

12/31/14 - Two more Kentucky counties located along the Tennessee border have approved right-to-work laws. Media report that officials in Simpson County and Fulton County voted separately on Tuesday to pass the measures, which would ban requiring workers covered under the National Labor Relations Act to join a union or refrain from joining a union as a condition of employment. Warren County became the first local government in the country to approve a "right-to-work" law earlier this month, according to the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation.

12/30/14 - The Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors voted Tuesday to add additional air pollution controls on Units 1 and 4 at TVA's Shawnee Fossil Plant in McCracken County. The vote came during a specially-called public meeting held via webcast. Under a 2011 Clean Air Agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency, Kentucky, other states and environmental groups, TVA was required to make a decision by Wednesday to either retire or install additional air pollution controls on the units. The installation of pollution controls at Units 1 and 4 will reportedly allow TVA to meet its air quality goals and commitments, while also meeting electricity demand and minimizing costs to TVA customers.

12/29/14 - Two large underground coal mines in western Kentucky will be idled, putting about 670 miners out of work. The Henderson Gleaner reports Patriot Coal Corp. will halt operations at its Highland No. 9 mine and Dodge Hill No. 1 mine in Union County. The mines employ about 670 workers and produced about 3.9 million tons of thermal coal last year. A spokeswoman for St. Louis-based Patriot Coal says the mines are shutting down because of "difficult coal markets." Union County Judge-executive Jody Jenkins says the shutdown will affect workers from several nearby counties and southern Illinois.

12/29/14 - Average retail gasoline prices in Kentucky have fallen 12.6 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.09 a gallon Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,623 gas outlets in Kentucky. This compares with the national average that has fallen 10.8 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.27 a gallon, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com. Including the change in gas prices in Kentucky during the past week, prices yesterday were \$1.23 per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 67 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. In Paducah, prices are now as low as \$2.02 a gallon.

12/28/14 - One man is in jail and another in the hospital after a shooting and standoff at a home in Brookport Saturday. According to a press release, at 3:42 p.m. Saturday, the Massac County Sheriff's Department requested the assistance of the Illinois State Police, Zone 7 Investigations, and Crime Scene Services for a shooting and barricaded subject in Brookport. State police said a perimeter was established around the home the man had barricaded himself inside. Police say 64-year-old Terry Babs of Brookport shot 45-year-old DeWayne Sharp of Paducah. At 5:12 p.m. Babs exited the home and was taken into custody without incident. Sharp was transported to an area hospital with nonlife-threatening injuries. The Brookport Bridge was closed for a period of time during the incident.

12/25/14 - Kentucky State Police are investigating a fatal crash in Hickman County following a high speed chase. According to police, 23-year-old Harold D. Nichols of Rutherford, TN, was driving a car in the city limits of Fulton around 1:10 am on Wednesday when a Fulton police officer attempted to

make a traffic stop. State police said the vehicle Nichols was driving had been reported stolen on Tuesday from a car dealership in Mayfield. Nichols failed to stop for the officer and a pursuit ensued. At times the pursuit reached speeds near 120 miles per hour, according to police. Near the Hickman County line, police said Nichols lost control of his car, ran off the left side of the roadway and collided with a tree. Police said Nichols was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the car. Nichols was pronounced dead at the scene by the Hickman County Coroner's Office.

12/24/14 - Maiden Alley Cinema in Paducah will be one of a handful of independent theaters across the country to show the controversial comedy "The Interview." The movie will begin playing Friday and will run through Sunday, Jan. 4. The political satire about a plot to kill North Korean leader Kim Jong Un prompted a cyberattack on Sony Entertainment and a threat of violence if the movie wasn't pulled. Sony announced last week that it wouldn't show the movie, but reversed course this week after public outcry and criticism from President Barack Obama. The film will be shown in about 200 theaters nationwide.

12/24/14 - The National Labor Relations Board has dismissed an unfair labor practice charge filed last month by union workers over the work stoppage at Honeywell's Metropolis plant. Members of the United Steelworkers Local 7-669 union at Honeywell had filed a charge with the NLRB claiming the company illegally locked out the union, among other things. The NLRB ruled in the company's favor on Tuesday. The charge was dismissed because the federal agency could not find any evidence of violations. Honeywell's union employees have been off the job since August while the two sides try to reach a new contract agreement.

12/22/14 - West Kentucky Community and Technical College will become a tobacco-free campus beginning in August. The campus' tobacco-free policy will include all forms of tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vaporizing devices, electronic cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products. WKCTC's decision to go tobacco-free will fall in line with Gov. Steve Beshear's September executive order that encourages all state and local government facilities, public and private school districts, universities, and businesses to consider limiting use of tobacco products on their properties. WKCTC faculty and staff passed the proposal in October.

12/18/14 - Three adults charged with sodomizing a 15-year-old boy who suffered critical injuries in the attack have entered not guilty pleas. The Kentucky New Era reports 20-year-old Dayton R. Jones, 18-year-old Samuel A. Miller and 19-year-old Tyler R. Perry were arraigned by video Wednesday in Christian County Circuit Court. Meanwhile, the newspaper reports a court docket shows a 17-year-old boy charged in the case is set to be arraigned on Thursday and will be charged as an adult. In all, six people have been charged in the case, with some counts stemming from sharing video of the attack. Police say the boy was sodomized in October while incapacitated at a house party in Hopkinsville.

