

Quarterly Report 1st Quarter 2017

1/3/17 - A local restaurant has abruptly shuttered its doors for an unknown reason. Show-Me's restaurant made a Facebook post on their public page shortly before noon on January 1st that they would no longer be open effective immediately. A reason was not given, but in the same post, they wished everyone a Happy New Year, and thanked everyone for their patronage over the past seven years. Show-Me's was located at the I-24 Exit 11 interchange next to the Harley Davidson Shop and Range America Firing Range.

1/5/17 - Paducah Police are asking for the public's help in their investigation into a shooting on Monday night. Police say they were dispatched to the 500 block of South 9th Street about 8:15 pm, after getting complaints about gunshots. They spoke to the resident who said someone had fired two shots into the home, while several people were in various parts of the house. Detectives say one of the bullets entered the home and grazed the right arm of 70-year-old Rita Story, causing minor injuries.

1/5/17 - Several hundred people braved the cold weather and snowfall Thursday night to attend the memorial service for broadcaster Ed Taylor. The service was held in Paducah Tilghman Gymnasium, where Taylor called play-by-play action as the "Voice of the Tornado." The service ended with a video montage of PTHS sports, accompanied by Taylor's familiar voice as he called football, basketball and baseball games. Taylor died last Thursday evening after being struck by a vehicle near his Reidland home. He was 76 years old.

1/8/17 - A popular rest stop on the Western Kentucky Parkway has temporarily closed its doors and switched off the gas pumps as the lease with the current vendor has expired. According to a press release from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Beaver Dam rest area, located in the median of the Parkway at mile marker 75, will be closed temporarily. Because of liability issues, the state decided to close the rest area when an agreement administered between the Finance Cabinet and vendor expired. The closure took effect because the current vendor provided an incomplete response to the state's request for proposals and was non-responsive to the state's request for more information.

1/9/17 - A railroad equipment manufacturer in Paducah has announced plans to lay off 65 of its workers. National Railway Equipment Company spokesman Hal Burgan says the company gave 60 days notice on Dec. 1 to 65 of its 110 employees currently working at the company's Paducah location. Burgan said employees in the engine shop will keep their jobs, and it is possible that the laid off workers could be hired back if there is enough work for them at some point in the future.

1/10/17 - Citing "significant challenges in the nuclear industry," Honeywell on Tuesday morning announced a combined 18% reduction in its work force at its Metropolis facility. Honeywell spokesman Josh Byerly tells West Kentucky Star that 375 people work at the facility, including 106 hourly workers, 136 salaried workers, and 133 contractors. Of those, 22 full time employees employed directly with Honeywell and 47 contracted employees will be let go. The layoffs will occur at the end of March, according to Byerly.

1/10/17 - Voters in two local towns have spoken, and their ballots returned opposite results on the issue of alcohol sales. In a special wet-dry referendum vote on Tuesday, residents in Bardwell voted 146 to 95 in favor of allowing alcohol sales. Voters in Wickliffe also went to the polls Tuesday to cast their votes on the same issue, but voted 70 to 47 against alcohol sales. Both Bardwell and Wickliffe had two precincts voting in Tuesday's election.

1/12/17 - A new faith-based institution of higher learning is set to begin classes later this month.

Summit Christian University was an idea that was discussed by several professors from Mid-Continent University when it closed in 2014. Dr. Keith Roach, who was the Psychology Department Chair at MCU, has been working to put things in place ever since. Classes will begin later this month, and will be held one night each week for five weeks for each course. They will be taught at the church, which is across U.S. Highway 45 from Kentucky State Police Post 1 in Hickory.

1/16/17 - Josh Franklin, the line technician for Jackson Purchase Energy who was injured January 6, died Monday afternoon. Friends and family members used social media to inform area churches and others who had been praying for him that Franklin died about 12:30 pm at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville. Franklin's family had posted on Saturday that consultations with two neurologists confirmed that his brain was injured due to depleted oxygen after the accident, and he was not likely to regain more than the minimal brain function he currently had. Family members then decided they would pull the ventilator on Monday.

