



Coming Monday
Coyotes can be threat
to livestock and pets



Bevin laments TVA's Paradise vote

Governor urges board to delay

BY AUSTIN RAMSEY
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin has called on the Tennessee Valley Authority to delay a Thursday vote it has planned regarding future operations at the Paradise Fossil Plant in Drakesboro.

Speaking before a large crowd at Paradise Park in Powderly on Saturday, the governor said he and President Donald Trump are urging that vote not to go forward until all nine seats on the TVA Board of Directors are filled and until the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission completes a study it initiated last month on the resiliency of the U.S. electric grid.

Muhlenberg County has experienced a nearly decade-long economic slump as mines and power plants in the region are hit hard by increasingly competitive natural gas prices. Kentucky Utilities' Green River Generating Station retired a few miles downstream from the TVA plant in 2015, and several mines in the area have closed down as well.

Bevin said closing Unit 3 would devastate not only Muhlenberg County, but it could have unintended consequences nationwide.



Gov. Matt Bevin, right, gestures toward three children he invited onstage at a pro-coal rally in Powderly on Saturday. Bevin has urged the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors to delay a vote scheduled for next week on future operations at the Paradise Fossil Plant Unit 3 in Drakesboro.

SEE **BEVIN/PAGE C4**

Empty Bowls Committee is now taking applications from nonprofits

BY BOBBIE HAYSE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Owensboro chapter of the grassroots movement aimed at feeding the hungry is now accepting applications from area soup kitchens and food pantries for consideration of the proceeds garnered from this year's event that takes place in April.

Empty Bowls is a national charity, and the local chapter will be accepting applications until March 6. The local organization is run by the Empty Bowls Committee, who raise funds at an annual event that sells bowls of soup. A ticket to the fundraiser allows participants to choose a ceramic bowl from hundreds that were handcrafted specifically for this event by Brescia University students and area artisans, potters and ceramicists. Once participants select their bowls, they can fill it up with one of four soups that will be made by local chefs and churches.

Each year, proceeds from tickets sales and a silent auction go to an area nonprofit. Last year the group was able to award \$8,500 to Breckenridge Street United Methodist Church.

Stephanie Coble, an organizer in the church's kitchen, said the money

was a "huge blessing."

The church served 1,400 meals last year to needy families, and in an effort to pay it forward they will be participating in the main event this year. Each year, the group that was awarded the funds the previous year is asked to participate.

"We will be donating a soup to the event, but we are also talking about coming to one of the making days and making a bowl or two if we can," Coble said.

This year's soup day will be 6 p.m. April 23 in the Brescia University gymnasium in the school's Moore Center, 717 Frederica St.

According to Tina Taylor, a member of the Empty Bowls Committee, the Owensboro event began 10 years ago by Brescia University professor Steve Driver. Since then, the group has gone from raising \$1,500 that first year to \$8,535 last year, their highest amount to date.

This charity is important, Taylor said, because the money raised goes immediately toward helping local groups that don't typically receive much in private, federal or state funds to run their operations.

"We strive to help these organiza-

tions who are on shoestring budgets, but really have a heart to help those in need," she added.

Non-profits interested can find applications online at <http://www.brescia.edu/empty-bowls-application-form>.

Tickets for the event will go on sale March 11 and can be purchased in advance by cash or check for \$16, including sales tax, at Bearcat Corner, Brescia University's spirit store. Bearcat Corner, in the Moore Center, is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Only 400 tickets will be available and sold on a first-come, first-served basis. If all tickets are not presold, they will be available to purchase at the door.

Silent auction baskets of various themes donated by local organizations are also available. The Empty Bowls Committee is currently also seeking donations for the silent auction.

For more information on Empty Bowls, or to contribute, please contact Rachel Whelan at rachel.whelan@brescia.edu or 270.686.2110.

Bobbie Hayse, bhayse@messenger-inquirer.com, 270-691-7315.

Looking back on a few crazy things

A little bit unusual, a little bit foolhardy, and a little bit non-military.

I recently had to apply for a new bank business card - a debit card if you will - and I was at the bank where I do business making sure the device was ready for use.

One detail in that process calls for establishing a new pin number. That simply means selecting four numbers known only to yourself - for security reasons - and you then tack on a letter from the alphabet.

On returning home and while taking a shower, the four numbers I selected for that card suddenly rang a long and very loud bell. The numbers I picked - minus the letter on the end - just

happened to be the telephone number of my very first girlfriend of 77 years ago.

No big deal! I never called her more than twice — on a borrowed phone. Besides, she found out I was a Catholic and unceremoniously informed me - at the tender age of 10 - that Catholics could never go to Heaven.

We broke up.

...

I had dated Florence Henderson, the late New York stage and television personality, a



DAVE
MCBRIDE
LITTLE BIT OF
EVERYTHING

SEE **BACK/PAGE C4**

Lincoln Amphitheatre schedules summer concerts, play

BY KEITH LAWRENCE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Lincoln Amphitheatre in northern Spencer County, Indiana, has scheduled a series of concerts and play for this summer.

