

## Quarterly Report 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016

7/1/16 - Assault charges against Hickman County Property Valuation Administrator Amanda Ballentine have been dropped. According to Hickman County Circuit Court Clerk Cinda Yates, the assault case against Ballentine was dismissed on Tuesday at the request of Carlisle County Attorney Mike Hogancamp. Hogancamp had been appointed as a special prosecutor in the case due to a conflict of interest.

7/2/16 - A woman faces a murder charge after a shooting Friday night in Carlisle County that left her husband dead and another man hospitalized. According to Kentucky State Police, 68-year-old Martha Ligon Martha shot her husband, Ray, in the chest. A short while later, troopers say 28-year-old Shane Courtney of Arlington drove up behind the couple as they were stopped in the roadway on KY 307 North. Ligon opened fire on Courtney, striking him in the shoulder. Ray Ligon was airlifted to Deaconess Hospital in Evansville where he later died. Courtney was airlifted to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville with non-life threatening injuries, where he remains at this time. Martha Ligon was arrested Saturday and charged with murder. She was lodged in the McCracken County Regional Jail.

7/6/16 - A line of severe thunderstorms that quickly moved through the area has left a trail of damage in western Kentucky and southern Illinois. Trees are down across the area, with power lines down, too. Damage has been reported to some homes and vehicles, with some possible injuries. Jackson Purchase Energy reported 71 outages at 2:30 pm, with over 7,500 members affected. They are in every county covered by the utility, but most are in McCracken, Graves, and Ballard Counties. Paducah Power reported over 2,800 customers affected by outages across the city. Most of them are on the West End, Reidland, or the South Side of town. Sirens sounded in McCracken County as the storm moved through, and there were also reports of a funnel cloud spotted in Metropolis, but nothing has been confirmed, and no tornado warnings were issued by the National Weather Service.

7/7/16 - The National Weather Service office in Paducah has confirmed that the tornado in Metropolis Wednesday reached EF-1 intensity. Meteorologist Rick Shanklin said the tornado came from the southwest of the city along the Ohio River about 1:45 p.m., just ahead of the heavy rains. Preliminary estimates indicate the tornado contained winds of about 105 miles per hour. EF-1 tornadoes on the Enhanced Fujita scale range from 86 to 110 miles per hour. A more complete damage survey will be done today, including McCracken and Ballard counties in Kentucky, where the twister may have originated. Much of the storm damage in Metropolis has been attributed to straight-line winds, consistent with the large storm front that included 70-mph gusts.

7/10/16 - After a relatively dry June, the first eight days of July have turned in some staggering rainfall amounts for portions of western Kentucky. Four- to eight-inch cumulative totals have been common across the quad-state region. A corridor from southeastern Illinois through the lakes area of Kentucky saw ten and even more than fifteen inches so far in July. Some of the biggest numbers included: Kenlake Resort 15.47 inches, Benton 13.91, Calvert City 12.91, Cadiz, 12.38, Hopkinsville 11.54 and Marion 10.97. For comparison, Paducah's average precipitation during the entire month of July is just over four inches.

7/11/16 - A fatal helicopter crash in Graves County is under investigation. According to Tennessee Valley Authority officials, the crash happened around 11:23 am Monday on the grounds of the TVA Customer Service Center on US Highway 45 North in Hickory. TVA pilot Randy Love of Maryville, TN, died in the crash. He was a 17-year TVA employee. The cause of the crash is unknown, according

to Kentucky State Police. National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration officials are investigating. TVA said it's fully cooperating with the investigation.

7/12/16 - Two Graves County residents now face criminal charges, after a dog attack earlier this month that left a Farmington man badly injured. On Tuesday, Kentucky State Police charged 27-year-old Chris Bouland and 45-year-old Tina Dykes, both of Farmington, with harboring a vicious animal, a class B misdemeanor. If found guilty, the two could face a up to a \$200 fine or up to 60 days in jail, or both. The victim in the dog attack, 22-year-old Mitchell Slayden, also of Farmington, has been treated and released from Tri-Star Skyline Medical Center in Nashville, TN. Police said Slayden was riding a bicycle on July 2 when he pulled into the driveway of Bouland's home. Slayden told police he was looking for a man that he believed lived at the home, but the man reportedly no longer lived there. When he entered the driveway, Slayden was confronted by two pit bull dogs, and as he attempted to leave the driveway the dogs reportedly attacked him. Slayden suffered lacerations to his face, head, arms, and legs. Both dogs were taken into custody by Graves County Animal Control. They remain at the Mayfield-Graves County Animal Shelter.

