

## Quarterly Report 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (2016)

01/04/16 - Most of us suspected as much, and numbers from the National Weather Service bear it out -- last month was the warmest December ever in Paducah. December's average temperature was 48.9 degrees, which smashes the old record of 45.4 degrees in December of 1971. Five all-time record high days were set last month, including 70 degrees on the day after Christmas. No measurable snow was recorded in Paducah in December. It was the first December without snow since 2009-10. There was plenty of rain, though. December was the 8th wettest on Paducah's books, with 7.42 inches in the gauge.

01/05/16 - Paducah city commissioner Carol Gault announced Tuesday that she will not seek a fifth term in the upcoming election. Gault was first elected in 2008 and will hold office until December, when her current term expires. While in office, Gault has served as the city's representative on the E-911 board, board member of the Joint Sewer Agency, worked on numerous special projects from the community garden to the mayor's anti-bullying task force and most recently served on the selection committee for the architectural/design firm for city hall. Gault said she will continue her charity work and will also continue to serve on the Tennessee Tombigbee waterway development board.

01/07/16 - The former manager of a Paducah credit union has been sentenced to six and a half years in prison and more than \$600,000 in fines, after pleading guilty in September to bank fraud. Pyfrom was the manager of IBEW Credit Union in Paducah, and was arrested in 2014 after police say she confessed to stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the institution. The U.S. attorney's office in Louisville says Debra Pyfrom of Reidland was sentenced Wednesday in U.S. District Court to 78 months in prison, and must pay \$600,520.16 in restitution. During their investigation, police said they found that Pyfrom had manipulated credit union accounts, posted false loan payments, misappropriated funds, and took out fraudulent loans in members' names.

01/08/16 - A Murray State football player has been suspended after being charged in a string of burglaries in Pennsylvania. Running back Roman Jordan Clay, 20, was arrested at a Lancaster city home this week and charged with stealing cash, wallets and other valuables from unlocked apartments at the Brookwood Court Apartments in Millersville over the New Year's holiday. Clay is from the area and was home for the holiday break, authorities report. According to Murray State, Clay has been suspended due to the burglary and prowling charges against him.

01/11/16 - A ticket sold in Mayfield was one of four \$50,000 Powerball winners sold in Kentucky for Saturday's Powerball drawing. The tickets matched four of the first five white balls and the Powerball to win \$50,000. The other three tickets were sold in Elizabethtown, Louisville, and Richmond. Kentucky Lottery officials say the tickets were sold at the 542 BP Station on Highway 121 in Mayfield.

01/14/16 - The Tiny Tornadoes. That's what a group of 11 people, many of them teachers, are calling themselves from an elementary school out of the Paducah City Schools. The group won \$1 Million from Wednesday night's Powerball drawing. The odds of having a \$1 Million dollar ticket are 1 in 11,688,053. To win that amount, they matched the five white balls in the drawing, but did not match the Powerball. The group indicates they bought a total of 27 tickets. KY Lottery officials say the ticket was purchased at Smoke Shop on North 8th Street. A \$50,000 ticket was sold in Benton, according to Kentucky Lottery officials. It matched 4 white ball numbers AND the Powerball number. The odds of winning that prize are 1 in 913,129.18.

01/15/16 - The McCracken County Sheriff's Department is warning the public about a recent Facebook scam that cost a local woman \$500. McCracken County Deputies were contacted Friday afternoon by a local resident who told them that a "Charles Smith Mountjoy" had sent her a friend request on facebook, which she accepted. The victim said that "Mountjoy" told her that for a fee of \$500, she would receive \$100,000 from the US Government. "Mountjoy" then asked for personal information like her driver's license number, name and date of birth, facebook password and phone number. The scammer had also reportedly made another facebook profile impersonating one of the victim's friends, saying that the scam was legitimate. The victim ultimately sent the scammer \$500 and her personal information. She later attempted to contact the scammer, and eventually received a phone call from someone with a foreign accent.

01/19/16 - A Paducah man facing a second trial for the murder of his wife has pleaded guilty, and will spend three decades in prison. Directing Attorney Chris McNeill from the McCracken County Department of Public Advocacy confirmed to West Kentucky Star that Keith Griffith entered his pleas Tuesday before Judge Tim Kaltenbach in McCracken Circuit Court. Griffith pleaded guilty to murder, arson, tampering with evidence, and cruelty to animals, admitting that he killed Julie, his wife of 36 years, and set fire to their Tudor Boulevard home on January 17, 2014. McNeill said Griffith also pleaded guilty to a new charge of solicitation to commit 1st degree assault, related to an attempt to have another jail inmate shoot McCracken County Sheriff's Department Captain Matt Carter, the lead detective in the murder case.

