THE ELLIOTT COUNTY NEWS

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Way Back When: Frostbite

By Jo Ann Butts

Way back when I was a very young little girl growing up in the 1950s here in Elliott County ... Though I was born up Coal Branch holler, we lived up on Sandy at the foot of Fannin Hill when I started first grade in Sandy Hook.

My life sure was rough. That's the age where I could remember all the stuff going on in life, and all the turmoil. The year I turned six years old was not a very good year for us living over there.

My dad did a lot of violent drinking – so for us kids and Mom, that was definitely not a good thing.

I know my dad was a sergeant in World War II. He saw action and horrible things, but so did Mommy and us little kids. Alcoholism is no joke.

But that's not the story for this week.

With the current temperatures getting much colder, leaves falling, freeze warnings and snow in the ultimate forecast, it triggered a memory of long ago – at a time in my life, when I myself was very, very cold.

It was the coldest I had ever been in my entire life.

In 1956, I started first grade. I was six years old. My mom had four children now, and an alcoholic husband.

My baby brother was born in September, not long after school started. We lived on a hillside and caught the bus down at the main road by our house.

It was winter time now, we had a late start and missed the bus. The bus driver wouldn't wait if he didn't see us there. If we were quick enough, we could run and catch it when it came back past the Y. And we did that a time or two.

But this time it had snowed and was so cold. My brother and I did not make the bus.

Plus we weren't dressed very warm, either. To tell the truth we did not have anything warm enough to walk that distance in the cold.

Kids nowadays are so blessed with lots of warm stuff given out to needy families. There was none of that when I was a little girl.

No, back in the 1950's lots of rural families struggled just to have the mere basic needs. There weren't any massive clothing yard sales or clothing giveaways for people in need back when I was little.

I'm so very happy that they do have those things now, and I donate to those organizations and Goodwill too.

But on this cold wintry day, I walked as fast as I could trying to keep up with my older brother. There was snow on the main road where we lived, but back then that didn't matter. There weren't any snow days much that I remember.

My older brother could have run and caught the bus, but I couldn't. I was too cold, and he wouldn't leave me.

When we finally made it back the mile to the house, my hands were frostbit. I was in big trouble.

Mommy put my hands in the wash pan and poured warm water over my hands, but it felt like she poured scalding hot water on them. I remember crying and screaming. It was horrible.

Mommy worked and rubbed my hands while I cried. She finally got them warmed up.

Life was rough for me and a lot of kids back in my young days. Though it's been 70 years since that experience, my hands still have a tendency to get cold quick.

I'm so blessed to have had a good mother and the help of God, family and friends in the time of way back when.

Jo Ann Butts
606-738-9839

Birthdays

Happy Birthday

- Betty J. Mauk, Nov. 22.
- Jack Smith, Nov. 23.
- Judy Skaggs, Nov. 24.
- Jamie Sturgill, Nov. 25.
- Katie Kennard, Nov. 25.
- Faye Wright Jarrells, Nov. 25.
- Kristen Mason, Nov. 25.
- Clark Gray, Nov. 25.
- Kimberly Sloas Branham, Nov. 25.
- Wendell Lewis, Nov. 25.

Birthday Remembrance

- Faye Whitley, Nov. 19.

Subscribe Today!!!

Ky. Power files plans to deliver customer savings and advance state's economic future

PSC filings seek approval for new generation, transmission infrastructure to support growth while delivering benefits for existing customers

ASHLAND, Kentucky – Nov. 13, 2026 – Kentucky Power today filed plans with the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) to bring significant new economic development to eastern Kentucky while delivering direct financial benefits to existing customers and protecting them from the costs of serving new large-load customers.

The filings would support TeraWulf's planned Muskie Data Campus in Grayson, Kentucky, and the infrastructure needed to serve it. Over the life of the agreement, the project is expected to provide Kentucky Power customers with more than $500 million in fixed-cost rate offsets and $100 million in winter bill credits for residential customers.

