

2018

PROGRESS

EDITION

Two best spine surgeons in Kentucky practice in Paducah

The headline for this article doesn't begin to explain how fortunate the people of our region are.

On Thursday, September 19, a discussion on Total Disc Replacement (TDR) was held at 211 Grill in Paducah. This seminar was presented by K. Brandon Streng, MD and Clint P. Hill, MD who are two of the most gifted Orthopedic Spine Surgeons in the United States. A delicious dinner was served, along with a tremendous amount of fascinating information on the recent treatment options for neck and back ailments.

Doctors Streng and Hill of Orthopaedic Institute of Western Kentucky (OIWK) have performed the most spine surgeries in Kentucky. Not only that, these two doctors are on the cutting edge of a medical breakthrough that is taking spine surgery to an unprecedented level in the United States. The most interesting part of this learning experience included information on the Total Disc Replacement (TDR) procedure.

Normally, fusion of a disc in the spine is done 100 to 1 over TDR according to Dr. Hill. He said, "You'll feel exactly the same, you won't know if I did one or the other (fusion or TDR)."

He lets his patients know that after the surgery is done, he doesn't expect to see them back in his office for several years; especially when it comes to having another spine surgery.

These two surgeons take a very

calculated approach with how OIWK funnels potential patients.

When a person comes in with a back ailment, they are strategically evaluated to see what can be done to help them. For example, a person may need injections or pain management help before they end up in front of Dr. Streng or Dr. Hill.

Doctors Streng and Hill are on the leading edge of Lateral Lumbar Surgery, which is a minimally invasive spinal procedure. There are very few places in the U.S., or even the world, where this surgery is being performed. This surgery gives much easier access to the spine and

See SPINE SURGEONS, page 13



Pictured left to right: Dr. Clint Hill of Orthopaedic Institute of Western Kentucky, Patrick McDonough of Centinel Spine and Dr. Brandon Streng of Orthopaedic Institute of Western Kentucky.

County Officials tell of achievements

by Chris Woods
KPI Staff Writer

Several county officials from western Kentucky and northwest Tennessee were asked two questions: What have you and your office accomplished over the last calendar year to benefit the citizens of your county? What plans and upcoming projects are in the works for the next calendar year?

- Carlisle County Judge/Executive Greg Terry said that in the last year, the county got a new am-

balance, and the trail system in the county has brought people into the area that purchase items from our local businesses, which helps to support the local economy. The four river counties held their annual WAVE Agriculture Day in Carlisle County this year. "The hemp production and processing project is underway," Terry stated. "We have partnered with a group that has purchased the hemp crops from local farmers, and they have rented a facility in the county that will be processing the crops." Terry also stated that he will be meeting

with a representative from the state USDA office to possibly get funding for an updated fiber optic system in the county so that all areas have good internet service.

- Arlington Mayor Bobby McGee said that in the past year, the city has completed their housing grant and has several new homes from that project. They had a successful year with the softball league and horse shows at the Arlington ballpark. "We were so

See ACHIEVEMENTS, page 5

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Our surgeons are experienced in, and utilize non-fusion, motion sparing technology in both the cervical and lumbar spine such as artificial disc replacement, and utilize minimally invasive techniques whenever possible to treat virtually all spinal conditions. Both surgeons are regarded as key opinion leaders in the field of minimally invasive surgical treatment of both cervical and lumbar pathology.

Drs. Hill and Strenge are actively involved in surgeon training, having trained hundreds of Orthopaedic Spine and Neurosurgeons throughout the U.S. and the world in Minimally Invasive Surgical Techniques.

Their ongoing involvement in research and studies allows access to the newest technology, often times, before it is available to the public. This gives the patients of our region unique and personalized treatment options, that aren't readily available to many patients throughout the country. Dr. Hill and Strenge are also actively involved in the development of tomorrow's technology for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery working with the country's leading spinal implant providers.



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Farmer's Home Furniture adds Martin location

by Chris Woods
KPI Staff Writer

Farmer's Home Furniture in Martin, TN celebrated the grand opening of their new store on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

The business originated in Georgia in 1949, and has over 200 stores in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South and North Carolina, Tennessee; they have three stores in Kentucky. The stores offer a variety of items, and feature home furnishings such as sofas, beds, and dining room sets, appliances and electronics, and mowers.

Store Manager Tina Wiseman Rosemann has worked for Farmer's Home Furniture for over 20 years. She previously worked in a Georgia location, and relocated to this area to manage the store. Rosemann is a na-



tive of Martin.

"I'm glad to be back home, and I enjoy working in my hometown," Rosemann said. "We have a great store, and I invite everyone to come by and check us out!"

Farmer's Home Furniture is located at 146 University Plaza, in the University Plaza Shopping Center. For more information, give them a call at 731-261-1114.

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Ingevity donates \$27,000 to Family Resource and Youth Service Centers

Ingevity presented checks in February, March and April totaling \$27,000 to school-based Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSC) throughout the western Kentucky area. These funds will help academically at-risk students at schools where the centers are located with career development, counseling, health and social services.

FRYSC serves children at elementary, middle and high schools by providing preschool childcare, after-school daycare, family literacy services and family training programs. The funds donated by Ingevity will also help impoverished students purchase necessities, such as food and clothing, to remove those nonacademic barriers to learning and enhance their developmental needs.