01/22/16 - The winter storm is here and tops our news this morning. As forecasted, the area began seeing a mix of sleet and freezing rain before midnight. The snow arrived early Friday morning, being heavy at times combined with gusty winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour. Keith Todd of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet says roads are very slick and hazardous around the area with several vehicles sliding off into ditches. One semi jack-knifed on I-24 near the Kentucky-Tennessee state line overnight. Later, another semi went off the road on the Purchase Parkway. Even highway crews had trouble getting around overnight. Ice and gusty winds caused some plows to slip into ditches while working to clear roads. In Carlisle County, a salt truck overturned on Highway 80.

01/22/16 - Two Graves County officials are being hailed as heroes after their quick actions helped save a man's life Thursday. A man reportedly started experiencing a cardiac episode while in the front foyer area of the Graves County Courthouse Thursday. Court Security Officer Wade Heatherly was made aware of the situation and immediately called for assistance and requested Mayfield/Graves County EMS to respond to his location. Sheriff Dewayne Redmon was at the sheriff's office when the call for help was received. He made his way to the front foyer area of the courthouse after retrieving an Automated External Defibrillator or AED. Redmon and Heatherly attached the AED electrodes to the man, at which time a shock was delivered. After the shock was delivered, the man regained consciousness and was treated further at the scene by Mayfield/Graves County EMS personnel. He was then transported to Baptist Health Paducah by EMS for further treatment and testing.

01/22/16 - A woman faces felony theft charges, after police say she embezzled thousands of dollars from her employer. On January 14, Tracy McKinney, owner of McKinney Insurance reported a theft of about \$5000 to the Murray Police Department. According to police, the investigation revealed that Susan Patterson, an employee at McKinney Insurance, had altered the firm's daily financial records for the past year. In all, police say Patterson was able to embezzle nearly \$5000 dollars in cash. Police said Patterson confessed to the theft while being interviewed. She was arrested and booked into the Calloway County jail on a felony charge of theft by unlawful taking over \$500.

01/26/16 - More than 40% of voters in Graves County turned out to vote for only one thing, Tuesday, whether to allow alcohol sales countywide or keep the county dry. In the end, it wasn't all that close. Voters in Graves County voted down the allowance of alcohol sales countywide by a margin of 54 to 46%. 4,593 people voted in favor of alcohol sales, while 5,400 voted against. Graves County Clerk Berry Kennemore said he predicted about a 40% turnout for the special election, and that's exactly what happened. He said he expected the turnout to be heavy and it was.

01/28/16 - Governor Matt Bevin announced Thursday that LSK Inc., an air compressor parts manufacturer in Graves County, will invest more than \$1 million to build a new facility and create 10 new full-time jobs. Cory Crowley founded the company in Hickory in 2003 to make parts for centrifugal air compressors. They currently operate in a shop near Crowley's home, but they will soon build a 10,800-square-foot facility in Mayfield to accommodate future growth. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Wednesday.

01/28/16 - Mayfield and Graves County officials broke ground on a new Cracker Barrel Thursday. The restaurant and country store will be located off Highway 45 North in Mayfield, near Riley's RV World. Community members started a Facebook campaign last spring trying to recruit Cracker Barrel to Graves County. Company officials said the online comments helped put Mayfield and Graves County on the company's radar. The restaurant is set to open this summer. It's expected to bring about 130 new jobs to Mayfield-Graves County.

