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Coal Run commission dedicates bench

By Gary Slone
Staff Writer

The Coal Run City Commission expressed its condolences to Commissioner Mike Steele on the passing of his son Joe Steele, during its Feb. 12 meeting.

Joe Steele died Feb 7 following a battle against cancer.

"I never met a person who always had a smile and always saw the good in everyone he met," Mayor Andrew Scott said. "I spoke with the other commissioners, and we want to remember Joe in some way, and we decided to dedicate a bench in the city park in his honor."

"Joe always enjoyed coming to the park," Commissioner Mike Steele said. "I appreciate this recognition and remembrance. I want to thank everyone who has reached out to me and my wife during this time."

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Steele abstaining.

In other business, the commission heard the second readings relating to the tax levy, which will remain the same as last year, and setting a regular meeting time and day, which will remain the same

as well, with the commission meeting at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the city hall.

The commission unanimously approved both ordinances.

Last month, the commission voted to retain Joe Adkins as mayor pro-tem and approved the supervisory control of city departments the same with Adkins supervising the police department, Commissioner Trey Deskins supervising public works, Steele supervising finance and Commissioner Beverly Jo Osborne supervising the park department.

The commission also approved purchasing updated weapons for the Coal Run Police Department.

"It's been several years since the police department had new weapons," Commissioner Adkins said. "If we approve this purchase, the department will be getting four Glockes, lights, holsters, sights and other items and it came to \$9,100, but with the department trading in its current weapons for \$3,550 brings the final total to approximately \$5,600, which is a good deal."

The next meeting of the Coal Run City Commission is set for 6 p.m. on March 12 in the city hall.

Pike man charged with sex abuse of a minor

A News-Express
Staff Report

A Pike County man has been arrested on a charge of sexual abuse against a child less than 12 years old.

George W. Adkins Jr., 39, of Newsome Branch, Virgie, was booked into the Pike County Detention Center on Feb. 18, records show, related to a Novem-

ber case investigated by Kentucky State Police.

According to a warrant taken out by Trooper Izaayah Dotson, he received evidence and victim statements from a forensic interview conducted at the Big Sandy Child Advocacy Center (Judi's Place for Kids) that Adkins had sexually abused the child.

When Adkins learned

the allegations would be reported to authorities, the warrant said, he fled Kentucky and was believed at the time the warrant was issued to be residing in Tennessee.

According to jail records, Adkins was ordered held in the jail on a \$100,000 bond, with home incarceration required if he is released.

REDUCES

Continued from Page 1A

reasonable amount more proportional to the defendant's economic means and corresponding to the level or class of allegations against him — a Class C felony.

"It is clear the defendant is not a flight risk," Stevens continued. "The defendant voluntarily submitted himself to the Pike County Sheriff's Office upon learning of the indictment, and before that time, the defendant had been very cooperative throughout the entire process with Kentucky State Police investigators."

Special Prosecutor Tony Skeans, who was appointed to the case by Attorney General Russell Coleman at the request of Pike Commonwealth's Attorney Bill Slone, argued before the court and in a written motion to the court that Paul Coleman

is both a flight risk and a danger to the community.

"He has family in Florida," Skeans said. "That evening, he was on his way to Florida when he made the decision to return and seek out this confrontation at two o'clock in the morning in a Little Caesars parking lot."

Skeans also said that Paul Coleman's communications with Hurley's mother and other family members are intimidating and indicate that he presents a danger to the family.

"Mr. (Paul) Coleman's brazen act, and it is by far and away the most brazen act I have seen in almost 30 years of prosecution of a man who is under investigation for the murder of another," Skeans told the judge.

Skeans said Paul Coleman, shortly before his indictment, sent Hurley's mother graphic photographs of him and the

other witness in the case having sexual relations. He also alleged that Paul Coleman "aggressively confronted and insulted the family" via social media platforms.

"The defendant is a risk to the community at large, specifically the family of the victim," Skeans continued.

A statement from Kentucky State Police in April said the incident occurred in the parking lot of a business near the intersection of U.S. 119 and Ky. 319 in Toler, where Hurley and Paul Coleman became embroiled in an altercation leading to gunplay.

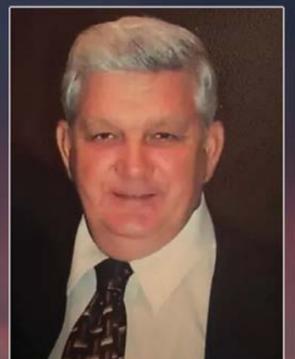
Hurley suffered fatal gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead at the Tug Valley ARH Medical Center in South Williamson, the statement said.

Paul Coleman's next scheduled hearing is set at 1:30, March 18.

In Loving Memory of Klennie Howard James

Gone one year today,
February 22, 2026.

You left us beautiful memories,
your love is still our guide.
Although we cannot see you,
you're always by our side.



We love you "Dad,"

Wife: Opal James, Son: Richard James