1/17/17 - A German auto parts manufacturer plans to expand its facility in Fulton, a move that is expected to create about a hundred new jobs. Kayser Automotive Systems USA announced plans Tuesday to hire 100 additional employees as it expands into a facility next door to its current location. The \$26 million expansion will come after the building's current tenant, scented candle maker MVP Group International, relocates its 69 workers to a plant in Mayfield. The 60,000 square-foot building will allow Kayser to increase manufacturing and warehousing space for a variety automotive parts.

1/19/17 - Some southern Illinois families will benefit from the ongoing renovations at Hope Unlimited Family Care Center's Metropolis location. Crews from Joshua Humphrey Construction, LLC of West Paducah are adding 563 square feet to the existing community store, Hope's Closet, located at 305 Lincoln Street. The new floor plan consists of wider aisles, a furniture department, and a secure donation drop-off area. Generous community members donate clothes, housewares, and furniture to the store to be sold for less. Hope Unlimited clients are also able to shop with "Hope Dollars" they earn by participating in the free and confidential programs offered. All store proceeds go back into the non-profit ministry, allowing the center to reach more families.

1/20/17 - A Fulton County contractor has pleaded guilty to wire fraud charges for his role in a kickback scheme involving an expansion project at the Fulton County Detention Center. Michael Homra pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court to three counts of wire fraud before Senior Judge Thomas B. Russell. U.S. Attorney John E. Kuhn, Jr. says the charges stem from his role in a conspiracy to defraud Fulton County citizens, through kickbacks and concealment of costs associated with work performed on the 2015 Fulton County Detention Center expansion. If convicted at trial, the remaining defendants could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine per count.

1/20/17 - A man has been charged with murdering his aunt, after she was found dead earlier this month at her McCracken County home. McCracken County Sheriff Jon Hayden says 48-year-old Edwin Ricky Hawes II called 911 shortly before noon on Jan. 9, saying he had found his aunt, 75-year-old Fredrika Harpole unresponsive near the back door of her home in the 500 block of Lovelaceville-Florence Station Road East. Investigators arrived to find the home had been partially ransacked. An autopsy revealed Harpole died as a result of multiple blows to the head from what deputies believe to be a hammer.

1/22/17 - Two minor earthquakes shook the area Saturday. A magnitude 2.5 quake epicentered in

Carlisle County hit Saturday afternoon at 1:52 pm. According to the United States Geological Survey, the quake occurred about 5 miles west of Bardwell. A magnitude 2.7 quake shook the ground near Ballard County Saturday morning at 11:31 am. According to the USGS, the quake occurred about 8 miles south of Wickliffe. The tremor was the largest felt in western Kentucky so far in 2017, and the largest since a 3.5 magnitude tremor occurred last May along the Ohio River north of La Center.

1/23/17 - A McCracken County man was arrested on theft charges after he performed work at a local business. Paducah Police say they were contacted Thursday by Christopher Black of Ray Black and Sons. Black said another contractor told him one of his employees may have taken memorabilia while working on a job inside the Coke Plant on Broadway. Police went to the home of 29-year-old Christopher W. Rowell on Cumberland Avenue, and say they found several items that were taken from the job site. They executed a search warrant for Rowell's van and storage unit, and found more items from the Coke Plant. The total value of stolen items was estimated at \$500. Rowell was searched as well, and police say they found a knife and a .22 caliber revolver.

1/25/17 - Police have released more details about a fatal crash Wednesday morning in Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area. According to Kentucky State Police, 55-year-old Michael King was driving south on KY 453, also known as "The Trace", near the Lyon/Trigg County line at around 1:00 am, when he dropped off of the roadway for an unknown reason. King reportedly overcorrected, left the roadway, and struck several trees before overturning. King's vehicle landed on its roof, and was not discovered until daylight due to the vehicle's headlights being disabled in the crash. The Lyon County Coroner pronounced King and passenger, 54-year-old Timothy Jarvis dead at the scene.

1/27/17 - A man who pleaded guilty to murder in a 2014 homicide case will be spending the rest of his life behind bars. Judge Woody Woodall sentenced Ryan Champion Friday morning in Trigg County Circuit Court to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Champion pleaded guilty in December to murder charges for the shooting deaths of his parents, sister, and a family acquaintance. The guilty plea spared Champion a possible death sentence.