Of the funds donated:

- **Carlisle County FRYSC received a check in the amount of \$5,000 on February 12.**
- **Ballard County FRYSC received a check in the amount of \$7,000 on February 13.**
- **Hickman County FRYSC received a check in the amount of \$5,000 on March 7.**
- **Fulton County FRYSC received a check in the amount of \$5,000 on March 16.**
- **Graves County FRYSC received a check in the amount of \$5,000 on April 11.**

“The Family Resource and Youth Service Centers’ focus on the safety, health and education of youth in our area resonate with many of us at In-

gevity,” said Kevin Cunningham, operations coordinator, Ingevity. “We’ve created a program for volunteerism and giving that focuses on education, human wellbeing and sustainability. This partnership with FRYSC aligns beautifully with our own program.”

Christy Puckett, director of pupil personnel, Graves County Schools, said, “On behalf of everyone in the Graves County School District, I am happy and honored by the opportunity to thank In-

gevity for its financial donation. We will divide this money between our family resource and youth services centers at each school for their excellent efforts to help children and families in need. By working together, we can help more students building on their education to contribute to society, to thrive, and to participate in the American dream.”

Ingevity provides specialty chemicals and high-performance carbon materials and technologies that purify, protect and enhance the world around us. Through a team of talented and experienced people, Ingevity develops, manufactures and brings to market products and processes that help customers solve complex problems. These products are used in a variety of demanding applications, including asphalt paving, oil exploration and production, agrochemicals, adhesives, lubricants, publication inks and automotive components that reduce gasoline vapor emissions. Headquartered in North Charleston, South Carolina, Ingevity operates from 25 locations around the world and employs approximately 1,600 people. The company is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: NGVT).

■ ACHIEVEMENTS, – from front page

glad to see large crowds turn out for these events," stated McGee. "The ballpark has had some improvements in the past year including a new roof on the concession building and new bleachers. It's great to see the ballpark being used by the citizens again." The city is working toward building a walking trail behind the medical clinic. In the future, McGee would like to see new businesses come to Arlington, and to Carlisle County as a whole.

- Philip King, the Mayor of Bardwell, told of several new and upcoming items in Bardwell. Two new wells were installed in town. The city received a Kentucky League of Cities safety grant in the amount of \$2,800, which was used to purchase defibrillator machines. A USDA grant was received which was used to purchase a new police truck for the city. The city only had to cover 25% of the cost. Some of the projects that are pending for next year include a grant that was applied for to expand the water system north of Bardwell; the city will be leaving Kentucky Utilities in May of 2019, and will receive its power supply from the Kentucky Municipal Energy Association; Bardwell will be hiring a new police chief; and the city is hoping to enter into a major infrastructure revitalization next year that would replace utility meters and city lighting which would create a digital system that would save the city a great deal after it is all changed over. King is also working with people to get a better fiber optic network in the city. "I am excited about our upcoming projects," King said, "and I look forward to the changes that will take place when these new systems are implemented."

- Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson named several projects that were completed this year, including Acee's Convenience Store grand opening in Clinton; widening of HWY 780; increased hemp projection; Farmers' Market

opening in July; Farm to Fork dinner that raised upwards of \$5,000 for the Mission House; moving the dispatch to the ambulance service; and forming a new industrial development authority to help with economic development. For the coming year, Wilson said that a new cafe, fishing pier at the Rotary Park and new county website are all in the works. "I am pleased with the projects that were completed this year, and look forward to starting several new things in the county in the future," said Wilson.

- Phyllis Campbell, the mayor of Clinton, said that in the past year the city has had several projects and improvements take place. Community trash cans were built by the Hickman County High School FFA members, and the lumber was donated by Wright's Sawmill for the project. The Master Gardener Group from Clinton planted flowers in the tops of the containers, and they were placed around the court square in town.

"This year marks the first time that the City of Clinton and the

county have entered into an inter-local agreement," stated Campbell, "and we have built up our maintenance department. We had

a community effort to construct the Rotary Park and Farmers' Market on the south side of town, and we are very proud of how that project turned out."

In the future, Mayor Campbell hopes to construct a city park on the west side of Clinton. The plans for this park, which would include a splash pad, are already drawn up, and some of the funding has already been set aside for the project. "I hope to see Clinton continue to grow and prosper in the future," said Campbell, "and I hope I can be a part of it. I'm very proud of our little community."

- Fulton County Judge/Executive Jim Martin stated that one important change in Hickman, over the past year was the creation of an ambulance service when the company that they were associated

with no longer backed them. "We were able to partner with Fulton City and South Fulton in order to keep an ambulance service here, and I'm grateful that it's all working out well," Martin stated. The expansion of Kaiser Automotive in Fulton created several more jobs this year. Martin said that there are several economic development projects in the works for next year.

- Union City, TN, Mayor Terry Hailey told of several projects that were done this year in town. "Several of our softball fields around town were redone, and a splash pad and skateboard park will be ready to go by next year. We have two new hotels, and new work is being done at the Discovery Park. Our City Hall has a new computer system, and we have some infrastructure revamping coming soon. In the future, we will be working on building a new water plant. We've got a lot of good things going on."

- Randy Brundige, the Mayor of Martin, TN, said that the city is

getting a new plant that will create 200 jobs, and that MTD Products expanded, creating 200 more jobs at that plant as well. The city is receiving several million dollars in infrastructure improvement grants that will be used for updates at the new plant locations, and for improvements at UT Martin. "I'm very happy about the new jobs coming to our city, and about the improvement projects that have begun and are ongoing," stated Brundige.

- Henry County Mayor Brent Greer talked about the construction project on US 641 between Paris, TN, and Puryear, TN. "The first phase of this construction has begun, and it will be an ongoing project. I'm proud to say that a local contractor won the bid on this contract, and that local workers are hired for the job." The other major project in Henry County is the complete revamping of Paris Landing. The \$26 million dollar project will include a new convention center, which may be completed by spring of 2019.

