

## Quarterly Report for Second Quarter (2015)

4/1/15 - New McCracken County Attorney Sam Clymer has corrected a mis-calculation in his salary, cutting his pay by more than \$14,000 per year. In a Tuesday afternoon press release, Clymer said he found the error as he was reviewing financial data and Kentucky statutes related to his annual budget. He said his salary had been set at the rate paid to his predecessor, Michael Murphy, but it had been mis-calculated. Clymer said he brought the matter to the McCracken County Fiscal Court and requested that they immediately reduce his salary by \$14,311.30. He also asked the County Finance Department to make sure he's not overpaid for his first three months in office.

4/1/15 - Paducah leaders have approved a new two-year contract with BBQ on the River, Inc. As part of the agreement, BBQ on the River shall file the necessary permit for the festival and obtain the liability insurance, provide an annual presentation at a City Commission meeting, and provide to the Finance Department a financial statement for the most recently ended calendar year, a copy of I.R.S. Form 990, a confirmation of the organization's current, tax-exempt status, and a list of all participating organizations, their donation amounts, and the recipients. Each food vendor at the festival is required to donate a minimum of 20 percent of their net profits to their designated charity recipient. Also, the City shall have one ex-officio board member to serve on the BBQ board of directors.

4/2/15 - Residents across the area were jolted with the ground shaking under them Wednesday night. The United States Geological Survey is reporting a 3.6 magnitude tremor near Steele, MO at 10:51 pm Wednesday. According to the Pemiscot County Sheriff's Office, there have been no reports of damage or injuries. Originally, the USGS had labeled the quake at a 4.0 magnitude, but downgraded the strength after additional review of the data, Thursday morning.

4/2/15 - Illinois State Police and Massac County Sheriff's Office officials are investigating an officer involved shooting that happened Thursday in rural Massac County. Just after 1:00 pm, the Massac County Sheriff's Department received a call reporting a man with a gun at the Pell Cemetery. Officers from the Brookport Police Department, Massac County Sheriff's Department, and Illinois State Police located the man in his vehicle and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. Police said they were able to stop the vehicle, but the man was still armed with a handgun. They said the man refused to drop the gun after being given verbal commands by officers. Two Metropolis officers deployed their tasers which police said were ineffective. One Metropolis officer fired his weapon fatally wounding the man after police said he pointed his gun at officers.

4/2/15 - A Reidland woman faces 196 counts of animal cruelty, after police say they found nearly 200 animals living at her home. According to the McCracken County Sheriff's Department, on Thursday 54-year-old Deborah M. Luken came to the McCracken County Sheriff's Department and was questioned by detectives due to the number of animals found in her home on Merrydale Drive in Reidland. Police said 196 animals were seized from the home during the execution of a search warrant led by McCracken County Animal Control. Police said all of the animals were found to be underweight and had minor injuries from neglect, and that some animals died after they were seized from the home due to illness. Luken was issued a Criminal Summons Complaint in McCracken County District Court, and is charged with 196 counts of 2nd degree animal cruelty.

4/5/15 - Kentucky guard Andrew Harrison is apologizing for directing an obscenity and a racial slur at Wisconsin's Frank Kaminsky during a postgame news conference at the Final Four. Harrison muttered the comments when another player was asked a question about the 7-foot Kaminsky after Kentucky lost 71-64 to the Badgers last night. The sophomore had his hand in front of his mouth, but a live

microphone in front of him picked up the remark, generating a stream of reactions on social media. Harrison apologized in a series of tweets for what he calls a "poor choice of words used in jest."

4/5/15 - Gov. Steve Beshear has declared a statewide emergency in response to heavy rains and flash flooding in many counties across Kentucky. The heavy rain that started Thursday caused flash flooding that killed a woman, stranded a school bus and forced more than 160 rescues in Louisville. The state emergency declaration gives local officials immediate access to state resources to assist in public safety and recovery efforts.

4/7/15 - Sen. Rand Paul is entering the campaign for the Republican presidential nomination -- saying he wants to "return our country to the principles of liberty and limited government." The Kentucky senator on Tuesday formally declared his White House campaign. A tea party favorite and frequent contrarian against his party's establishment, Paul is promising to continue his approach to politics. During his speech, Paul pledged to scrap "the Washington machine that gobbles up our freedoms."

4/8/15 - At Tuesday night's McCracken County Fiscal Court pre-budget workshop, Judge-Executive Bob Leeper said that there would be no drastic changes to this year's revenue projections. Leeper said that TVA's payment in lieu of tax money (PILOT) is the most significant change in the revenue projections, and it will affect the budget by over \$100,000. Because it is a government entity, the TVA does not pay taxes, instead paying PILOT money, to ensure that revenue from power sales in the TVA region would not depend on who produced that power or who sold it.

4/10/15 - About 35 people showed up to a meeting Thursday night in Mayfield to try to save some historic downtown buildings from demolition. The south side of the court square will be demolished soon to make way for a vacant lot, doing away with the majority of the historic buildings left on the square. Local business owner Clayton Howe is leading the charge to stop that from happening. Howe said the buildings could be demolished as early as next month if the public doesn't try to stop it. He said the group's next step will be to put the question to the community at large via a petition drive over the next few weeks.

4/12/15 - The U.S. Forest Service is halting new timber sales at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The Murray Ledger & Times reports local leaders have lobbied the forest service for months to stop logging and burning hundreds of acres to return it to oak grasslands. They want the service to focus instead on preserving the area's old-growth hardwood forests. In response to the complaints, Land Between the Lakes Area Supervisor Tina Tilley said recreation area officials will honor standing logging contracts, but no new cutting operations will begin until the forest service holds a series of public meetings.

4/14/15 - An investigation that began March 10 and led to the arrest of a local church youth leader on rape charges, has led to the arrest of a former church elder on felony charges stemming from alleged sexual communications with an underage church member. Police said their investigation revealed that while serving as an elder at Milburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church between October 2012 and January 2013, 54-year-old Frederick Daack of West Paducah had illegal and inappropriate communications by phone and via text messages with a juvenile that attended the church. Police said the communications were sexual in nature. Daack was taken into custody around 3:00 pm and taken to the McCracken County Regional Jail.