12/16/14 - Paducah Power System is trying to keep the lights on in Paducah but with its financial woes that might be hard to do. The city's power supplier has seen its share of financial problems over the past few years and unless things improve, it could get worse. Members of Paducah Power System recently took a trip to Louisville to see if it could solve its money problems but the power giant might have to improve its credit rating to do so. While a plan was laid out last year to attempt to save Paducah Power

more money, its customers might have to endure an increase in its monthly service. Paducah Power System General Manager, Mark Crisson says steps have been laid out to help the power company get out of debt and it can still pay its bills. He says the plan will allow Paducah Power to save about four million dollar by July 2015.

12/16/14 - A Graves County woman has been arrested for allegedly scamming area churches. According to the Graves County sheriff's office, 36-year-old Dawn Riley of Mayfield has been approaching area churches asking for money to help her with a sick child. Deputies said Riley would tell a church that her son was going blind and had been sent to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville TN. She would say that she needed money to cover travel and food expenses. According to police, Riley's child has never been to Vanderbilt. Riley was arrested and lodged in the Graves County Jail on charges of theft by deception under \$10,000. Deputies believe that Riley may have also scammed some churches in Calloway County.

12/16/14 - More than 100,000 Kentuckians have applied for health care coverage or renewed their current plans through kynect during the first 30 days of open enrollment. Dec. 15 marked the deadline for individuals to sign up or choose a new plan in order for coverage to begin Jan. 1, 2015. According to a news release, since Nov. 15, a total of 101,114 individuals have either newly enrolled in a private health insurance plan, qualified for Medicaid coverage or renewed the private insurance plans they purchased last year through kynect.

12/15/14 - Marshall County Judge Executive Mike Miller has died. According to Marshall County Attorney Jason Darnall, Miller collapsed at work in his office Monday morning at around 10:21 am. He passed away at 11:04 am due to respiratory complications. Miller was elected to office in 1973. During his 40 years of service, Marshall County's ambulance service, seniors program and parks system were created. He is survived by his wife, two children and two grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are pending. Miller was 70.

12/12/14 - Governor Steve Beshear announced Friday the award of a contract for more improvements needed to bring the Julian M. Carroll-Purchase Parkway up to interstate highway standards and eventual designation as Interstate 69. According to a news release, the project involves reconstruction of the interchange at KY 348, running from Purchase Parkway near mile point 42 to Exit 43 at Benton in Marshall County – a distance of about 1 mile. The existing cloverleaf interchange will be converted to a diamond interchange to accommodate traffic moving at modern highway speeds. Jim Smith Contracting Co. was awarded the contract on a low bid of \$8.15 million. The project has a completion date of June 30, 2016.

12/12/14 - Parkway Regional Hospital in Fulton will end inpatient and emergency department services early next year and focus resources on outpatient services. Parkway will stop operating inpatient and emergency department services on March 31, 2015. Next fall, Hillview Clinic will be relocated to South Fulton, TN, where a new facility is being built for primary care, diagnostic services as well as a convenient care clinic. Hospital officials said work will be done to retain as many employees as possible and to redeploy others to positions at Volunteer Community Hospital in Martin, TN or other regional hospitals.

12/11/14 - Daymar College has announced that it will no longer be accepting new students at its Paducah campus. In a news release, Daymar Paducah Campus Director Greg Webb says students who are already enrolled will be allowed to finish their programs, but the school will not be accepting any new enrollments. Webb went on to say that the school has notified their accrediting body and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education about the decision. He said he expects to have the last students finish their programs by December 2015.

12/11/14 - Numerous area kids have been out of school over the last couple of weeks, but they haven't enjoyed it much. McCracken County's Director of Pupil Personnel Brian Bowland said much of their district has been, "hit hard," with a variety of illnesses taking a toll on attendance. He said the trend started at Hendron-Lone Oak late last month, when 115 of 420 students were absent one day. Bowland said they only had about 20 confirmed cases of flu, but strep throat and a stomach bug were also culprits. Other schools have had similar issues in the district lately.

12/11/14 - A western Kentucky man accused in the slayings of his parents, sister and an acquaintance has pleaded not guilty to charges of murder, complicity to murder and complicity to kidnapping. Prosecutors say they believe 36-year-old Ryan Champion enlisted help from 22-year-old Vito Riservato in killing his family, and then killed Riservato. All four died of gunshot wounds at the Champion family's home in Cadiz. Trigg prosecutor G.L. Ovey has said it started out as a murder-for-hire scheme, but "it didn't end up that way." Along with the arraignment on Wednesday, Ovey filed notice that he intends to seek the death penalty in the case if Ryan Champion is convicted. Media report Champion's new attorney, Tom Osborne, maintained his client's innocence and asked that a trial date be set as soon as possible.

12/9/14 - Barkley Regional Airport has experienced an increase in its air traffic that has helped Paducah's economy. At Tuesday night's city commission meeting, airport manager Richard Roof reported on the increased ridership, and said some of the flight destinations might surprise you. International flights to London, England, Frankfurt, Germany, and Bangalore, India have increased. That's because only one connection from Paducah has to be made - to Chicago. In fact, in light of that single-plane-change connection, for the first time ever, a full 8% of the airport's traffic is international. Roof said although Paducah encountered some ice storms last year, and a stormy summer in Chicago made for a much higher than normal number of cancellations, the airport's ridership is up 2% over 2013. Moreover cancellations and delays have been minimized since September. In fact the airport was up 7% in November when compared to the same month last year. Roof said Paducah has seen an increase in the number of people visiting here from Chicago, in fact for every three people that just travel between Paducah and the Windy City, 2 of them originate in Chicago, something Roof attributes to the Convention and Visitors Bureau marketing Paducah heavily in ad campaigns there.