The lineup includes Molly Hatchet, John Waite, Henry Lee Summer, Ben and Noel Haggard and the premiere of a new play about Abraham Lincoln.

The theater has retired its annual production of Billy Edd Wheeler's play, "Young Abe Lincoln."

This year, it will debut a new outdoor drama, "Here I Grew Up," about Lincoln's boyhood.

It will run five nights in late June and early July.

The play will be produced by Actor's Community Theatre, a not-for-profit theater company headquartered in Jasper, Indiana.

"It is vital that we are continuing to attract people from across the nation to Indiana, and the Lincoln Amphitheatre is one of our assets that is striving to accomplish that goal," Lt. Go.

Suzanne Crouch, said in a news release. "By having a wide range of performances included in the lineup, Hoosiers and visitors alike can find a reason to check out the venue."

Last year, the 1,500-seat theater, one of the largest fully-covered amphitheaters in the United States, sold out seven of its nine music performances and sold tickets in 18 states and at least 157 Indiana communities, the news release said.

Waite got his start as the lead singer and bassist of The Babys, a British rock band that had two pop hits — "Isn't It Time" (1977) and "Every time I Think of You" (1979).

He launched his solo career with his 1982 debut album "Ignition," which produced the hit single "Change."

In 2006, Waite redid "Missing You" as a country duet with Allison Krauss.

Summer recorded several albums during the 1980s and

'90s and toured with Stevie Ray Vaughan, Eddie Money, The Doobie Brothers, Chicago and others.

Hits include "I Wish I Had a Girl" and "Hey Baby."

Molly Hatchet is a Southern rock band formed in 1971 that took its name from a prostitute who allegedly mutilated and decapitated clients.

It's best known for the 1979 hit, "Flirtin' with Disaster."

SEE **LINCOLN/PAGE C4**



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DIVORCES

- Charles Snyder, 79, and Glenda Snyder, 71
- Joshua Hayes, 28, and Taylor Hayes, 25
- Stephen Barr, 32, and April Barr, 38
- Tammy Neil, 57, and Terry Neil, 59
- Richard Durbin, 61, and Brenda Durbin, 67
- John Dinning, 47, and Angela Dinning, 38
- Adina Bailey, 45, and Calvin Bailey, 45
- Norman Billings, 81, and Aloha Billings, 83
- John Drake, 54, and Sherry Drake, 47
- Misty Mitchell, 40, and Timothy Mitchell, 42

BEVIN

FROM PAGE C1

“It will pull the heart and soul out of this community,” he said. “(I) ask the TVA board next week not to vote to shut this down — in fact, not to vote at all on it. Wait until the president is able to get his two appointees approved. Let that board be full. And wait until this FERC study is done so that we truly understand what the impact is. It’s bigger than just this. The TVA can justify by saying it’s only 1 percent of its total load if you look at this facility being shut down versus others. All of that in a vacuum is true, but 50 percent of a single mine’s production goes into this plant. What’s it going to do to that mine? What’s it going to do to the people who work there

Lawsuit: Vets altered dates on X-rays of auction horses

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — A lawsuit filed Thursday accuses veterinarians of falsifying the dates on X-rays of horse sold at public auction at the Keeneland racetrack.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reports the lawsuit was brought Tom Swearingen, a horse buyer and trainer who says he paid more than \$400,000 for 24 horses from 2007 to 2016.

The lawsuit in Fayette Circuit Court claims veterinarians with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute altered dates to make it look as though X-rays were taken within three weeks of a sale when they were actually older.

The suit seeks class-action status, claiming that “thousands of buyers” have been duped by altered X-rays.

“Had they known it was a sham, they never would have participated in the sale in the

first place,” the suit says.

Michael Casey is an attorney for Hagyard. He told the paper the case is without merit.

“We will vigorously address the misrepresentations and claims made in the suit through the proper legal channels,” he said.

Some of the allegations in the lawsuit first surfaced in a 2017 suit also filed in Fayette Circuit Court. A trial date has not been scheduled

in that case.

Some veterinarians admitted to modifying X-ray dates to the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners, according to court records.

The new lawsuit also names as a defendant the accounting firm Dean Dorton Allen Ford, which provides computer and information technology services for Hagyard. The firm had no comment when contacted by the paper.

BACK

FROM PAGE C1

couple of times and enjoyed a Coke or two with her at the former Callas Grill. And it was because of that connection I felt I should have been considered for one of the lead roles in our high school musical staged at the former St. Frances Academy — later to become Owensboro Catholic.

That didn’t happen. Instead, that role went to a classmate of mine who couldn’t carry a tune in a water bucket.

My part ended up being a stagehand, the maker of most of the stage props and providing the sound effects for a make-believe storm that was to occur during one of the numbers performed by Florence and that other so-called singer.

By way of a little reinforcement, Florence was in Owensboro a couple of years before her death and before God and everybody at the Convention Center, told about how she and I were “sweethearts” in school.

