

REGION

region roundup

Son of Murray officer found after 7 hours

MURRAY, Ky.
Missing residents may have seen search party checking areas northwest of town Tuesday morning as law enforcement officers and volunteers spent several hours looking for the missing son of a city police officer.

Murray Police Sgt. Fred Kelly's 15-year-old son was found three miles from home seven hours after he was discovered missing from his bed Saturday at 7 a.m.

Detractive Sgt. Eddie Hollis said the boy was spotted wandering near the 1000s of Appleton in a residential area. Hollis and other officers searched for him for several hours, but no one could identify him. He was taken to a hospital where he was treated for dehydration and minor injuries. He is now recovering at home.

The search included state police and emergency services workers, helicopter and search dogs, and a concentrated effort to find the boy, who was last seen at his home on Saturday at 7 a.m. He was found at 4 p.m. at a farm near the 1000s of Appleton. He was taken to a hospital where he was treated for dehydration and minor injuries. He is now recovering at home.

Hollis said he had to talk to Kelly and his son, but he was told by others that the youth may have been injured or unconscious. He was found, a member of the military reserve, might be called to assist in the search for the youth, who was found in a field near his home on Saturday.

Salem phones being restored after TDS fire

SALEM, Ky.
Repair crews hoped to have phones working again early today for all of TDS Eastern Kentucky's southern telephone customers whose service was disrupted by a major building fire destroyed Monday.

TDS General Manager Brian McMillan said he was notified at 3 a.m. Sunday of the blaze, which completely destroyed all of the building's central offices. The fire started in phone cables and started as a switch for the entire service area, he said.

"The building is one that 100 years from now the facility, that the youth may have been injured or unconscious. He was found, a member of the military reserve, might be called to assist in the search for the youth, who was found in a field near his home on Saturday."

McMillan said repair crews worked all night Monday and Tuesday replacing 1,100 pairs of telephone wires in the main building. Phone repairs for about 100 homes and businesses was back in service by late Tuesday afternoon. He said he expected the bulk of the work to be done by early today.

The Salem Volunteer Fire Department reestablished the blaze, but the emergency building was destroyed, McMillan said.

V Reunions

Veteran Reunions 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the new Paducah Brewhouse. The department met in North Marshall Middle School, Paducah, Ky.

Protest and Candle Demos, 11 a.m. Oct. 6 at Super Creek High School in Princeton. Protest will be at noon.

V Blood Drive

Red Cross blood drive, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28 at Paducah Community Center.

Fond memories of former Lone Oak head Ex-students seek donors to honor former principal

By Leigh Lawell Wright
Staff Writer

David Wilson is only half joking when he credits former Lone Oak High School Principal John Robinson for saving his academic career.

"If it hadn't been for Mr. Robinson, I wouldn't have graduated," said Wilson, who graduated in 1961.

Wilson is in a small group of Lone Oak graduates making money to finance the creation of a fund of Robinson, principal from 1948-1967, and a scholarship in his name. The idea was formulated during a gathering of 100 graduates and expeditious to include classes from throughout the years.

"We respected everything about him," said Buddy Bolen, a 1969 graduate who later became assistant principal at Lone Oak. "He was fair and firm."

Bolton admired Robinson and hoped to emulate the late principal's style after he became an administrator. "I went to law firm," Bolton said. Robinson, a Wilson native, never intended attending college after high school. His goal was changed during a conversation with Robinson, who later became baseball and basketball coach at Murray State College. Robinson played



John Robinson
Former Lone Oak principal

baseball for Murray State, and after graduation, he taught at Murray and later coached baseball. He entered school administration at a principal in Georgetown, and subsequently was hired at Lone Oak.

He credited his going Lone Oak's accreditation from the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges, being the second highest college attendance per capita in Kentucky at the time, achieving a low drop-out rate and never expelling a student.

"When he called an assembly and told us to be quiet, he told us to go home and call me by name for the following," Wilson

needed. "He barked at us in sports, school and life."

Wilson remembers when Robinson led a former student who was struggling financially at college. After she called him and explained the situation, Robinson paid her tuition.

Robinson, who left the county school system in 1961, was named to the Kentucky Board of Education in 1975. He died at age 78 in 1995.

The best estimate is being letters to graduates, with hopes of raising \$100,000 to pay for the fund and establish a scholarship fund. The organizers also plan to collect names about Robinson for a book, and they want to retrace Robinson's Lone Oak, which runs in front of the school, to John E. Robinson Avenue.

The estimated cost of the fund is \$7,000 to \$8,000. The remainder of the \$100,000 will be used to establish the scholarship fund.

The tentative date to unveil the fund is April 2. There has been no determination on the fund's permanent home.

Send donations by Oct. 31 to John E. Robinson Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1008, Paducah, KY 40301-0108.

Metropolis corporate counsel to help city reach 'potential'

Joe Leberman will advise city government troubled by turbulent relationships.

By Barbara Campbell
Staff Writer

Metropolis, Ill.
Newly appointed Metropolis Corporate Counsel Joe Leberman is anxious to get the city government in the middle of turbulent relationships between the mayor and city council.

"This city has great potential," Leberman said, "and we believe that a full-time corporate counsel will help provide better communication between the council, mayor

and the public."

Leberman said his strong belief in the city's potential led him to accept the position. He will be working with the executive and legislative bodies.