4/15/15 - Kentucky has opened a special enrollment period through April 30th for the state-based health insurance exchange, so Kentuckians can avoid possible tax penalties. If you don't have coverage in 2015 you'll pay the higher of these two amounts: two percent of your household income or 325

dollars per adult. Rob Jones, Executive Director of Community Action Kentucky, said low-income Kentuckians who don't qualify for Medicaid can still get a subsidy to help cover the cost of their health insurance premium. Gov. Steve Beshear says the percentage of uninsured Kentuckians dropped from 20.4 percent in 2013 to 9.8 percent last year. He says that moved Kentucky from 40th to 11th best in the country. For more information log on to [kynect.ky.gov](http://kynect.ky.gov).

4/15/15 - Despite what you may be hearing, the downtown Paducah U.S. Postal Service processing center remains closed. Rumors have been circulating for days around the region that the processing center was being reopened, or would be somehow used again by the Postal Service. "It's not true. The consolidation did occur as planned; mail is now going to Evansville for processing." said Corporate Communications for USPS, David Walton, in an e-mail to West Kentucky Star. The processing center was closed earlier this year as part of a downsizing that will ultimately impact more than 200 processing centers across the country. Walton said people are mailing fewer first class letters these days, and the Postal Service has an overabundance of processing ability for a volume of mail that is no longer happening in America.

4/16/15 - A Graves County High School teacher and coach who was cited last month on drug charges no longer has his job. Graves County Schools Superintendent Kim Dublin told West Kentucky Star Thursday afternoon that Zach Sims no longer works at the school. Dublin wouldn't comment further on the matter. According to Graves County Sheriff Dewayne Redmon, K-9 units were at Graves County High School on March 31 and found a small amount of marijuana in Sims' vehicle. Sims, a physical education teacher and boys soccer coach at the school, consented to a drug test, and tested positive for marijuana. Sims, who also served as an assistant coach for the boys basketball team, was cited for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia and was suspended with pay through April 12.

4/16/15 - A Kentucky judge has ruled in favor of two same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses but put the ruling on hold until the U.S. Supreme Court considers a similar challenge to gay marriage bans. Franklin County Circuit Judge Thomas Wingate on Thursday ruled that Kentucky's ban on same-sex marriage violates the constitutional right to equal protection. Oral arguments on challenges to gay marriage bans in Kentucky and three other states are scheduled before the Supreme Court on April 28.

4/19/15 - A Carlisle County man drowned in Kentucky Lake Saturday night. According to Marshall County Rescue Squad Chief Curt Curtner, two men were fishing on the lake around 7pm when one of the men fell into the water and didn't resurface. According to witness statements, 68-year-old Grandville Joe Thomas of Cunningham fell out of the back of the boat and into the water near Sledd Creek Bay. Curtner said the accident may have been caused by a medical issue. The Marshall County Rescue Squad and several other local agencies were called to the scene to help search for Thomas. His body was recovered around 12:15 Sunday morning.

4/20/15 - Dennis L. Cannon has been elected President and CEO of Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation. Cannon was elected to the leadership post by a unanimous vote of the JPEC board of directors at a recent meeting at the cooperative's Paducah headquarters. He will take office on May 4, replacing Kelly Nuckols, who has served as president since 1997 and is retiring April 30. As president and CEO, Cannon will oversee all operations of the electric distribution utility. He will report to the cooperative's eight-member board of directors. A native of Christian County, Cannon holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kentucky. Cannon comes to JPEC from a 20-year career with the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. and its affiliate, United Utility Supply Cooperative, Inc.

4/21/15 - If you get pulled over in Graves County this week, it may not be a bad thing. As a way of "paying it forward," the Graves County Sheriff's Office is handing out gift cards instead of speeding tickets. Sheriff Dewayne Redmon said it's the department's way of saying "thank you" to the people of Graves County for being good citizens. Deputies are handing out gas and food gift cards for things like driving the speed limit, using your turn signals or wearing your seat belt. Redmon said police departments across the country have been receiving a lot of negative publicity lately, and he wanted to do something to put his department in a more positive light. Redmon said he paid for the gift cards out of his own pocket.

4/21/15 - The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a notice of violation to the Honeywell facility in Metropolis for the failure to declare an Alert and properly notify the NRC in response to a uranium hexafluoride leak that occurred on October 26, 2014. The NRC staff offered Honeywell the opportunity to address the apparent violation identified by the NRC by either attending a predecisional enforcement conference or by providing a written response. In a March letter, Honeywell officials provided an explanation of the cause of the violation and actions taken to reduce the likelihood of it happening again. Based on an NRC inspection and the Honeywell response, the NRC has determined that there was a violation of NRC requirements. Because the company has not been subject to escalated NRC enforcement action during the past two years and has taken corrective actions, the NRC enforcement policy means the agency will not levy a fine against Honeywell.

4/22/15 - A son of Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul has been cited for driving under the influence of alcohol in Kentucky. Police in Lexington say William H. Paul was driving a 2006 Honda Ridgeline at 11:24 a.m. on Sunday when he crashed into the back of an unoccupied parked car. Some people nearby heard the crash and alerted authorities. Lexington Police spokeswoman Sherelle Roberts said Paul was treated at the University of Kentucky hospital for minor injuries to his face. She said a police officer cited Paul for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and failure of a nonowner/operator to maintain insurance. Paul was alone at the time of the crash. He was not arrested, which Roberts said is standard for this type of case. A campaign spokesman said Sen. Rand Paul does not comment on any private matters in regards to his family.

4/24/15 - Rising electric bills are playing an outsized role in the race for Kentucky's next governor. Kentucky is consistently ranked among the lowest states in the country for the cost of electricity. But three of the state's four major investor owned utilities have rate increases pending before the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Kentucky relies on coal for most of its electricity, and officials say new federal rules make it more expensive. Likely Democratic nominee Jack Conway has used his role as attorney general to intervene in those rate requests to ask for lower increases. He has also sued the Environmental Protection Agency over its new rules. All four Republican candidates for governor say they would ignore the EPA if they are elected governor, following advice from U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Currently, Paducah Power Systems has the most expensive electric rates in Kentucky.