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Veteran co-op executive takes the lead at Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation

The Board of Directors of Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation (JPEC) is pleased to announce that Greg Grissom has been named president and CEO of the electric cooperative.

Grissom, a native of Hickman, Kentucky, brings nearly twenty years of co-op executive experience to his new role heading JPEC, which serves about 30,000 consumer-members in six western Kentucky counties.

"This is an exciting day for Jackson Purchase Energy," said JPEC Board Chairman Erick Harris. "Our talented employees and loyal consumer-members are getting a proven leader who understands both the important role JPEC plays in our com-

munities and the challenges faced by electric cooperatives across America."

Harris thanked Michael W. Chambliss, Vice President of System Operations for power generation partner Big Rivers Electric, for serving as Interim CEO during the executive search.

Grissom comes to JPEC after serving three years as Chief Executive Officer and President at Pennyriple Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation in Hopkinsville.



The new president and CEO of Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation Greg Grissom.

Prior to that, Grissom was President and Chief Executive Officer of Hickman Fulton Electric Cooperative in Hickman, Kentucky since November, 2000. He is a graduate of Murray State University and of the Management Internship Program of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"I look forward to engaging with our consumer-members and helping our communities prosper," Grissom said. "I want all of us to be proud of

the role Jackson Purchase Energy plays in our lives. Whether you are a consumer-member, an employee or a board member, we're all in this together. That's what being a cooperative is all about. Our partnerships with other cooperatives can help us to deliver on our goals safely, efficiently and transparently."

Grissom and his wife, Denise, have two children. Their daughter, Anna Gregory, is a junior at Murray State University. Their son, Greyson, is a sophomore at Trigg County High School.

Grissom is a board member of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, United Utility Supply and Federated Rural Electric Insurance.

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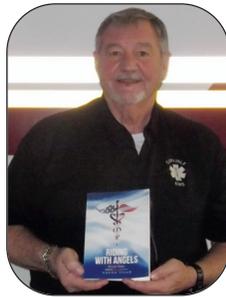
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Carlisle Ambulance Director Wayne Floyd has book published

by Chris Woods
KPI Staff Writer

When Wayne Floyd started compiling notes from his 30 year EMT career, he had no idea that he would become a published author in the future. Over the years, he had many citizens tell him that he should write a book about his experiences on the job, so he started doing just that. He began taking notes and writing stories, and in September of 2017 he was contacted by XLIBRIS, a publishing company who was interested in turning Floyd's manuscript into a book. "I don't know how the company even knew about me, but I submitted my unfinished manuscript to them. A company representative contacted me after reading the manuscript, and said that he was moved to tears after reading some of the stories in the notes. He told me that the

book would be published in about four months, and I was so surprised at how quickly the manuscript was accepted." And so, *Riding With Angels* was born. Floyd stated that the book's purpose is to inform the public of some of the ways that the ambulance service can help them, and to give credit to the many EMTs and workers for the great job that they do. "We see miracles all the time, and I wanted to share some of my experiences with people," Floyd said.



Wayne and his wife began working for the ambulance service in Carlisle County in 1988, with the help and encouragement of then Judge/Executive Warren Lee Owens. "There were a lot of 'lean' years for my wife and I while we were trying to build up the ambulance service in Carlisle County, and we were basi-

cally on call all of the time," Floyd stated. "We've seen the service grow, and we're proud to be able to provide help to the citizens of our area."

Wayne Floyd gives the credit to God for getting his book off the ground, and he said that everything just fell into place because it was meant to be. "I believe God had a hand in this project, and I think the

stories in my book can touch the lives of readers in a way that they can see the miracles that occur all around us on a daily basis."

Floyd's book, *Riding With Angels*, is available for sale on Amazon by searching Wayne Floyd, and through Barnes and Noble. Part of the sales from the book will be given to charity.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Becky MARTIN DEM		

Hello, my name is Jim Cain. I am running for Carlisle County Judge Executive in November. I will be a WRITE IN candidate, and I would appreciate your votes. I have lived here in Carlisle County most of my life. I've worked as a surveyor for 29 years for Florence and Hutcheson, and 15 of those years I managed survey crews. I dealt with budgets and expenses, while working on proposals for government projects within the Southeastern states. I later worked at the Olmstead Lock and Dam project for almost 4 years in construction survey. I feel that I would be a good person for this position. With my experience at working to stay within budgets, while also meeting deadlines, and managing field crews, and not to mention the day to day problems to address. This has well prepared me for this new and exciting challenge. I promise to be honest, and work diligently for ALL the Citizens of Carlisle County. Thank you.

Highlights of area events for 2018

by **Chris Woods**
KPI Staff Writer

• Carlisle County Ambulance Director Wayne Floyd had his book, "Riding With Angels," published. The book is a compilation of Floyd's notes spanning his 30 year EMT career.

Floyd and his wife started working for the ambulance service in 1988. They built up the service basically from scratch. "There were a lot of lean years for awhile," Floyd said, "but we stuck with it, and we're glad that we can provide a good service to the citizens of Carlisle county."

Floyd gives the credit to God for getting his book off the ground. "I believe God had a hand in this project, and I think the stories in the book can touch the lives of readers in a way that they can see the miracles that occur all around us on a daily

basis," stated Floyd.

• On March 15, 2018, Fulton County High School Principal Ellen Murphy received an award for being nominated Distinguished Administrator at the Regional Educators' Awards and Scholarship program at West Kentucky Technical College.