12/8/14 - The McCracken County Fiscal Court voted Monday night to begin investigating how much it will cost to build a new Animal Shelter, basically rejecting an offer from the McCracken County Humane Society to re-combine their efforts. The agreement would have cost the county \$235,000, and they would have very little say in how the Humane Society operates, because they wouldn't have representation on the board of directors. A consensus on euthanasia policy had still not been reached,

either. After lengthy discussion of its options, commissioners voted to earmark funds to hire an architect for the purpose of drawing preliminary plans for a new animal shelter and giving cost estimates within the next 30-60 days.

12/6/14 - A Paducah woman was killed in a two vehicle crash involving a semi-tractor trailer in Metropolis. According to the Illinois State Police, 22-year-old Krysten Walquist, Paducah, was driving on U.S. 45 at the I-24 Exit in Metropolis just after 5 pm Friday evening, when an oncoming semi-tractor trailer being driven by 45-year-old Allan Morgan, Madera, CA, ran into her vehicle. Police say Morgan was trying to turn the semi from U.S. 45 onto the interstate when he turned into the path of Walquist's car. Police say Walquist was pronounced dead at the scene and was not wearing a seat belt. Morgan has been charged with Failure to Yield When Turning Left.

12/5/14 - The final pieces of the piers that once supported the old Ledbetter Bridge are gone. Two controlled detonations about a second apart broke the bottom sections of the piers into pieces just after 2:00 pm Friday. Demolition crews used sonar equipment and a long-reach trackhoe to verify that no large sections of the piers were intact underneath the surface of the river, and believe their carefully placed explosives did the job. Crews will begin plucking the pieces of concrete from the river bottom Monday.

12/4/14 - Caldwell County quarterback Elijah Sindelar has been named the Gatorade Kentucky Football Player of the Year. Sindelar has passed for 3,609 yards and 49 touchdowns this season for the Tigers, who finished 11-2 this season. Caldwell lost to Murray in this year's Class 2-A regional finals. For his career, Sindelar finished his career with a state-record 144 touchdown passes. His 12,637 career passing yards rank second in state history. The Gatorade winners are selected based on athletic production and impact in the 2014 season. Each winner also must demonstrate high academic achievement and exemplary personal character, including volunteerism, sportsmanship and community leadership. Sindelar has a 4.0 grade-point average, is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and volunteers as a tutor.

12/3/14 - On Wednesday, Kentucky State Police arrested and charged 43-year-old Janine Denise Priddy, of Paducah with one count of Criminal Abuse, 1st Degree. The arrest reportedly comes after a lengthy investigation in conjunction with the Department of Community Based Services, which led to the case being presented to a McCracken County Grand Jury on November 21. Police said the investigation began when a Social Services Clinician discovered an extremely dehydrated and malnourished 3 year-old child living in Priddy's home. Kentucky State Police became involved after medical professionals determined that the life-threatening medical condition of the child was not caused by disease or sickness, but instead stemmed from chronic starvation and lack of fluids. Priddy faces 5 to 10 years in prison if convicted. She was taken to the McCracken County Detention Center, where she was being held on a \$10,000 cash bond.

12/2/14 - Kentucky Republican Rand Paul says he will seek re-election to the U.S. Senate in 2016. Paul said in a press release Tuesday that he hopes to continue "the task of repairing and revitalizing our great nation" in the Senate. Paul is also considering running for the Republican nomination for president in 2016. His team believes there are ways around a Kentucky law that seems to prohibit

running for Senate re-election and president at the same time. Fellow Kentuckian Mitch McConnell, who will be Senate majority leader after the new year, said Paul was "essential in the U.S. Senate."

12/1/14 - A Marshall County man died Saturday in a two-vehicle crash. The Marshall County Sheriff's Department responded about 9:30 pm to Olive Creek Road, and their preliminary investigation suggests that a vehicle driven by 35-year-old Charles Bradford of Benton crossed the center line on a curve, hitting a vehicle driven by 44-year-old Monty Thompson of Dexter. Bradford was declared dead on the scene by the Coroner's office. The Sheriff's office says Thompson left the scene after the crash, and later lied about being the driver involved. Charges are pending, the crash is being re-constructed, and police say alcohol may have been a factor.

12/1/14 - Average retail gasoline prices in Kentucky have fallen 0.8 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.74 a gallon yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,623 gas outlets in Kentucky. This compares with the national average that has fallen 2.1 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.78 a gallon, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com. Prices in Paducah can be found for as low as \$2.56 a gallon. In Mayfield and Murray, \$2.53, and \$2.51 a gallon in Calvert City. In Paris, TN, prices are as low as \$2.44, and \$2.79 in Metropolis. Including the change in gas prices in Kentucky during the past week, prices yesterday were 53.9 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 20.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago.

11/26/14 - The Tennessee Valley Authority is offering another opportunity for the public to comment on options being considered for the future of the Shawnee Fossil Plant in western Kentucky. The agency is accepting comments through December 9 on a draft environmental assessment of either installing emissions controls on two units at the plant, retrofitting them to bio-mass, or retiring them by the end of 2017. TVA says it considered about 90 public comments in developing its draft assessment. It is asking for another round of comments from making a final recommendation to its board. TVA must inform the Environmental Protection Agency of its decision by the end of the year. TVA spokesman Scott Brooks said the agency's current preferred alternative is installing emission controls.

