any questions call Shannon at 270-250-9093.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Casey Creek Lodge # 536, 14730 Knifley Rd., Knifley, will host its 150th anniversary celebration **Saturday, Aug. 26** starting at 11 a.m., with a meal at noon. All Masons and their families are invited. Activities provided.

FAMILY REUNION

The McGaha family reunion will be held **Sunday, Aug. 13** at the VFW building, 500 Green Hills Rd., Columbia. Doors open at 8 a.m. and a meal will be served at noon. Please bring a covered dish and serving utensils. For more information, contact Arnold at 270-384-5528 or Keith at 270-507-8543.

FLY FISHING CLINIC

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery will have fly fishing clinics on **Saturday, Aug. 12** at 10 a.m. CT. The clinic is held free of charge for ages 8 and up. Must sign up through Marsha Hart at 270-343-3797 or email marsha_hart@fws.org. Classes will be limited to six people per class.

ADDICTION RECOVERY MEETINGS

Lake Cumberland District Health Department will offer SMART Recovery **every Wednesday at noon** in the Adair County Health Department Basement, 801 Westlake Dr. "A Fresh Approach to Addiction Recovery." Contact Steffani Miller, 859-667-2292 or the Adair County Health Department at 270-384-2286.

ARMED WOMEN OF AMERICA

The Adair County chapter of the Armed Women of America meets the first Saturday of every month from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Adair County Sportsman Club. For more information, contact Sue Phelps at awa.adaircounty@gmail.com.



Birthday Box

July 27
Billy Neat
Chris Quinn
Wanda Vonfumetti

Jennifer Brock
Randy Parnell

Aug. 2
Tracey Corbin

July 28
Hannah Arnold

Aug. 3
Tara Coomer
Karen Darnell

July 29
McKenzie Humphress
Lee Ann Roy
Jason Hatcher

Aug. 4
Michelle Rogers
Carrie Rowe

July 30
Hannah Young
Amy Morgan

Aug. 6
Tresa Ratliff
Madison Kimbler

Aug. 1
Tony Streeval
Elaine Rowlett

Aug. 7
Tyler Solum

Community Calendar and Birthday Box items are due by 10 a.m. on Mondays.

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EDITORIAL AND COMMENTS

Truth will prevail.

*"For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed;
neither hid that shall not be known."*
Luke 12:2

Sharon Burton
Publisher and Owner

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FREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free birthday listings and community events can be recorded by calling 270-634-4164 after business hours or verbally given to a customer service representative during business hours at 270-384-9454. Trader items are free to paid subscribers.

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The Adair County Community Voice strives for accuracy when reporting the news. If you see an error, please contact the newsroom at 270-384-9454, and the error will be corrected as soon as possible.

...That we may glorify the Father
John 15:7-8 and John 14:12-14.

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MEMBER OF:



One Voice

Sharon Burton

Some pranks are not funny

I recently shared a story with someone about pranks that were pulled on Halloween when I was a child.

My parents owned a country store and it was a popular passtime to soap the front windows on Halloween night.

I distinctly remember one year my dad decided to get even and waited in the bushes for the culprits. When a neighborhood boy showed up and started working on the windows, my dad had a surprise of his own and tossed cold water on the boy.

I shared this story with JaCinda Warner, my co-worker, and her sons. She then told how they would "fork" people's yards when she was young. Apparently a group of young people take plastic forks and stick them in the ground, completely covering a yard. I would imagine that takes some effort by the people doing the job and the ones who get stuck with fork cleanup.

These are harmless pranks, and they are only considered funny once a year. I understand the annual prankster, but I cannot understand the thought process of someone who thinks it's okay to damage property at a public park. It's not funny. It's certainly not cool. It just makes absolutely no sense to me.

Yet here we are, the city and county both try-

I understand the annual prankster, but I cannot understand the thought process of someone who thinks it's okay to damage property at a public park. It's not funny. It's certainly not cool.

ing to decide how best to handle vandalism and destruction at our parks.