1/30/17 - An investigation is underway in Marshall County after a man was assaulted over the weekend and his home set on fire. According to the Marshall County Sheriff's Office, Saturday night around 8:45, deputies were dispatched to Walker Harris Lane near Calvert City in reference to a house fire with a possible victim. Deputies said someone entered the home, assaulted the homeowner, and started a fire. The homeowner, 63-year-old Edward Harris, was treated by Marshall County EMS before being flown by Air Evac to a hospital for further treatment.

1/31/17 - A Paducah native has been inducted into the Kentucky Tennis Hall of Fame. The United States Tennis Association Kentucky announced the induction of Jane Gamble on Saturday during a ceremony at the Brown Hotel in Louisville. Gamble currently serves on the National Community Tennis Association Committee and USTA Southern Nominating Committee. Gamble raised funds to build the Chad Gamble Tennis Courts at Tilghman High School, which received the USTA Facility of the Year Award in 2006. She also chaired a campaign to build the new bathroom facilities at Bob Noble Park. She was awarded USTA Kentucky Volunteer of the Year in 2016.

2/2/17 - United Rentals announced last week that they plan to purchase NES Rentals, but employees at both Paducah businesses say they have no idea about the future of their jobs. In a press release from Jan. 25, United Rentals, Inc., said they will buy NES Rentals Holdings II, Inc., for \$965 million in cash, after the boards of directors for both corporations approved the deal. The transaction is scheduled to take place early in the second quarter of this year. NES specializes in aerial equipment like

boom lifts, scissor lifts and forklifts, and is based in Chicago. They have approximately 1,100 employees in 73 branch offices, including one on Wayne Sullivan Drive. United Rentals is the largest equipment rental company in the world, with 12,500 employees in 887 locations in the U.S. and Canada. That includes an office on Park Avenue in Paducah.

2/3/17 - A Ballard County man who pleaded guilty last month to felony child abuse charges has been sentenced to 10 years behind bars. Judge Tim Langford sentenced Ronald Saunders Friday morning in Ballard County Circuit Court. As part of the plea agreement, Saunders pleaded guilty to one count of first degree criminal abuse of a child and one count of second degree criminal abuse of a child. The charges stem from incidents during which Saunders reportedly injured a 15-month-old girl by shoving a cup into her mouth, and burned her with a hair dryer. This is not the first time Saunders will have served time in prison for abusing a child. He served three years of a 10 year sentence after entering an Alford plea in 2012 in McCracken County to a manslaughter charge in the death of two-year-old Conner Bacchus of Paducah. Bacchus died at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville just days after he was found unconscious at his home.

2/5/17 - Some posts on a social media site have led to a local high school student facing a terroristic threatening charge. The Calloway County Sheriff's Office and school officials with Calloway County Schools were made aware of the posts Thursday night. The sheriff's office said although no direct or specific threats were made, the posts were "concerning." As a precaution, an additional law enforcement presence was provided by the sheriff's office and Kentucky State Police Friday at the middle and high school campuses while the investigation was conducted.

2/6/17 - Another person involved in a kickback conspiracy to defraud Fulton County citizens has pled guilty. According to the U.S. Attorney's office for Western Kentucky, 60-year-old Ronald D. Armstrong of Dresden, Tennessee, pled guilty Monday to four charges of wire fraud and honest services wire fraud before Senior Judge Thomas B. Russell in Paducah. According to a news release, Armstrong is the owner of Armstrong Construction, whose company had been doing business with Fulton County Fiscal Court and Jailer Ricky Parnell for about twenty years. His company was awarded a \$210,000 contract to be general contractor on the Fulton County Detention Center expansion project in 2015.

2/7/17 - Police say they have charged a western Kentucky teacher with third-degree rape. Kentucky State Police said in a statement on Tuesday that 25-year-old Charlotte R. Netz was arrested in Union City, Tennessee and extradited back to Kentucky on Friday. Police say Netz lives in Union City, but worked as a high school teacher in the Fulton County, Kentucky, school system. The charge involves a 17-year-old juvenile.