11/25/14 - At Tuesday night's Paducah City Commission meeting, an ordinance was approved to amend part of the city's alcoholic beverage ordinance. The amended sections of Chapter 6 of the Paducah Code of ordinances makes them compliant with recent changes in state laws. One change allows the sale of alcohol by the drink in businesses that seat at least 50 people and collect at least 50 percent of their income from food sales. The previous law required seating for 100 people. The city also requires a form to be signed acknowledging the requirements that must be met by an Alcohol Beverage Control applicant. They must also have a business license and a certificate of occupancy.

11/25/14 - Another piece of the old Ledbetter Bridge has been brought down. The demolition contractor on the Old Ledbetter Bridge has successfully taken down the top of the in-water pier closest to the McCracken County shore of the Tennessee River. Keith Todd with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said the top half of Pier "B" was pulled over about 1:40 pm Tuesday. The contractor rigged the top of the pier with cables that were connected to two large excavators tied to a barge anchored near the west bank of the river. After about 90 minutes of setting equipment and making adjustments, the excavators started pulling on the top of the pier. The first sign of movement was concrete popping

along a crack just above the waterline. Once the pier started moving, gravity took over -- bringing the massive concrete structure splashing into the river below.

11/25/14 - A Graves County couple faces animal cruelty charges, and police are still looking for one of them. On Friday, Nov. 14, the Graves County Sheriff's Office began an investigation into an animal cruelty complaint. The complaint centered around three horses that were being housed behind a home in the 4000 block of Old Dublin Road. Police said the horses were owned by 46-year-old Randall and 41-year-old Susan Heathcott, both of Old Dublin Road. A local veterinarian performed an exam, and reportedly found that the animals were not being fed properly, nor were their medical needs being taken care of. On Thursday a horse rescue group from Jackson, Tennessee agreed to take the horses in and care for them until the criminal case is complete. The Heathcotts were then both charged with three counts of 2nd degree animal cruelty. Police said Randall Heathcott turned himself in at the Graves County Jail on Saturday. They are still looking for Susan Heathcott. She is white, 5'3" tall, weighs about 160 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes. Police are asking anyone with information as to her whereabouts to contact the Graves County Sheriff's Office at 270-247-4501.

11/24/14 - Several concerned residents spoke at Monday's McCracken County Fiscal Court meeting against a zoning change that would allow developers to build a new Dollar General Store in west Paducah. The proposed store would be located on the South side of Cairo Road at Gayle Lane near Pugh's Midway. On November 12 the Planning Commission approved a zoning change from residential to commercial, which clears the way for builders to construct the new store. Local residents have listed a potential decline in property values, increased traffic and bright commercial lighting among their reasons for opposing the plan. They are circulating a petition against the change, which currently has 21 signatures. Todd Houston, who lives on Gayle Lane said he is worried that the added traffic would present a safety hazard to residents. He also noted that there is other land in the area for sale that is already zoned commercial. Bradley Bolden, who lives on Cairo Road, said he is concerned about a loss of privacy and how the lights from the store will be a nuisance at night.

11/24/14 - Former Paducah Middle School Assistant Principal Jerry Walker and a former teacher face perjury and other charges, after police say they lied to a Paducah Public Schools tribunal while appealing Walker's termination last year. Walker was indicted Friday by a McCracken County grand jury on charges of perjury, tampering with physical evidence and tampering with a witness. Police said he turned himself in Monday at around 8:30 am. He was booked into McCracken County Regional Jail and released a short time later on \$7,500 cash bond. 35-year-old Jennifer Griffith, who police say told the same tribunal that she was with Walker on the weekend that led to his termination was also indicted on charges of perjury and facilitation to tampering with physical evidence. Griffith turned herself in to police Friday afternoon and was arrested. Police said that during the hearing, held in mid-July 2013, Walker testified that he had attended a school track meet and produced photographs of him wearing an orange paper bracelet that he claimed was an admittance bracelet. The investigation reportedly revealed evidence that Walker purchased the bracelet shortly after his termination, and with Griffith's help, took photographs that supposedly showed Walker wearing the bracelet in Louisville on May 25. Those were the photographs presented at the tribunal as proof that Walker had attended the track meet.

11/21/14 - Paducah Power System is not a candidate for bankruptcy according to financial experts. Paducah Power director of community relations Andrea Underwood says financial and legal experts

with Chapter 9 bankruptcy experience this week told PPS that it does not qualify for bankruptcy because the company is solvent. Paducah Power interim general manager Mark Crisson plans to ask the PPS board at its December 8th meeting to re-emphasize its commitment to the rate recovery plan approved earlier this month, which does not include bankruptcy as an option. The recovery plan includes several measures that will prevent the utility's Power Cost Adjustment from rising this winter, and includes a 76% reduction in its PCA July 1, 2015.

11/21/14 - A stabbing incident in Calloway County has left one person in the hospital and another charged with attempted murder. The Calloway County Sheriff's Office says they received a report of a stabbing that had occurred on Oakhill Drive in Calloway County Thursday evening. Sheriff Deputies responded and spoke with the victim, who was in the Murray Calloway County Hospital emergency room. The victim stated that his neighbor had stabbed him in his front yard during an altercation. Deputies located the suspect and arrested him at his residence on Oakhill Drive. Arrested was a Mr. Devin Banks, 39 years old of Murray, who was charged with Attempted Murder and lodged in the Calloway County Detention Center.