7/13/16 - The Hickman County Sheriff was injured Tuesday night when the motorcycle he was riding collided with a deer. According to the Graves County Sheriff's Office, the accident happened around 8:55 pm on KY 58 West, near C & W Lumber Company. Deputies said 47-year-old Mark Green, of Clinton, was westbound on KY 58 West, when a deer crossed his path and he was unable to avoid striking it. Green was transported to Jackson Purchase Medical Center for treatment of multiple injuries. He was later transferred to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

7/13/16 - An "augmented reality" game that has hit the nation's cell phones and tablets seems to be tempting people to cross the line with their behavior. Reports across the country of people not realizing where they are going and falling into ponds or other even more dangerous situations are taking place. People are also searching for Pokemon Go in places considered sacred, like the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Now police in western Kentucky are issuing warnings about how people need to be aware of their surroundings while using the new game when out and about. The Murray Police Department has issued a warning asking people to be aware of their surroundings. The release also advised residents not to wander around the city cemetery at night.

7/15/16 - The Paducah Convention and Expo Center has announced the return of one of Paducah's most popular holiday events: Ice Skating. In a meeting Thursday morning, the Convention Center Corporation executive committee authorized Magic Ice, of Miami to install an 60' x 120' indoor ice skating rink in the Schroeder Expo Center. Installation will begin in mid-November and the rink will remain in the Expo through mid-January. The CCC is looking into marketing opportunities with local business, schools, churches and special events at the rink. Those include character skates, figure skating lessons, ice hockey, birthday parties, company parties, and private ice rentals.

7/17/16 - Four people went to the hospital Saturday night, after a deck collapsed at a Paducah apartment complex. The Paducah Police Department says the incident happened at West Park Village apartments at around 8:00 pm. All four victims were reportedly on the balcony when it collapsed, and were taken to a local hospital for treatment of broken bones and other injuries. There was no one beneath the balcony when it fell. Police say an investigation is underway to determine what led to the collapse.

7/20/17 - A house fire has turned into a murder and arson investigation in Calloway County. Kentucky State Police found the body of 51-year-old Linda Whittenberg of Murray in a burned home on Cedar

Haven Road on Tuesday. Autopsy results reportedly showed she had died from two gunshot wounds. State police said a man's body was found in the garage, and autopsy results show that he died from smoke inhalation and injuries sustained in the fire. Dental records are being used to help identify the man. Later that day the body of a dog was found, and it had also been shot. A necropsy has been requested to determine if the weapon used against the dog matches the weapon that was used against Whittenberg. Police say they believe this was an isolated incident, and do not believe there is a suspect at large. They said if the man's body is identified as the person they suspect it to be, he is the likely a suspect in the case. Preliminary investigation into the cause of the fire reportedly showed several points of origin in different sections of the house and detached garage.

7/23/16 - Thomas Furniture in Paducah is closing its doors after more than 75 years in business. According to a press release, the store was founded in 1940 by Wade Thomas as Economy Appliance. Known for selling the first washing machine in Paducah, the company later widened its selection and changed its name to Thomas Furniture. Founder Wade Thomas passed the business down to his son Tommy Thomas, who has been running the store for the past 50 years. A going out of business sale is being held starting Thursday at the store, located at 1731 Broadway.

7/25/16 - Paducah Police will seek charges against an Illinois man who they say pulled a gun Saturday morning inside a movie theater at Cinemark Theater. Officer Dana Davie said officers were called around noon Saturday after a fight broke out inside the theater as the Star Trek Beyond movie was playing. 38-year-old John Hemen, of Paducah reportedly told Davie that he and his son were sitting behind another man, and his son was kicking the back of the man's seat. Witnesses said the man, identified as 64-year-old John Grabinski of Ozark, IL, got up and cursed the youth, asking if he was going to continue kicking his seat. Hemen interceded and a fight broke out between the two men. As Hemen got the upper hand in the fight, witnesses said, Grabinski pulled a gun. Others in the theater saw the gun, and began running for the exit. Davis said three men – theater employees and patrons – escorted Grabinski from the theater and were outside with him when officers arrived. Grabinski was barred from Cinemark property. No charges have yet been filed, but the McCracken County Attorney's Office is reviewing the case for possible charges.

