

First United CEO Hawkins is named KBA’s chairman

STAFF REPORT
Jason Hawkins, president and CEO of First United Bank, has become chairman of the Kentucky Bankers Association. His term began at the close of the association’s annual convention Sept. 21 in Washington, D.C.
Hawkins has more than 30 years of banking experience and has been part of First United’s management team since 2005. He previously served as the bank’s chief financial officer, investment officer and trust officer. He holds a bachelor’s degree in finance from Murray State University

and a master’s degree in business administration.
Before becoming chairman, Hawkins served as the association’s treasurer and vice chairman. As chairman, he will represent Kentucky financial institutions and lead the association’s advocacy and industry promotion efforts.
“I am honored to serve as chairman of the Kentucky Bankers Association and grateful for the opportunity to represent our industry,” Hawkins said. “I look forward to working alongside my fellow bankers to strengthen our industry and better serve the

people and businesses across the commonwealth.”
Hawkins serves on the boards of Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville, the Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corp. and the Salvation Army. He is also a member of Madisonville Noon Kiwanis and finance chairman at Southside Baptist Church.
Founded in 1996, First United Bank has \$583 million in assets and operates seven banking centers in Hopkins, Ohio, Daviess and Crittenden counties.



Hawkins

Hold your nose, fall isn’t through with it

Achoo. If you are an allergy sufferer ... (achoo), then you have no doubt noticed how much ... (achoo) ... pollen is in the air these days ... achoo.
Ragweed pollen is everywhere in western Kentucky ... literally. As I type out these lines on the last Saturday of September, a quick check of my Weather Channel app tells me that the ragweed pollen count is in the “moderate” range both today and tomorrow, reaching the “high” category on Wednesday, Sept. 30. This is not the news you want to hear if you are suffering from these seasonal allergies like my wife is. Simply put, all of this pollen mess has sucked the life right out of her. In fact, last night was the first night this week that she slept in bed all night rather than having to move to the living room couch so she could sleep sitting up. Sadly, she has some health issues that prevent her from taking the decongestants that are so helpful for many allergy sufferers.
Personally, I find a great deal of relief from the 12-hour Sudafed this time of year. In fact, my allergies seem to be much worse in the spring and early summer with the pollen from trees and grasses. While I have the occasional allergy attack this time of year ... (achoo), my fall allergy problems pale in comparison to my wife’s severe allergy issues due to the despicable ragweed. In case you missed it, fall officially arrived this past Tuesday, Sept. 22.
I’m not sure that it will make you feel any better, but according to my online research, there are some 17 species of ragweed (genus Ambrosia) in the U.S., with three of these being very common in western Kentucky. There is what we call “common ragweed” (Ambrosia artemisiifolia), with plants 1 to 4 feet tall. Then there is “giant ragweed” (Ambrosia trifida), which grows to a whopping 6 to 15 feet tall. The lesser-known of the three main Kentucky species is “lance-leaf ragweed” (Ambrosia bidentata), which reaches a height of 3 to 4 feet; it is very common in many pastures. Believe me when I say that these three species of ragweed are sufficient to fill the air with copious amounts of the dreaded ragweed pollen



Chris CLARKE
Press Columnist
Happy Trails

this time of year.
But alas, there is some really good news to pass along. For many years, I was told that my fall allergies were due to both ragweed and goldenrod. While it is true that the brilliantly colored goldenrod flowers are loaded with pollen, this is a totally different type of pollen, one that is highly unlikely to cause you any consternation.
Unlike airborne ragweed pollen, the goldenrod pollen from its bright yellow bloom clusters is rather sticky and much heavier. It relies on pollinators, such as bees, butterflies and wasps, to transfer the pollen. As a result, goldenrod pollen is not capable of catching a ride on a puff of wind in order to find your nose and give you a bad day. Now that is something to celebrate and get excited about. Just in case you are interested, Kentucky is home to some 33 species of goldenrod. One of these, “giant goldenrod” (Solidago gigantea), is actually the state flower of Kentucky, a title it has held since 1926.
This brings up another question: Are ragweeds and goldenrods “weeds” or “flow-ers”? It seems that both are considered to be “flowering plants,” with ragweed being a true weed, while the beautiful goldenrod is referred to as a “native wildflower.” I don’t know about you, but I’m so glad to learn that the beloved goldenrod is not a weed, nor is it responsible for my fall allergies.
Interestingly, my daily devotional this morning was from 2 Corinthians 12, as the Apostle Paul tells his readers about his “thorn in the flesh,” referring to it as a “messenger of Satan to torment me.” Lots of folks way smarter than me have debated unsuccessfully the identity of this “thorn.” The bottom line is that it is not important that we know what the thorn was; if it were important, we would have been told. What is of utmost importance is that when Paul asked Jesus to take it away, Jesus declined. His response to Paul was this: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
We will never know on this side of heaven, but I wonder if Paul’s thorn in the flesh could have been related to something as simple as seasonal allergies? Whatever your “thorn in the flesh,” know that Jesus will give you the strength to endure it ... for his glory. His grace is always sufficient.