4/24/15 - Two workers were injured in an explosion at a Hardin distillery that produces small-batch whiskeys. Marshall County Sheriff Kevin Byars said the explosion at the Silver Trail Distillery occurred around 10:45 a.m. on Friday. Two workers, 40-year-old Jay Rogers and 26-year-old Kyle Rogers, suffered severe burns and were flown to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Byars said fire officials believe a still at the plant malfunctioned, causing the blast. The distillery produces "LBL Moonshine," which is named for the nearby Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. Fire officials extinguished the blaze, but the building is a total loss. Distillery founder

R. Spencer Balentine opened Silver Trail in 2011. The company's website says that Balentine's father was a local moonshine runner in the 1950s.

4/24/15 - Federal prosecutors are seeking more time to prepare for the trial of a southern Illinois man who they're seeking the death penalty against in the killings of two bank employees. The (Carbondale) Southern Illinoisan reports a federal judge on Thursday agreed to postpone 30-year-old James Watts' trial. It was to be Aug. 17 but a new date will be set at a hearing on May 27. Prosecutors say their decision to pursue the death penalty makes the continuance necessary. The Cairo man has pleaded not guilty to charges filed in connection with the holdup at the First National Bank branch in Cairo. He is accused of stabbing two employees to death and critically injuring a third employee during the botched bank robbery last May.

4/25/15 - A Metropolis police officer will not face criminal charges in a suspect's death after a southern Illinois prosecutor deemed the shooting as an appropriate use of deadly force. Sgt. Cody Brown killed 63-year-old Donald Hicks on April 2 after police received a call about a suicidal man threatening to shoot himself. WSIL-TV reports Massac County State's Attorney Patrick Windhorst has determined that the fatal shooting was justified because Hicks pointed a gun at officers after a car chase and refused to surrender. Authorities say police first attempted to subdue Hicks with a stun gun.

4/25/15 - A spokesperson for Silver Trail Distillery says the owner is deeply grieved by the explosion and fire that destroyed the building and wounded two employees. A statement posted early Saturday on the Distillery's Facebook page said the damage and injuries were caused by a "massive equipment failure." The statement said Second Distiller Jay Rogers & his Assistant Kyle Rogers suffered serious injuries & are being cared for at Vanderbilt Hospital.

4/29/15 - A grand jury has cleared former Louisville basketball player Chris Jones on rape and sodomy charges. The decision came Wednesday, two months after Jones was arrested on allegations that he sexually assaulted two women at an off-campus apartment. Two other men at the party were charged with sexually assaulting one of the women. Jones faced two counts of rape and two counts of sodomy. Jones' co-defendants, 21-year-old Jalen Tilford and 19-year-old Tyvon Walker, also were cleared of all charges. The charges came days after Jones was kicked off the basketball team for violating curfew. Jones was released from home incarceration earlier this month as prosecutors prepared to present the case to the grand jury.

5/1/15 - A former elder at a West Paducah church has entered a not guilty plea to charges that he sent sexually explicit messages to a minor. According to McCracken County Circuit Court Clerk, 54-year-old Frederick Daack pled not guilty Thursday to one count of using an electronic communication system to procure a minor regarding a sex offense. Police said their investigation revealed that while serving as an elder at Milburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church between October 2012 and January 2013, Daack had illegal and inappropriate communications by phone and via text messages with a juvenile that attended the church. Police said the communications were sexual in nature.

5/2/15 - American Pharoah has won the 141st Kentucky Derby before a record-setting crowd at Churchill Downs. Victor Espinoza was aboard for his second straight Derby win, and third overall. The 5-2 favorite was in contention at the top of the stretch Saturday and pulled clear at the finish for his fifth win in six starts. Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert got his fourth Derby win, and also sent out third-place finisher Dortmund. Firing Line was second. The time was 2:03.02 for the 1 1/4 miles. The largest Derby crowd ever — 170,513 — looked on under sunny skies.

5/4/15 - Just rounding out his first 90 days in office, newly-elected McCracken County Judge-

Executive Bob Leeper says he is enjoying his new job. During an interview Monday morning on the Greg Dunker Show, Leeper said he's been pleased with the help the county's elected officials and employees have provided him during the first days of his term. He also talked about some of the things he would like to accomplish while in office. One of those particularly high up on his list of things to do is making some much needed improvements to the County Courthouse building. One of the things Leeper said he is most proud of is that the county was able to negotiate a deal to merge the McCracken County Animal Shelter with the McCracken County Humane Society. The county approved the deal on March 23. As part of the deal, the county will pay the MCHS \$217,500 per year to help run the shelter, with 90 percent of the funds going toward operating expenses. The county will have one voting board member on the MCHS board, and either organization may terminate the three year agreement with six months notice.

5/4/15 - A McCracken County Sheriff's deputy is on administrative leave after what is being called an accidental shooting over the weekend involving his mother. Sheriff Jon Hayden said he got a call from Carlisle County Sheriff Steve Perry about 7:30 pm Saturday, telling him that deputy Cory Golightly had been involved in what was initially described as an accidental shooting. Hayden said the gun that discharged was a .38 revolver, which is not a department-issued weapon. He added that Golightly was placed on administrative leave until an investigation is completed by the Carlisle County Sheriff. Hayden said he requested a copy of the investigation, and he hopes to have it sometime this week, but he hasn't spoken to Sheriff Perry since Saturday. According to a family member's Facebook page, Golightly's mother was flown to Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, where she underwent abdominal surgery, but is still in serious condition.