Murphy said, "I'm honored because it's not just about me, it's about this group of people that are here supporting me."

More than 200 educators, family, friends and students were on hand to cheer and recognize the 28 nominees in the awards program. The awards were started in 2017 to recognize pre-kindergarten through high school educators, administrators and staff members.

• Cathrine Drysdale, a student at Carlisle County High School, was

chosen as a Top 10 Gold Honor recipient, one of the highest honors the 4-H program offers. Catherine currently serves as president of the Carlisle County 4-H Teen Council, president of the Purchase Area 4-H Teen Council, and a member of the state Teen Council as well. She is chairwoman of the State Teen Council Events Committee, and works with others to plan successful events for 4-Hers statewide.

Gold Competitive Achievement winners receive a full scholarship to attend the Teen Conference on the University of Kentucky campus on June 11-14, 2018, and an \$800 scholarship towards attending the National 4-H Congress Conference.

• In February, March and April of 2018, the Ingevity company, which produces carbon products, presented donations totaling \$27,000 to Family

Resource and Youth Service Centers in Carlisle, Ballard, Hickman, Fulton and Graves counties. The service centers serve children at the elementary, middle and high school levels by providing childcare, family literacy services and training programs, and by giving impoverished children and families a helping hand so that the children can have a productive educational environment.

• Governor Matt Bevin announced that Global Win Wickcliffe LLC, a Chinese owned paper product manufacturer, will re-open Verso Corporation paper mill in Ballard County. The company signed a purchase agreement in August for approximately 16 million dollars. The new owners plan to refurbish the mill with new and

See HIGHLIGHTS page 10

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HIGHLIGHTS – from page 9

updated equipment and technology. They will produce pulp and brown paper packaging.

This \$150 million dollar project is expected to create 500 jobs, and the goal is to be in production by May of 2019.

- Colorcoat, Inc., a company that manufactures vinyl coated doors and windows, is going to locate in South Fulton, TN, in Obion County. The company plans to invest about \$600,000 in the plant, and create 80 new jobs. "We are very excited to have ColorCoat to join our Obion County business community, and are especially excited that they chose South Fulton," Obion County Joint Economic Development Council Lindsay Frilling said. "We are looking forward to a long term relationship with the company, and are happy to get the new jobs for our citizens."

"I'm excited about the new industry coming to South Fulton," said

Mayor David Lamb. "One of my goals was to try and bring new industry and jobs to our area."

- The Fulton County Transit Authority expanded its fleet of transport vehicles throughout the year by receiving several new vans. The board of directors also voted to make every Tuesday Half-Price Senior Citizens' Day. The hours for the FCTA are 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

- The Discovery Park of America in Union City, TN, was the recipient of several gold and silver awards at the recent Southeast Festival and Events Association's Kaleidoscope Awards in Murphreesboro, TN. This distinguished awards ceremony is held every year to recognize festival and event planners, venues, and industry service providers.

Discovery Park of America is open Tues. to Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See a complete calendar of events for the park by visiting their website at www.discoveryparkofamerica.com.

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Wickliffe paper mill to reopen with 500 jobs

by Kirk Trammell
KPI Staff Writer

Gov. Matt Bevin recently announced that Global Win Wickliffe LLC, a Chinese-owned paper product manufacturer, will reopen the former Verso Corp. paper mill in Ballard County. This \$150 million investment is expected to create 500 full-time jobs for the people of western Kentucky.

Executives of Global Win signed a purchase agreement on Aug. 16 with representatives of Verso to buy the facility for approximately \$16 million. The new owners plan to refurbish the mill with new equipment and updated technology. The mill is expected to open by the end of 2018 and will produce pulp and brown paper packaging.

Tom Lawson is the Director of Strategy for Global Win. He said, "Global Win is excited to join the people of Kentucky and Ballard County in restarting the Wickliffe mill. This is as much of an investment in people as in new equipment and technology. We look forward to a long successful future for all the stakeholders of Global Win Wickliffe."

Verso CEO Christopher DiSantis noted the sale will benefit all parties. He said, "The transaction is also a victory for the local community and state of Kentucky, which will benefit from future investment in the site."

Ballard County Judge-Executive Todd Cooper said, "We are so excited Global Win has purchased the Wickliffe paper mill. This will be a tremen-

dous job-creator and economic engine for the entire Purchase Region and surrounding states. I want to thank Gov. Bevin and the staff of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development for the hard work and effort put forth to help Global Win Wickliffe locate in Kentucky."

Carlisle County Judge-Executive Greg Terry said, "Carlisle County is very excited to hear about the re-opening of the paper mill in Wickliffe. It's a good day for western Kentucky to hear that the paper mill will be back in production. It's also a blessing to the citizens of our counties that there will be more jobs available. Ballard County leaders have worked tirelessly to make this happen."

Gov. Bevin said, "We want to thank Global Win Wickliffe for locating its first U.S. operation in Kentucky, and we wish the company much success in this exciting venture."

Following the signing of the purchase agreement, Director of Strategy Lawson fielded some questions from the media. He said, "We have an aggressive timeline and we'd like to be making paper in early 2019."

Lawson was then asked the possibility of this deal falling through. He said, "The signature's on the paper. It's a done deal."

When asked how soon they will be taking applications for jobs, Lawson smiled and said, "Soon."

Lawson later said, "We recognize the value of a trained and experi-

enced workforce. And those folks that have worked in this mill in the past, their application and their willingness to come back to work will certainly be considered because we're going to need their expertise and their help."

