

Top Ten Needs, Concerns and Assessments
Fourth Quarter 2015

1. Holiday Inn is on its way to the riverfront in downtown Paducah. On Monday, the City of Paducah and LinGate Hospitality had a ground breaking ceremony for the new Holiday Inn that is to be built on the city side of the floodwall near where the old Executive Inn once stood.
2. The Paducah Police Department has begun using a new body camera system to help officers document what happens while out in the field. The new system will include a total of 65 body worn cameras, purchased by the city from TASER International for \$105,000. Each camera comes paired with a cell phone that acts as a mobile wifi hotspot, which gives officers the ability to review footage while out on patrol.
3. Mid-Continent University's slow walk toward potentially selling their Mayfield campus has made a little progress. Tim Walker, the school's Vice President of Administration and Finance, said Monday that attorneys filed an application in Bankruptcy Court, asking for permission to hire Bunch Brothers Auction and Realty of Wingo. If the judge approves it, Mid-Continent would sign a contract to list the property, which has been mostly dormant since the university closed last summer and filed for bankruptcy a few months later.
4. An employee in the McCracken County Clerk's Office has now filed two complaints with the federal government in the last few months. Tracy Jones, who has worked in the Clerk's office for 20 years, filed a complaint in May with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, alleging that County Clerk Julie Griggs discriminated against two women who came to apply for jobs because they weren't white.
5. Republican Matt Bevin has defeated Democrat Jack Conway to become only the second Republican Kentucky governor in four decades. Independent Drew Curtis was a distant third in Tuesday's election. Republicans have dominated federal elections in Kentucky, but moderate Democrats have maintained control of state government. Bevin's election gives Republicans control of the executive branch along with a commanding majority in the state Senate.
6. A former Reidland Middle School teacher has been sentenced to five years behind bars after having been accused of having an inappropriate sexual relationship with a 14-year-old female student. The Paducah Sun reports that a Marshall County judge accepted a plea agreement Monday in the case against 24-year-old former Reidland Middle School teacher Chelsea Rose.
7. A former youth group leader at a West Paducah church was in a Ballard County Courtroom Friday, where was sentenced for 3rd-degree rape involving a minor. A county official who was in the courtroom confirmed that Michael Parsons took a plea deal, and received three years in prison.
8. Layoffs at the Verso Paper plant in Wickliffe could lead to a downsizing in county staff to make up for a potential \$500,000 budget shortfall. The Paducah Sun reports (<http://bit.ly/1SbXhwI>) that about 300 workers at the plant are scheduled to lose their jobs this week as a result of the plant closing indefinitely.

9. It looks like the former Whaler's Catch location in Downtown Paducah will remain vacant for a little longer. According to the owners of the building, despite a 30 day extension, the contract for the sale of the downtown property owned by Whaler's Catch Restaurant expired over the weekend. The owners of the building indicate that the building passed all necessary inspections and other necessary requirements, but the buyers were apparently unable to obtain financing approval through a lender.
10. A judge has sentenced former McCracken County Judge-Executive Van Newberry to two years of unsupervised probation and ordered him to pay \$13,830.91 in restitution. Multiple media outlets report that Newberry entered an Alford plea Monday to misdemeanor second-degree official misconduct, meaning he didn't admit guilt but acknowledged there's enough evidence for a conviction. Newberry and former Deputy Judge-Executive Doug Harnice had been