



Sheriff's Report

Last week the Jackson County Sheriff's Office completed an investigation into illegal drug dealing that resulted in the arrest of ten individuals. Deputy Goforth spent a great deal of time and energy bringing these cases together. I think most people who live near the drug dealers are pleased to know those individuals are being held accountable for their crimes. The dealers have families and friends, however, and they probably are looking for mercy for their family member. Our courts are there to balance justice and mercy for all who come before them. Even with our problems we still have a great system of justice.

It becomes frustrating when one deals with the same problems over and over again. Ninety percent of our time is normally tied up with the same ten percent of people. Most people will never change until something happens in their lives that forces them to wake up. The people who make a real change are usually those who decide to turn their lives over to something much greater and better. I believe Christ is the answer to the problems of this world, but I also know that decision must be made by each of us individually. Churches and people of faith can make a huge difference, but their members have to seek out the people who need Christ in their lives. Most drug addicts don't feel comfortable in a church setting because they know their weaknesses and flaws. It is difficult to believe in anything or anyone who can forgive them when they can not truly forgive themselves. Maybe just a word of kindness can make the difference. Some of the best church members I know are former drug addicts who turned their lives over to Christ. Give them a chance.

Halloween will be here soon. Children will be dressed up in costumes and knocking on doors all over the county. It is a fun time for our children, but it is also a dangerous time. As Halloween draws near, every driver should be more and more alert for young children walking near the roadways. The last thing we want is for someone to be struck by an automobile while they walk down the roads. Be alert and keep our kids safe. Last week the Jackson County Sheriff's Office responded to sixty-two calls for service. We investigated seven traffic accidents and opened four criminal cases. We arrested nine individuals on various criminal charges. Our court security personnel constantly work to keep the courthouse safe and secure. We serve many civil and criminal documents every week. Above all, we try to be courteous and professional in our conduct every day. If we can assist you in any way, call us at 606-287-7121. We are here to help you.

(BOWMAN - FROM FRONT)

Grandmother was not only in the house but in the room that sustained the damage from the fire. Sizemore stated that this action placed her Grandmother in a position to be seriously harmed. Bowman was arrested and taken to the Jackson County Detention Center where she was charged with Arson, 3rd degree, Wanton Endangerment, 2nd degree, and Criminal Mischief, 1st degree. Bowman appeared in District court on Monday, October 16th, 2017 for arraignment before Judge Henria Bailey-Lewis. Bowman pled not guilty to the charges and a preliminary hearing was scheduled for October 23rd, 2017. Bond was set at \$2,500 cash; however, the court also ruled that Bowman was considered a danger to self or others.

(CHAMBER - FROM FRONT)

The food was provided by Annville Town & Country, Triple D Farms, Jackson County Farmers Market, and Jackson County Regional Food Center. Décor was provided by Green Door Plants and Home Pickens Tillery Family Farm. Entertainment by Caleb Gilbert and Dave Bond.

9 new members joined the Chamber Thursday evening bringing the total number of confirmed members to 19. Please visit the Chamber website at jackchamber.org for a complete list of members, community calendar, more information and to join the chamber. An additional 5 or so businesses have verbally committed to joining the Jackson County Chamber.

(TELEMEDICINE - FROM FRONT)

counties will now be able to consult with their doctors without the expense, time-consuming inconvenience or need to arrange for the lengthy drive to Lexington, KY. Veterans will have available to them a Virtual Living Room (VLR) where they can talk privately with their doctors.

"PRTC is excited to be part of this program," Gabbard said. "Veterans are the backbone of this country, and we want to do what we can to help them. We want to make our community a better place. We are honored to be part of a community that made veterans and veteran health care a top priority."

The VLR program is the first of its kind in the country. It was initiated by Gabbard, who partnered with the Lexington Veterans Administration Medical Center, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association and the Jackson County Public Library. "What I see is a better future for our veterans," said Dr. Tuyen Tran of the Lexington VA Medical Center, who attended Wednesday's ribbon-cutting. "If we do this well, we can mimic this model in other places."