2/8/17 - Firefighters are still on the scene at Harper's Country Hams in Clinton, after a fire Wednesday morning. Just after 6:00 am, multiple fire departments were called to Harper's Country Hams on U.S. Highway 51. A West Kentucky Star reporter on the scene said firefighters worked on saving a portion of the building that had not yet impacted by the fire, but most the complex seemed to be a total loss. A county official said the business employs between 50-100 people. Harper's has won six grand champion awards at the Kentucky State Fair for it's Country Ham.

2/9/17 - McCracken County Schools Director of Public Relations Jayme Jones says Superintendent Quin Sutton has announced plans to retire in June. Jones says Sutton, who recently became a grandfather, will be retiring to spend more time with family. She says the Board of Education will discuss Sutton's pending retirement at their next meeting on Feb. 16. Sutton, who was superintendent of Lyon County Schools prior to coming to McCracken County, succeeded Dr. Nancy Waldrop who

retired in 2014. Sutton's last day as superintendent will be June 30.

2/9/17 - A former Carlisle County Schools substitute teacher charged with having sex with two underage teens has been sentenced to three years in prison. Judge Craig Clymer sentenced Kasey Warren Wednesday in McCracken County Circuit Court. Warren pleaded guilty in November to three counts of third-degree rape and two counts of third-degree sodomy. Warren worked as a substitute teacher during the last half of the 2015-2016 school year. Investigators say during that time she met two 16-year-old boys and had sexual contact with them in McCracken County.

2/9/17 - The National Weather Service has confirmed that a brief tornado occurred in Trigg County on Tuesday night. Meteorologists said the tornado touched down about 7:40 p.m. just north of Lake Barkley State Park, and followed a two-mile path mainly along a section of KY 274. Its 50-yard wide damage path ended about four miles northwest of Cadiz. The observed damage indicated that the tornado was rated an EF-0, with peak winds of about 80 mph. At least a dozen trees were uprooted or broken, and one power line was partially downed by a fallen tree. Metal roofing pieces from a barn lofted into nearby trees.

2/10/17 - A judge has sentenced two teen parents to probation for leaving their newborn girl in a trash bin in Paducah. According to media reports, McCracken Circuit Judge Craig Clymer said during the sentencing hearing Thursday that he had to follow the juvenile code because a jury convicted the pair of wanton endangerment, criminal abuse and tampering with physical evidence. They were acquitted of attempted murder. Clymer said both have already served more time in a juvenile facility than he could impose, so he sentenced them to 12 months' probation. He also ordered them to complete a moral therapy program. The crying infant was found in a dumpster in July 2015 with its umbilical cord still attached. The baby was hospitalized and later released into state custody.

2/11/17 - The Paducah Planning and Zoning Commission approved plans this week for new commercial developments on the spot where the former El Chico restaurant now stands. Under the plans, the current building at 5015 Hinkleville Road will be demolished and two new buildings will be constructed. One of them will be a quick-service restaurant, and the second will contain a 4,000 square-foot retail space and two small restaurants. A spokesperson for the developer told the commission at Monday's meeting they intend for the smaller building to be a Starbucks Coffeehouse with a drive-thru window. The development was unanimously approved. El Chico closed in March 2014. Remodeling work began on the building later that year, but there has been no construction activity at the building for quite some time.

2/13/17 - After over twenty years in service, McCracken County Jailer Bill Adams is retiring. Adams has been serving Paducah since 1995. His retirement will take effect in ninety days. When Adams spoke at Monday's fiscal court meeting, he paid tribute to his mentor Cliff Gill. It was not announced who will be appointed to finish out the term.

2/14/17 - Former Paducah Human Rights Director, Stanley Beauchamp, has died at the age of 71 in Paducah. Stanley was a retired U.S. Air Force veteran, having served during the Vietnam Conflict. He was also a former Director of the Human Rights Commission in Paducah.

2/14/17 - A McCracken County man faces felony charges in connection to a hit and run crash last month. The McCracken County Sheriff's Department says Don K. Graves was arrested Monday evening at his home and booked into the McCracken County Jail, after a McCracken County Grand Jury indicted him on charges of felony leaving the scene of an accident, driving without a license, and

being a persistent felony offender. The charges stem from a crash during which deputies say Graves hit 35-year-old Jason Carnine of Paducah, who was riding a bicycle on Old Mayfield Road on the evening on Jan. 18. Carnine was taken to a hospital for treatment of his injuries.