Happy trails.

Williams, Swanson square off again in Livingston County judge-ex race

STAFF REPORT
Livingston Countians will have a number of contested races to decide when they head to the polls for the Nov. 3 General Election, while many county offices will be filled without opposition following the spring primaries.
The county’s marquee partisan race for county judge/executive will pit Democrat Teris Swanson against Republican incumbent Michael Williams. Swanson had been appointed to fill part of an unexpired term Garrett Gruber resigned as county judge in Jan. 2024. Swanson and Williams squared off in a special election later that year and Williams won the seat. Now, the two will face off in the this year’s general election once again.
In another contest, Democrat Chuck Walker will face Republican Mark Long for Magistrate District 2 in Grand Rivers, while Democrat Terry Teitloff will oppose Republican Zack Champion for Magistrate

District 4 in Smithland.
Several Republican nominees advanced without Democratic opposition, including incumbent Allen Wilson for county attorney, incumbent Sonya Williams for county clerk, incumbent Jeff Armstrong for coroner, incumbent Benji Guill for jailer, incumbent Bill Lipham for Magistrate District 1, incumbent Brad Hunter for Magistrate District 3, incumbent Elisha Harp for property valuation administrator and Glenn Gordon for sheriff. Republican Richard Nestle is running as a write-in candidate for Constable District 2, while Gary Ivy is the GOP nominee for Constable District 3. No Democratic candidates filed for those offices.
Non-partisan races will also be decided in November. The only contested mayoral race is in Grand Rivers, where Brian T. Moodie and Addyson R. Sledd will square off. Deana Gerding is unopposed for mayor of Carrsville, Gary Dam-

ron is unopposed for mayor of Salem and Bill Hesser is unopposed for mayor of Smithland.
Voters in Grand Rivers will choose from eight candidates for city council: Tom Loyd, Betty Hinrichs, Jeff Hardin, Michael O’Leary, Wanda Evans, Tammy Davis, John Blackburn and Don Lowery. Salem voters will elect commissioners from Brandon Deboe, Darryl Chittenden, Tiffany Newcomb and Craig Dossett, while Smithland voters will choose among Kayla Curry, Glenda J. Gentry, Terry Cobb and Anna Taylor for city commission seats.
School board races feature Christine Thompson for District 1 and Terry Watson for District 5, while three candidates – T.L. Maddux Jr., David C. Foster and Bobby G. Williams – are seeking seats on the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District Board.
The General Election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3.

STARKEY

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other months we’ll get five or six,” Starkey noted. She added that while it is a small community, Shady Grove gets a lot of through traffic as people travel to neighboring Providence, Princeton and Marion.
Readiness is one of Starkey’s key goals as the leader of the Shady Grove volunteers. She wants the department to continue to be ready for any need by training together, updating its equipment and investing in new technology. Another focal point for her is recruiting new people. “We are up two members from the past few years,” Starkey explained. However, one is currently on leave while attending college, and another will be shipping off to basic training. The need for new members is always there.

GRANT

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Hurley added.
Hurley also noted that this new equipment is coming at a good time. “A lot of our current air packs are aging out, or surpassing their life expectancy,” he explained. The carbon fiber bottles they currently use only have a shelf life of about 15 years. “Marion’s have aged out, and Crittenden County’s are about two thirds of the way through,” Hurley noted. The equipment will ensure firefighters are going into dangerous situations fully protected. The new packs will also have around a 15-year shelf life, Hurley added.
“It is a really big help,” Hurley explained of the new equipment.
In a public statement on Facebook, Salem Fire and Rescue wrote, “This grant has been a labor of love as it’s not as simple as just asking for the money. It has entailed countless hours of gathering data for all departments as well as working hand-in-hand with the grant writers to make this happen. This is the third time in the past few years that this grant has been applied for, and this year the persistence paid off! Again, we would like to thank all the residents of our district for the faith and trust you put in us every day!”