5/5/15 - A Benton man convicted of assaulting a well-known elderly man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison. According to the Marshall County Circuit Court Clerk, John Brumbalough was sentenced Monday on charges of first-degree assault, first-degree burglary and two counts of possession of a forged instrument, second-degree. Circuit Court Judge Dennis Foust handed down the sentences, which will run concurrently, for a total of 20 years. The charges stem from the August 19, 2014 attack on 76-year-old Donnie Duke at his Benton home. Duke, who is affectionately known as "Bird Dog" to local residents, was an acquaintance of Brumbalough. According to police, Duke was in his home when Brumbalough was allowed inside, and attempted to rob the home. Duke was hurt while he tried to defend himself from Brumbalough's attack. He received cuts on his neck and bruises. Following the attack, community members offered an outpouring of support to Duke.

5/5/15 - Republican candidate for governor James Comer has flatly denied he abused his college girlfriend, one day after she outlined several accusations in a letter to a newspaper and threatened to bring down his campaign two weeks before Election Day. In a letter to The Courier-Journal, Marilyn Thomas said Comer hit her and drove her to a medical clinic to receive an abortion. On Tuesday, Comer acknowledged dating Thomas and said the two mutually ended their relationship in the 1990s. He said he never hit her and never drove her to an abortion clinic. He said the last time he saw her was in 2001 in New York City, when the two had dinner and she gave him a gift. Comer is one of four candidates seeking the Republican nomination for governor. The election is May 19.

5/6/15 - One of the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club facilities in Paducah is closing its doors, due to ongoing financial challenges and a building needing extensive repairs. The organization tells West Kentucky Star that the Midtown facility on Oscar Cross Avenue, which houses middle school and high school students, will be closing and all the activities will be consolidated with the Park Avenue location. The Club's Board of Directors voted to close the Midtown facility, because they say the building needs significant repairs and that's going to cost more money than they have.

5/8/15 - A Benton Middle School student faces felony terroristic threatening charges, after police say he brought a fake bomb to school and made threats to use it. According to the Marshall County Sheriff's Office, on Friday morning a student made threats to several other students that he had a bomb and was going to put it in the Principal's office. Students then reported it to the Principal, who checked the property of the student and found a box containing a cell phone with a battery attached to it. Police later determined the apparatus was not an actual explosive device. Deputies charged the juvenile with 1st degree terroristic threatening, a class C felony. He was detained and removed from the school.

5/9/15 - A Lyon County man was shot Saturday morning by Kentucky State Police after he refused to drop the gun he was holding when he opened the door. Police say 51-year-old John C. Smith came to the door and pointed a handgun and laser pointing device at Troopers. After refusing several commands to drop his weapon, police say he was shot by a Trooper in the abdomen. Smith was taken to Lourdes Hospital by Lyon County EMS, where he underwent surgery and is recovering in Intensive Care. The Trooper involved has not yet been identified, and has been placed on administrative leave, which is KSP policy. No officers were injured in the incident.

5/11/15 - A McCracken County Sheriff's Deputy involved in an accidental shooting incident earlier this month has been let go. Deputy Cory Golightly has been on on paid administrative leave since May 2, when a .38 caliber revolver he was carrying accidentally discharged at a wedding he was attending in Carlisle County. The round hit his mother Debbie Golightly in the abdomen. She is recovering from surgery related to her gunshot wound. In a Monday news release, Sheriff Jon Hayden said Golightly's employment has been terminated. This was not Golightly's first accidental shooting. In April, 2010 Golightly lost control of his service weapon and shot a fellow deputy in the foot at the scene of an arrest.

5/13/15 - President Barack Obama has declared a disaster from winter storms in early March in Kentucky. The president ordered federal aid for state and local recovery efforts for areas affected by snowstorms, flooding, landslides and mudslides during the period of March 3 to March 9. Local counties eligible for the assistance are Calloway, Fulton, Marshall, Trigg and Webster.

5/13/15 - A former healthcare worker in Fulton is facing charges, after authorities say she assaulted a nursing home resident. Attorney General Jack Conway announced Wednesday the indictment on one count of 4th degree assault against 34-year-old Crystal Marie Leyhue. Leyhue was a caregiver at the Haws Memorial Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Fulton. The indictment stems from a November 4, 2014 incident during which police say Leyhue placed a hot pepper into an 82-year-old resident's mouth. Police say witnesses heard Leyhue laughing at the resident's reaction, and the incident was caught on video. Another employee of the facility reportedly saw the incident and reported it to her superiors. Leyhue was then fired. Police said a summons will be issued for Leyhue, who currently lives in Dresden, Tennessee, to appear for arraignment.

5/14/15 - Construction can resume on three piers of the new Eggners Ferry bridge after being delayed about a month to accommodate ospreys nesting nearby on the old bridge structure. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet personnel have been monitoring osprey nests containing eggs, and an inspection last week found the egg in one of the nests was no longer viable. The egg cracked and was determined to be nonviable by biologists. The nest has since been removed. This allowed the contractor to resume work at pier 3, 4 and 5 on the new bridge. Ospreys within the construction zone for the new Eggners Ferry bridge over Kentucky Lake and the new Canton bridge over Lake Barkley are covered under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty.

5/14/15 - Attorney General Jack Conway has announced the Alford plea and sentencing of a former caregiver on a charge of recklessly abusing a vulnerable adult at a long-term residential care facility in Marshall County. Wednesday, 61-year-old David McClure of Gilbertsville entered an Alford plea and was sentenced in Marshall District Court to six months in jail, which will be suspended for a period of two years. McClure was a caregiver for a 28-year-old developmentally disabled resident of a Community Alternatives Facility in Benton. The investigation found that in July 2013, McClure forcefully pulled and twisted the arms of the victim to restrain him while he was sitting in a chair. The victim suffered bruising as a result of the incident.

5/15/15 - A Paducah homicide cold case gets another look tonight. The show "Cold Justice" will be about the murder of Dr. Frank Shemwell of Paducah. Shemwell's body was found in his burned home in July of 2006. His wife, Penny Baird Shemwell was a suspect and questioned repeatedly, but no charges in the death were ever filed. She did go to prison shortly after Shemwell's death for felony shoplifting and possession of a handgun by a convicted felon. On "Cold Justice" a former prosecutor and a crime scene investigator try to solve old murders. "Cold Justice" airs tonight at 7 on TNT.