7/28/16 - A southern Illinois man accused of kidnapping a Mayfield woman and fatally shooting her along an Ohio highway says he can't get a fair trial in a county he calls "racially imbalanced," and wants his trial moved. Terry Froman has pleaded not guilty to charges of aggravated murder and kidnapping in Warren County, OH. He is scheduled for trial Aug. 15. The census estimate for 2015 shows the county's population as 89.7 percent white. The Hamilton-Middletown Journal-News reports the 42-year-old Brookport man also says in motions before a Warren County judge that he wants to fire his attorneys. Prosecutors say Froman is suspected of the 2014 killing of his estranged girlfriend's 17-year-old son in Mayfield, then killing the woman, 34-year-old Kim Thomas, along Interstate 75 in Ohio.

7/28/16 - Texas-based Suntex Marina Investors has announced it is the new owner of Kentucky Dam Marina on Kentucky Lake. In addition to new ownership, the marina will also be managed by Anchor South Investments of Knoxville a subsidiary of Suntex. The transition became effective July 13, according to a news release by the company. Kentucky Dam Marina is the largest marina on Kentucky Lake, which in turn is the largest artificial lake (by surface area) east of the Mississippi River. The property was built in 1974.

7/29/16 - An arrest has been made in a recent burglary case involving a local fire department. According to the Graves County Sheriff's Office, the Lowes Fire Department was burglarized on July

20. Lowes Fire Chief Steve Elliott said several items totaling more than \$10,000 were stolen. On July 21, Graves County Sheriff Dewayne Redmon said the sheriff's office received an anonymous tip that 33-year-old Henry Shuford of Elizabethtown, KY, was bragging about burglarizing the Lowes Fire Department. Deputies contacted the Elizabethtown Police Department who made contact with Shuford. Shuford gave Elizabethtown police consent to search his home and during the search, several of the stolen items from the Lowes Fire Department were found. Shuford was arrested by Elizabethtown police on a Graves County warrant for second degree burglary. Redmon said the investigation is ongoing due to reports from other fire departments that have been burglarized in Kentucky, as well as other states.

7/30/16 - A retired law enforcement officer was arrested Friday and faces forgery charges from his old job. According to Kentucky State Police, their Vehicle Investigation Section investigated 48-year-old Anthony J. Graham of Paducah, which led them to obtain a warrant for his arrest on Tuesday. Graham was taken into custody on Friday and faces 15 counts of 2nd degree forgery. The charges stem from how applications for vehicle titles were completed by Graham when he worked for the McCracken County Sheriff's Department. Graham worked for the department from 1990 until 2013. The sheriff's department is helping in the investigation.

7/31/16 - U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is signaling that his long political career may stretch well into the next decade. The Kentucky Republican said there's a "great likelihood" he'll seek a seventh Senate term in 2020. McConnell, appearing on WKYT-TV's "Kentucky Newsmakers" program that aired Sunday, said he's "at the top of my game" and has been effective in representing Kentucky. McConnell is the longest-serving senator in Kentucky's history. If McConnell won another term in 2020, it would put him on course to serve well into his 80s. In 2014, McConnell overcame a fierce challenge from Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes to win his sixth term. McConnell achieved his longtime goal of becoming Senate majority leader when Republicans claimed control of the Senate after the 2014 elections.

8/3/16 - Republicans will have a lopsided advantage during political speeches at the Fancy Farm picnic that serves as the traditional kickoff of Kentucky's fall campaign season. The state's two Democratic statewide officeholders — Attorney General Andy Beshear and Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes — are skipping Saturday's event in western Kentucky. Both are citing family commitments. Republicans are pouncing on their absence from the raucous event that includes sign-toting and noisy hecklers. Tres Watson, a state Republican Party spokesman, says it's a sign the state Democratic Party is on the verge of becoming a regional party based in Louisville and Lexington. Republican U.S. Sen. Rand Paul and his Democratic challenger, Jim Gray, will square off at Saturday's picnic. Other speakers will include Sen. Mitch McConnell and Gov. Matt Bevin, both Republicans.

8/4/16 - Authorities have released additional details about the arrest of a Massac County man sought by police since early Wednesday morning. Massac County Sheriff Ted Holder said deputies found 26-year-old Benjamin Comer walking along Unionville Road late Thursday morning after getting a call from someone who spotted him. Comer had been the subject of an area-wide manhunt since just after 12 am Wednesday, after he allegedly stole merchandise from the southside Paducah Walmart and pulled a gun on a customer in the parking lot. Paducah Police officers pursued Comer until he fled across the Brookport Bridge into Illinois. Holder said Comer, who was reportedly armed with a shotgun, is also a suspect in a home invasion later that morning at a home on James Cary Lane. The hunt for Comer lasted nearly 36 hours, and involved dozens of officers from multiple local, state and federal agencies. Comer was taken into custody shortly after 11:00 am without incident, and was taken in for booking after receiving medical treatment at the scene. He is charged with aggravated home invasion,

theft of a firearm, and criminal damage to property. Comer also faces 1st degree robbery and 1st degree fleeing or evading police charges in McCracken County for his alleged role in the Walmart incident. Holder said more charges may be filed against Comer.