11/20/14 - A Hazel man faces attempted murder and other charges, after police say he pulled a gun during a Wednesday night altercation in Murray. According to Murray police, officers responded to 1501 North 16th Street just after 10:00 pm to a report of a fight. Police said witnesses told them 45-year-old Darrell Broach pulled a gun during the confrontation. Police later found Broach in the parking lot of a nearby business and arrested him. Broach is charged with attempted murder; second degree assault; wanton endangerment; DUI second offense; driving on a suspended license; possession of an open alcoholic beverage and no registration plates. He was taken to the Calloway County Jail. Police said no one was seriously injured.

11/18/14 – A single-vehicle accident was discovered Tuesday morning in Calloway County, in which a Murray man died from his injuries. The Calloway County sheriff's department responded to the scene and investigated the crash. They determined that 34-year-old Coley T. Wallis of Murray was southbound on Butterworth Road sometime Monday night when his SUV apparently dropped off the right shoulder and hit a guardrail. The vehicle went airborne, hit an embankment and landed in the West Fork of the Clarks River. Wallis was thrown from the vehicle. The Calloway County Coroner declared him dead at the scene.

11/17/14 - Illinois Governor Pat Quinn joined local residents, elected officials and other dignitaries in Brookport Monday afternoon to mark the first anniversary of the devastating tornado that struck the town. A large crowd attended the dedication ceremony of a new memorial bench in front of City Hall that commemorates Scholitta Burrus, Kathy George and Robert "Robby" Harmon, the three Brookport residents who lost their lives on November 17th, 2013. The bench was unveiled at 2:17 pm, the same time the F-3 tornado hit the town. Brookport Mayor John Klaffer was at the ceremony, and expressed hope that everyone there could find some comfort in honoring those who's lives were forever changed last November. During a speech, Governor Quinn expressed thanks to all of the volunteers that poured into Brookport following the tornado, saying that without them the recovery would not have been possible.

11/17/14 - Newly elected Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says he expects Democrats will join him in his quest to thwart the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to reduce the country's carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. McConnell told the state Republican Party of Kentucky's executive committee on Saturday that since his re-election about half of the people in the Senate who have called him have been Democrats. McConnell says he believe the Senate has a pool of between five and 10 Democratic senators who would vote with Republicans to block the new EPA emission standards. The Senate is scheduled to vote next week on whether to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. McConnell called that vote an early indicator of how many Democrats would be willing to vote against the new EPA rules.

11/14/14 - The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's report on the recent chemical release at Honeywell Metropolis is available online. As part of their authorization to the plant that allowed them to re-start the uranium conversion process Thursday, the NRC updated its report on the incident. The agency said Honeywell did fail to properly identify the release of hydrogen fluoride on October 26, but was satisfied that officials changed the classification of the incident from a "plant emergency" to an "alert" and made changes to emergency procedures. The NRC performed calculations and checked weekly air monitoring reports in Metropolis, and verified that Honeywell's estimate of the release plume and public safety assessment was reasonable and within their licensed limits. The release was traced back to a mechanical failure.

11/13/14 - Production has resumed at Honeywell's Metropolis plant. Honeywell Spokesman Peter Dalpe said in a press release that the plant resumed production Thursday morning after an investigation into the Oct. 26 leak of UF₆ at the facility. The company's investigation of the event determined that the source of the leak was a mechanical failure of a piece of equipment near the end of the production process. Dalpe said that equipment does not share a design with any other piece of equipment in the plant, and has been isolated from the production process.

11/13/14 - Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has been chosen by fellow Republicans to become Senate majority leader when the new Congress convenes in January. A Senate GOP official says McConnell was elected by acclamation today at a closed-door meeting of the rank and file. As majority leader, McConnell will set the Senate's agenda. Along with House Speaker John Boehner, he will decide what legislation is sent to the White House in the final two years of President Barack Obama's term. The 72-year-old McConnell was elected to a sixth Senate term last week in elections in which Republicans gained a majority for the first time in eight years.

11/12/14 - A Trigg County Grand Jury indicted 36-year old Ryan Champion Wednesday in connection with the murders of his parents, his sister, and a Hopkinsville man. Champion is charged with three counts of complicity to capital murder, one count of murder, and one count of complicity to capital kidnapping. WKDZ in Cadiz reports the complicity charges are connected to the deaths of his family members and the kidnapping of his sister, while the murder charge is related to the death of Vito Riservato. The charges stem from an incident on October 26, when Lindsey, Joy and Emily Champion were found dead in their home, along with Riservato's body. Autopsies on all four shooting victims determined they died of gunshot wounds.

11/12/14 – A facility is planned in Fulton County that will catch, process and sell Asian carp. Officials from Hickman, Fulton County and Governor Steve Beshear's office announced Tuesday that Riverine Fisheries International LLC has purchased a 75,000-square-foot building in Hickman. The company plans to invest \$18.7 million into the project that will create 100 jobs. After the carp are harvested, the company plans to process them into products such as imitation seafood, fishmeal, fish oil, mince and fillets that will be shipped around the world. Joe Gillas, president of Riverine Fisheries, says the company will focus on Asian carp that are invading Kentucky Lake, as well as the Mississippi, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. The new plant will be the second Asian carp processing plant in western Kentucky. A similar business opened in Ballard County in 2013.