For years we as a community had very limited options for parks, but now we have the massive handicap-accessible playground at the Jim Blair Recreation Center and a brand new splash pad at the city park.

The fiscal court discussed vandalism at the Blair center during Tuesday night's meeting. They are making plans to close access to the park at night.

Sheriff Josh Brockman said they have already addressed some cases of destruction at the park.

The park is under video surveillance and

footage feeds into the 911 center. They have witnessed someone urinating on the equipment at 1 a.m. and have found broken glass in the play area.

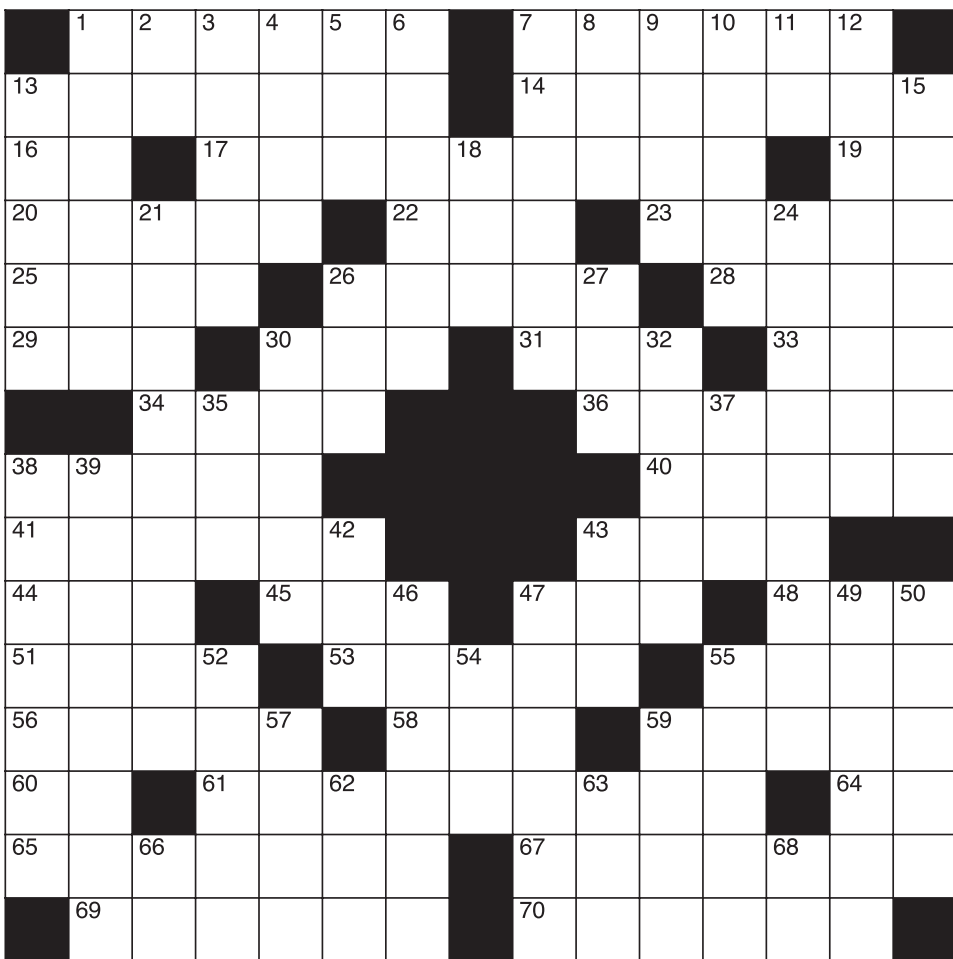
I just can't understand why anyone would think that was clever.

I know there will always be people in the world who do not value what they have or what other's have, but it saddens me that anyone would try to cause harm to these parks that were paid for with taxpayer money and should always be a safe place for our children. I'm proud of the efforts our elected officials have made to improve the park structure in our community. I have not always agreed with the decisions that have been made, but politics aside, these parks are being well used by our citizens.