8/5/16 - Company officials and community members cut the ribbon on Mayfield's new Cracker Barrel Friday. The restaurant hosted a preview breakfast for special guests Friday morning. Community and business leaders got a tour of the new restaurant and heard remarks from the store's general manager, Kim Gardner. Gardner said the very successful "Bring Cracker Barrel to Mayfield" Facebook page was directly responsible for Cracker Barrel being in Mayfield. "It was just crazy how that blew up," Gardner said. "This was definitely going to be the community for Cracker Barrel. The support from this whole community has just been unbelievable." The new restaurant provides approximately 215 jobs in the Mayfield area. The 10,000 square-foot store and front porch will seat 177 guests. The new restaurant will open to the public on Monday at 6 am.

8/5/16 - Kentucky State Rep. Jeff Taylor has filed a lawsuit against Greater Paducah Economic Development, claiming he was not given equal consideration for an open position with the organization. Taylor is a Democrat who represents the Eighth District, which includes parts of Christian and Trigg Counties. He applied for the position of vice president for special projects at PED last year. In a complaint filed Jan. 6 in U.S. District Court, Taylor alleges that PED passed him over for a white candidate with far less experience. Taylor is seeking lost wages and benefits, as well as compensatory damages for "emotional distress", and punitive damages. Taylor says he believes there is proof that PED was aware of his client's interest in the position prior to making a hiring decision. The case is set to go to trial in July 2017.

8/6/16 - Kentucky Republicans took shots at absent Democrats during Saturday's Fancy Farm Picnic. Most of the state's Democratic officeholders skipped this year's picnic, citing family obligations. House Speaker Greg Stumbo called his absence a political protest and urged other Democrats to boycott the state's premier political event to protest the selection of Scott Jennings, a Republican political consultant, as the master of ceremonies. With many of the state's top Democrats not in attendance, U.S. Senate Candidate Jim Gray was left with little backup on stage and even less in the audience.

8/8/16 - Murray Police are still investigating a shooting incident that occurred Friday night. In a press release Monday afternoon, Murray Police said they are seeking information from the public and are following up on leads as they receive them. Two people received gunshot wounds during the incident, and the shooter is still on the loose. According to the Murray Police Department, the shooting took place just before 10 pm Friday on Brooklyn Drive. Police say they discovered two victims with apparent gunshot wounds. Both were transported to a local hospital and then airlifted to Nashville hospitals. The Murray Police Department still says they believe the shooting is an isolated event.

8/10/17 - Voters will decide in a couple of months if alcohol sales should be allowed in both the city and county portions of one McCracken County precinct, or if part of it will stay dry. A vote has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 4 in the Cecil precinct, which extends from just west of Noble Park to Maxon Road between Cairo Road and Hinkleville Road. Lynn Dickey with the County Clerk's office said that a petition for the vote was filed with McCracken Fiscal Court by a real estate developer, and it was approved at their Monday meeting. St. Louis-based Sansone Group has plans to build a nearly 400,000 square foot \$50 million development on county property just west of the Kentucky Oaks Mall area. They initially tried to get the city to annex the property so they could qualify for a tax increment finance grant. Another benefit of annexation was that businesses on the property could also sell alcohol, because the city is wet, but the county portion of the precinct is dry. Since the annexation didn't happen,

Dickey said the October vote could make the entire precinct wet, solving the problem once and for all. Both city and county voters in the Cecil precinct will participate in the referendum.

8/12/16 - Paducah Chief of Police Brandon Barnhill has issued a statement about a grand jury's decision to take no action against three Paducah police officers, after an incident in which shots were accidentally fired into a Graves County home. Graves County Sheriff's deputies responded to a home on West Vaughn Road in January after two bullets struck the home. The bullets were later found to have been fired by officers, who were practicing in the area with a rifle. A Graves County grand jury on Thursday found no criminal action in the case.