Gov. Bevin took this opportunity to address those in the media. He said, "We would ask for patience. In the next month or so things will start to happen. This is a very aggressive timeline. But things won't happen

this week and they won't happen next week. And just bear with us. We know how important this is to the community. So just be patient and know that it's going to come sooner than a lot of people would have imagined."

Following the event, Gov. Bevin left the building and discussed the future of Global Win Wickliffe with several veterans of the paper mill who had gathered outside.



Gov. Bevin witnessing the signing of the purchase agreement by Tom Lawson of Global Win and Christopher DiSantis of Verso. Also pictured is Allen Campbell of Verso.

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Drysdale selected as Top Ten Gold Honor recipient

4-H encourages young people to set and achieve their goals. To that end, the Kentucky 4-H Achievement Program was created to reward ambitious and accomplished young people throughout the state.

In the highly competitive 4-H Achievement Program, young people receive recognition and prizes for their accomplishments in 4-H and their community. 4-H'ers can start accumulating points as soon as they start 4-H and begin earning recognition in the sixth grade.

4-H'ers at least in the 10th grade, and who have reached Level V can apply for the gold award. Each district can submit 10 applicants for the gold award. Of the 70 statewide applicants, 30 are selected. The competitive program consists of an application, and a panel interview portion.

After careful review from all the judges, Catherine Drysdale, a Carlisle County 4-H member, was selected as a Top Ten Gold Honor recipient. Catherine currently serves as president of the Carlisle County Teen Council, president of the Purchase Area Teen Council in District 7, and as a member of the State Teen Council. In these roles, Catherine has brought a fresh enthusiasm to the teen 4-H program in western Ken-

tucky. Catherine also serves on the District 7 Teen Retreat, Winter Teen Trip, and Leadership Round-Up committees and is the chairwoman of the State Teen Council Events Committee, where she is working diligently with other teens to plan successful events for teens around the state.

Catherine has attended Issues Conference for the past three years to work on addressing community issues and has served on the State Planning Committee. This year, she was voted as the returning member for the 2018-2019 State Issues Conference Planning Committee. She has brought back the leadership skills

she acquired to Carlisle County, where she serves as a teen representative on our local 4-H Council and volunteers regularly to lead and assist with 4-H programs for younger youth. In these roles, Catherine is very involved in planning programs and serving the community.

Gold Competitive Achievement winners receive a full scholarship to the Teen Conference on the University of Kentucky Campus June 11 – 14, 2018 and an \$800 scholarship towards attending National 4-H Congress Conference.

For more information about the Kentucky 4-H Achievement Program, and how you can be involved, contact the Carlisle Cooperative Extension Service.



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Hill stated that they are hoping a

Fellowship is in the works. A Fellowship period of medical training with these two Paducah surgeons would be invaluable to doctors who wish to gain experience in surgical procedures on the spine.

Needless to say, when it comes to any type of orthopedic need a person may have, OIWK has much to offer. They are located at Exit 7 off of I-24 in Paducah. Plus, they have their own emergency room, which can triage patients much faster than other local ER facilities. When you combine that with the area's most talented group of medical professionals and surgeons, you have an exceptional combination.

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Discovery Park of America receives six coveted awards



The best and brightest were spotlighted this year at the Southeast Festivals and Events Association's (SFEA) Kaleidoscope Awards, in Murfreesboro, TN.

Discovery Park of America was the recipient of a Gold Award for the "Best Event within an Event," for its Kid's Noon Year's Eve Party. The park took home three Silver Awards including "Best Vendor/Supplier" honoring Little Caesars of Union City; "Best Sponsor" honoring Crosswind Church in Union City and "Best Photograph," taken by Discovery Park's staff photographer, Luke Johnson, and submitted by graphic designer Carly Christianson. The two additional awards bestowed on Discovery Park included a Bronze Award for "Best Creative Idea," featuring the park's Escape Room and the "Best Marketing Campaign," for the campaign designed to tout the Bugs Traveling Exhibit.

"The quality of submissions continues to increase each year mak-

ing it more difficult for the judges to select the winners," noted Brenda Pierce, executive director for SFEA. "Of course, to 'win gold,' becomes all the sweeter when there is additional competition and the recognition a festival receives for winning is priceless."

The name "kaleidoscope" was selected due to the colors in the logo image that represent the many different elements and facets within festivals and events. A call for entries was posted last fall and all southeast festivals and events were encouraged to participate. A panel of experts in event planning, marketing and tourism spent an entire day reviewing the entries from eight states. The judges looked for originality, creativity, media impact, volunteer programs, and the overall impact to the community. The categories, in which one can win recognition, are also diverse, ranging from Best Marketing Campaign to Best T-Shirt to Best Festival or Event.

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Gibson Connect purchases Lightpipe Division of Jones Communications

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation, Gibson Connect and Jones Telecommunications are

pleased to announce that Gibson Connect has purchased the LitePipe Division of Jones Telecommunications and that owner Tony Jones has come to work for Gibson Connect as Business Development and Account Manager.

"We have partnered with Tony and his business for over 10 years in delivering telecommunications services to our business members along Gibson EMC's middle-mile fiber transport system," said Dan Rodamaker, President and CEO of both Gibson EMC and Gibson Connect. "With the formation of Gibson Connect, it made sense for us to take this existing relationship a step further," Rodamaker said. "We are thrilled to have Tony join Gibson Connect and acquire the LitePipe Division of Jones

Telecommunications. Together, we will maximize the level of service delivered to our LitePipe customers and provide that same level of service to our new Gibson Connect business members."