I don't have a solution to the problem. All we can do is teach our children how to respect property. All we can do is teach them the difference between an acceptable prank and an unacceptable act of destruction.

I remember when my dad threw the water on the boy from our neighborhood, we all got a good laugh. The next day, that same boy came back to the store and helped clean the windows.

No harm done. To me, that's a good way to live a life...cause no harm.



CLUES ACROSS

- Bonus materials
- Type of device
- Free from restraints
- One who scrapes away
- Skin cancers
- The Show Me State
- Plate glasses
- Red-brown sea bream
- Small (Fr.)
- Flightless Australian birds
- High IQ group
- Stiff structures
- Revolutions per minute
- Where a bachelor lives
- Licensed for Wall Street
- A place to park
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- An important creed in Catholic Church
- 18-year astronomical period
- Furies
- Removes from the record
- Noted child psychiatrist
- Feline
- High schoolers' test
- Not happy
- They ___

CLUES DOWN

- Settle in tents
- Big
- Books
- Masses of eggs in fish
- Language
- Not standing
- Chinese philosophy
- Computer giant
- A device to catch
- Emits coherent radiation
- Actor O'Neill
- Smallest interval in western music
- On top
- Precious stones unit of weight
- Moved quickly
- Seagulls
- A seed with hooks or teeth
- Partner to "ooohed"
- Exclamation of surprise
- Most unpleasant
- Organization help service members
- Type of cockatoo
- Humorous criticisms
- Went through and organized
- Wakes up
- Not lower
- Revolves
- Leavened bread
- Number above the line in a fraction
- Cable
- Adult male
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Bullfighting maneuvers
- Broadcast
- ___ Angeles
- Vehicle
- Not religious
38. North American peoples
- A baglike structure
- Body art (slang)
- Picked for a role
- Actress Tomei
- Former hoopster "Big Country"
- Icelandic poems
- More pleasant
- It can add flavor to meat
- Self-immolation by fire rituals
- Expression of annoyance
- ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Consumed
- Body part
- Thus
- In reply (abbr.)

How to contact local officials

U.S. Congress

Sen. Rand Paul: 202-224-4343
Bowling Green office: 270-782-8303
Website: paul.senate.gov

Sen. Mitch McConnell: 202-224-2541
Email: senator@mcconnell.senate.gov
Website: mcconnell.senate.gov

Rep. James Comer: 202-225-3115
Tompkinsville Office
Phone: 270-487-9509
Toll Free Number: 1-800-328-5629

Kentucky General Assembly

Sen. Max Wise
Capitol: 502-564-8100
Email: max.wise@lrc.ky.gov

State Rep. Amy Neighbors
Capitol: 502-564-8100
Email: amy.neighbors@lrc.ky.gov

Governor

Gov. Andy Beshear
502-564-2611

Adair County Fiscal Court

Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant
270-384-4703
Email: cje@adaircountyky.com

Magistrates

District 1-Tony Denton: 270-634-3474
District 2-Daryl Flatt: 270-634-1033
District 3-Sammy Baker: 270-378-1536
District 4-Chris Reeder: 270-634-0485
District 5-Billy Coffey: 270-378-2339
District 6-Mark Humphress: 270-789-8591
District 7-Terry Hadley: 270-384-4083

Adair County Constables

District 1 - William Troutwine: 385-9597
District 2 - Brandon Willis: 270-634-3813
District 3 - Ken Hill: 270-378-1108
District 4 - Jeff Dickson: 270-250-3038
District 5 - Tim Bottoms: 270-378-2339
District 6 - Jason Rector: 270-634-2171
District 7 - Joe Collins: 270-378-1597

City of Columbia

Mayor Pam Hoots: 384-2501
Email: mayor@cityofcolumbiaky.com

City Council

Robert Flowers: 270-634-1820
Mark Harris: 270-634-2542
Rhonda Loy: 270-634-1846
Sharon Payne: 270-378-0597
Hannah Peck: 270-634-2374
Ronald P. Rogers: 270-384-5069