2/17/17 - Increased traffic following the opening of several businesses in the old Coke Plant in Paducah's Midtown has led to reports of some customers having issues finding parking there. With parking now at a premium around the property, at least one business in the vicinity has begun having non-customers' vehicles towed. Robin Newberry with the Paducah Police Department said officers have received several complaints about traffic congestion in the area, and vehicles parked illegally. Some businesses and organizations, like Independence Bank and First Baptist Church have implemented "Friendly Neighbor" parking for patrons to walk to the Coke Plant building.

2/20/17 - It was rainy and in the lower 50s, but that didn't stop dozens of people from jumping into Kentucky Lake all for a good cause on Saturday. The Polar Plunge swim and 5k run to benefit Special Olympics marked its eighth year in Western Kentucky on Saturday, at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. The Western Kentucky Polar Plunge is one of five that will be held statewide this year. Other events will take place in Lake Cumberland, Lexington, Louisville and Northern Kentucky (Bellevue). Last year, the Western KY Polar Plunge raised over \$98,000. Laura Miller, West Regional Director for Special Olympics Kentucky says this year's event raised more than \$94,000 for the day, and she expects even more donations to come in over the next few weeks.

2/21/17 - Police say a person has been arrested and faces charges related to a shooting last Monday that resulted in a teen's death, but the suspected murderer has not been found. According to the Princeton Police Department, officers have charged a 17-year-old juvenile with 1st degree robbery. The charge stems from the investigation into events related to the shooting death of 15-year-old De'Aryn Hamilton on the night of February 13. The juvenile, whose name was not released, was taken to McCracken County Juvenile Detention facility. Police found Hamilton lying in the street around 8pm on February 13, and he later died at a local hospital from a single gunshot wound. Police say their murder suspect, 20-year-old Deshaun La'Keith Palmer (AKA Shaun P) of Madisonville, has not been found.

2/22/17 - A Mayfield dentist and another man were arrested Wednesday on felony drug charges, after a months-long investigation into an alleged doctor-shopping and identity-theft scheme. According to Kentucky State Police, drug investigators got a complaint last summer from the Kentucky Office of the Inspector General involving 55-year-old Dr. Wesley Mills and 56-year-old David Clymer, both of Mayfield, who were suspected of conspiring to obtain controlled substances by fraud. Police said they learned Mills and Clymer might also have used the identity of a non-consenting third party to obtain controlled substances. On Feb. 9, a Graves County Grand Jury returned a four-count indictment charging Mills with two counts of conspiracy to obtain a controlled substance by fraud, commonly referred to as doctor-shopping. Mills was also charged with two counts of tampering with physical evidence. A 10 count indictment was handed down for Clymer, charging him with two counts of conspiracy to obtain a controlled substance by fraud, six counts of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and two counts of theft of identity without consent.

2/23/17 - The Marshall County Health Department is reporting four flu-related deaths this week in elderly adults, and is advising the public to take steps to prevent the virus while the state is still experiencing widespread activity. These deaths underscore the seriousness of flu, particularly for the elderly, children, and others who would be considered at high risk or having a compromised immune system, according to the Marshall County Health Department.

2/24/17 - Police in Downtown Paducah spent part of Friday morning trying to catch the culprit that smashed through a window of Mister Penguin along the 300 block of Broadway, but it's not a person. It's a turkey. Witnesses report the turkey broke the window of the store, then apparently "strutted" himself over to the front door of another neighboring business, marched up the stairs, and tried to push open the door. Scanner traffic of the Paducah Police channel indicated the turkey was being spotted by police, and was described as a male turkey and considered dangerous due to it having "spurs". The McCracken County Emergency Dispatch Center said the bird was still on the loose late Friday morning.

2/25/17 - A Marshall County man has been charged with arson and assault related to an incident in January. The Marshall County Sheriff's Department has been investigating since they were called to a home in Possum Trot on January 28, where 63-year-old Edward Harris was assaulted and his home was set on fire. With the assistance of the State Fire Marshal's office, the Calvert City and Possum Trot-Sharpe Fire Departments and Marshall County Ambulance Service, 36-year-old Mark Eugene Smith of Calvert City was charged with 1st degree assault and 1st degree arson.