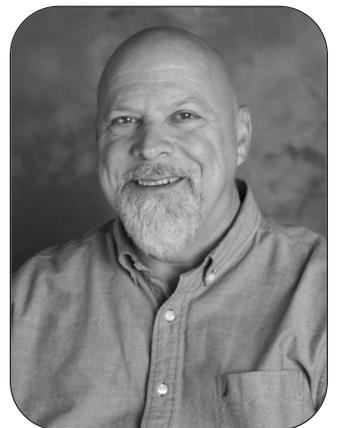
In his role, Jones will oversee

existing LitePipe and Gibson Connect business accounts and help new business customers

connect to high-speed fiber service along Gibson EMC's 350-mile fiber transport route. "This relationship is ideal," said Jones. "I know that Gibson EMC and Gibson Connect will serve the LitePipe customers well, and I'm pleased I can continue to be the face of that service," he said.



Dan Rodamaker, President and CEO of both Gibson EMC and Gibson Connect



LitePipe Division of Jones Telecommunications and that owner Tony Jones

"Tony's years of knowledge and expertise will be helpful as we begin construction on Phase 1 of our Gibson Connect system," Rodamaker said. "This purchase and relationship moves us closer to delivering the essential service of high-speed internet to our members."

Gibson Connect is a wholly-owned, not-for-profit subsidiary of Gibson EMC. Gibson EMC is a local, not-for-profit, member-owned and member-controlled cooperative serving almost 39,000 homes

and businesses in eight west Tennessee counties (Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Haywood, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion and Madison) and four west Kentucky counties (Carlisle, Fulton, Graves and Hickman).

Bourbon maker Four Roses reaches deal to settle strike

by Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Striking employees at Four Roses will return to work next week after the Kentucky bourbon maker and union officials reached a tentative agreement Friday to end a two-week walkout, a union leader said.

More than 50 hourly employees walked off their jobs Sept. 7 over a dispute dealing mainly with sick leave policy.

In a bargaining session Friday, negotiators agreed to language giving workers the option to keep current sick leave policy or sign up for a short-term disability plan, said Jeff Royalty, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 10d.

Royalty said he was pleased with the deal and predicted no lingering impact when workers return to their jobs as soon as Monday.

"There's no animosity between none of the guys here and the com-

pany," he said in a phone interview.

"It was just a business thing. And you kind of have to leave it at that and go back to making bourbon."

Striking workers had picketed outside the Four Roses distilling operation near Lawrenceburg and at a separate bottling and maturation facility in central Kentucky.

They had objected to a company proposal to change sick leave policy for incoming employees. The tentative deal will let workers choose between keeping the current sick leave policy or to sign up for a short-term disability plan, Royalty said.

The labor dispute comes amid a production boom among Kentucky's bourbon producers. Two years ago, union workers at Jim Beam walked off the job for several days to demand the hiring of more full-time staff to keep up with the industry giant's growing production needs.

Kentucky is home to about 95 percent of the world's bourbon production.

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Churchill Down's next project to offer rooftop views of the Derby

by Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) _ Churchill Downs is adding rooftop views to its lineup of high-dollar seating for the Kentucky Derby.

The track's parent company said Friday that a new rooftop garden offering prime spots overlooking the start of America's most famous horse race will be ready in time for next year's Derby in early May.

The rooftop lounge, to be situated atop the Starting Gate Suites on the north end of the famed track, will provide covered reserved seating for more than 250 fans and standing-room-only access for about 250 more ticketholders, Churchill Downs Inc. said.

The new space will feature upscale bars and food in a "cozy" and "party-like atmosphere," Churchill said.

"Rooftop bars are a hot trend in the hospitality industry, and the addition of this sensational new space ... will be a great benefit to our facility and deliver another unique guest experience at Churchill Downs," said Kevin Flanery, president of Churchill Downs racetrack.

Churchill did not disclose Derby ticket prices for the addition, saying ticketing information will be available later this year.

The lounge will include a tiered



balcony overlooking the section of track where Derby horses break from the starting gate and, after looping the track, jockey for position at the top of the homestretch on their way to the finish. It also will offer panoramic views of Louisville, the track said.

Construction will begin after Churchill hosts the Breeders' Cup in early November.

The \$5 million rooftop project is the latest in a series of upgrades at the track in the past two decades, meant to maximize revenue from the Derby and Kentucky Oaks, a race for 3-year-old fillies the day before the

Derby. The venerable track seems to burst at the seams on Derby Day, when about 160,000 people pack into the track and infield.

Many of the additions have been geared toward well-heeled racing fans.

The Starting Gate Suites debuted for this year's Derby. The \$37 million

project provided more than 1,800 new seats through the addition of 32 luxury seats and third-floor grandstand seats. Other projects included renovating the clubhouse and grandstand, putting in permanent lights, creating a new VIP section known as The Mansion and installing of a gigantic video board.

Kentucky Homeland Security awards nearly \$3M for projects

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) _ The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security has announced nearly \$3 million in grants to communities around the state.

An agency statement says 50 recipients in 36 counties will receive funding under Kentucky's 2018 Homeland Security Grant Program. The grants will go toward purchasing law enforcement, fire and emergency services equipment to counter threats of terrorism.

Homeland Security Executive Director John Holiday said a major focus this year was increasing resources to deter, respond to and mitigate potential complex coordinated attacks. He said many projects awarded funding have a broad anti-terrorism impact.

Holiday said the agency reviewed 269 applications requesting \$17 million and allocated funding based on need and greatest public safety impact.