8/15/16 - A Carlisle County woman who taught in the county school system has been arrested and charged with having inappropriate relationships with two male students. On June 28, Kentucky State Police got a report of a substitute teacher having inappropriate contact with two teenagers. Their investigation determined that 27-year-old Kasey Warren of Bardwell was employed by Carlisle County Schools during the last half of the 2015-2016 school year. During that time she met the two 16-year-old boys, and the alleged sexual contact happened in McCracken County. Warren is not currently employed as a teacher. On Friday, Warren was indicted by a McCracken County Grand Jury on three counts of third-degree sodomy and three counts of third-degree rape. She turned herself in to Kentucky State Police on Monday, and was taken to the McCracken County Jail.

8/17/16 - It's just over a year away, and excitement is building in Hopkinsville for the 2017 solar eclipse. On the morning of August 21, 2017, a full solar eclipse will darken the skies of North America, and its path will cross over our area. The greatest duration of the total eclipse - two minutes and forty seconds - will be in Hopkinsville, but it will be viewable for over two minutes in most of western Kentucky and southern Illinois. Hopkinsville Police Department's Public Information Officer Paul Ray said they have been planning for months, and the city government has been planning for years - since they knew the eclipse was going to happen. Other area cities are planning ahead, too. The Lake Barkley/Lyon County area has a meeting Wednesday at 10 am at the Lyon County Exceptional Center in Eddyville. Businesses and city leaders in Carbondale are also meeting Wednesday morning for breakfast and to discuss plans for next August.

8/17/16 - The owner of a steel mill in Calvert City has announced it will soon be shutting down the facility, leaving 130 workers out of a job. In a press release Wednesday morning, Marshall County Judge-Executive Kevin Neal confirmed that Gerdau North America has begun plans to idle their steel mill in Calvert City by the end of November. Neal said elected officials and economic development representatives have been in contact with the company and with workforce development officials to provide resources available to employees. Gerdau, based in Brazil, is the largest producer of long steel in the Americas, and has over 45,000 employees in 14 countries.

8/18/16 - A Hickman County woman is facing a theft charge from her former employer. According to the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, board members of the Fulton County Soil Conservation District met on June 29 to review an audit for their 2015-2016 budget because it showed missing funds. Since then, Fulton County Attorney Rick Major has charged 48-year-old Tatia D. Bradshaw of Clinton with theft by unlawful taking or disposition between \$10,000 and \$1,000,000. She is a former employee of the Soil Conservation District. On Tuesday, Bradshaw came to the Sheriff's Department to turn herself in. She also presented Sheriff Hopper with a canceled check for \$11,940, showing that the missing money had been repaid. Bradshaw was cited to appear in Fulton County District Court on August 23 per the request of the county attorney.

8/21/16 - Kentucky Community and Technical College System President Jay Box announced Friday the appointment of Dr. Anton Reece as president of West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Reece currently serves as associate vice provost for Academic Affairs and director of the Student Success Center at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He also was dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment, and Minority Affairs coordinator at Paducah Community College. Reece begins his duties as WKCTC president on October 1. Reece earned a Ph.D. in educational psychology and research at UT, and a master's degree in counseling, student personnel services at Eastern Kentucky University.

8/23/16 - At their Tuesday meeting, Paducah city commissioners introduced an ordinance to amend sections of the city's alcohol and beverage control ordinance. One of the changes will allow alcohol by the drink at hotels, motels, and restaurants to be sold from 11 am to 10 pm, two hours earlier than currently allowed. It will also make Sunday sales by the drink permissible for quota retail drink licenses that are considered to be athletic facilities, and for distilleries that hold a non-quota 3 license. The ordinance will permit distilleries to sell souvenir packages of distilled spirits on Sundays, and will also shorten the training grace period for servers from 60 days to 30 days. The amendment will bring the city ordinance in line with the recently passed Senate Bill 11 in the Kentucky State Legislature.

8/24/16 - The Paducah City Commission voted Tuesday to renew the contract for City Manager Jeff Pederson, and also gave him a raise. Mayor Gayle Kaler said the commission is happy with Pederson's job performance. Kaler pointed out to West Kentucky Star that the three-year renewal instead of a four-year renewal also takes the city manager's position out of election years every four years for the commission and mayor's seats. Pederson also received a five percent increase in pay under the new agreement, to a salary that's just under \$166,000 a year.

