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Section A

DUI charge not first for local state ed official

By Jamie Vinson

Advocate Managing Editor

The Advocate has learned that a local resident who allegedly attempted to use her state position to avoid arrest by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Aug. 13 has been charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence twice.

In addition to the most recent alleged offense, Kelly A. Foster, now 52, was arrested by the Kentucky State Police in Madison County in 2010. According to the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk for Madison County, two charges Foster faced at that time were dismissed, but Foster pled guilty to a charge of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. She was assessed fines and court costs and ordered to attend alcohol education classes, the clerk's office said.

Now, Foster is scheduled for arraignment Aug. 24 in Montgomery County District Court on five charges that, according to a uniform citation obtained by the Advocate, began with an initial

report of a reckless driver on Interstate 64.

Among the Aug. 13 charges is operating a motor vehicle under the influence, first.

Foster is being represented by local attorney Ben Shields. A message left for Shields had not been returned by press time.

Prior to being booked in the Montgomery County Regional Jail on the latest charges, Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Grapner claims Foster allegedly stated she was a "big wig" and reportedly asked if authorities knew who she was. In addition, Grapner alleges in the citation Foster said, "She was running and operates the Board of Education for the state under Gov. Andy Beshear."

She allegedly repeatedly stated, the citation further claims, "She could not and would not go to jail and to call Gov. Andy Beshear."

According to the Kentucky Dept. of Education's website, Foster is a member of the dept.'s leadership team and



Photo directly above from MCRJ/ Photo at right from KDE's website.

is currently listed as an associate commissioner of the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support.

Jennifer Ginn, chief communications officer, Office of the Commissioner (KDE), told the Advocate her office has no comment at this time.

Scottie Ellis, communications director for Gov. Andy Beshear's office, said, "Kelly Foster does not work for the governor. The Dept. of Education is

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Inside This Week:



Photo by Canvas & Clay Photography-Alyssa Cannoy

Ada Pinney
Montgomery's
2027 DYW/See A2.



Above, Barry Frazier with Community Trust Bank, hung purple and gold ribbons along the viaduct Tuesday. Shannon Stull also helped. This year's Rec Bowl includes a retro night highlight for the Mt. Sterling High School Trojans. Photo by Tom Marshall.

Community gears
up for Rec Bowl,
Trojan Retro
Night/See B1.

Local officials pledge to provide funds for senior meals

By Tom Marshall

Senior Advocate writer

Beginning Oct. 1, the Gateway Area Development will cut back the number of hot meals served per week at the Senior Citizens Center from five to four. The cutbacks are due to a budget shortfall from the state, the GADD announced.

Montgomery County Judge-Executive Chris Haddix and Mt. Sterling Mayor Al Botts have pledged to

provide senior meal funds.

Meals will be served in Montgomery County Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will be designated as non-meal service days for GADD's congregate nutrition programs, the GADD announced in a release this week.

Senior centers may continue to participate in potlucks or other events sponsored or provided by outside entities on Wednesdays, as avail-

able, the release said.

"We will make sure the seniors are fed," Haddix said.

Botts said the city and county have been submitting extra payments for years to ensure there were no wait lists for home delivered meals. There will be no changes to the home delivered meal program, only the in-person, he stressed.

"In some counties across the state, some on home delivered meals may lose ser-



Mt. Sterling Mayor Al Botts



Judge-Executive Chris Haddix

vices. In Montgomery County that won't happen," Botts said.

Botts said both he and

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A Japanese Flag captured in the Philippines in WWII by Mt. Sterling's William Briscoe Pawley is now on its way home to Japan. Pictured above are Wayne and George Pawley with a photo of their father. At right: the flag.
Complete story on A4.



Proposed school tax rate same; revenue from assessments up

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

Superintendent Stephanie Harris gave a presentation on proposed property tax rates for this fall during a special-called meeting Aug. 11.

Districts are required to announce the proposed rates now under House Bill 757, which was enacted into law April 14 by the state Legislature.

The district has proposed keeping the rates the same as last year and the year before at 52.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property on real and personal property.

The rate will produce more money than last year due to property assessments increasing. The additional revenue is needed to offset an estimated loss of about \$555,000 in SEEK funding from the state, Harris said.

SEEK, the state's funding formula for local schools, is expected to lower based on increases in assessments and decreases in average daily attendance, known as ADA, she said.

The district will now advertise the proposed rate in the Advocate for two weeks before holding a public hearing, followed by a meeting of the board to approve the new rate 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Because the proposed rates do not exceed the compensating rate, the district is not required to hold a public hearing.

Harris said the board will hold the hearing anyway in an effort of transparency.

The district has the 42nd lowest tax rate in Kentucky, ranking 129 out of 171 school districts, according to the superintendent's office.

See TAX, Page A3