Utility truck rack manufacturer plans Kentucky facility

ALBANY, Ky. (AP) _ Kentucky officials say a utility truck rack manufacturer has decided to invest more than \$1.3 million and create 25 full-time jobs at a facility in Clinton County.

Gov. Matt Bevin's office says Rack-It Truck Racks Inc. plans to purchase and upgrade an existing facility in Albany in southern Kentucky.

State officials say company leaders noted the location's prox-

imity to major markets in Louisville as well as in Nashville and Knoxville in Tennessee.

The officials say a downturn in the region's houseboat industry left an available workforce with welding and manufacturing skills, a particular draw for Rack-It.

Rack-It was founded in 1982 in California. It manufactures heavy-duty material racks for pickups, service bodies and flatbed trucks.

City of Arlington receives Grant

by Chris Woods
KPI Staff Writer

ARLINGTON - The City of Arlington announced on Monday, September 17, that they will be receiving a \$7,000 grant from the Department of Public Health through the Purchase District Health Department. This grant, along with other donations, will be used to construct a 1/4 mile walking trail in Arlington behind Dr. Zetter's office. The following is a listing of the individuals who donated to this project: Individual donations from the 5K Run fundraising event totaled \$2,205; Citizens Deposit

Bank, \$1,000; Anonymous donor, \$1,000; \$1,000 discount on the estimate for the project from Byassee Paving, the contractor that is going to do the work; and the City of Arlington donated \$500 and the land for the site.

Mayor McGee will be working with the contractor to get a plan mapped out for the trail, and there will be landscaping and lighting added to the site in the future.

Larrissa Roach, Kaitlyn Krolkowski and Kaylene Cornell, representatives from the Purchase District Health Department and Health Coalition, announced the

groundbreaking for the walking trail will be held Monday, October 15, at 11:00 a.m.

In the spring of 2018, the City of Arlington joined "Healthy Carlisle" Health Coalition, and expressed the need of a walking trail in their town. Through a community effort, which was spearheaded by Mayor McGee, the city worked with Roach, Krolkowski and Cornell to apply for the grant. They also helped organize the 5K Run as a fundraising event for the trail. "We can't thank these women enough for the help that we got from them on getting this project off the ground," said Mayor McGee.

"The community got together and supported us, and a big "Thanks" also goes out to those who donated to the project and worked at the 5K Run. We are very excited to begin working on the walking trail, and we hope that our community will be able to use this area for years to come."

You can see a live Facebook video of the grant announcement for the City of Arlington by typing in "Healthy Carlisle" on your search engine. Please visit www.purchase-healthconnections.com to find information about the health coalitions in your area.

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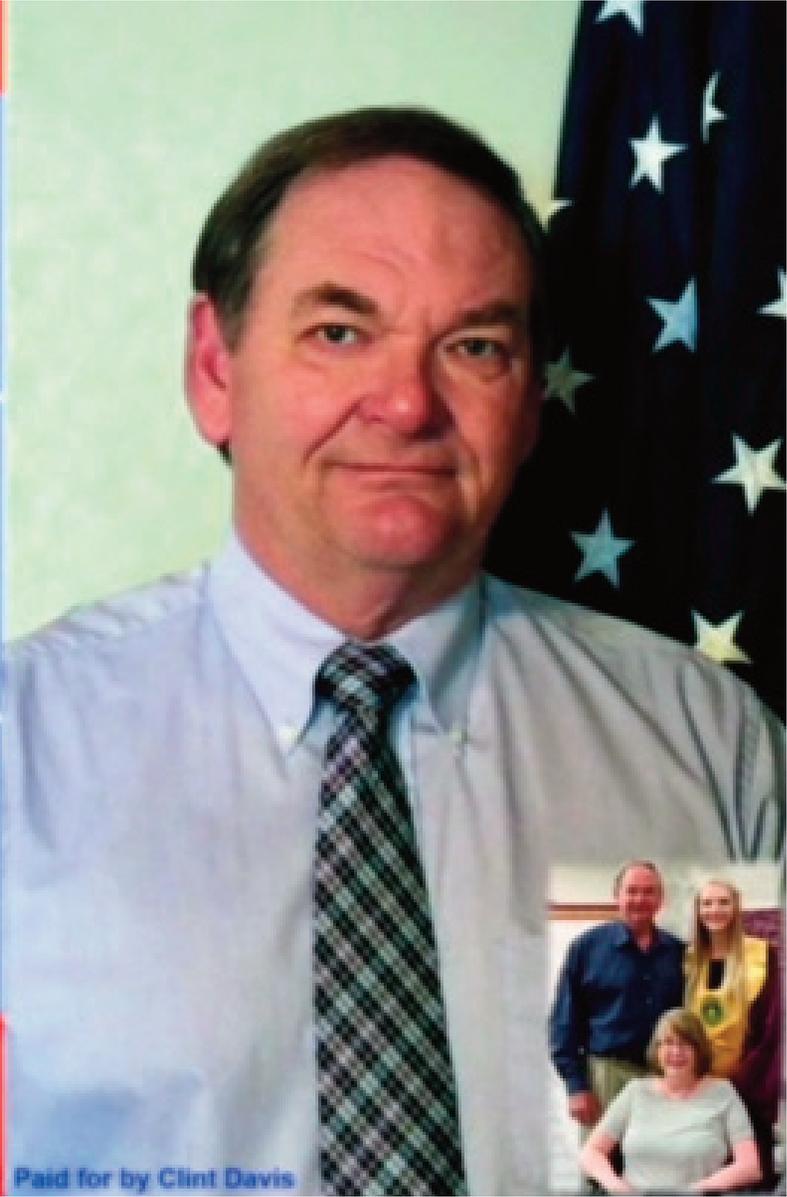
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Update on Carlisle and Hickman county businesses

by Chris Woods
KPI Staff Writer

• The Arlington ballpark has had a very successful season. The softball league had many games throughout the summer; and had great attendance every time. Several horse shows were also held at the park, and they also had large crowds. The city of Arlington maintains the grounds, and they made several improvements including new bleachers, water line repair, and a new roof on the building. Mayor Bobby McGee stated, "We are so glad to see the ballpark being enjoyed by the citizens again. The softball league did everything they said they would, and they did a great job of taking care of the ballpark. We would like to thank the people who were in charge at the ballgames and the horse shows."