8/26/16 - The home of a local basketball coach was damaged by a fire Thursday night in the Lone Oak area. According to Chief Larry Freeman of the Lone Oak Volunteer Fire Department, they received a call at 7:18 for the house fire in the 2900 block of Maryland Street. He said his firefighters, along with Concord Volunteer Fire Department, worked about four hours to put out the blaze. Mercy EMS also responded to the scene. WKCTC basketball coach Michael Chumbler lives at the home with two other people, but nobody was there at the time. Freeman said they did find a dog named Chico inside the house, and they worked to revive the dog before taking it to a local veterinarian. He said he spoke to Chumbler on Friday morning, and the dog may be released later in the day. Freeman said the fire apparently started in a bedroom's window air conditioning unit, and damaged that room and the exterior wall. There is smoke damage throughout the house.

8/29/16 - A McDonald's franchisee says he's been unable to substantiate claims by two customers who reported finding worms in food at the fast-food chain's restaurants in two western Kentucky communities. Michael Love, owner-operator of the two restaurants, says inspections of the restaurants by health officials did not uncover any of the problems raised by the customers. Mayfield resident Madison Stephens told WPSD-TV that she visited the local McDonald's on Sunday Aug. 21 and purchased food for her and her 1-year-old son. She says that as she was about to bite into her hamburger, a live worm fell out. At the McDonald's in Draffenville, about 25 miles away from Mayfield, Lacey Jo Lovett says she also found a worm in her burger on Tuesday. Stephens says she contacted McDonald's about the incident, and they sent her a \$10 gift card.

8/29/16 - Assault charges against a Murray man have been upgraded to murder. Commonwealth Attorney Mark Blankenship says 35-year-old Christopher Smith is now charged with 1st degree murder for his alleged role in the death of 39-year-old Rhonda Runyon of Murray. His bond has also been increased from \$500,000 to \$1 million. Calloway County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Smith Thursday

evening at a home in the Kirksey area after he reportedly told them he and Runyon had been in an altercation. Runyon had to be airlifted from the scene due to the severity of her injuries, and later died at a Nashville, TN hospital. Smith's preliminary hearing has been set for Sept. 7 in front of District Judge Randall Hutchins.

8/30/16 - The annual Mayfield vs. Paducah Tilghman football game is Friday night but an incident at a junior varsity football game between the two schools has amped up the rivalry. During Monday night's game, a Tilghman player was caught on video intentionally kicking a Mayfield player between the legs, sending him to the ground. The incident happened as the first half was coming to a close. The officials apparently did not see the kick, thus no penalty against the Tilghman player. Joe Morris, who coaches Mayfield's varsity team, said none of his coaches saw the kick when it happened but were made aware of it when someone sent them the video. Morris said Tilghman's coaches are aware of the incident and he's sure they will handle it accordingly. Attempts to reach Paducah Tilghman head football coach Kurt Barber and athletic director Kristopher Durfee have been unsuccessful.

8/31/16 - The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet hosted a Bridge Day event Wednesday to celebrate the opening of four-lane traffic on the new Eggners Ferry Bridge. About 2,000 people took the opportunity to walk along the bridge to get an up close and personal look at the new structure. There was also a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting on the bridge. Kentucky State Highway Engineer Patty Dunaway said the new \$133 million structure is expected to last for 75 to 100 years.

9/4/16 - Four motorcycle gang members from western Kentucky have been arrested in Rhode Island on weapons and drug charges. Rhode Island State Police say the members of the Iron Horsemen Motorcycle Club were pulled over Friday after weaving in and out of traffic on Interstate 95 in Warwick. Police say troopers found two loaded guns, large knives and crystal methamphetamine during the traffic stop. Police arrested 55-year-old Robert Frayer, of Princeton, 41-year-old Michael Matteson, of Benton, 58-year-old Jerry Palmer, of Princeton and 47-year-old Steven Overby, of Hardin. They were arraigned Friday and each released on a \$10,000 surety bond.

9/5/16 - A Paducah man is now behind bars on multiple charges after allegedly refusing to stop his vehicle for police. According to the McCracken County Sheriff's Department, deputies tried to pull over 29-year-old Chad Taylor of Paducah just before 7 pm Sunday on US Highway 68 near Watson Road. Deputies say Taylor refused to stop his vehicle, and that started a chase that eventually went into Marshall County. Taylor finally pulled his vehicle behind a home in the 7000 block of US Highway 68 and ran into the woods. Deputies say the people at the home knew Taylor, and they told them that he was very familiar with the wooded area. Deputies say Taylor turned himself in Monday to McCracken County deputies on Husbands Road without incident. He was arrested and booked in to the McCracken County Regional Jail on multiple charges.