01/29/16 - A surgeon at Baptist Health Paducah was arrested after allegedly having a "melt down" during surgery. Dr. Ted Jefferson, 49 of Mayfield, was in surgery on Tuesday at around 5:30 pm, when he apparently had what's being described in the report as a "melt down" and began using profane language. The police report indicates other employees inside the surgery suite heard Jefferson state "I guess administration will be happy if I come in here with an assault rifle." Jefferson was initially allowed to "cool off" for around 30 minutes after being confronted by members of the hospital administration. After the 30 minutes was up, administration officials deemed Jefferson calm enough to go back into surgery and continue. The police report states that as soon as he went back into the surgery suite, he immediately stated "Who's the weasel who called administration to complain about me?" Police say at this point two members of the hospital administration once again confronted Jefferson about his actions being intolerable. Hospital administration told police that Jefferson became belligerent with them and made another reference to an assault rifle. He then mentioned something about "not knowing when." Jefferson was suspended for 3 days and escorted out of the hospital by security. Paducah Police then report that officers were patrolling around Baptist Health the following morning and they spotted Jefferson at around 3:15 am (Wednesday) in the parking lot of the hospital. Jefferson told police he was going to his office to write the hospital administration an email. The police report states two officers wearing body cameras recorded Jefferson indicating that he was upset over apparent medical supplies that were "unsanitary." He went on to tell police that he was acting out of anger the previous day at the hospital, and then went on to tell the two officers that the only way to "get anything done is to go home and get a pistol or rifle." Jefferson was arrested on Terroristic Threatening and Disorderly Conduct charges.

02/01/16 - There's another phone scam circulating around the area. Some Calloway County residents say they recently received a phone call from someone claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service. The caller reportedly told the individuals that they owe taxes and that they must be paid immediately. If not, they would be arrested within 30 minutes. The caller usually requests a "blue dot card" or the person's bank account information. According to the Calloway County Sheriff's Office, this is a scam and the caller is not from the IRS. The sheriff's office encourages residents to never give out

personal or bank account information over the phone.

02/01/16 - A Benton man charged with murder in McCracken County will not get a new venue for his trial. Commonwealth Attorney Dan Boaz told West Kentucky Star that 49-year-old Jeffrey Conrad's attorney had asked Circuit Judge Tim Kaltenbach on Friday to move the trial because media coverage over the last 8 months could taint a jury. After Boaz argued that recent higher profile cases have been able to seat a jury, Judge Kaltenbach denied the motion, saying if issues arise while seating a jury, he will deal with them at that time. Conrad was indicted on June 8, 2015 after an incident the previous day at a Reidland self-storage facility, where he allegedly shot 30-year-old Garlon Casey Cox in the head. Conrad told police he caught Cox and his friend, Brandon York, burglarizing his storage unit.

02/02/16 - Two women in Ballard County have been shot, one of them is dead. According to the Kentucky State Police, at around 3:00 am Tuesday, investigators responded to the La Center area and discovered that 18 year-old Theresa L. Hughes of La Center had suffered a fatal gunshot wound. Another crime scene was found nearby and 21 year-old Caitlin L. Houston of La Center was located with a gunshot wound to the leg. Houston was taken to Baptist Health in Paducah where she remains in stable condition. Investigators determined that Hughes and Houston had allegedly been shot by Houston's boyfriend, 22 year-old Shaquille Q. Edwards of La Center. Police say he was found at the scene when officers arrived and was taken into custody without incident. Edwards has been charged with one count of murder, one count attempted murder, one count of kidnapping, and one count of 1st degree burglary. He was booked into the Ballard County Jail.

02/05/16 - The owner of a local furniture store has been arrested on several felony charges. Paducah police arrested 68-year-old Danny N. Kelley of Paducah Friday morning after a six-month investigation. He is charged with seven counts of theft by failure to make required disposition of property over \$500, one count of theft by failure to make required disposition of property over \$10,000, one count of theft of services over \$500 and one count of theft by deception over \$500. He was also served two summonses for theft by failure to make required disposition of property under \$500. Kelley was booked into the McCracken County Regional Jail on a \$21,000 bond.

02/08//16 - Three people were arrested and 19 were cited to court after police raided a cockfighting event in Calloway County Saturday night. According to Kentucky State Police, at approximately 7:20pm, Troopers responded to a report of a cockfighting event being held in a building off of Protamus Road in Lynn Grove. When Troopers arrived they found over 30 dead gamecocks as well as over 35 live roosters and hens. Troopers located 22 people on scene. Nineteen of them were cited and released on charges of cruelty to animals.

02/08/16 - The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has awarded a contract for the reconstruction of a section of U.S. 68/KY 80 in western Trigg County. Governor Matt Bevin announced Monday that Rogers Group, LLC, has been awarded a \$54 million contract for about 8 miles of new 4-lane highway between Cadiz and Canton. The project supplies a missing link in the long-awaited U.S. 68/KY 80 4-lane corridor through southern Kentucky. The project includes construction of a new 4-lane roughly paralleling the existing roadway from the intersection of U.S. 68-Business at Cadiz extending to the east end of the Lake Barkley Bridge at Canton—a distance of about 8 miles.