Another ongoing project in Arlington is a walking trail that will be

constructed behind Dr. Zetter's office. There was a 5K run that raised over \$2,000.00 that will be used in the construction of the trail.

• The pharmacies in Bardwell and Clinton that are owned by Shawn Boaz have been very successful. He and his business partner, Chris Augustus, work together to help their customers get the right information about their medications, and their prescription plans. "I don't think a lot of people research (Medicaid) enough," Boaz said. He had seen statistics that said only 20% of people have the right plan for them.

Both the Boaz and Augustus families have a strong religious base, and they express their beliefs through their everyday contacts with the public. They also have items for sale at both locations that have a religious theme, such as wall hangings, pictures, and clothing.

• Beards and Roses General Store

in Columbus, Kentucky, has had a successful year since their opening in 2017. They feature homemade foods, and locally made items and supplies for your visit to Columbus-Belmont State Park. Store owner Rob Wallace says, "We are still growing, and we want to support the local community."

"The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• The new Carlisle County Elementary School is up and running. The project was completed a couple of months before the last school year, and the kids actually got to spend some time in their new surroundings at the end of last year. "There are a few glitches here and there, but we have been resolving issues as they happen," said School Superintendent Jay Simmons. "Everything is running smoothly, and we are proud of the new school." Demolition of the old building will begin soon, and a new playground is in the works for the near future.

• Molcajetes, a restaurant that features Mexican food, opened for business in Bardwell in May of 2018. Manager Deybis Verdugo says that they have been very successful since their opening. They have applied for a liquor license to be issued by the state, which should be granted soon.

• The Mexican restaurant in Milburn has been open since November of 2017, and it has become a popular place to eat. Ixtapa Mexican Restau-

rant was welcomed by local folks, since they missed having a restaurant in town after the Milburn Cafe closed.

• Hickman county has a farmer's market that started in the early summer of 2018. It is located at the site of the beautiful new Rotary park at the south end of Clinton on Highway 51. Vendors set up on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

• Arlington Pharmacy in Carlisle county has added a gift section called "Gracie's Home & Gifts." They feature all occasion gifts, including wedding, baby, bath and body, and gifts for individual careers such as nurses, firefighters, etc. The pharmacy will deliver bereavement items to the local funeral homes. They also feature "Simply Southern" gifts and apparel.

• Countryside Health Care in Bardwell celebrated their 25th anniversary on July 20th, 2018, with a fun day for all. They served hamburgers and hot dogs, had a duck race in the pond in front of the facility, had a band, and gave away many door prizes.

• Acee's convenience store opened for business in Clinton, KY, at the first part of 2018, and they have been going strong ever since! They sell fuel, and also offer many food items and an area where you can sit down and have your meal, or even sit outside in good weather. Acee's is located on HWY 51 in Clinton.

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Fulton County High School Principal Ellen Murphy receives top honor

The crowd of supporters who came to cheer on their nominee in the Distinguished Administrator category of the inaugural Regional Educators Awards and Scholarship Program at West Kentucky Community and Technical College March 15 erupted with applause when her name was called as the winner.

Fulton County High School Principal Ellen Murphy, one of five nominees in the Distinguished Administrator category, was touched and honored to receive the ultimate award.

"I'm honored because it's not just about me, and I say that all the time. It's about this group of people that are here tonight supporting me," Murphy said. "My staff - I have an amazing staff. I have an amazing central office staff. We have an amazing area technology center. My Four Rivers foundation and also WKCTC. We work together as a team and that's what it's all about and that's who I accept this award on behalf of tonight. It's about all of us working together for the students of our community."

More than 200 educators, family, friends, and students were on hand to cheer and recognize the 28 nominees in the awards program. Distinguished faculty and staff from throughout the Jackson Purchase were nomi-

nated for awards in four categories: distinguished faculty for grades pre-kindergarten through ve, distinguished faculty for grades six through 12, distinguished administrators, and the Cornelia Reece Unsung Hero Sta Award, named for the wife of WKCTC President Anton Reece.

"Tonight, we honor the educators who go above and beyond their daily responsibilities and play a tremendous role in the shaping of education in our region," said co-emcee Lee Emmons, WKCTC's vice president of institutional advancement. "We honor the vital role all our educators, administrators, staff, and supporters play in education."

The awards and scholarship program was established in August 2017 to recognize pre-kindergarten through high school educators, administrators and staff members who have gone beyond their daily responsibilities.

Featured speaker Dr. Lucian Yates, III, said he was glad he was a not a judge who had to select a winner from the nominees. Using the "Ides of March" as a theme throughout his speech, Dr. Yates praised the work of the educators, administrators, staff and their supporters.



WKCTC President Anton Reece presents award to Fulton County High School Principal Ellen Murphy



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