

‘ED RALEIGH ‘ From Front

and the Central Intelligence Agency.

While stationed at Washington, D.C., he met Anna Rose McClung. The two were married and moved to Richmond, where Raleigh completed his Rank 1. Raleigh was hired to teach in the Breathitt County School System and worked for thirty-two years before retiring. He also worked for Lees College.

Raleigh is also remembered for his long career as a member of the Kentucky National Guard. Raleigh served the state as a member of a guard unit for 34 years until his retirement at the rank of Colonel. He commanded the local unit from 1961 to 1971.

He was honored in 1987 with the prestigious Kentucky National Guard’s Legion of Merit Award for his service to the Guard. He was cited for his “exceptional meritorious service” as a Second Army Director, service in the Area II Selective Service Headquarters, and his efforts to train local selective service boards.

“No man is more dedicated to the National Guard than my good friend, Ed Raleigh,” Major Billy G. Wellman said in 1986. “We owe him a debt of gratitude for his long and faithful service.” Wellman called Raleigh “Mr. National Guard in Breathitt County.”

He served many years as an elder in the Presbyterian Church and had perfect attendance for over 25 years at Jackson Kiwanis Club meetings. He was also a former President of the Breathitt County Jaycees and helped establish the Kiwanis Park. Raleigh also served one term on the Jackson City Council.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, June 18, and he will be buried in the Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville.

Raleigh left his wife, three children, many other relatives, and a community behind to mourn his passing.

‘RALLY ‘ From Front

One protester said they were disappointed by the low turnout in Jackson but appreciated the opportunity to express their dislike for the “current state of events in the county.” Another posted on her Facebook page, “The ‘No King’ protest in Jackson yesterday was small, but I was proud to be part of it.”

On June 12, Governor Andy Beshear activated the emergency operations center as a precaution ahead of any issue that may arise related to the protests. He told reporters on Thursday that state and local law enforcement would monitor the events to “ensure that every Kentuckian has the opportunity to express themselves safely and without violence and the destruction of property.”

While fewer than twenty-five protesters crossed the street to join the event, a larger crowd of observers and sightseers gathered in the back parking lot of the Breathitt County Judicial Center to watch from a distance. Several vehicles drove through the area during the event, some with pro-Trump signs and flying flags.

A pro-Trump supporter who watched from across the street shook his head when asked about the event. “I do not agree with them at all, but I understand and support that this is their right to protest,” he said. “I support the Constitution and their right to say what they want, even if I think it is wrong. That’s what America is about.”

A heavy law enforcement presence from the Breathitt County Sheriff’s Office and the Jackson City Police Department ensured safety for all during the protest organized by the Breathitt County Young Democrats.

No issues were reported at the Jackson event.

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‘COUNCIL ‘ From Front



A view of the proposed sidewalk to be repaired.

and the County that he would be careful about the rates the city set and the tax burden that would result. Noble said the people of Jackson “living here don’t need to have to pay extra for what the government has bought out.”

The Council discussed the three percent increase in the water bills that will automatically take effect on July 1. Mayor Thomas addressed the process for calculating the city’s water and sewer budget. “The public needs to know that these two particular departments, water and sewer, run in a deficit,” Councilman Noble said. “The city has been able to compensate and meet those payments for them.” He said that the only way to cover that is to raise rates, “And we don’t want to do that.”

Council members questioned the estimated \$17,000 in delinquent taxes the city expects to collect in the coming year. The Council discussed the tax collection process and the possibility of selling the tax bill for the town.

The Council also looked at the estimated reduction of a fourth of the occupational tax traditionally collected by the city due to the loss of jobs and unemployment. “We would not lose that if we could get more people working,” Mayor Thomas said. “We have based these numbers on our past performance and what we think this year will bring to us.”

The Council also discussed the street budget, the needs of city employees, the sewer department, the general government budget, and many other issues. Mayor Thomas said that they had budgeted a general five percent increase for most line items and a nine percent increase for health insurance in addition to the rise in utility costs and retirement fees.

“These numbers, we have worked and worked on. I feel comfortable about all of these numbers,” Mayor Thomas said. “I feel good about how we calculated the revenue and the needs of the departments,” she said.

The first reading was approved and is slated for another review at the regular meeting late this week.

The Council also discussed the proposed \$568,000 Washington Avenue Sidewalk project to be completed with a federal grant. “That’s a lot of money,” Mayor Thomas said as she described the plan to build a new sidewalk from Main Street up Washington Avenue to Jackson City School.

