



BRIEFS | From A2

MARTIN COUNTY — The Martin County Public Library was awarded a Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Website Development grant on Monday, Jan. 6. This will enable the library to obtain and use resources available to community members.

REGIONAL — The SpayUSA stray and feral cat grant deadline to apply is Saturday, Feb. 15.

SpayUSa offers funding throughout the US and is open to individuals only, this is not a grant for animal shelters or other rescue operations.

If you live in Lawrence County, contact Tri-County Animal Clinic (Tiffany Mosley) for details about prices and scheduling for TNR cats.

Apply at <https://www.animalleague.org>.

FLOYD COUNTY — Special Judge Eddy Coleman rescheduled the hearing for three men who have been charged in connection to the murder of Amber Spradlin of Prestonsburg. The hearing date is now to be held on Thursday, March 13. No reason given for the postponement. MK McKinney, Dr. Michael McKinney and Josh Mullins have been charged in the case.

CRUM, WV — According to a Norfolk Southern spokesperson, 18 cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed around 10 p.m., Friday, Jan. 31, in the Webb Road area, of Wayne County, due to a sudden rockslide. No injuries reported, no leaks and no danger to the public at any time. The engine was not involved in the derailment.

Officials investigated the rockslide that caused the accident, assessing potential risks and to determine necessary repairs.

SAMMONS | From A1

Renaissance man. He could do anything and would help anyone, as he helped me and family so many times! He loved his family, Kristy and the girls, and they were the subject of countless conversations when it was just me and him.”

LC Superintendent Katie Webb prepared a statement saying it was with profound sadness that she had to share the news of the passing one of the school districts own.

“This heartbreaking news weighs heavily on us all,” stated Webb. “We extend our heartfelt condolences to Ryan’s family. Please remember that we support our students and staff during this challenging time. Our guidance counselors will be available to offer grief counseling to those struggling with the loss. Let us keep the Sammons family in our thoughts and prayers as they face these difficult days to come. Once again, together as a strong community, we will support one another through this very difficult time.

LC High School Principal Wrendi McDavid also paid tribute to Sammons as she shared her thoughts.

“To say this man was loved and respected by everyone that knew him is an understatement. His positivity and humor was unmatched! He was an incredible role model to those around him. I hope we all can spread happiness and kindness as he did day in and day out. Please pray for his precious family, our staff, and our students in the days to come,” stated McDavid.

There will be no school in Lawrence County on Wednesday, according to a release from the school system: “In honor of our beloved teacher, bus driver, and coach, Ryan Sammons, and out of respect for his family and loved ones, there will be no school on Wednesday, Feb. 5. A significant number of our staff and students will be attending the funeral services and the absence of staff poses safety and operational challenges. We appreciate your understanding during this difficult time.”

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5, at First Baptist Church of Louisa. Burial will follow in the Greenlawn Cemetery-East, Louisa. Services under direction of Wilson Funeral Home, Louisa.

In lieu of flowers, a fund through First State Bank of Louisa has been opened for his daughters named the Jenna and Lauren Sammons Scholarship Fund.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR MEDICARE PART B

By [LEDUSTA ABNER](#)

If you did not apply for Medicare Part B (medical insurance) within 3 months before or after turning age 65, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period. The period runs from January 1 to March 31, every year.

If you didn’t enroll in Part B when you’re first eligible, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B coverage. Your monthly premium will increase 10% for each 12-month period that you were eligible for Part B but did not sign up for it. Your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

To learn more about Medicare, please visit our Medicare Benefits page at www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare.

You may also read our Medicare publication at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.

LeDusta Abner is the District Manager at the Ashland Social Security Office. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Ashland office toll free at 866-269-3993.

NOTE FROM KENTUCKY GOV. BESHEAR.....

Last week, business, government and academic leaders from 125 countries traveled to Davos, Switzerland, for the annual World Economic Forum. And this year, Kentucky was there too.

I was proud to receive the invitation because to me, it signified what would soon be confirmed: The world is seeing the historic progress we’re making in Kentucky, and they want to invest in us.

So, we seized this incredible opportunity and accepted the invitation to reintroduce our New Kentucky Home to employers and CEO’s from across the globe.

Despite being new to the event, we had one of the busiest schedules. In two and a half days, we had 25 meetings with company executives. Ten were with foreign owned companies that already employ over 8,750 Kentuckians. The other meetings were with potential investors from multiple continents that have announced plans to invest in the United States. From L’Oreal to Sun-tory, DHL, Schneider Electric, Henkel, Pinterest and more, the lineup was full, and the meetings were promising.