Initially, the VLR program will allow vets to speak with mental health care providers, Gabbard said. But it could be used for other doctor visits at some point in the future. The program is expected to be especially helpful for veterans who do not have access to high-speed internet connections in their homes or who lack a private space for one-on-one talks with their health care providers.

"While this pilot project targets veteran health care this approach to medicine is a much broader issue than just veterans and has great potential to benefit everyone. Perhaps one day all of our residents can have access to medical specialists located anywhere in the world as easy as making an afternoon trip to the Jackson County Library. This is a way of the future," said Rep. Marie Rader, R-McKee, addressing Wednesday's crowd. "Let's all get together and make this project work for Jackson County."

Telemedicine programs are not new to the VA system. They were started as a way to increase patient access and reduce long waits for care.

In 2015, the VA conducted 2.1 million telehealth interactions and appointments, which includes more than 400,000 telehealth mental health care visits. As of May 2016, VA telemedicine programs have reduced bed days at the nation's VA hospitals by 56 percent, reduced readmissions by 32 percent, and decreased total psychiatric admissions by 35 percent, according to VA

(AUDIT - FROM FRONT)

In response to finding 2015-007 which stated, "The Former Jackson County Treasurer improperly received 26 additional payroll checks totaling \$46,173 that went undetected by County officials" Judge Gabbard read the courts following response:

"The Fiscal Court was unaware of the extra payroll checks the former Treasurer was issuing herself. Segregation of duties are now in place in order to help prevent fraudulent activity from taking place again. Absolutely no additional checks are being received by any County employee for services not rendered. County liabilities are paid in a timely manner. Payroll and payroll deposits are reviewed by 2 to 3 employees each time." In addition, it was found that the Fiscal Court had commingled

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) funds with the Jackson County General fund and unsupported checks were issued to the former Jackson County Treasurer. Judge Gabbard read the court's response to this finding: "The CSEPP fund has a designated account where receipts and expenditures will come from and will no longer commingle with the Generals Fund." "All CSEPP disbursements will be posted to the appropriations ledger and will have accurate supporting documentation. Proper segregation of duties will also be implemented." "All CSEPP disbursements will be monitored by the Judge Executive and will be posted to the appropriations ledger and will have accurate supporting documentation. Segregation of duties will be implemented." Judge Gabbard stressed that every finding of the auditor was addressed and remedial steps implemented to correct the procedural problems of the office. However, Judge Gabbard stated that the former County Treasurer had manipulated documents and falsely represented them to the other members of the fiscal court and also to the state. Judge Gabbard indicated to the court that the KSP will probably act soon to formally address the charges made in the auditor's report concerning the former County Treasurer.

For a full account of the audit findings and all of the fiscal court's responses please visit the following website: auditor.ky.gov

In addition to addressing the findings of the most recent audits the court also heard a report from the Jackson County Emergency Management. The court read a report detailing the

Secretary David Shulkin.

Gabbard has been working on providing this telemedicine solution for our local veterans for some time now. He attended and spoke at the "White House Convening on Rural Telehealth" summit hosted on March 30th, 2016 by the White House Rural Council. Rural telehealth was the focus of the event and it highlighted the essential role of telehealth in reaching high-need rural families and communities. There was a great deal of brainstorming regarding the possibility of bringing health care and support to those that have served our country but live in remote rural areas where access to care is more of a challenge. In addition, many veterans would not be able to afford the equipment or high-speed internet capacity needed to support telemedicine services. Gabbard was already pursuing avenues to bring telehealth solutions to our community and spoke to the group regarding barriers that faced rural providers. "When we came out of that summit it was important that we had something concrete to show as a result," Gabbard reflected.