His experience includes serving as assistant attorney at Cerberus and assistant attorney at Cerberus in Illinois County from 2001 to 2005. He also worked at a private law firm in Metropolis and most recently had a private law practice in Elmhurst.

He is a 1991 graduate of Southern Illinois University Law School and a 1973 graduate of Harrisburg High School.

Finance panel plans meeting in Paducah

The Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue will meet about the planned regional industrial park.

By Bob Leaver
Staff Writer

State lawmakers who are integral in setting priorities for spending millions of dollars in state budget will be in Paducah Thursday for two meetings and an informal gathering with community leaders.

The Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue — which has 40 members — will meet in the Blue Arts Center auditorium at Paducah Community College.

The subcommittee on health care will meet at 10 a.m. to hear recommendations from a consultant for reforming industrial claims. At 1 p.m., the full committee will meet.

Sen. Bob Leaver, a Paducah resident, will host a meeting in Paducah to give area leaders a chance to discuss directly with committee members.

The agenda for the full committee meeting includes a presentation on the need for state help a

funding a regional industrial park in Owensboro.

The regional industrial park authority is seeking \$15 million from the state and \$19 million from the federal government.

Bill Stetson, manager of the authority, said he will ask for funding over the next three or four years. The state legislature is due to convene in northern Kentucky.

Leaver said he will likely only have a presentation on the job priority for the region. "With the tight state budget that is anticipated, we don't need to be leaving a large budget of projects," Leaver said.

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon for the lawmakers.



Quick reaction: Paducah firefighter Pat Hanson extinguishes a fire in the bed of a city-owned pickup Tuesday afternoon after a doghouse burst into flames, causing a chemical reaction. Paducah Assistant Fire Chief Wade Harvey said there was little damage. The incident happened at 9th Street and Martin Luther King Drive.

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Paterson, who donated Murphy at the Sept. 3 meeting, did not attend Tuesday's meeting. In other business, the commission approved a property tax rate at 30 cents per \$100 assessed value. The rate rose to the last 10 years.

Ray McLesney, a Paducah resident, said the commission he disagreed with the rate because it will increase revenue about 1.5 percent because of higher property assessments.

Abraham continues Four Rivers spat with Murphy

The city commission is still upset over remarks made by the city engineer at the Sept. 17 meeting.

By G.B. Swadlow
Staff Writer

As squabbling between Paducah City Commissioner Richard Abraham and City Engineer Rick Murphy continued Tuesday with Abraham accusing Murphy of being "very blatantly disrespectful" to the commission during a heated exchange at the Sept. 17 meeting.

Abraham said allowing the city to let the city manager in the absence of City Manager Ann Zarnack, who was out of town and missed Tuesday's commission meeting, "sent the wrong message to our staff. I don't think it should reward bad behavior and I think that's what we're doing."

Murphy declared comment. The incident at the Sept. 17 meeting related to a \$225,000 contract to renovate a demolition center for the better site of the former City River Center for the Performing Arts. Murphy questioned the design to pour for the removal of a concrete slab laid and designed by employees of W.A. Davis Construction Co. The change project the contract is more than \$90,000.

Paducah man sought in Monday shooting

Paducah police said that a 35-year-old Paducah man was shot Monday.

A married man named Timothy Joseph C. Connor, 31, of Paducah, He is charged with first-degree murder in connection with the shooting of Larry Davis III, 35, who was shot in the stomach at 11:37 a.m. at Sully Court Apartments on Malone Street at Park Avenue, police said. He was taken to Paducah Hospital.

According to a police report, the two men apparently had a fight at the motel party at 1153 Street last March. Luther King Avenue earlier Monday, and later encountered each other near

Kennedy Club Mall just prior to the shooting.

A 9 mm handgun, believed to be the weapon used in the shooting, was found in the area, said Sgt. Gary Campbell.

Officers at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, Ky. reported that Connor, 31, was shot in the chest by a bullet that may be called to Crime Stoppers at 40-TELL.

Stringbeaters Festival set for weekend

Cairo, Ill.
The 48th annual Stringbeaters Stringband Festival is scheduled to run Friday through Sunday at Fort Delaware State Park. Shows start from noon to 1 p.m., and 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$10 a day. A workshop session is planned for 9 a.m. Saturday followed by gospel music until 1 p.m.

Weekend on Native American dance set

Wickliffe, Ky.
The Native American Dance Weekend is set from 8 a.m. to 11

p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Walker's Woods in Dover, Ky. The First Native Dancers will demonstrate dance styles reflecting the cultural diversity of native Americans. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens, \$1 for children ages 6 to 11, \$2 for people affiliated with Murray State University and free for children under age 6. Information: 305-906-6101 or e-mail: www.dancers.net.

Timeline Class of '41 reunion this weekend

The 60th year reunion of the Augusta Timeline High School Class of 1941 is planned for this weekend at Grand Gateway Center. Registration is at 7 p.m.

Friday with a buffet meal at 4 Another Dance is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Information: R.E. Young at 443-2833.

Free parenting classes start here Oct. 17

The Families First program at Saylor School West Kentucky will offer free parenting education classes beginning here Oct. 17. Classes 7:00 to 9:15 a.m. for 16 weeks. To register, please: Kerry Shelton or Jennifer Traylor at 449-4071.

—Compiled by Julie Ann Young
Send your community activity news to Carolyn H. Box, 1006 Paducah St. Owensboro, Ky. 40301. Send a small self-addressed envelope. Call or write for more information.