5/16/15 - The McCracken County Lady Mustangs took care of unfinished business when they won the state team tennis title Friday in Lexington. The Lady Mustangs team defeated Notre Dame in the championship match Friday. The win came after McCracken County knocked off defending state champion Sacred Heart on Thursday. It was sweet revenge for the Lady Mustangs, after Sacred Heart took the 2014 championship match from them. The road to Lexington began last weekend, when the Lady Mustangs dispatched Grayson County and then Bowling Green to advance to the state tourney.

5/19/15 - Democratic candidate Melonie Chambers has won the primary for Marshall County Judge-Executive, and will try to maintain the party's 40 year hold on the office. Chambers, the Deputy Judge-Executive since 1983, received 1,346 votes Tuesday, for 25 percent of the vote, beating the closest challenger, Troy G. English, who got 1,278 votes, or 23.5 percent. Chambers will face the lone Republican candidate, Kevin Neal, this November in the special election to fill the unexpired term of long-time incumbent Mike Miller. Miller beat Neal in last November's election for his 11th term, then died suddenly in his office in December. His wife Chyrrill was appointed by Governor Steve Beshear to fill the office until another election could be held.

5/19/15 - James Comer says he will ask for a review of vote totals in Kentucky's volatile Republican primary for governor. Comer said Tuesday night that he would seek a canvass. Unofficial returns showed him in a virtual tie with businessman Matt Bevin. Republicans Hal Heiner and Will T. Scott conceded early. There is no runoff election in Kentucky, and no automatic recounts. State law allows for canvassing only if a county clerk or a county board of elections notices a discrepancy or if a candidate makes a written request to the Secretary of State. Comer says he owes it to his supporters to request a canvass. However, he says he told Bevin that he would help get him elected in November if Bevin is ultimately declared the winner.

5/19/15 - Rep. Richard Heath said he and his opponent in the Republican race for Agriculture Commissioner, Rep. Ryan Quarles, are asking for a re canvass of the votes in their primary election. The Associated Press reports both men got 50 percent of the vote, but Quarles received 92,391 votes to Heath's 91,585 - a difference of only 806 votes. Heath said he knows that Jamie Comer is asking for a re-canvass in the Governor's primary, and it won't cost anything to check the Agriculture Commissioner's race at the same time.

5/19/15 - Attorney General Jack Conway has easily won the Democratic nomination for Kentucky governor. Conway faced little opposition in Geoff Young, a former state engineer who did not raise money and was shunned by the state party. It was the first time in four decades that Kentucky Democrats have not fielded a competitive primary, allowing Conway to skip dozens of candidate forums and raise more than \$2.3 million. Conway will face a Republican nominee battered from a brutal primary campaign that will force him to spend much of his time replenishing nearly empty campaign coffers.

5/20/15 - Police have arrested an Eddyville man who was shot by a Kentucky State Trooper earlier this month on several charges, including attempted murder of a police officer. According to a news release, KSP Investigative Lieutenant Trent Weaver has charged 51-year-old John C. Smith, of Eddyville with three counts of attempted murder of a police officer, one count of 1st degree wanton endangerment, possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, and possession of a defaced firearm. The charges stem from a May 9 incident during which troopers attempted to serve a search warrant at Smith's home. Police said Smith came to the door and pointed a handgun at Troopers. After refusing several commands to drop his weapon, police say he was shot by Trooper Eric C. Fields. Fields was placed on paid administrative leave immediately after the shooting.

5/22/15 - A former City of Metropolis employee has been charged with stealing gasoline from a city-owned pump. According to Metropolis Police, on May 12 at 3:04 am an officer on patrol saw a vehicle parked next to the city of Metropolis gas pumps on Pearl Street. Police said the officer saw that the pump was reading 22.8 gallons of fuel. He could reportedly smell a strong odor of gasoline in the vehicle, and the gas gauge showed a full tank. Police said the driver of the vehicle, 37-year-old Frank L. Henderson, was recently fired from his job with the City of Metropolis. Henderson told police that he had pulled up next to the pumps to speak with a person he had seen walking down the street. A report was made and forwarded to the Massac County State's Attorney for review. Police issued a warrant for Henderson's arrest on a theft charge and took him into custody Friday morning. Henderson was taken to the Massac County Detention Center where he was being held on a \$3000 bond.

5/23/15 - A distillery owner and one of his employees are suing a still-maker after an explosion last month that killed another worker. The April 24 explosion at Marshall County's Silver Trail Distillery left employees Jay and Kyle Rogers with burns over 80 percent of their bodies. Kyle Rogers died from his injuries and Jay Rogers continues to recover. Rogers and Silver Trail owner Spencer Balentine filed their lawsuit against the Oregon-based Revenoor Company on Monday. The Kentucky Fire Marshal is still investigating the explosion, which it has said was caused by a "catastrophic equipment failure."

5/24/15 - Paducah's population has fallen below 25,000 for the first time since the 1920s, according to population estimates. Mayor Gayle Kaler told The Paducah Sun that many people who work in Paducah don't live in the city. But Kaler is still concerned about trying to attract more young people to the city as the population grows older. Last year she formed a focus group to discuss the problem. Kaler said bringing in technology-based businesses could help attract more workers in the 23-40 age group. The focus group will make a presentation with its recommendations to the city commission in June. The latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates were released this week. They revised earlier estimates to show that Paducah's population likely fell below 25,000 in 2013.

5/26/15 - Paducah Police have cited several area businesses, after they reportedly sold alcohol to an underage man. According to police, officers and detectives sent a young man into Paducah and McCracken County stores Friday evening to buy alcohol. Police said that even though in many of the cases employees asked for identification, which clearly indicated the man was under 21, they continued

with the sale. Capt. Brian Laird called the operation, “a pro-active effort to prevent the sale of alcohol to our youth.” During Friday’s operation, 15 businesses reportedly sold alcohol to the minor. The sale of alcoholic beverages to minors is a Class B misdemeanor.