Adair County Board of Education

Superintendent Jason Faulkner:
270-384-2476

Board Members

District 1-Terry Harvey: 270-378-6477
District 2-Dana King: 270-634-2608
District 3-Destiny Greer: 270-634-2673
District 4-David Karnes, chair: 270-250-2991
District 5-Troy Grider: 270-250-3523

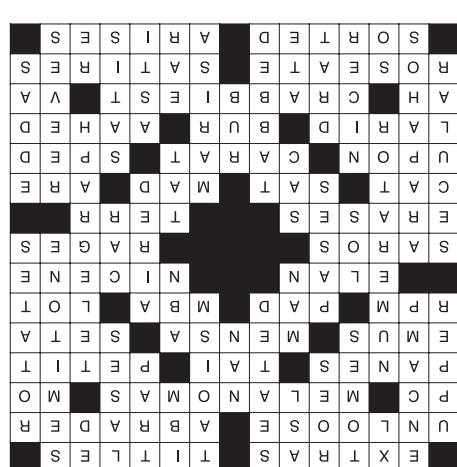
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Community Voice
Attn: Sharon Burton
P.O. Box 159
Columbia, KY 42728
or snburton@adairvoice.com

Letters to the editor are encouraged. They must be original and include the name, address and daytime telephone number of the writer. The editor reserves the right to condense and/or reject any letter and to limit frequent writers. The opinions expressed in the letters to the editor and other editorials are those of the writers and do not reflect the views of the Adair County Community Voice.

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First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



OBITUARIES

Margaret Ann Hendrickson



law, Dorothy J. and Albert Mariano.

Survivors include her children, Mark I. Hendrickson of Florida, Marcia L. Lambright (J. Mark) of Texas, Alice H. Walter (J. Kirk) of Maryland, Russell A. Hendrickson (Susan) of Kentucky, Rita G. Montague of Kentucky and Joan E. Lawrence (Larry) of North Carolina; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and several other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, July 22, 2023 at Grissom-Martin Funeral Home and burial in Reeves Family Cemetery.

Casket Bearers were Bryan Lambright, Mark Hendrickson, Christopher Montague, Stewart Montague, Kirk Walter, Mark Lambright

Grissom-Martin Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Margaret Ann Hendrickson, 96, of Columbia, Kentucky, died Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 7:40 p.m. at Bluegrass Way in Campbellsville.

She was born January 10, 1927 in Washington, D.C. to the late Eugene Irvin and Jean Belle Fairbanks Brown. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. A.J. Hendrickson, and her sister and brother-in-

Kenneth Davis

Kenneth Davis, 79, of Columbia, died Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 12:42 p.m. at Summit Manor Nursing Home.

He was a former construction worker.

He is survived by his fiancé, Helen Sneed of

Columbia. Funeral services were held Saturday, July 22, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Antioch Cemetery with Brother Jon Loy officiating.

Grissom-Martin Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Local meeting will focus on economic development trends, growth

The Economic Development Authority recently hosted Brad Thomas during a regular monthly meeting and decided his message needs to be shared with the community.

Thomas is the manager of economic development for Touchstone Energy and

provides economic development assistance for 89 Kentucky counties and 19 cooperatives, including Taylor County RECC.

The board has invited Thomas back and is hosting a luncheon for local elected officials and others involved in economic

growth. The meeting will be held on Aug. 3 at 11 a.m. at the Adair County Extension Office.

While attendance will be limited, the Community Voice will stream the meeting live on Facebook. com/adaircountycommunityvoice.

Anyone interested in the current trends of economic growth in Kentucky and how Adair County can prepare itself for growth that is best suited for the community is encouraged to watch the meeting.



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for our print editions and online.*


While we are interested in traditional human-interest stories and photos, we are also interested in unique voices in our community. Are you involved in the arts and would like to cover that community? Are you a Millennial or Gen Z and are interested in writing columns directed at your age group?