9/7/16 - A Metropolis man was arrested Tuesday afternoon after a police pursuit that prompted a school closing, and a standoff at a Metropolis home. Massac County Sheriff Ted Holder says deputies responded at around 4:00 am Tuesday to a report of a shot being fired at a home near Joppa. Holder said that the suspect, 28-year-old Justin Lamer had fled the scene by the time deputies arrived. Metropolis Police Officers saw Lamer driving later that morning and pursued him. Lamer crashed his vehicle after a short pursuit, then fled on foot. Holder says officers notified the Joppa-Maple Grove School District that Lamer might be in the area, prompting school officials to cancel classes for the day as a precaution. At around 9:00 am Metropolis Police learned that Lamer had barricaded himself in a Metropolis home. Police spent several hours negotiating with Lamer, and took him into custody at around 4:00 pm without incident. Lamer was booked into the Massac County Detention Center on

charges of domestic battery, aggravated fleeing/eluding, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, and possession of cannabis. He also faces charges from a previous warrant.

9/8/16 - A local taxi cab service has been forced to cease operations in Paducah, after getting a letter from the city claiming the company was not in compliance with city licensing ordinances. Chiz Cabz, Inc. owner Nicole Doran said her company got a letter from Paducah City Manager Jeff Pederson on Aug. 31 stating that its license to operate within Paducah city limits was suspended for the entire month of September. The letter said two drivers who had been working for the company had been previously denied taxi licenses because they had criminal records. The letter also says the company did not have a valid 2016 business license, but Doran said that issue has been resolved. Doran said she was unaware that the drivers had criminal records, and that they have since been terminated. She said she has filed an appeal with the city in an effort to restore her company's right to operate in Paducah.

9/9/16 - Marshall County Schools Superintendent Trent Lovett says school officials got a report Friday about a possible "Hit List" at Marshall County High School, but he says the rumors are unsubstantiated. Lovett says school officials also received a report of a text message that was sent, which was also investigated. He says officials have taken appropriate action and have found no threat of harm to students. Lovett says he has been in contact with several people who posted on social media about the alleged list. Lovett is asking anyone with information to email him at [trent.lovett@marshall.kyschools.us](mailto:trent.lovett@marshall.kyschools.us).

9/12/16 - Graves County authorities need the public's help finding a woman who faces animal cruelty charges. Graves County Sheriff Dewayne Redmon said his office received a complaint over the weekend of possible animal cruelty. A deputy responded to a home on State Route 849 East in the Boaz community. Upon the deputy's arrival, he reportedly found several dogs that were living in filth and in need of medical care. The deputy attempted to make contact with the home owner but was unsuccessful. A search warrant was obtained and deputies made entrance into the home. Deputies said the inside of the home was covered in feces, urine and trash. Four dogs were found inside and deputies said they were emaciated, malnourished, and at least one had mange. The animals were seized and taken to the Graves County Animal Shelter and Mayfield Veterinary Clinic. Deputies are requesting the public's assistance in locating the owner of the dogs, 51-year-old Tammy R. Littlepage, whose last known address is Boaz, KY. Redmon said Littlepage has pending charges of animal cruelty.

9/12/16 - A couple of local groups are pressing for more fairness in the way hiring is done at Paducah Independent Schools. Members of the Community Clergy Fellowship and the Paducah chapter of the NAACP raised the issue last week, saying qualified black applicants weren't even granted interviews for positions in the system - especially leadership positions. In an interview Monday, Pastor Alfred Anderson said, "We have a system that is 60-65 percent African-American or minority (students), and none in the central office, none in the cabinet - not one." Anderson cited statistics from a recent report by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence also showing a gap in Kentucky's teacher to student percentages pertaining to race. The report says, "In Kentucky classrooms, more than 95 percent of teachers are white, while only 79 percent of students are. That disproportion means many students never learn from a teacher of color. It also means that many school faculties have no members who can contribute personal experience of cultures other than the dominant white one." Anderson said the city school system recently had a chance to help close that gap but didn't.

9/15/16 - The Paducah Police Department has released officer body camera footage of a Sept. 11 incident at a Paducah nightclub, during which an officer was accused of using a racial slur. The body cam footage was released after another video was posted online by someone outside the Brickhouse

nightclub. In that video, the person could be heard repeatedly accusing Officer Daniel Kimball of using the slur. Chief Brandon Barnhill has released a statement about the incident, saying Kimball was responding to the club at around 1:30 am after the owner called police to report some patrons smoking marijuana inside. Barnhill said that after making an announcement that he was not going to arrest anyone, Kimball asked patrons who were smoking inside to leave the building. A short time later outside the building, Kimball got into a discussion with an African-American man during which Barnhill says Kimball repeated the man's statement back to him, which included the racial slur. While acknowledging that it was not professional for Kimball to use the word in any context, Barnhill said he is glad that Kimball later apologized to the man and ended the exchange in a friendly way. Barnhill said the department reached out to African-American leaders in the community to discuss the incident, and after watching the video he feels confident they were in agreement that Kimball did not appear to make the comment in a malicious or racist manner.