ZONE

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prise of its kind in the United States. Rising fuel and tariff costs make domestic production more attractive to buyers, he pointed out.
The site has been designed to morph into an automotive repair or tire shop because Martin believes the blasting mat operation will likely outgrow the site in town and need to move to a larger space.
The blasting mat company will initially employ up to 14 people, Martin said. The mats can be used to prevent flyrock and debris at blasting zones,

reduce dust and noise, and protect nearby infrastructure. They can weigh thousands of pounds and are held together by wire cables, Martin said.
The commission had some questions about tractor-trailer traffic at what is the town’s busiest intersection. Martin said traffic congestion for the planned operation would be less than for an automotive shop like the one that formerly operated across the street. The commission unanimously approved the request and there were no formal complaints by neighboring property owners or the public.

ECLIPSE

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he spoke to Airport Board President Jim Johnson at the Marion airport, he found information that appealed to him.
Visitors from all over the world – 116,000 visitors, to be exact – came to western Kentucky to view this historic event. They came in cars and campers, and some, like Dan, flew in.
Dan recently discussed his eclipse experience and his resulting relocation to Marion. When he and his wife came to Marion, they liked the people and they also liked the area. Being ready to leave Illinois, they decided to move here.
They purchased a lot in December 2017 and began the process of building a new home. They made the move to

Marion and rented a house while they waited for theirs to be completed. It was finished in October 2018, and they happily settled in.
Both Dan and Annie quickly became involved in St. William Catholic Church and in other community activities. Dan became quite active with the airport and soon started a new chapter of EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association). One does not have to be a pilot to belong to this group; according to Dan, one only needs to have an interest in aviation. This organization has divisions focusing on homebuilt airplanes, ultralights, light sport, warbirds, vintage aircraft and aerobatics. Although the EAA chapter is no longer active, Dan does serve as secretary on the airport board of directors.
They had no problem

adjusting to the rural lifestyle. Dan said that in the late 1970s they lived on a 320-acre farm in Wisconsin, about five miles from a small town, so they were familiar with the limitations of small-town life.
They found the people here welcoming and friendly. One thing surprised him. Nearly everyone here it sometimes seems is a minister (which isn’t all bad). He laughingly added that where he comes from, people typically only pray when the Powerball jackpot gets big.
He would recommend this area to anyone who is financially secure, retired or self-employed. He added that it helps if anyone moving here enjoys venison.
It is a shame, he adds, that the town no longer holds events such as the old Frontier

Days or Pumpkin Festival. Those were fun times and gave people a

chance to get together and enjoy their town, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Crittenden County’s automatic tabulating equipment for use in the primary election will be inspected by Crittenden County Board of Elections beginning at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13 in the Office of Crittenden County Clerk, 200 Industrial Dr., Marion. This is done each year prior to votes being tabulated by the scanning of marked ballots.

This notice given pursuant to Kentucky statutes

GoVote.ky.gov

To register to vote or update your registration name and/or address by Oct. 5.



Real Estate LISTINGS

HOMES

2 BR, 1 bath - 118 E Elm St - **\$84,900**

3 BR, 2 Bath - 763 Lola Rd - **\$274,900**

3 BR, 1 Bath - 599 Levias Rd - **\$249,000**

4 BR, 2 Bath - 331 Lily Dale Rd - **\$244,000**

3 BR, 3 Bath - 121 E Cruce Ln - **\$289,900**

3 BR, 1 Bath - 104 Eagle Eye Ln - **\$144,900**

5 BR, 3 Bath on 8 AC
4025 Aunt Jane Tabernacle Rd - **\$319,000**

3 Bed, 2 Bath- 763 Lola Rd, Salem Ky
\$224,900

ACREAGE

95 AC Zion Cemetery Rd **\$435,900**

5 AC Zion Cemetery Rd **\$29,000**

6 AC 826 Lonestar Rd **\$69,000**

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