"Our commitment to eastern Kentucky goes beyond providing reliable electricity. We've served these communities for generations, and we want our customers and communities to share directly in the benefits when new investment comes to the region," said Cindy Wiseman, president and chief operating officer of Kentucky Power. "Eastern Kentucky has a tremendous opportunity ahead, and thoughtful growth can strengthen our electric system, support good jobs and attract new investment."

Supporting Eastern Ky.'s Economic Growth

Kentucky Power announced its amended agreement with TeraWulf in October, and today's filings mark the next step in seeking the regulatory approvals needed to move the project forward.

TeraWulf's planned Muskie Data Campus is expected to support up to 1 gigawatt of contracted electric demand in phases by 2029, subject to regulatory approval and construction schedules.

To reliably serve that demand, Kentucky Power is seeking approval to construct a new 760-MW combined-cycle natural gas facility next to its Big Sandy natural gas generating unit in Louisa and a new transmission substation in the EastPark Industrial Park area.

The planned Muskie Data Campus also is expected to generate new economic activity through infrastructure investment, construction activity, permanent jobs and new tax revenue for local communities.

Delivering Benefits For Existing Customers

If approved by the PSC, TeraWulf will fund $100 million in winter bill credits for Kentucky Power's residential customers beginning in 2029 and continuing over the first 10 years of the contract.

Kentucky Power signed the White House Ratepayer Protection Pledge, reaffirming its commitment that growth should pay for growth while delivering long-term value for existing customers.

Additionally, Kentucky Power's large-load tariff requires data centers to provide financial backing for the cost to serve their projects before they connect to the grid.

In addition to paying all applicable service charges, TeraWulf has agreed to pay the estimated financing costs associated with construction of the proposed generation facility at Big Sandy.

Together, these protections are designed to ensure the costs associated with serving TeraWulf's new demand are paid for by TeraWulf, while allowing new and existing customers to share in the benefits created by the growth.

Today's filings begin the next phase of regulatory review for the proposed agreement and infrastructure. The generation facility and transmission infrastructure each require separate Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity from the PSC.

Subject to the PSC's review schedule, decisions on the filings could come as early as mid-year 2027.

About Kentucky Power

Kentucky Power, with headquarters in Ashland, provides electric service to about 162,000 customers in 20 eastern Kentucky counties, including Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Rowan.

Kentucky Power is an operating company in the American Electric Power (Nasdaq: AEP) system.

For more information, visit kentuckypower.com.

Sandy Hook Socials

A baby shower celebrating baby Gray Sturgill, who is expected to arrive soon, was held at Wildflower Farms on Sunday, Nov. 15. Friends and family arrived bearing gifts for baby Gray and celebrating with his parents, Aaron and Jazlyn Sturgill. Everyone enjoyed celebrating with the Sturgill family.

Sunday supper guests of Dwight and Flo Whitley were their granddaughter Amanda Faye Whitley, and Jack Dehart, who had delivered a road of firewood for the winter.

Flo Whitley, Pam Horne Hall and Jerri Williams met in Grayson on Wednesday, Nov. 11, for lunch and to celebrate Flo's birthday (Nov. 10) and Pam's birthday (Nov. 12). They had an extended lunch and caught up on each others' lives. It was a special afternoon.

On Sunday, Lara Whitt was taken to the hospital, and was diagnosed with flu and pneumonia. This added to all her other health issues is so much to deal with. Please keep her in your prayers that she may heal.

Debbie Parsons Daniel, of Lexington, renewed her subscription to The Elliott County News and enclosed the following note:

•••

Please renew my subscription to the only newspaper I receive on a regular basis!

I enjoy seeing familiar names and what's happening in my hometown.

Just wish the SHHS Class of 1972 would have a reunion – it's been decades since the last one.

Living now in Lexington – find me on FB. Message and will meet for coffee!

Have a great year!

– Debbie

•••

Thanks Debbie for the note. I hope to see you soon and get to visit!

– Flo Whitley

Report ...

(Continued From Page One)

for violations of the federal Clean Water Act.

The prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Emily Greenfield, sought prison time for Ferguson, arguing his offense was serious and continued for an extended period.

"People and companies in this industry must be deterred from polluting to make a profit," Greenfield said in a sentencing memorandum, referring to the oil and gas industry.

However, Ferguson's attorney, Stephen W. Owens of Pikeville, said it wasn't necessary to put Ferguson behind bars.

Owens said Ferguson has worked steadily all his adult life and is well-respected in the community. The federal charge itself was punishment for him, Owens said.

Chief U.S. District Judge David L. Bunning followed the government's recommendation for a fine of at least $20,000, but did not opt for prison time.

Instead, he placed Ferguson on probation for five years with a year of that on home detention.

Ferguson can leave home for work, church, medical appointments and other approved activities.

Bunning sentenced Ferguson Oct. 13 in federal court in Ashland.

THANKS FOR READING THE PAPER!!!

Volunteers sought for long term care ombudsman pgm.

The Legal Aid of the Bluegrass Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is looking for Volunteers!

Did you know 60% of nursing home residents never receive a visitor?

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates for rights, dignity and independence for nursing home residents. The program's volunteers visit about 1,700 frail and elderly at least quarterly and advocate for quality care and work to resolve problems. Ombudsman help provide a voice for those who otherwise would have none, serving those living in nursing homes, personal care homes, and Family care homes.

More info – contact Long Term Care Ombudsman:

Amanda Hamilton
FIVCO Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
1616 Greenup Ave
Ashland, KY 41101
(606) 780-2258
ahamilton@lablaw.org

PUBLIC (LEGAL) NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT

ELLIOTT COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 324, Title III of the Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (PL 99-499), the following information is provided in compliance with the Community Right-to-Know requirements of the SARA Law, and the open meetings and open records provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes. Members of the public may contact the Elliott County Emergency Planning Committee, by writing Jim Skaggs, Chairman of the Elliott County Emergency Planning Committee, P.O. Box 710, Sandy Hook, KY 41171, or by calling 606-738-5821. The Elliott County Emergency Planning Committee conducts meetings at Elliott County Courthouse, or at other locations, in accordance with the Kentucky Open Meetings Law. Members of the Public may request to be notified of regular or special meetings as provided in KRS 61.820 and KRS 61.825. Records of the Planning Committee, including the county emergency response plan, material safety data sheets, and inventory forms, or any followup emergency notices as may subsequently be issued, are open for inspection, and members of the public who wish to review these records may do so from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Eastern Time, Monday thru Friday, at the Elliott County Emergency Management office, as required by the Kentucky Open Records Law. The local 24-hour telephone number for purposes of emergency notification, as required by SARA, is 606-738-6000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SELECTION OF A VENDOR TO INSTALL A COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE ELLIOTT COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

The Elliott County Fiscal Court is seeking proposals for services relating to the Elliott County EOC AMLER Project. Proposals will be taken for a qualified vendor to complete the installation of security access control and cameras. The goal of this RFP is to identify a vendor capable of delivering high-quality, integrated security systems that align with our specific needs. The selected vendor will be responsible for the design and installation of access controls and cameras, ensuring that the security systems are robust, user-friendly, and effectively address our security objectives. This project is subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act requirements.

Minimum requirements include previous experience in installation of access controls and cameras.

All interested persons and firms should contact Ruby Smith, Project Manager at Fahe at **859-228-2170** between the hours of **8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.,** Monday through Friday, or by email **rsmith@fahe.org** to obtain the proposal packet. Interested parties may also contact Myron Lewis, Judge Executive at Elliott County Fiscal Court, at 606-738-5826 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by email ejudge@mrtc.com.

Proposals must be received at the Elliott County Judge Executive Office, 3390 KY-7, Sandy Hook, KY 41171 or electronically at **ejudge@mrtc.com** and **rsmith@fahe.org** by **4:00 pm EST on Friday, December 11th, 2026.**

Elliott County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all submissions not meeting the requirements of this Request for Proposals for the installation of a comprehensive physical security and access control system.