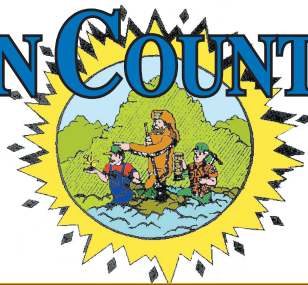


JACKSON COUNTY SUN

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Dale Harrison

Investigation Leads to Multiple Arrests on Drug Related Charges

Jerry Sparks
Co-Editor/Senior Reporter
In collaboration with Sheriff Paul Hays

As a result of many reports from concerned citizens, ten individuals in Jackson County were arrested on illegal drug charges last week. On Thursday October 12, 2017, beginning at 0800 hours, personnel from the Jackson County Sheriff's office, McKee PD and Operation UNITE arrested a total of ten individuals on drug related charges. Jackson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Lynn Goforth completed a six-month investigation that resulted in indictment warrants being issued on nine individuals, primarily in the Sand Gap community. Most charges are the result of illegal sale of Methamphetamine with a few charged with the illegal sale of Suboxone and Percocet.

Sheriff Paul Hays stated, "The vast majority of all criminal activity in Jackson County can be directly or indirectly attributed to illegal drugs. Drug investigations are difficult to develop and are very expensive to investigate. Monetary costs for most cases range from \$150.00 to \$300.00 for purchases of illegal drugs and information. Developing these type cases are difficult, time consuming and highly volatile, but they are absolutely necessary if we are going to reduce thefts, domestic violence, drug related traffic accidents, etc. in Jackson County. Deputy Goforth is to be commended for his efforts in this investigation. (SEE DRUG ARRESTS - A-12)



Samantha Bowman

Bowman Arrested for Arson/Wanton Endangerment

Jerry Sparks
Co-Editor/Senior Reporter

A local woman was arrested on Saturday, October 14th, 2017 for actions that placed her grandmother in serious danger. McKee Police Chief Jonathan Sizemore stated in a uniform citation (#0550100) filed on October 16th, 2017 that Samantha Bowman, 27, of Sand Gap, KY confessed to "using gasoline to set her car on fire." According to the citation the burning car was up against the house which did an estimated \$2,000 worth of damage to the residence. Chief Sizemore reported that Bowman knew her (SEE BOWMAN - A-3)

First in Nation!!! Telemedicine Program for Veterans Opens in Jackson County

Jerry Sparks
Co-Editor/Senior Reporter
In collaboration with Mark Sulfridge

Local veterans, Local, State and Federal officials, along with friends and members of our community gathered at the Jackson County Public Library on Wednesday (October 11th, 2017) to officially launch a program to help local veterans get the care they need in one of the most rural areas of the state.

"Today we want to celebrate that this Virtual Living Room is ready for operation," PRTC Chief Executive Officer Keith Gabbard said, addressing the crowd of about 40 people, which included several veterans.

"The concept is to provide a comfortable living room environment for the veterans so they won't have to drive three hours for care."

The Virtual Living Room program is a pilot project that allows veterans to connect with health care providers at the Lexington Veterans Administration Medical Center. The Jackson County Public Library has agreed to provide a secure/private space at their facility. PRTC will provide its technology infrastructure in support of the VLR project. The PRTC Broadband/High Speed Internet technology Infrastructure will be used to

connect the Department of Veterans Affairs Lexington Kentucky Telehealth Providers to the patients utilizing the VLR at the library. Veterans in Jackson and surrounding counties will use the allocated space and VLR for the sole purpose of conducting Telehealth Visits.

Earlier this year in June officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs Lexington Kentucky VA Medical Center made the trip to the Jackson County Public Library in McKee to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming a partnership between the VA, the Jackson County Public Library and Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative (PRTC). As a result of this partnership, veterans from Jackson County and surrounding (SEE TELEMEDICINE - A-3)



Dignitaries were on hand for the Ribbon Cutting on the Nations First "Virtual Living Room"

Judge Gabbard Addresses All 75 Audit Findings with Fiscal Court

Jerry Sparks
Co-Editor/Senior Reporter

"We are glad to have the audits out so we can address all the concerns," reported Judge Gabbard. Judge Gabbard addressed each of the 75 findings of the most recent audits during the Fiscal Court regular meeting last week. In a press release provided on Tuesday, October 10th, 2017 Mike Harmon, Kentucky's 47th Auditor of Public Accounts, announced that his office's audits of the Jackson County Fiscal Court for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 have a combined 75 findings. The 2015 audit contained 35 findings. The 2016 audit contained 40 findings, including 35 findings repeated from 2015. The auditor determined that the former County Treasurer, Beth Saltee, made numerous overpayments to herself from both county funds and federal grant funds. These overpayments were for a total of \$114,506. Findings concerning overpayments to the county's former treasurer will be referred to the FBI, Kentucky Attorney General, Kentucky State Police, and the Kentucky Department of Revenue. (AUDIT - A-3)



Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Kick Off Banquet

The Chamber of Commerce Kick-Off Banquet Thursday night was an inspiring success! Over 50 people participated in the event representing over 20 businesses in Jackson County. Speakers at the banquet were Deanna Herman, Executive Director of the London-Laurel Chamber of Commerce and Brian Murray, Annville Town and Country, PRTC, Jackson Energy and Jackson County Bank were recognized for initiating this re-birth of the Jackson County Chamber and providing funding for the start-up costs and Kick-Off Banquet. Board Members of the Chamber were introduced: Michael Stidham, President and Executive Director Working Foreman-AMI/Specialty, Jackson Energy, Andrew Chrisman, Secretary/Treasurer Loan Officer, Jackson County Bank

The banquet was organized by Jamie Gaddis, Jackson Energy and made sure everything served as well as the decorations and entertainment were from Jackson County! The Jackson County Cattleman's Association grilled rib-eye steaks and Rebecca Woods, Jackson County Food Kitchen prepared the side dishes and event decorations. Special thanks to Anette Deaton and Jackie David for their hard work in preparation of this meal. (SEE CHAMBER - A-3)



Chamber Board Members Andrew Chrisman, Terry Isaacs and Michael Stidham



THE PEOPLE'S FIBER NETWORK
Your Technology Cooperative

Saturday, October 21st · 1:00 PM
Jackson County Community Theatre

Register for cash prizes and free gifts

Do not miss out on this opportunity. Doors open at 12:00 PM