In between making these pitches, I attended multiple events. At each one, I’d interact with top executives as well as presidents and prime ministers. No matter the meeting or event, at the heart of each discussion was Kentucky, our workforce and our bright future. And everyone with an operation in our commonwealth sung our praises and talked about 2024 being one of their best years ever.

That topic was also on display during the five panels I

joined. While I spoke on supply chains and manufacturing, the future of our workforce, the future of EVs and more, folks wanted to know Kentucky’s take on global economic issues.

We took the stage with leaders like Jim Rowan, CEO of Volvo Cars, Randi Weingarten of the American Federation of Teachers, and Olivier Blum, CEO of our very own Schneider Electric, who praised our partnership and what we’ve achieved together.

We held our own among these experts and showed our strength as not just a national leader – but a global one. My final panel was with fellow Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders of Arkansas, where we showed that in Kentucky, we find common ground and use common sense for the greater good of our people and our future.

In less than 72 hours, we met with leaders from multiple countries spanning five continents. That would have taken us years to accomplish under normal circumstances.

And that’s important, because foreign investment is essential to our overall economic success. Kentucky currently has 540 foreign-owned facilities that employ over 116,000 Kentuckians. Creating new jobs for our people is always my priority, and I intend to build on the historic success we’ve celebrated these past five years. We’ve already announced \$35 billion in private sector investment – the largest investment amount, by far, under any Kentucky Governor – creating a record-breaking 59,800 new, good, full-time jobs for our people.

Through opportunities



like the World Economic Forum, we have the chance to grow these numbers at a faster rate than ever before.

And that’s why we didn’t waste a single minute on the ground in Davos. Every meeting slot was booked. And while a number of folks joked about us not slowing down, our response was always, “This is what we do in Kentucky – we work hard and get the job done.”

As I walked away from this incredible opportunity, the one thing I wanted to make sure to bring back home is the pride I felt entering each room. Leaders from companies whose names are familiar world-wide knew about us, about Kentucky. They knew about the success we’ve achieved, and most importantly, they knew that we achieved it by working together.

Our New Kentucky Home was on the world stage. And I feel more confident than ever before that the next few years hold more promise than we could have imagined. Together, we’re going to keep moving forward and building a brighter future for your kids and mine.

We’ve got a lot to be proud of, Kentucky. And we’re going to make sure our New Kentucky Home continues to be the best place to live, work, invest and thrive.

Gov. Andy Beshear

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING PLANNED FOR DELTA NATURAL GAS COMPANY CASE NUMBER 2024-00346

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Public Service Commission will provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments regarding Delta Natural Gas Company’s application to adjust its tariffed rates by \$10,909,513 to recover capital investments that Delta says are necessary to continue to provide safe and reliable natural gas service to its customers. The proposal would result in an approximate 19.02% increase in Delta’s revenue. For the average residential customer, this will equate to an increase of \$15.75 per month or 22.18% in their average monthly bill. Additionally, the public will have an opportunity to receive information on the process for the case and additional public comment opportunities.

The PSC will hold a public comment hearing on Tuesday, March 11, at 5 p.m., Eastern Day-

light time at the Clay County Fiscal Court Room at 102 Richmond Road #20, Manchester. The purpose of the meeting is to have a local

opportunity for public comment. A recording of the hearing will be uploaded at a later date on the Commission’s website.

Comments can be submitted at any time at <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/SearchCasesPublicComments>, emailed to PSC.comment@ky.gov, or mailed to 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40602-0615. All comments should include the commenter’s name, address, and the case number.

The complete application, a description of the review process, mitigation measures and conditions, public comments, and other case filings are available at <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/ViewCaseFilings/2024-00346>.

STATE RELEASES COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT DATA FOR DECEMBER 2024

FRANKFORT — Unemployment rates rose in all 120 counties between December 2023 and December 2024, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

Martin County recorded the state’s highest unemployment rate at 12.4%. It was followed by Magoffin County, 11%; Elliott and Lewis counties, 10.4% each; and Johnson and Knott counties, 8.1% each.

Kentucky’s county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 5.1% for Decem-

ber 2024, and 3.8% for the nation.

The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from November to December 2024. This increase is due to more workers entering the labor force and searching for a job rather than fewer workers being employed. On a seasonally adjusted basis, both the number of people in the labor force and the number of people employed in Kentucky increased in December 2024.

Unemployment statistics are based on estimates and are compiled to measure trends rather than actually to count people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The data should only be compared to the same month in previous years.