After all the brainstorming and after the needs were identified the real work began. Gabbard sought out a community space that might work and held roundtable discussions with the local vets to gauge their interest and willingness to participate in such a program. Subsequently, the VA was invited to make a site visit with representatives from their Information Technology (IT) personnel, their physicians, their mental health specialists, and their administrators. The VA representatives were impressed with the capacity being offered by PRTC and the level of eagerness to participate from the community as well as other community leaders, including the local electric cooperative (Jackson Energy). It took several months to carefully word the MOU to ensure that the interests of all parties were protected (most importantly the veterans seeking medical care). In the meantime, Gabbard secured a \$5,000 Smart Rural Community grant to help prepare the private space and the project got underway.

Jackson County may not have a great deal of industry or job opportunities; however, the community does have pride in our country as demonstrated by a deep respect for our veterans. The county also has dedicated leaders like Keith Gabbard and businesses such as PRTC and Jackson Energy that work hard and take risks to improve the lives of our veterans and all our residents. With their vision, commitment, hard work and ongoing excellence Jackson County is becoming known as a place of pioneers leading the way into a new future for all of rural America.

role that the Jackson County EMS and first responders played in the recent search for the missing 5-year old boy, James Spoonamore. Spoonamore was found deceased in the area of Sparks Ridge Road and Turkey Foot Road on September 11th near the location where responders had found his mother, Jessica Durham two days earlier. Judge Gabbard recognized the dedication and hard work of all the first responders that dealt with the case. Judge Gabbard specifically recognized Aaron Thomas and Thomas Jones for their exceptional dedication and commitment toward finding the young boy.

The court approved a Clerk's Claim Form that allowed the County Clerk to be reimbursed by the state for mailing 7,678 tax bills. Sheriff Paul Hays gave the court the quarterly report from his office showing operational expenses were \$29,848 to the good. The court also reviewed and approved a Data Breach Policy that was required by the state for the Sheriff's Office.

The court reviewed and approved changing the fiscal court contribution to Employees Health Care Plan Participants from \$240 to \$300 per plan. The court approved the appointment of Rhonda Thompson to the County Library Board replacing Jerry Bowling after he resigned. The court also approved the appointment of Katherine Golden as Secretary of the Tourism Board for a 3-year term replacing Donna Bowling after she resigned.

The next fiscal court meeting was scheduled for November 16th, 2017 at 1:00 pm.

Thank you for
Reading
The Jackson County Sun!!!



Trick or Treat
for
Jackson County
will be
Tuesday, October 31st
from - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Homecoming

Sand Gap United Baptist Church
October 22nd at 10:45
Pastor Wayne Cunagin
and congregation invite
everyone to enjoy good preaching,
good food and warm fellowship

Public Notice

The Jackson County Fiscal Court will be having a special meeting of the Fiscal Court on Thursday October 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss one agenda item concerning blacktop resurfacing on various County Roads. The meeting will be held in the upstairs courtroom at the old Courthouse. The agenda will be as follows:

1. Call the Meeting to Order.
2. 2017 Flex Funds Resolution and Agree-

The Board of Directors of Kentucky Mountain Housing Dev. Corp., Inc. (KMHDC) will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, October 19th at 1:00 pm. at their office, located at 3258 S Hwy 421, McKee, KY. Kentucky Mountain Housing is an

Jackson County Newsgroup, Inc. d/b/a

THE JACKSON COUNTY SUN

Prize-winning member
Kentucky Press

Glenn Gray
Publisher
Tammy Spurlock
General Manager

Staff (JCSun14@gmail.com)

Jerry SparksCo-Editor/Senior Reporter (j.sparks@gmail.com)
Carmen Abner.....Co-Editor/Interim General Manager

Subscriptions \$24 in-county, \$34 Elsewhere
The Jackson County Sun,
P.O. Box 130, McKee, KY 40447
McKee, KY 40447

Periodicals Postage Paid at McKee, KY and at additional mailing offices USPS permit #271940. All rights reserved including the right to edit or reject any submitted articles, letters photos or advertisements. Classified ads must be received by 4 p.m. Monday. All display ads and editorial material must be received by noon Tuesday. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Jackson County Sun, P.O. Box 130, McKee, KY 40447