2/27/17 - A possible rape case is under investigation by Murray State University Police. According to the University's Communications Department, an email was sent out to the entire campus of an alleged rape that occurred over the weekend. The email was distributed to the campus on Sunday afternoon just after 1 pm. The email stated the victim was allegedly raped by an acquaintance in a residence hall on the campus of MSU. The "assault was reported to have occurred in the early morning hours of February 26, 2017." The email went on to say the alleged assailant is known to the victim. The campus police department is conducting an investigation and is providing "recovery resources to the student."

2/28/17 - A drug bust Monday at a Paducah hotel resulted in the arrest of two Texas men, and the seizure of more than a kilo of methamphetamine valued at approximately \$100,000. According to the McCracken County Sheriff's Department, the investigation began when detectives received information alleging illegal drug activity occurring at a Paducah hotel. Detectives obtained a search warrant for a car and a hotel room. When the men attempted to leave the hotel, deputies stopped a vehicle occupied by 21-year-old Steven Robles and 38-year-old Ricardo Hale, both of Houston, TX. During a search of the car, detectives seized over 1,000 grams of crystal methamphetamine. Detectives arrested Robles and Hale and lodged them in the McCracken County Regional Jail. Both were charged with trafficking in methamphetamine.

3/1/17 - Parts of Graves County were some of the hardest hit by Tuesday night's storms. Graves County Emergency Management Director Davant Ramage said most of the damage is confined to the southeast corner of Graves County, just south of Sedalia, down to the Tennessee state line. Ramage said 15 to 20 homes were damaged, with 5 to 7 of those total losses. He said several outbuildings and carports were also destroyed and numerous trees were down. He also said the Cuba Church of Christ suffered major damage. Ramage said he's not sure if the damage was caused by straight line winds or a tornado. He did say there were no injuries or loss of life due to the storms.

3/3/17 - A Paducah man is facing child pornography charges from Illinois. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the southern district of Illinois, 42-year-old Clint Wade Green of Paducah was indicted February 23 on four counts of receipt of child pornography. The indictment alleges that on four different occasions in October 2015, Green knowingly received materials that contained child pornography.

3/4/17 - The man who police say hit and killed former McCracken County Judge Executive Van

Newberry with his car has now been charged with second degree manslaughter after a grand jury chose to indict him. According to the McCracken County Sheriff's Department, on October 13, 2016 at approximately 11:50 am, 60-year-old Van Newberry, of West Paducah, was killed while riding a bicycle on Ky Hwy 305 Cairo Road, after being struck by a passing vehicle that was being driven by 68-year-old Willie G. Holsapple of Paducah. Sheriff Jon Hayden said after a lengthy investigation, the findings of the investigation were presented to a McCracken County Grand Jury on Friday. Hayden says the grand jury deliberated, and issued an indictment charging 2nd Degree Manslaughter and Unsworn Falsification to Authorities, a Class C Felony and a Class B Misdemeanor.

3/5/17 - The region's mild winter persisted through the month of February, which ended up being the warmest on record in Paducah, Evansville and Cape Girardeau. At Barkley Field, the average daily high for the month was 59.5 degrees, which was more than ten degrees above normal. Four new record daily highs were set during the month, an even faster pace than the three daily highs notched in January. There were also three days in February when the mark was set for the warmest low temperature for that date.

3/6/17 - A Union City, TN contractor has pleaded guilty in a kickback case involving an expansion project at the Fulton County Jail. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Paducah says 42-year-old Danny Larcom pleaded guilty Monday to wire fraud and conspiracy charges. Larcom is the owner of Danny Larcom Heating & Air, Inc., who was awarded a \$415,000 contract to install HVAC systems as part of the \$3.3 million Detention Center expansion project. Officials say former Fulton County Jailer Ricky Parnell advised Larcom to overcharge for the project, and that he accepted \$5,000 cash in return for awarding Larcom the contract. Larcom is the third of four contractors charged in the case to plead guilty. Parnell is also expected to plead guilty in April to fraud and conspiracy charges.