11/10/14 - At Monday night's McCracken County Fiscal Court meeting, commissioners voted down a motion that would have entered into an agreement with the McCracken County Humane Society to combine services. Numerous concerned citizens spoke in opposition to any agreement with the Humane Society, but there will likely be more discussion on some of the proposed details that were known, such as cost, euthanasia policy, and county representation on the society board. The Fiscal Court will consult with the Humane Society, and with the City of Paducah, which currently chips in half of the shelter's cost.

11/10/14 - The United Steelworkers and USW Local 7-669 has filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board concerning Honeywell Corporation's lockout of its union members in August. In its Monday filing, USW calls the lockout illegal and says it is in violation of the National Labor Relations Act. The union alleges Honeywell threatened to permanently replace its union workforce, illegally dealt directly with employees instead of bargaining with the union, and failed to respond to an information request from the union. Other alleged violations of the NLRA are that the company unilaterally changed benefits and repeatedly demonstrated anti-union animus.

11/8/14 - If you have reservations to eat dinner at Whaler's Catch, you'll need to make other plans. The 37-year Paducah landmark, that closed Friday for memorial visitation of its owner John Harris, has closed permanently according to a message on the restaurant's Facebook page. Managers and longtime employees were notified Saturday morning that the 37-year-old seafood restaurant and market would not reopen Saturday afternoon as employees thought. Shawn Strickland, acting manager, was asked to turn in his keys Saturday morning. Harris passed away on Tuesday.

11/6/14 - A federal appeals court has upheld Kentucky's bans on same-sex marriages, rolling back two rulings that opened the door for gay couples to have their unions in other states recognized and to be wed in the Bluegrass State. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panels' 2-1 ruling Thursday is the highest-level court victory for gay marriage opponents after a flood of 20-plus court wins for supporters of same-sex marriage in the past year. The ruling from the Cincinnati-based court followed arguments on Aug. 6 in six gay marriage cases from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Judge Jeffrey Sutton wrote that the issue should be settled at the ballot box. Family Foundation of Kentucky spokesman Martin Cothran applauded the ruling, but said the case may end up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

11/4/14 - As the home of the Murray State Racers, it's only fitting that the campaign for the next Mayor

of Murray would almost be a photo finish. The race, between incumbent Bill Wells and Jack Rose was close most of the night, with a margin of less than 100 votes. When all the precincts reported in, it was Rose's 2,273 votes that won him the job over Wells' 2,124, a margin of 149 votes, virtually splitting the 4300 votes cast in the election. One other closely watched item on the ballot was not a campaign but a referendum that would have placed a 5% tax on Calloway County residents, that would be earmarked for the Murray Parks Department for infrastructure improvements. Murray Parks Director Tab Brockman campaigned heavily for the referendum to pass, with TV and movie theater ads, speaking engagements, and social media, and even emails sent out by the Murray Softball Association stating why the tax was necessary. In the end, however, the tax, which would have amounted to a nickel for every \$100 of assessed value (meaning property valued at \$100,000 would have seen a \$50 increase in taxes,) failed with a resounding "no" vote, of 7,831 to only 4,078 citizens voting "yes."

11/4/14 - Republican U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield has won re-election to an 11th term in Kentucky's 1st congressional district. The Hopkinsville attorney was leading Democratic challenger Charles Hatchett in early returns Tuesday. Whitfield was first elected in 1994 when he defeated former Democratic Congressman Tom Barlow. He was the first Republican elected to Kentucky's 1st district, which spans western Kentucky and was a Democratic stronghold for decades.

11/4/14 - U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has been re-elected to his Senate seat from Kentucky. And he will now be waiting to learn whether he might be the majority leader in the new Congress. McConnell defeated Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes in an election that McConnell called a referendum on President Barack Obama. Republicans began the night needing six additional seats in order to control the Senate.

10/31/14 - The Kentucky Public Service Commission has given permission for Lovelaceville Water Company to close and abandon its system, effective February 2015. In an order issued Friday, the PSC said it wants Lovelaceville Water customers to have enough time to make alternative arrangements for water service, which could include drilling wells or installing cisterns. The agency found that the deteriorating physical and financial condition of Lovelaceville Water made it impossible for the company to continue operating, and attempts to find someone willing to run or take over the system were unsuccessful.

10/31/14 - A Trigg County man has been arrested and charged with multiple murders and kidnapping. Kentucky State Police has charged 36-year-old Ryan Champion with the deaths of his mother, father, and sister. He is also charged with the death of Vito Riservato. Police said KSP has been investigating the murders of Joy Champion, Lindsey Champion, Emily Champion and Vito Riservato since they were found at the Champion's home in Cadiz on Sunday. Since that time, investigators said they gathered evidence that gave them probable cause to arrest Champion. Champion is charged with four counts of capital murder and one count of capital kidnapping. He was taken to the Christian County Detention Center.

10/28/14 - A report from an industry specialist is confirming what others have speculated lately - that Paducah Power System and its customers are facing high electric costs for quite some time. David Schlissel, Director of Resource Planning Analysis at the Institute for Energy Economic and Financial Analysis, released a memorandum analyzing the utility's billing from Kentucky Municipal Power Agency between January 2013 and August 2014, and has concluded that Paducah Power paid \$40 million more for electricity from Prairie State Energy Campus than they could have bought it from wholesale electric markets. He said that figure would have been even higher if it included the \$6.8 million in debt service costs from March, April and May 2013 that KMPA hasn't yet billed, or if it included the higher costs PPS paid for Prairie State Power in 2012. Adding more worry to customers, Schlissel's report says it's likely Paducah Power and its customers will continue to pay Prairie State more for electricity over the next ten years, compared to other wholesale suppliers, "even if the plant operates properly and its costs and performance are in line with the owners' current claims." The cost will probably be over \$150 million higher than market value between 2015-2024.