02/09/16 - Several lawsuits have been filed against a Paducah furniture store and its owner, who was recently arrested on felony charges. Paducah police arrested 68-year-old Danny N. Kelley of Paducah Friday morning after a six-month investigation. He is charged with seven counts of theft by failure to make required disposition of property over \$500, one count of theft by failure to make required

disposition of property over \$10,000, one count of theft of services over \$500 and one count of theft by deception over \$500. He was also served two summonses for theft by failure to make required disposition of property under \$500. In addition to the criminal charges against Kelley, six civil lawsuits have been filed against Kelley-Wiggins furniture DBA Fleming Furniture. The plaintiffs in the cases are as follows: Riverside Furniture Corp., American Express Bank, Withers Broadcasting, American Furniture Manufacturing, City of Paducah, England, Inc.

02/10/16 - A Marshall County man was sentenced to ten years behind bars Tuesday. According to the Marshall County Sheriff's Office, 62-year-old Stephen A. Gray of Olive was sentenced in Marshall Circuit Court to 10 years in prison on charges of sexual abuse first degree of a victim less than twelve years old, possession of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor and distribution of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor. The charges stemmed from an investigation conducted by Marshall County detectives and assisted by Investigator Tom Bell, with the Kentucky Office of Attorney General Cyber Crimes Branch. Gray was initially charged in 2014 with sexual abuse first degree after being interviewed and confessing to the charges. Further investigation led to search warrants being issued for the defendant's home computers, which yielded images of child pornography and evidence of those images being transmitted via the internet.

02/10/16 - The owner of a local winery says he is very happy, after voters in his precinct decided to allow Sunday alcohol sales there. Allen Dossey, the proprietor of Purple Toad Winery in Lone Oak, says he was thrilled when he learned that voters had passed the measure to allow Sunday sales by a 59-23 margin in Tuesday's special election. Dossey and his wife, June have operated the winery for the past six years. He says being able to sell on Sundays will mean a big boost to their business. Dossey said he and others worked hard to get the measure to a vote, going door to door to get the required signatures to get it on the ballot. He says Sunday sales will do a lot to help the local economy, bringing with it more jobs and extra revenue for other area businesses.

02/16/16 - A local television meteorologist and her husband were arrested Tuesday after police said marijuana plants were found growing in their home. Kentucky State Police got an anonymous tip on Tuesday about a possible indoor grow operation on Ridgeland Drive in Mayfield. Troopers went to the home and were able to get a search warrant. Police said they found five marijuana plants, several guns, two silencers, ammunition, a tactical vest, and items used to cultivate marijuana. Two more marijuana plants were reportedly found discarded in a trash can behind the home. Troopers arrested 35-year-old Tyler M. Smoyer and 32-year-old Victoria L. Shaw Smoyer, both of Mayfield. Both were charged with cultivating marijuana – 5 plants or more, firearm enhanced (Class C felony), possession of marijuana (Class B misdemeanor), and possession of drug paraphernalia (Class A misdemeanor). Shaw works at WPSD-TV as a meteorologist. She and her husband were booked into the Graves County Jail.

02/16/16 - Kentucky State Police have issued an arrest warrant for a missing Murray woman. KSP has charged 31-year-old Jennifer L. Hicks of Murray with theft by failure to make required disposition of property over \$10,000, a class C felony. The Calloway County Sheriff's office told the Murray Ledger and Times that they don't believe Hicks was abducted. Hicks was an employee at Lake Chem Community Federal Credit Union in Murray, but it isn't clear if the charges are related to any alleged theft from her employer. Hicks had been the subject of a missing person investigation by the Calloway County Sheriff's Office since February 9.