3/8/17 - The Paducah Tilghman football team will once again have a new football coach this fall. Kurt Barber, the third head coach in three years, has resigned. On Wednesday morning, Jeff Bidwell announced on "The Jeff Bidwell Show" on 99-5 The Fan that PTHS Principal Art Davis said Barber told the team he was moving back to Louisville. The team won six games and lost six last season. Barber, who graduated from Paducah Tilghman in 1988 and played several years in the NFL, reportedly told the team he was unsure what he would be doing in the future.

3/10/17 - The town of Hickman and Fulton County were the center of the most serious storm damage that occurred in western Kentucky on Thursday night. An apparent tornado snapped trees and brought down utility poles across Fulton County. Downtown Hickman had extensive damage to a gas station canopy, as well as the Fulton County Jail. A home carport collapsed, and many buildings received damage. Power lines came down across most of the highways in Hickman, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Fulton County authorities are asking the public to stay away from the damaged areas today. There have been no injuries reported.

3/11/17 - The National Weather Service says two tornadoes apparently hit Hickman Thursday night, causing significant damage there. Meteorologist Jim Packett in Paducah says officials surveyed damage in Fulton County on Friday. The preliminary findings are that the area had an EF-1 tornado and an EF-2 tornado, as well as straight line winds Thursday night. The EF1 with wind speeds up to 110 mph began around Levee Road and traveled about 6 miles southeast to the area of Highway 94/Joe Parker Road. The EF2 with wind speeds up to 125 mph began around Cedar Street/Park Street and traveled about 9 miles southeast to the area of Mount Zion/Armstrong Road, east of Union Mills, Tennessee.

3/13/17 - New charges have been filed in a 2014 Cairo deadly bank robbery case. An indictment was

returned Monday against James Watts on charges of armed bank robbery resulting in death and felon in possession of a firearm. The indictment also charges two others in the robbery, Otha Don Watkins and Sharita Tipler. Watts is accused of stabbing Anita Grace of Olive Branch and Nita Smith of Wickliffe to death while attempting to rob the First National Bank branch in Cairo. Watkins has been charged with helping Watts in the robbery, as well as lying to federal agents. Tipler is charged with providing Watts with a firearm.

3/15/17 - A magnitude 3.4 earthquake epicentered directly underneath the Mississippi River to the west of Bardwell hit at around 11:51 am, Wednesday. Reports are coming in to the USGS, of people feeling the tremor across western Kentucky, southeastern Missouri, and southern Illinois. The USGS says the quake happened about 5.6 miles underground. No damage has been reported.

3/15/17 - Baptist Health Systems is laying off 288 people in Kentucky and Indiana, and some local jobs are affected. A statement released from system headquarters in Louisville said this realignment of their structure includes 149 layoffs in administrative roles at corporate headquarters, with the rest coming from health care facilities in eight cities. When contacted by West Kentucky Star, Baptist Health's West Region Marketing and Public Relations Manager, Catherine Sivills, issued a statement saying, "In Paducah, about 30 employees will be affected, mostly from the Transitional Care Unit, where services are temporarily suspended due to low census. Local nursing homes can provide care for those patients; and any employees affected may apply for other open positions in the hospital.

3/17/17 - The Graves County Board of Education held its March business meeting Thursday evening where the board unanimously approved establishing a daycare program. The Early Eagle Academy Child Care program will be available to families with children younger than school age on a tuition basis with plans to open for the 2017-18 school year in August. The project still is in its planning stages. The district is not taking applications at this time. However, administrators will announce application and other details as the program unfolds in coming weeks.

3/19/17 - A magnitude 3.1 earthquake shook the ground Sunday at around 9:25 am, according to the United States Geological Survey. The quake had an epicenter of being directly underneath the Mississippi River just west of Bardwell, where several other tremors have occurred over the past seven days. The tremor happened at a depth of 7.1 miles. No damage has been reported. People from across portions of both Missouri and western Kentucky reported feeling the ground shake to the USGS.