5/26/15 - When the political world descends upon Fancy Farm on August 1st, one of Kentucky's most well-known sports commentators will be wrangling the political rodeo that has become a must-attend event for Kentucky politicians. Matt Jones, founder of Kentucky Sports Radio, has been selected to serve as the emcee for the 135th annual St. Jerome Catholic Church Picnic's political speaking. Jones is currently host to Kentucky Sports Radio that has over 30 affiliates across Kentucky and West Virginia. Jones recently hosted a gubernatorial debate on his radio show. The Fancy Farm Picnic, which serves as a charitable fundraiser for the sponsor, St. Jerome Catholic Church, has quickly transformed into Kentucky's inaugural event for the statewide fall political season. The picnic, also known as the world's largest one day barbeque, annually attracts over 10,000 visitors each year.

5/27/15 - A man accused of killing two bank employees during a robbery gone wrong in Cairo will stand trial in 2017. The U.S. Attorney's office in Benton says James Watts' trial has been set for January 23, 2017. Watts is accused of fatally stabbing 52-year-old Anita Grace of Olive Branch and 52-year-old Nita Smith of Wickliffe, KY, as well as injuring another woman during a 2014 botched robbery at First National Bank in Cairo. Watts has pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted armed bank robbery resulting in death. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

5/28/15 - State election officials say there are no changes to the vote totals from Kentucky's Republican primary for governor. A review of absentee ballots and tallies from electronic voting machines confirms that Louisville businessman Matt Bevin leads state Agriculture Commissioner James Comer by 83 votes. Thursday's review appeared to end one of the closest elections in state history. It sets up a race between Bevin and Democratic Attorney General Jack Conway in a rare off-year election that serves as a precursor to the 2016 presidential contest.

5/28/15 - After supporters gathered the minimum number of petition signatures, a vote on whether to allow alcohol sales in Marshall County will be on a special ballot for the second time in recent years. Interim Marshall County Judge-Executive Chyrill Miller signed an executive order Thursday to allow the vote, saying that a petition was filed May 21 with signatures of registered voters totalling at least 25 percent of the number of votes cast in the last general election. Miller set Tuesday, July 28 as the date for the local option vote. The ballot will ask, "Are you in favor of the sale of alcoholic beverages in Marshall County, Kentucky?" A previous wet-dry vote was on the ballot in 2012, and failed.

5/29/15 - James Comer has conceded the governor's race in Kentucky, ending a tumultuous Republican primary and handing the nomination to Louisville businessman Matt Bevin. In a news release Friday morning, Comer said he called Bevin and conceded minutes after a Thursday review of the May 19 primary results showed Bevin maintained his 83-vote lead in one of the closest elections in state history. Comer delayed conceding publicly until the morning to give him time to contact some of his most important supporters.

5/30/15 - They had just opened a large, new two story facility along Village Square Drive in Paducah back in 2012. Patients of Dallas Medical Family Practice and Walk-in Clinic started receiving letters over the past week, indicating they were "permanently closing it's doors as of June 24, 2015."The letter, dated May 24, 2015, indicates Dr. Erika Dallas is "retiring from active medical practice in the State of Kentucky and has accepted a position in another state." No reason was given for why Dallas chose to leave Kentucky. Dallas Medical has been in Paducah since 2007, and offered one of the area's first

walk-in clinics that allowed patients to see a doctor without needing an appointment. The letter goes on to say, most of their employees will now be employed at Four Rivers Internal Medicine, and patients of some of the other care givers will still be able to see them at Four Rivers.

6/1/15 - Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials honored employees at the Whitehaven welcome center in Paducah Tuesday, after the facility was recognized as the state's best-maintained rest area for 2014. Whitehaven is the only historic home serving as an interstate welcome center, having been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984. It is one of the finest examples of Classical Revival residential structures in Kentucky. Whitehaven was originally built in the 1860s, but did not receive its signature columns and gardens until the early 1900s. Descendants of former Paducah mayor James P. Smith lived in the home until 1968, but left because the family believed the house would be torn down to make way for the then-planned Interstate 24. The lobby is open 24 hours for travelers, with vending machines and restrooms. Whitehaven is located at 1845 Lone Oak Road, near exit 7 of I-24.

6/3/15 - Ballard County is one of two more Kentucky counties added to those eligible for assistance with damage caused by February's severe winter storms. The Federal Emergency Management Agency said local governments and eligible nonprofit organizations in Ballard and Wayne counties may now apply for federal funds to help with the cost of emergency work and repair or replacement of damaged facilities. The addition brings the number of counties eligible for assistance due to the storms to 29, including Caldwell, Lyon and Marshall counties in western Kentucky. FEMA said Ballard County is also eligible for snow assistance for any continuous 48-hour period associated with the Feb. 15 to Feb. 22 storms.

6/4/15 - Gov. Steve Beshear has announced Paducah will receive an additional \$403,156 in federal funds for the fifth phase of the Greenway Trail. Beshear announced on Wednesday that the fifth phase will be funded by the Transportation Alternative Program grant funding. Officials say the final phase will begin where the Schultz Park portion of the trail will end near Monroe and Madison streets. The new portion will extend to Jefferson Street and will include trailhead parking and lighting. The Greenway Trail extends from County Park Road west of Stuart Nelson Park to Campbell Street near the Paducah Expo Center and links residential neighborhoods with the Perkins Creek Nature Preserve, three city parks, and the riverfront.

6/4/15 - A local judge is calling it quits. Circuit Judge Dennis Foust is retiring from the 42nd Judicial Circuit Court serving Marshall and Calloway counties. The official announcement is expected to come Friday. Foust's last official day on the bench will be July 16. However, he said he'll remain available if needed. A vote will be held in November to elect his replacement. Foust served seven years as district judge in Marshall County, starting in January, 1990. He was appointed circuit judge in March of 1997 and was re-elected to three full terms after that. Foust said he's not quite sure what he'll do after retiring from the bench. He said he may go back into private practice or mediation. He said he also plans to finish a book he's been working on about the Bill of Rights.