02/21/16 - The sign on the door says, "Thanks for 35 years Paducah." Fleming Furniture is now out of business. The store on Hinkleville Road closed for good on Sunday, along with Ashley Home Store on 16th Street. Both businesses are owned by Dan Kelley, who is facing criminal charges and civil

lawsuits because customers say they never got furniture they ordered and paid for ahead of time. Kelley entered a not guilty plea last Tuesday morning in McCracken County Circuit Court to seven counts of theft by failure to make required disposition of property over \$500, one count of theft by failure to make required disposition of property over \$10,000, one count of theft of services over \$500, one count of theft by deception over \$500 and two counts of theft by failure to make required disposition of property under \$500. Judge Tony Kitchen set a preliminary hearing for February 25 at 1:00 pm. Kelley's attorney, Mark Bryant, said Monday that his client is trying to make restitution to everybody he owes money, and his office has asked the County Attorney's office and the Commonwealth Attorney's office to contact him if anybody claims they are owed money.

02/23/16 - A man who reported that he was assaulted on I-24 last week has now been arrested for filing a false report. The McCracken County Sheriff's office received word on February 19 that three men had assaulted a good Samaritan on the shoulder of I-24 between Exit 3 and the Ohio River bridge. He was taken to Massac Memorial Hospital in Metropolis, then flown to a St. Louis hospital.

As deputies investigated the allegations reported by the victim, searches from the 3-mile marker to the I-24 bridge found no evidence indicating that an assault had occurred. Also, no motorists had called in reporting any altercation or stranded motorist. On Monday, detectives spoke with a witness that knew the victim, Robert M. Pena. The witness stated they had personally followed Pena from the mall all the way to the Metropolis exit, and said that at no time did Pena pull off to the side of the road. Pena came to the sheriff's department for further questioning, and again claimed that he had been assaulted on the side of I-24 while assisting a stranded motorist. When confronted with evidence indicating that his report was false, Pena admitted that he had made the story up. Pena was arrested and charged with falsely reporting an incident, and was lodged in the McCracken County Regional Jail.

02/24/16 - More charges are expected to be filed against a Mayfield chiropractor who was arrested earlier this week. According to the Graves County Sheriff's office, six women have come forward with new claims that Dr. Stephen Douglas McAdoo inappropriately touched them while under his care. Sheriff Dewayne Redmon said three to four new charges of 1st degree sexual abuse will be filed against McAdoo on Thursday. Redmon said McAdoo could be arrested again as early as Thursday and no later than Friday. McAdoo is currently out of jail after bonding out Wednesday morning. His arraignment is set for March 23 in Graves County. McAdoo was arrested Tuesday on a charge of 1st degree sexual abuse. He's accused of making inappropriate contact with a female employee while giving her an adjustment. Deputies said the alleged incident happened Feb. 15 at his place of business, McAdoo Chiropractic Center on Paris Road in Mayfield.

02/26/16 - The Calloway County Coroner has determined Jennifer Hicks' cause of death. Kentucky State Police Post 1 Trooper Michael Robichaud confirmed that Calloway County Coroner Rick Harris ruled Hicks' cause of death to be a self inflicted gunshot wound. Hicks' body was found Thursday inside a unit at Garland Storage on KY 94 in Murray. She was reported missing on Feb. 9, and as multiple agencies continued searching for her, State Police issued a warrant for her arrest a week later. She was charged with theft by failure to make required disposition of property over \$10,000, a class C felony. At that time, the Calloway County Sheriff told members of the media that he did not believe Hicks had been abducted. She had last been seen in her vehicle on Highway 94 about 12:45 pm on Feb. 9, after leaving her job at Lake Chem Community Federal Credit Union. It's not clear if the theft charge was related to her job, but a representative of the Credit Union notified members of some irregularities in end-of-year figures.

02/28/16 - A man is facing murder and other charges, after a shooting Sunday morning in Mayfield. Mayfield police officers responded Sunday morning to a report of a shooting on West Hale Street.

When officers arrived, they found 22-year old Lauren Alexander of Mayfield inside the home with a gunshot wound. Officers also found 34-year old Ezell Miller also of Mayfield at the home. Alexander was taken to Jackson Purchase Medical Center, then to Skyline Medical Center in Nashville, TN where she later passed away. Officers arrested Miller Sunday evening and charged him with murder, 1st degree burglary, tampering with physical evidence, two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and two counts of 1st degree wanton endangerment.

02/29/16 - The wet/dry election for the City of Mayfield will be held this summer. Graves County Judge-Executive Jesse Perry on Monday set June 28 as the date for the special election. Last week, members of the group "Yes for Mayfield" turned in a petition to Graves County Clerk Barry Kennemore. At that time, Kennemore said he would need to certify 424 of the signatures for a special election to be held. He certified 455 of them. Kennemore said the special election will cost taxpayers between \$12,000-\$15,000. Mayfield already allows liquor by-the-drink sales. Wet campaigns in Mayfield have been defeated in 1992, 1983 and 1934. In January, Graves County voters voted against allowing packaged alcohol sales within county lines.