10/27/14 - A southern Illinois man has pleaded not guilty to charges that he kidnapped and killed a Mayfield, KY woman who was found dead in a vehicle along a highway in southwest Ohio. The Warren County prosecutor says attorneys for Terry Froman, of Brookport, IL, on Monday entered not-guilty pleas for him to charges of aggravated murder, kidnapping and firearms discharge. The 41-year-old Froman is being held without bond. Authorities say he killed his estranged girlfriend's 17-year-old son in Mayfield, then kidnapped and killed her before being arrested Sept. 12 north of Cincinnati. Ohio authorities said they heard gunshots as they approached Froman's stopped vehicle along Interstate 75. They said Froman had a self-inflicted gunshot wound, and 34-year-old Kim Thomas was dead inside the vehicle. Froman also is charged with murder and kidnapping in Graves County, KY.

10/27/14 - The Honeywell plant in Metropolis confirmed a leak of uranium hexafluoride at around 7:35 pm Sunday. In a news release issued late Sunday night, the company said the "leak has been contained and a trained response team is currently working to ensure the leak has been stopped completely." Honeywell spokesman Peter Dalpe said in the news release that "there have been no injuries and there is no indication that any material has left the building. All plant emergency procedures were followed and safety equipment worked as designed." West Kentucky Star received pictures and videos believed to be taken at the plant Sunday night showing a white, cloudy substance above the plant, moving off to the west. Dalpe told WSIL-TV that the cloudy substance was spray from water used to contain leaks. Massac County Emergency Management Director Joe Miller said he was contacted by Honeywell. Miller said the leak was contained to the inside the building. He told WSIL-TV that Honeywell was under a plant emergency, but there was no danger to surrounding homes.

10/26/14 - Kentucky State Police have released the identities of four people found shot to death in a western Kentucky home. Police say the victims were 62-year-old Lindsey Champion; his wife, 60-year-old Joy A. Champion; and the couple's daughter, 31-year-old Emily K. Champion. Police told media the fourth person, 22-year-old Vito Y. Riservato, is suspected of shooting the others. The shootings took place Sunday at the Champions' home in Cadiz. The motive remains under investigation. Kentucky State Trooper Jay Thomas says police are still investigating the relationship between Riservato and the Champions. They think the suspect might have known the family briefly before the shootings. Autopsies were set for Monday at the medical examiner's office in Louisville.

10/22/14 - A recent radio ad paid for by the Kentucky House Democratic Caucus Campaign Committee has been pulled from the airwaves of WKYQ 93.3 FM, WDDJ 96.9 FM and WLLE 102.1 FM due to what has been deemed inaccurate information about Kentucky House District 3 Candidate Randy Bridges. His opponent says he didn't even know about the ad. The ad claims that Bridges went on record in a Courier-Journal survey saying one of his chief priorities would be putting up tolls on local roads. Bridges said during an interview on the Greg Dunker Show that the ad uses his statements out of context to paint an inaccurate picture of his policies.

10/22/14 - A judge has ruled in favor of the Graves County Board of Education in a lawsuit over the closing of Cuba Elementary School. Franklin Circuit Court Judge Phillip J. Shepherd issued his ruling in the case of Josh Cherry, William Bell, Richard Jackson and Larry Dale Shelby vs. the Graves County Board of Education on Wednesday. The court granted summary judgment in favor of the school board, all according to his ruling. According to Shepherd, the Graves County Board of Education's decision to close Cuba Elementary was within the authority of the local school board. He said the school board acted in good faith and had a sound and reasonable basis for deciding to close the school. Shepherd said Cuba Elementary's low enrollment, its significant maintenance needs and the availability of classroom space at neighboring Wingo and Sedalia elementary schools all were reasonable factors in closing the Cuba School. His conclusion was that the board's decision to close the school was not arbitrary, nor did it amount to an abuse of discretion.

10/21/14 - Bill Clinton was in Paducah Tuesday evening to campaign for Democratic Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes. The former president spoke to a capacity crowd of nearly 1,800 people, along with Governor Steve Beshear, Attorney General Jack Conway and other dignitaries in the McCracken County High School gymnasium about why he says Kentuckians should elect Grimes to the U.S. Senate. This was Clinton's first visit to western Kentucky to help bolster Grimes' efforts to unseat incumbent Republican Senator Mitch McConnell, but it marked his third trip to the commonwealth to campaign for her. In August he spoke at a fundraiser in Lexington and a campaign rally in Hazard. Clinton spoke about the recent deluge of negative ads that have been circulating throughout the state about Grimes, saying he admires her unwavering attitude in the face of huge spending by the McConnell campaign.

10/20/14 - A southwest Ohio grand jury has indicted a southern Illinois man on murder charges in the slaying of a Mayfield, KY woman on Interstate 75. Warren County court records show 41-year-old Terry Froman of Brookport could face the death penalty if convicted on aggravated murder counts. He also was indicted on two kidnapping counts and a firearms discharge charge. Froman was arrested Sept. 12, accused of killing his estranged girlfriend's son in Mayfield, kidnapping her and then killing her on I-75. Authorities say he was treated for a self-inflicted gunshot wound, and the body of 34-year-old Kim Thomas was in his car on the interstate, which police had shut down. He is being held on \$1 million bond. Court records show no attorney for Froman. He is tentatively due in court Wednesday.