9/18/16 - Two young girls have been charged with the Sept. 11 vandalism at Mike Miller Park in Draffenville. According to the Marshall County Sheriff's Office, the two girls were charged via petitions filed with the Court Designated Workers Office. Due to the confidentiality requirements in juvenile cases, the only identifying information that can be released is that the vandalism was done by two 12-year old girls. Deputies said reward money offered in this case will be divided among three juveniles who provided information in the case. Marshall County Parks Director Dennis Foust said the vandals spray painted obscenities, sexual comments and other graffiti throughout the park. Some of the park's bathrooms were vandalized and lights at the veterans plaza were destroyed.

9/20/16 - LaFarge cement plant in Joppa has determined which employees will be laid off in in coming months. One employee told West Kentucky Star he was keeping his job, but approximately 40 others will lose theirs. The plant opened a second kiln last spring, but it has not been continuously running. A company official told WSIL-TV that demand has not been what they expected. The employee said he was told layoffs will be effective in December. Workers were notified earlier this month, since federal laws require at least 60 days notice. A media relations representative for LaFarge has not responded to requests for comment or additional information.

9/22/16 - With the Fountain Avenue Revitalization essentially complete in Paducah, city officials now want to look at the next neighborhood to be revitalized. Steve Irvin, Planning Director for Paducah Neighborhood Redevelopment, says the selection process will be all encompassing. Irvin told West Kentucky Star that there are "many neighborhoods within the city limits that can benefit from these redevelopment efforts. We think it's important that the selection process criteria not only includes an assessment of the neighborhoods current condition, but also includes a comprehensive evaluation of the neighborhood's potential to be sustainable and have a positive impact on Paducah at large." Irvin says he doesn't know exactly when the city commission will be choosing the next neighborhood for revitalization, but one of the nearly 50 neighborhoods in the city stands to follow in the footsteps of the Lowertown and Fountain Avenue neighborhoods, soon.

9/22/16 - McCracken County's Sheriff got a partial solution a few months ago, but says he still is facing a staffing dilemma. Jon Hayden gave a presentation to McCracken County Fiscal Court on May 4, saying he had a shortage of patrol deputies, and unless salaries were increased, it would be hard to catch up. That's because there is a difference of over \$12,000 in starting pay for deputies compared to new officers at the Paducah Police Department, he said. Hayden's presentation outlined the disparity, which he said contributed to the loss of two deputies who went to work for the police department. His data compared dispatch calls and numbers of on-duty officers to similar-sized counties in the state, and to Paducah Police as well. Comparisons between city and county budgets and salaries related to law

enforcement were also shared. Hayden said when the budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 was approved, he was given funding to hire three additional road deputies, and also got raises for existing officers. But he knows several in the department will likely retire in the next couple of years, so recruiting more help has to be a priority.

9/26/16 - Paducah police have teamed with professors at Murray State University to undergo training focused on cultural awareness and interactions with diverse communities. The Paducah Sun reports seven officers completed the Cultural Leadership Academy at MSU last week. The educational pilot program spotlights the need for racial and cultural sensitivity training. One session was held in April and another in September, covering several topics including diverse communities, community interactions, among others. PPD Assistant Chief Brian Krueger says the program is about developing an understanding of diverse communities and cultivating awareness of how beliefs and perceptions can affect daily interactions. MSU professor Teresa Clark says although no specific plans have been made yet, they do want to continue the program, adding that other law enforcement agencies have expressed interest in participating.

9/28/16 - A western Kentucky utility company is warning its customers of a scam. Mayfield Electric and Water said in a press release that customers have told them that people claiming to be from the utility have called them, saying services will be disconnected unless an immediate payment is made. Customers are being reminded that they should not give personal or confidential information to anyone they don't know. They are asking anyone who has received a suspicious call to contact them at 270-247-4661.

9/29/16 - Murray State University has issued a release to faculty and staff on campus asking everyone to change their email passwords. MSU says the reason for the request is due to several recent email scams and phishing attacks. A phishing attack is an attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details (and sometimes, indirectly, money), often for malicious reasons, by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.