6/4/15 - Paxton Media Group of Paducah has purchased The Mayfield Messenger from the Haskell family of Martinsville, Virginia. Paxton Media publishes five other newspapers in the region, including The Paducah Sun, the Tribune Courier of Marshall County and newspapers serving Eddyville and Lyon County; Cadiz and Trigg County; and Metropolis and Massac County, Illinois. Paxton Media also owns WPSD-TV, which serves western Kentucky, southern Illinois, southeast Missouri and northwest Tennessee. Paxton Media President and CEO David Paxton said combining The Messenger's strengths with other Paxton papers will enable it to provide even better service to readers and advertisers. Paxton is a family-owned business serving the region since 1896.

6/5/15 - A Paducah small business owner says he wants to be the city's next mayor. Buzz Vontesmar, a 20-year Paducah resident, filed his official election paperwork with the state last November, declaring his candidacy for the position. He owns and operates American Home Heating and Air Conditioning on Jackson Street. Before moving to Paducah, Vontesmar was general manager of a large cellular company in Phoenix, Arizona, and has also run several successful heating and air businesses. Vontesmar says he brings a lot of experience to the table from his business background, and would use that experience to guide him as mayor.

6/6/15 - McCracken County's Lady Mustang softball team won the KHSAA state championship Saturday, beating Louisville Male 2-1 in eight innings. The game was scoreless until Louisville Male executed a suicide squeeze, getting a single run across in the sixth inning. McCracken tied the game with two strikes and two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning on a ground ball that produced a wide throw to first by the shortstop. Male chose to walk the next hitter and got a groundout to end the inning. After Male failed to score in the top half of the inning, a lead-off single led to an walk-off double by Keely Barnes, scoring the decisive run in the bottom of the eighth. It's the team's first state title, after coming up one run short in last year's championship game - in their first year as a team.

6/8/15 - An apparent burglary gone bad Monday morning in McCracken County left one person dead and another behind bars. According to the McCracken County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to a burglary in progress call at AAA Storage in Reidland. According to Sheriff Jon Hayden, at about 7am, a man renting a storage unit pulled up and saw two men stealing items from his storage unit. When the suspects tried to get into their truck, the man fired his gun, striking one of them. He was taken to a local hospital where he was later pronounced dead. Police have not released his name. The other suspect took off on foot. He was captured a few hours later in a field off of Tyree Road. Police have yet to release his name.

6/8/15 - A Brookport, IL man charged with kidnapping a Mayfield woman and fatally shooting her last year along Interstate 75 in southwest Ohio is set for trial next year. The trial of 41-year-old Terry Froman is scheduled to start Feb. 22 in Lebanon, OH. Froman has pleaded not guilty to charges of aggravated murder, kidnapping and discharging a firearm in the slaying of 34-year-old Kim Thomas. Authorities allege Froman killed his estranged girlfriend's 17-year-old son, Eli Mohney, in Mayfield and then kidnapped and killed her along the highway about 30 miles north of Cincinnati. Froman was arrested Sept. 12. His trial was set for August. But Warren County's prosecutor says the defense wanted more time to review evidence.

6/9/15 - A Benton man involved in a Monday morning shooting at a storage facility has been charged with murder. McCracken County Sheriff Jon Hayden told West Kentucky Star that 49-year-old Jeff Conrad was indicted on a murder charge Tuesday. Detective Matt Carter with the Sheriff's Department said the McCracken County Commonwealth Attorney's Office convened a special grand jury Tuesday to hear evidence from the investigation into the death of 30-year-old Garlon Casey Cox.

6/10/15 - An expansion by a Princeton manufacturer is expected to add up to 40 jobs. Gov. Steve Beshear's office said Tuesday that Hydro-Gear Limited Partnership plans to invest \$2.6 million in the project at its operation in Caldwell County. Hydro-Gear is a designer and manufacturer of precision drive systems. It produces a line of transmissions and transaxles for industrial, commercial and consumer markets. It first located a manufacturing operation in Princeton in 2005. The governor's office says the company plans to add more capacity, including construction of a 55,000-square-foot warehouse. Officials say the project is expected to be completed by year's end.

6/11/15 - Less than two weeks after his abrupt resignation, Marshall County's former Emergency Management Director now faces charges. A Marshall County Grand Jury on Thursday indicted Frank Murphy on one count of theft by unlawful taking, over \$500, a class D felony and one count of official misconduct first degree, a class A misdemeanor. According to Benton Police Chief Tracy Watwood, the indictment stems from mishandling of an account related to his duties as Emergency Management Director, which is funded by the City of Benton.

6/12/15 - U.S. Forest Service representatives and local residents are in disagreement over how best to preserve the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The Paducah Sun reports residents criticized the Forest Service's plans during a public meeting in Gilbertsville on Thursday night. The Forest Service, which manages the 170,000-acre area, says practices such as logging and burning should be used to convert some of the area's regions into more open, savanna-like grasslands. But many local residents say they want logging and burning to stop, and prefer to see the agency improve the roads, trails and other regional attractions instead. Other residents favor some land management, but want the Forest Service to change its approach to the area. A second meeting on the issue is scheduled for June 16 in Dover.

6/15/15 - A former Marshall County High School football coach has pleaded not guilty to an additional charge related to an alleged inappropriate relationship with a 15-year-old student. Ron Barnard pleaded not guilty in Marshall County Circuit Court Monday morning to an additional count of use of electronic means to induce a minor to engage in sexual or other prohibited activities. Barnard was already facing charges of possession of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor, promoting a sexual performance by a minor under 18, and unlawful use of electronic means to induce a minor to engage in sexual or other prohibited activities. According to the Marshall County Circuit Court Clerk, the Commonwealth Attorney has requested all charges be consolidated into one case. Barnard's pretrial hearing has been set for June 22.

6/19/15 - The U.S. Department of Energy announced the award of a contract to Swift & Staley, Inc. of Kevil for the performance of infrastructure support services at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Five proposals were received in response to the solicitation. The base period of performance is three years with an additional 22-month option period. Infrastructure support services to be provided include surveillance, maintenance and repair of facilities; janitorial services; grounds maintenance, snow removal, and pest control; roadway/parking lot maintenance; computing, telecommunication, and cyber security; fleet management; real and personal property management; records management and document control; safeguards and security; environment, safety, health and quality program; and training services.