3/19/17 - Police in western Kentucky say at least six people were injured and a garbage truck driver was arrested after the truck traveled the wrong way on Interstate 24 and struck several vehicles. Media outlets report police pursued the truck, which traveled east in the westbound lanes before crossing the median into eastbound traffic and crashed Friday. State Police Trooper Jody Cash says in a news release some of the injuries were believed to be life threatening. The statement says 23-year-old truck driver Dalton M. Lampley of Calvert City was arrested on multiple counts including driving under the influence, possession of a controlled substance, fleeing or evading police, wanton endangerment of a police officer and resisting arrest. Paducah Police Chief Brandon Barnhill says seven passenger vehicles and a tractor-trailer were hit by the truck.

3/21/17 - On Tuesday, the Paducah Board of Commissioners unanimously approved an ordinance to amend the city's current alcoholic beverage ordinance. The new amendment allows microbreweries with the appropriate licenses to sell malt beverages by the drink and package on Sundays. The amendment will allow microbreweries without restaurant status, and any other future microbreweries to be open on Sunday from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. without having to hold a restaurant licence.

Commissioner Sarah Holland said the ordinance will likely have a positive impact on local tourism.

3/23/17 - The Kentucky Public Service Commission has concluded its investigation into the death of a Jackson Purchase Energy Corp. lineman and found that several federal, state and local codes were violated. Lineman Josh Franklin was injured Jan. 6 after making contact with a live power line he was working on. The 28-year-old died 10 days later in the hospital. The Paducah Sun reports a KPSC accident report listed seven violations of the National Electrical Safety Code, seven instances in which JPEC's safety manual wasn't followed and one violation of a state statute that requires regular inspection of all electrical lines. The KPSC also found that a substandard job briefing occurred, protective safety equipment wasn't worn, employees didn't positively confirm a conductor was de-energized and duties associated with a first-level responder weren't followed.

3/24/17 - Customers could be eligible for up to 30 percent back on their purchases at Harbor Freight Tools, as part of a recent settlement of a class action lawsuit. The suit, filed by Cleveland firm Dworken & Bernstein over what they call "misleading sale prices", alleges that Harbor Freight advertised merchandise at a "sale" or "compare at" price, when those items were actually not discounted. Customers with itemized receipts can submit a claim for a minimum of 20 percent of the "you saved" amount in cash, or 30 percent of that on a gift card. Those without itemized credit or debit card statements can get up to 10 percent cash back (or 12 percent in gift cards) on total purchases of "qualifying products." Anyone without a receipt may make a written sworn statement confirming their claim, and will receive \$10 gift card. The settlement covers items bought between April 8, 2011 and December 15, 2016. Anyone interested in taking advantage of the settlement must mail or submit a claim form online by August 7.

3/27/17 - This year's "Dancing With Our Stars" didn't break any records, but a large amount of money was raised in the fight against cancer. Saturday night's gala, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, brought in \$256,680. A capacity crowd at the Julian Carroll Convention Center was on hand to witness local "stars" team with professional dance instructors. Jay Smith with Jim Smith Contracting was crowned as Grand Champion after raising \$71,529. Smith was paired with dancer Ashley Henley and dedicated his win to both his grandfathers, who died from cancer.

3/29/17 - Referee John Higgins of Omaha has contacted law enforcement to report he's received death threats after Kentucky's loss to North Carolina in the NCAA South Regional final. A person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Higgins reported threats on his home phone, which has an unlisted number, and on the office phone for his roofing company. The person requested anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. The Facebook page for Higgins' roofing company also was inundated with negative comments about Higgins and the quality of his company's work.

3/30/17 - There was a winning \$225,000 Cash Ball lottery ticket sold Wednesday night in Paducah. The winning ticket matched the first four numbers and the Cash Ball to win the game's top prize. The winning numbers were: 6 - 11 - 22 - 23- Cash Ball 9. The winning ticket was sold at the Five Star Food Mart at 3474 Wayne Sullivan Drive. They will receive \$2,250 for selling the winning ticket. The winner's name has not been released. They have 180 days from the date of the drawing to claim their prize.

3/31/17 - The Kentucky Public Service Commission has approved a proposal to build test solar power arrays at McCracken County High School and six other sites in western Kentucky. On Thursday, Big Rivers Electric Corporation received permission to explore the development of the facilities, which also include plans for sites at Livingston County Middle School in Burna and Mike Miller Park in

Draffenville. All three locations are in the service area of Jackson Purchase Energy.