10/14/14 - Prosecutors in southeastern Missouri's Mississippi County have charged a southern Illinois man with murder in the death of his estranged wife whose body was found days after she went missing. Authorities allege 45-year-old Clifford Williams killed Sylvia Tipler of Paducah. The woman who recently had moved from Pulaski County in southern Illinois was found dead Sunday afternoon in a rural area of Mississippi County. Tipler, 45, had last been seen four days earlier in Ullin with Williams.

Williams remained jailed without bond Tuesday in Charleston on charges of first-degree murder, armed criminal action and abandonment of a corpse. Williams is formerly from the Missouri county where Tipler's body was found.

10/13/14 - Authorities say the body of a missing Paducah woman has been found in southeastern Missouri, and her husband is in custody. Investigators planned an autopsy Monday on 45-year-old Sylvia Tipler, whose body was found Sunday afternoon in a rural area of Missouri's Mississippi County. Tipler had last been seen October 8 in the southern Illinois town of Ullin with her husband, Clifford Ray Williams, Sr., 45. Her family reported her missing to Illinois State Police on Friday. Mississippi County Sheriff Keith Moore said Williams was arrested early Sunday. Williams, currently from Ullin, is formerly from Charleston, Mo, which is in the county where Tipler's body was found. Mississippi County Deputy Sheriff Cory Hutcheson told KFVS-TV, Williams has been charged with first-degree murder, armed criminal action and abandonment of a corpse. Williams is being held without bond.

10/10/14 - Work is set to begin on cleanup of groundwater contamination at the Paducah DOE site. According to DOE Spokesman Brad Mitzelfelt, starting in January the U.S. Department of Energy's Paducah Site cleanup contractor, LATA Environmental Services of Kentucky, will treat groundwater contamination with deep soil mixing, which uses an eight foot-diameter auger to mix the soil to a depth of about 60 feet. The two-acre cleanup zone, located in the southwestern part of the site's fenced area, was used in the 1970s as an oil landfarm. Landfarming was a common practice that used lime and fertilizer to biodegrade waste oils containing the contaminant trichloroethene, a degreaser widely used until 1993 that has contaminated the shallow soils.

10/9/14 - Construction on the Greenway Trail underpass in Paducah has been delayed due to problems with the concrete structure. City of Paducah public information officer Pam Spencer told West Kentucky Star that although the project continues to move forward, one wall of the structure will have to be rebuilt because it does not meet strength requirements. The underpass, which runs underneath U.S. 45/North 8th Street where it curves toward the Brookport Bridge, is part of the third phase of construction of the project. The trail will also cross Cairo Road at street level near the City's Lift Station #1 and the Peck Addition to Noble Park. The cost for this phase was originally expected to be \$1.15 million. It's unclear how much the repairs will add to that cost.

10/8/14 - Design plans for the downtown hotel project are underway. At the Paducah city commission meeting Tuesday, Paducah Riverfront Development Authority executive director Steve Doolittle and hotel developer David Puckett provided an update for the project. Puckett said the design plans are about half complete with work to design the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing components underway. Puckett added that the loan for the hotel will close next month with a groundbreaking to occur shortly thereafter. In addition to the hotel design underway, Doolittle is working with local firms on the plans for the renovation to the former Showroom and Kincaid's Lounge. The project is expected to be placed out to bid in December, with work to start in January and be completed in time for Quilt Week.

10/7/14 - Mid-Continent University in western Kentucky has filed for bankruptcy protection. Tom

Butler, who is chairman of the school's board of trustees, said the panel took the action on Monday to hold off creditors. Officials with the financially struggling Christian school in Graves County decided to close the facility on June 30. At the time, acting President Robert ``Tom" Walden said there wasn't enough money to pay staff. The school announced in February that financial woes might force it to close. The financial situation stems from the U.S. Department of Education's rejection of financial aid paperwork.

10/6/14 - Two bank workers killed during what authorities say was a botched robbery are being remembered with memorials near their former southern Illinois workplace. WSIL-TV reports that dozens of people turned out Saturday for the dedication of two benches bearing the names of Anita Grace and Nita Jo Smith of Wickliffe, Ky near First National Bank of Cairo. Federal prosecutors allege 30-year-old James Watts fatally stabbed the women and critically wounded a third during the robbery attempt in May.

10/4/14 - The Cruce family from Benton, Ky was killed on I-40 about 20 minutes east of Nashville Friday night, when a six car pile-up on the interstate was caused by an unknown reason. Witnesses told investigators that two cars were stopped for unknown reasons in the middle lanes of I-40 East when the other four vehicles, including the vehicle involving the Cruce family, collided into them Friday around 7:45 pm, the report said. Tennessee Highway Patrol tells The Tennessean in Nashville, 43-year-old Michael Cruce, 43-year-old Monica D. Cruce, and their teenage kids, Stephen and Joshua Cruce all of Benton, were killed in the crash.

10/3/14 - Two days of meetings between Honeywell and United Steelworkers Local 7-669 have ended without an agreement. Representatives from both sides issued press releases Friday blaming each other for yet another round of failed negotiations. Union and company officials will meet again next week to set up a future round of negotiations.