Are you a techie or fancy yourself a movie critic? Are you involved in homeschool efforts and interested in featuring students from that community? Maybe you love our rural connections and can write about our various communities and the people involved in them.

We may use your work once or twice a month. If we use your material, you won't get rich but you will be paid a stipend and you can say you have been published. We will feed you from time to time and thank you a lot.

We will even throw in a Community Voice shirt!

This is your chance to be part of the Voice team. Email Sharon Burton at snburton@adairvoice.com with a sample of your work.



GOOD LUCK THIS YEAR STUDENTS!

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and healthy
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OPEN HOUSE DATES AND TIMES:

<u>Adair County Primary Center:</u> Open House – August 24, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	<u>Adair County Middle School:</u> Open House August 22, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
<u>Adair County Elementary School:</u> 3rd Graders – August 15, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. 4th & 5th Graders – August 17, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	<u>Adair County High School:</u> Freshman Orientation August 22, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 28 - First Day for Students
September 4 - No School-Labor Day Holiday
September 22 - No School for Students – Mandatory Data Day #1 for Staff
October 2-6 - -No School-Fall Break
November 10-No School- Veteran's Day
November 22-24-No School Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27- No School for Students-Mandatory Data Day #2 for Staff
December 18 -Jan. 1 - No School Christmas Break Holiday
January 15 - No School-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
February 19-No School- President's Day
February 20 - No School for Students-Mandatory Data Day #3 for Staff
March 15 - No School for Students-Mandatory Data Day #4 for Staff
April 1-5 - No School-Spring Break
May 23 - Last Day for Students
May 24 - Closing Day for Staff

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COMMUNITY TRADER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Columbia-Adair County Volunteer Fire Department: To property owners who own property in the Columbia-Adair County Volunteer Fire Department jurisdiction. The Columbia-Adair Volunteer Fire Department will be accepting fire dues through property tax bills beginning October 1st, 2023. Please do not mail your fire dues directly to the fire department. Fire dues for residential and commercial properties are \$ 25.00 per deed with a cap of 3 deeds (\$75.00). Non-Membership fire runs are \$500.00. Property owners who wish to “opt out” of paying fire dues may do so from July 1st through April 15th Annually. Property owners who wish to “opt out” will need to obtain the “opt out” form from the Adair County Judge Executive Office. The Adair County Judge Executive Office is located at 424 Public Square, Suite 1, Columbia KY 42728. A letter from the Columbia-Adair County Volunteer Fire Department will be mailed to all taxpayers that do not receive a bill due to homestead or disability exemption regarding fire dues.

Breeding Area Volunteer Fire Department: To property owners who own property in the Breeding Area Volunteer Fire Department jurisdiction. The Breeding Area Volunteer Fire Department will be accepting fire dues through property tax bills beginning October 1st 2023. Please do not mail your fire dues directly to the fire department. Fire dues for residential and commercial properties are \$ 25.00 per deed with a cap of 3 deeds (\$75.00). Non-Membership fire runs are \$500.00. Property owners who wish to “opt out” of paying fire dues may do so from July 1st through April 15th Annually. Property owners who wish to “opt out” will need to obtain the “opt out” form from the Adair County Judge Executive Office. The Adair County Judge Executive Office is located at 424 Public Square, Suite 1, Columbia KY 42728. A letter from the Breeding Area Volunteer Fire Department will be mailed to all taxpayers that do not receive a bill due to homestead or disability exemption regarding fire dues.

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LOOKING FOR WORK: Looking for position in Columbia, staying with the elderly. Over 25 years of experience, references available upon request. Call Carolyn at 270-250-3428

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Ray Lutgring named VP for Academic Affairs at Lindsey Wilson College

Veteran educator Ray Lutgring has been named vice president for academic affairs of Lindsey Wilson College.

Lutgring, who has nearly 30 years of higher-education experience, comes to Lindsey Wilson from the University of (Indiana) Evansville, where he was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for the last 10 years.