03/01/16 - The American Quilter's Society announced Tuesday that it will host a second AQS QuiltWeek in Paducah starting next year. The Fall AQS QuiltWeek – Paducah will be held at the Paducah Convention & Expo Center, September 13–16, 2017. During the announcement it was proclaimed that the Paducah Expo Center is now named the William and Meredith Schroeder Expo Center, to honor the Paducah couple who started and continue to be very involved in the annual and now biannual AQS Paducah Quilt Week. The couple was totally surprised by the announcement.

03/03/16 - In spite of a couple of sizeable snowfalls, winter in the Ohio Valley turned out to be the third mildest on record. According to the National Weather Service office in Paducah, for the months of December, January and February, Paducah had an average high temperature of 41.6 degrees. The only winters with warmer averages were 1949-50 at 42.4 degrees, and 1991-2 with 41.8 degrees. The normal average winter high for Paducah is 37 degrees. Meteorologists note that it was a record warm December that set the pace. January was near normal, and February was about three degrees warmer than usual. This reverses the trend of the past two Paducah winters that were below average.

03/07/16 - More than \$300,000 was initially reported stolen from the credit union where Jennifer Hicks worked, though police now report the actual figure may be somewhat lower. According to the Feb. 16 Kentucky State Police incident report, Lake Chem Community Federal Credit Union in Murray estimated \$304,981.30 was stolen from the institution over the course of several years, between Nov. 6, 2012 and Feb. 2, 2016. The report goes on to say that the suspect used computer equipment to commit the thefts. Hicks was an employee at Lake Chem during the period in which the thefts occurred. Her name does not appear in the copy of the report we obtained, but some information appears to have been redacted due to the fact that the investigation is ongoing. A physical description of the suspect in the report does appear to match that of Hicks. Hicks was reported missing Feb. 12, and felony theft charges were filed against her on Feb. 16. Her body was found nine days later at a Murray storage unit. The Calloway County Coroner ruled her cause of death to be a self inflicted gunshot wound.

03/08/16 - Folks who have enjoyed Ryan's buffet in Paducah over the years may be disappointed to learn that the restaurant has closed its doors permanently. Buffets, LLC, comprised of Ryan's®, Fire Mountain®, Country Buffet®, Old Country Buffet®, Tahoe Joe's Famous Steakhouse® and Hometown Buffet®, is set to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy, according to a news release from its parent company, Food Management Partners. FMP says that as part of the restructuring, certain "weaker

restaurants", including the Paducah location, will be closing permanently. Donbavand said that in addition to the undisclosed liabilities, FMP was not made aware of an \$11.37 million default judgement against Buffets, LLC for an incident that occurred in 2010 prior to the merger. He also noted that in addition to a large decline in sales at the restaurants, several long-term contracts were only recently discovered to be in arrears, and have had to be addressed in order to continue restaurant operations.

03/09/16 - The McCracken County Sheriff's Department is requesting the public's assistance identifying those responsible for the vandalism of the Confederate monument located at 6900 Benton Road near Traders Mall. Deputies said sometime late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning, the Confederate soldier statue was broken loose from its base and overturned, causing about \$1800 in damage. The property and display is owned by The Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the McCracken County Sheriff's Department at 270-444-4719.

03/11/16 - After more than forty years of service in education, West Kentucky Community and Technical College president Dr. Barbara Veazey announced Friday that she plans to retire on June 30. During a faculty and staff meeting in Crounse Hall, Dr. Veazey said she has been blessed to work in the community college and have a career in a place that changes lives through education. Veazey was named President of Paducah Community College in 2002. When PCC consolidated with West Kentucky Technical College to become West Kentucky Community and Technical College in 2003, Dr. Veazey became its founding president. Before that she had been a nurse, nursing instructor, college department chair, and dean of academic affairs.

03/15/16 - A special ballot issue for a one percent tax in Massac County has been voted down. Unofficial totals at the Massac County Clerk's office Tuesday night show with all 17 precincts counted, 2,103 people (52.39 percent) were not in favor of the tax, while 1,911 people (47.61 percent) voted yes. County commissioners were hoping the tax would be approved, so approximately \$5 million in renovations could be made to the Massac County courthouse. Along with improvements in plumbing, electrical and HVAC, work is needed on the building's brick and mortar exterior, so water won't leak into the building. Commissioners had a consultant help them determine what needed to be done, but now they will have to find the money to do the work.