Council members questioned the cost and scope of the project, especially the city’s match of \$129,000, of which \$54,000 had been approved and will be paid to the city by the Kentucky General Assembly.

“We’re talking about half a million dollars for a sidewalk from the foot of the hill to City School,” Noble said with surprise. “Half a million dollars.” He and other members question what the new sidewalk will look like and where it will be constructed. Mayor Thomas noted that the engineering work had not been completed. “I need to know,” Noble said. “If we’re going to spend that kind of money, I need to know.”

“I get it,” Mayor Thomas told the Council. “That’s a lot of money.”

“For half a million dollars,” Noble said. “We can do better.”

Councilperson Renee Haddix moved that the proposed resolution be tabled until the regular meeting on June 19. The motion was seconded and approved.

The council also discussed the 2025 Municipal Road Aid funds received from the state. The public hearing, which was advertised and occurred before the budget work session, was required by law. No city residents attended the public hearing, and Mayor Thomas discussed her priority list, which included plans to pave Collier Avenue, Elm Street, Lincoln Avenue, and Pine Hill Drive.

Thomas told the Council that she had asked for input from the street department, the police, the fire department, and other city agencies to identify the “most damaged” city streets. The mayor indicated that the quoted costs for those four streets were \$175,700, based on a year-old estimate from Hinkle. The Council took no action and did not change the priorities established by Thomas.

Four council members, Kenneth Patrick, Renee Haddix, Tommy Noble, and Steve McIntosh, were present for the discussion and special session. Debbie Miller and Jason Hall were absent.

‘HAYLEY’ From Front

the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department for Community Based Services as a Child Protective Services Social Worker (CPS Social Worker).

Friends, relatives, and co-workers posted numerous tributes to Davidson, citing her devotion to their clients and family, her love for her three children, and her infectious smile.

Governor Andy Beshear joined those paying tribute to Davidson in a Facebook post. Beshear wrote, “I was so sad to learn the news of Hayley Davidson, a social worker for the state, whose life was taken too soon by a senseless act in Lee County. Please join Britainy, me, and all of Team Kentucky in praying for her family and loved ones during this unimaginable time.”

Beshear announced that the state would provide crisis support to Davidson’s team members, who are mourning her loss.

As the investigation continues, officials ask anyone with information about this incident to call Post 7 in Richmond at (859) 623-4710.

No memorial services or burial details were announced at press time.

‘KRMC’ from front

about \$8 billion. The American Hospital Association has asked Congress to eliminate the planned reductions.

The bipartisan warning letter has already received 182 signatures of support, primarily from Democratic members.

The bill would modify the formula used to calculate the amount that Medicare and Medicaid will pay for treatment if the patient is covered by both.

Neither KRMC’s ownership nor its administrators have commented on the bill and its impact on medical services in Breathitt County.

A total of thirty-five Kentucky hospitals were included on the list of 388 medical facilities nationwide.

Governor Andy Beshear discussed the proposed cut in his weekly Team Kentucky press conferences. He said the “cuts would be devastating, and they will cost Kentucky and Americans their lives, and Congress shouldn’t do it.”

Beshear said that the passage of the legislation would mean 16 million people in Kentucky would lose healthcare. He estimated that 50% of Kentucky kids are on Medicaid and could be impacted.

“Health care is a basic human right,” the governor said.

On the other side of the aisle, the bill’s authors tout its savings for the federal government. The Congressional Budget Office projects that the bill’s passage would save \$800 billion in Medicare and Medicaid spending in the next ten years.

While the bill would greatly impact the local hospital, area officials do not believe it would force the medical facility to close.

“We have a great hospital and the need is there,” a Jackson doctor said. “I do not believe that the bill would close the medical center, but it would significantly increase the challenges that we face in providing the best healthcare for people in several counties in the Kentucky River area.”

The debate on the bill continues, and a date for a final vote has been set in Washington.

Panbowl Full Gospel


Church youth will be having car wash and bake sale

Saturday July 5th from 10-3 at the Dollar General Market. All proceeds will help fund trip to creations museum. Come let them feed you while they wash you vehicle.


Then & Now... A look back at Jackson’s history and how it looks today.

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The former Rite Aid of Jackson sign as seen on June 11, 2024



The former Rite Aid was replaced by a DG Market, as seen here June 18, 2025




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