6/19/15 - The "sales numbers don't add up." That's what a person answering the phone at the Save-A-Lot store on Broadway in Paducah told West Kentucky Star when we asked if they were closing down. Saturday, June 27th will be their last day open, according to the store. It is unknown how many employees will be affected by the closure. Save-A-Lot is the only grocery chain store in the downtown Paducah area. Downtown and Lowertown residents will have to travel to either the Southside of Paducah for a grocery store chain, Hannan Plaza, or the Park Avenue /Hinkleville Road area.

6/19/15 - Leaders of the bankrupt and shuttered Mid-Continent University plan to put the campus up for sale. The Paducah Sun reports the university's attorney Mark Whitlow told a judge in bankruptcy court on Thursday that the university intends to list the property for sale. The campus, which is located north of Mayfield, includes the university's academic and dormitory buildings. The university's vice

president of finance and administration Tim Walker says the school's board will need to vote to put the campus on the market at a meeting on Tuesday. The university, which closed one year ago, owes around 300 creditors and has previous faculty and staff members to which it owes payments for the 2013-14 school year. School leaders plan to repay those debts by collecting payments on student debts.

6/23/15 - Attorney General Jack Conway announced Tuesday the sentencing of a former caregiver on a charge of wantonly abusing an adult at an intermediate care facility in Christian County. In a press release, Conway's office said 28-year-old Ashley Burchett of Princeton was sentenced in Christian Circuit Court to three years in prison, which will be diverted for a period of three years. It was alleged that Burchett, while a caregiver at Outwood Intermediate Care Facility in Dawson Springs, abused a non-verbal resident with severe mental disabilities by pushing him into his wheelchair when he tried to stand up and by striking him in the head with a can of chewing tobacco. Ms. Burchett entered a guilty plea in Christian Circuit Court on March 25.

6/23/15 - U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Kentucky needs to remove a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis from the state Capitol's rotunda. McConnell said Davis' only connection to Kentucky is he was born there. Davis later moved to Mississippi, and Kentucky never officially joined the confederacy. McConnell suggested a better place for the statue would be at the Kentucky History Museum in Frankfort. Leaders in states across the country have taken steps to remove Confederate symbols following the shooting deaths of nine black people in a South Carolina church last week. A 21-year-old white man has been charged with the murders. Kentucky's Republican nominee for governor, Matt Bevin also thinks the statue should be removed.

6/23/15 - A Kentucky State Police Trooper was killed Tuesday evening in a crash near Grand Rivers. According to KSP Public Affairs Officer Stu Recke, shortly before 6:00 pm Trooper Eric K. Chrisman was responding to a reckless driving complaint on US 62 about two miles west of Grand Rivers. Chrisman reportedly failed to negotiate a curve, and his cruiser crossed into the eastbound lane into the path of an oncoming tractor-trailer being driven by 53-year-old Richard A. Burnham Jr., of Benton. The cruiser was hit on the driver's side. Chrisman was pronounced dead at the scene by the Livingston County Coroner.

6/24/15 - Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jack Conway has joined the effort to remove the Jefferson Davis statue from the Kentucky Capitol rotunda in Frankfort. Conway said Wednesday the sculpture of the Confederate leader and Kentucky native belongs in a history museum, not the Capitol. A day earlier, Conway told reporters he would "have to chew on that one a little bit" when asked about the Davis statue.

6/24/15 - Trial dates have been set for two former McCracken County officials facing felony charges for alleged improper zoning changes. During a brief hearing Wednesday in McCracken Circuit Court, Judge Dennis Foust set December 14-16 trial dates for former Judge Executive Van Newberry and Deputy Judge Executive Doug Harnice. In January, 2013 a Grand Jury indicted Newberry and Harnice on one count each of tampering with public records in connection to zoning changes made after they took office. Special Prosecutor G.L. Ovey offered the pair a plea deal last July, which they rejected.

6/26/15 - At a called meeting Thursday, the Paducah Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance for the development agreement between the City of Paducah and Paducah Riverfront Hotel, a development team more commonly known as LinGate Hospitality. LinGate Hospitality is set to build a 123-room Holiday Inn adjacent to the Julian Carroll Convention Center at 600 North 4th Street, where the dome pavilion has previously been used. The five-story hotel also will include a pool, fitness center,

meeting spaces, and a chain restaurant called Another Broken Egg. Additional parking for the hotel will use property that once housed the Executive Inn.

6/26/15 - The Supreme Court has declared that same-sex couples have a right to marry anywhere in the United States. Gay and lesbian couples already can marry in 36 states and the District of Columbia. The court's ruling on Friday means the remaining 14 states, in the South and Midwest -- including Kentucky, will have to stop enforcing their bans on same-sex marriage. Kentucky and three other states, Ohio, Michigan, and Tennessee took the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the state constitutional bans on same sex marriages. Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear has told the state's county clerks to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples following the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision.

6/29/15 - Kentucky basketball coach John Calipari believes Confederate flags should be taken down. During a Southeastern Conference coaches conference call Monday, Calipari said that "obviously, it offends a portion of our society, so people are deciding to take them down. That's how I feel. It may offend, so I'd say do it." Calipari asked a reporter if Kentucky uses the flag — it doesn't. He was told that a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis stands inside the state capitol in Frankfort. Statues of two other leaders stand in downtown Lexington. The seventh-year coach deferred to the "powers that be" on that and added, "I'm not running for public office. ... I was thinking about running for president, but was discouraged from that."

6/30/15 - A few court clerks in Kentucky are refusing to issue marriage licenses to any couple as an objection to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage. Casey County Clerk Casey Davis says his religious convictions will not allow him to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. He says his office is no longer issuing licenses to any couple. Davis says, "in good conscience I cannot put my name on one of those licenses." He says no same-sex couple has been in to the office to ask for one. The Lexington Herald-Leader reported that clerks in Rowan and Lawrence counties have also halted issuing marriage licenses in response to the Supreme Court ruling.