03/16/16 - The Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization has approved a loan of more than \$600,000 for a new pizza restaurant in the old Coke plant. At its meeting Wednesday, PACRO offered a loan from its revolving loan fund for up to \$664,000 to Paducah Pizza Bakers, LLC, doing business as Mellow Mushroom Paducah. The funds will reportedly be used for building improvements and equipment for the new restaurant, which is planned to open in the former Coke plant on Broadway Street. According to PACRO, the project will create between 75 and 100 new jobs in the community.

03/19/16 - The Kentucky State Police are currently investigating a trooper-involved shooting. On Saturday at approximately 2:50 pm, a trooper from Kentucky State Police Post 2 was involved in a vehicle pursuit with an ATV that ended on Dragline Road in Hopkins County. The operator, 23-year-old Dylan Whitaker of White Plains, lost control of his ATV, causing it to overturn. Police said Whitaker brandished a handgun and reportedly fired shots at the trooper. The trooper returned fire, striking Whitaker. Whitaker was pronounced dead at the scene by Hopkins County Coroner Dennis Mayfield. The trooper was not injured during the altercation.

03/19/16 - The 10th annual Dancing With Our Stars fundraiser made history not once, but twice on Saturday night. The event, sponsored by Lourdes Hospital, raised \$278,830, breaking last year's total of

\$261,000. The money raised from the event goes to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of McCracken County. This year's Relay will be held on Friday, May 13th from 6 pm until midnight at the soccer field at McCracken County High School.

03/23/16 - An apparent Facebook scam has claimed more than \$2,000 from a local man. According to the McCracken County Sheriff's Office, a local man was recently contacted on Facebook by a woman who claimed that she was from Tulsa, OK. She stated she was stuck in Nigeria because her father, a United States Marine, had recently died in Nigeria and she was there collecting his property. The man sent the woman five or six different money grams, a total of \$2,200. The man told police the woman continued contacting him on Facebook asking for more money. The sheriff's office says the scammer was using a fake name and identification.

03/23/16 - Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center has announced a partnership with Mountain Comprehensive Care Center as part of a plan to purchase McCracken County Schools' Berger Road property. The McCracken County Board of Education recently granted an extension on the \$1.5 million property closing date from March 30 to September 26. Merryman House Executive Director Mary Foley says the 26 acre property located at 435 Berger Road will become the campus where both companies will work together to provide domestic and substance abuse services to the community. These services will include residential substance abuse treatment for women suffering from anxiety, depression and PTSD. Foley says Mountain Comprehensive Care Center will offer services for chemical dependency and mental health services, as well as outpatient mental health services on-site. Merryman House will serve as their primary referral source along with shelters across Kentucky. The facility will become a state-wide resource for survivors of domestic violence, but Foley says the Purchase Region will continue to be its main priority.

03/25/16 - It has been making headlines for months. Will the Sansone Group build a nearly 50 acre shopping development, the first of its kind in Paducah in nearly 20 years? The Sansone Group's Jim Sansone tells West Kentucky Star that they are going to build it. A defamation of character lawsuit brought against the Paducah Economic Development Board and its CEO Scott Darnell back in September 2015 was "dismissed" in court on March 17. The reason for the mutual dismissal is not being disclosed by either side in the case. The lawsuit originally alleged that Darnell defamed Sansone by directly interfering with the retailers that agreed to open in the new development. Darnell has never commented to West Kentucky Star regarding the allegations since the beginning. Sansone told West Kentucky Star on the day the lawsuit was dismissed that they are still putting everything together for the development.

03/27/16 - Two local residents have started an online petition to bring the popular car service app Uber to the Paducah area. Adam Morton and Bethany Morehead began the petition Friday. They hope to gather enough signatures to begin the process of allowing the car service to start operating here in Paducah. Morehead said that right now, the closest Uber community is Bowling Green. In order to bring the service to our area, she said the company requires at least 200 signatures to get the process started. Paducah Mayor Gayle Kaler said she has used the service before, but city leaders would have to take a look at current ordinances that may need to be updated before the service can operate in town.