“Dr. Lutgring is exactly the right person to lead the college through the exciting years on the horizon,” said LWC President William T. Luckey Jr. “He inherits an incredibly talented faculty who love our students and our mission.”

Lutgring was selected to lead LWC’s academic programs fol-

lowing a national search to replace outgoing Vice President for Academic Affairs Patricia Parrish, who oversaw the college’s academic programs for the last six years.

“Ray is a proven leader with outstanding credentials who understands the vital role that a church-related college plays in today’s higher education landscape.”

Lutgring said he was attracted to LWC because he can identify with its student body and what it means to be a first-generation college student.

“I didn’t always know I was going to college,” Lutgring explained. “I came from a blue-collar background and I found my way to a regional public university only

because I did well in high school. Going to college changed everything for me.”

The type of students LWC serves and its strong sense of mission checked all the right boxes for Lutgring.

“There are far more Pell-eligible, first-generation students at Lindsey Wilson than at my former institution – students who are much like I was at the same age,” Lutgring says. “This was an important distinction as I looked at schools. Accepting this position is a chance for me to give back and help them.”

Among Lutgring’s priorities include working with faculty and students to offer more experiential learning opportunities.

“I would like to encourage undergraduate research as much as possible and part of that stems from my own experience,” said Lutgring. “As an undergraduate, I didn’t really know what that was about but I got the opportunity to work in someone’s lab and it was a great experience. It’s probably one of the things that taught me what graduate school was because I don’t even think I understood what that meant at the time.”

Over the last 15 years, Lindsey Wilson’s academic programs have experienced dramatic growth. The college’s full-time faculty expanded from 73 to 118; two graduate programs have been added along with a doctorate program in

counseling education and supervision; the Class of 2023 was the largest-ever graduation class in the history of the college and fall enrollment topped 3,000 students for the first time last year.

In just his third week on the job, Lutgring announced the addition of a new academic school. The School of Graduate Business and Technology will be the sixth academic school for LWC. It will house the Master of Science in Technology Management and the Master of Business Administration along with any new graduate programs in business.

Lutgring earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Indi-



Ray Lutgring

ana State University and a doctorate degree in organic chemistry from Purdue (Indiana) University. He has lectured and written about a broad range of higher-education topics with special emphasis on topics in chemistry.

Venus Popplewell

LWC Director of Public Relations

Beshear highlights local project during weekly presser

FROM PAGE 1

associated with bourbon. “My answer’s simple. Adair County is home. That’s where I grew up, and I’m proud to bring a project back home. We’re proud to expand

bourbon tourism into parts of the state that have not historically had bourbon and make that part of our local economy. Heck, prohibition didn’t even end in Adair County until about seven years ago. And,

and here we are. But just like aging a good whiskey. It’s ready when it’s ready. And Adair County’s ready for it.”

By Sharon Burton
snburton@adairvoice.com

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School board approves bid for middle school

FROM PAGE 1

\$4.8 million being used in the first phase of the project comes from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding, and those funds expire on Sept. 30. They must be spent by the end of the year.

As a result, the district will move forward with the project while they wait for approval for the gap funding.

Faulkner said he hopes to see ground broken in four to six weeks and the project will take

anywhere from 24 to 25 months. That timeline includes the construction of the gym and auditorium.

Theater Project Assessed

The board also received a breakdown of funds already spent on the Columbian Theater and an estimate of remaining costs.

“To date we have spent \$280,703.73. There’s roughly 164,990.89 remaining,” Faulkner said.

Because the middle school is the first priority

and the ESSER money is needed for that project, Faulkner said, “We are going to kind of pump the brakes on the theater project for a little bit. We are not pausing construction; we are just slowing down.”

Faulkner said they will probably work on the project in “microphases” but do plan for completion.

“The fiscally responsible part of me needs to see that we get the ground broke on the middle school,” he said.

By Sharon Burton
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