LINCOLN

FROM PAGE C1

The Haggard brothers are the sons of the late Merle Haggard, a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Tickets are on sale now at www.LincolnAmphitheatre.com.

Check the site for prices. Here’s the lineup:

May 18: Departure — a tribute to Journey

June 1: Molly Hatchet;

June 15: Toys in the Attic — a tribute to Aerosmith

June 28, 29, and July 11, 12 and 13: “Here I Grew Up”

July 27: Purple Veins — A tribute to Prince

Aug. 10: Ben & Noel Haggard

Aug. 24: John Waite with special guest Henry Lee Summer

Aug. 31: Celebrate the Sounds of the Summer of ‘69

Sept. 7: The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra

Sept. 28: Hard Day’s Night — a tribute to the Beatles

Oct. 12: “Ghostbusters” — a 35th anniversary screening of the movie

Keith Lawrence, 270-691-7301, klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com

— to the people who haul that material? The ripple effect of this is great.”

Unit 3 is the last remaining coal-burning unit at Paradise, which sits on the Green River about six miles east of Drakesboro. The TVA retired Paradise Unites 1 and 2 in April 2017 because of revised federal mercury and air toxic standards. They were replaced that same year with the Paradise Combined Cycle Plant to the north, a 1,100-megawatt natural gas plant capable of meeting flexible energy production needs. Since then, the TVA has continued to monitor the remaining coal-fired unit at Paradise Fossil Plant, and, in November, released a report that recommended its closure. It is nearly 50 years old and plagued with ongoing maintenance issues, the

report stated. Natural gas prices, it added, have remained consistently lower than those for coal.

But the polar vortex that swept over much of the Midwest earlier this month was a perfect illustration, Bevin said, of how desperately our nation’s economy still relies on coal. Typically, coal is only responsible for about 28 percent of the nation’s total energy production, but, during February’s 72-hour cold snap, coal-based production nearly doubled.

Bevin explicitly told reporters after Saturday’s rally that he doesn’t believe he’s fighting a losing battle against coal plant closings because natural gas has not yet proven itself reliable enough when worst comes to worst. He used the polar vortex, terrorist attacks or even earthquakes as examples. But

according to most independent system operators, peak load times simply delay what seems to be inevitable about natural gas production in the U.S.: As more gas becomes available, prices go lower.

Market metrics reveal that coal’s dominance during this month’s cold snap was more likely because of prices than supply. Coal was temporarily cheaper than natural gas, but as the gas supply continues to grow (and all indications are that it will), that may not be an issue in the future.

Congress has yet to approve Trump’s nominations to fill two vacancies on the nine-member TVA Board of Directors, and it’s likely he will stack the board with pro-coal supporters like Kentucky native and former Armstrong Coal exec Kenneth

Allens, whom he appointed in January.

Meanwhile, FERC, the regulatory commission responsible for production oversight, denied a Trump request recently to help subsidize coal and nuclear costs that have both been hampered by natural gas prices. At the same time, however, FERC began a study to see just what impact plant closings could have on the overall grid, and Bevin told supporters Saturday that TVA needs to await its results.

“We need electricity to come on when we flip the switch,” he said. “There is no capacity right now if we shut this facility and others like it down to be able to provide what America needs.”

Austin Ramsey, 270-691-7302, aramsey@messenger-inquirer.com, Twitter: @austinramsey

That alone should be enough to show I should have been one of the stars in the school play.

But no, I turned out to be the decorator and the noisemaker.

Strangely enough, however, when it came time for the sound effects and the play’s stars looked up at the fake storm, the lightning - flashing back-stage lights — came after the thunder — banging on a hanging piece of metal sheeting.

Sadly, nobody noticed the bungling of an act of

nature. And I never dated Florence again.

How could you date a future Broadway and television star after you managed to screw up a storm?

• • •

My two years aboard the U.S.S. Roanoke, a big Navy cruiser, turned out to be one adventure after another. And not all of them were of the fun variety.

Better yet, one of those adventures turned out to be a major embarrassment.

Like all sailors aboard all ships, I was assigned to a particular job. Mine was taking care of the ship’s spare parts operation, with storage quarters located in the very bow — front — of the vessel.

On first taking that assignment, I first noticed a large cylinder-type tube about the circumference of a 55-gallon metal barrel making its way through one of the storage areas. I never asked what that was, for fear somebody would think I didn’t know about my work station.

Then one day the ship stopped a few hundred yards off the coast of Valencia, Spain, our first stop on our Mediterranean cruise. I was busy at my job when there suddenly came one of the most horrific noises I had ever heard. It scared me into almost a state of unconsciousness.

It also made me fly up two decks and into the supply department’s office and whiter than any ghost ever thought of being.

“Something happened

in the bow of the ship,” I yelled. “I think the ship is coming apart.”

Commander Williams, in charge of the supply department, was in the office with other sailors and all looked at me in a weird sort of way.

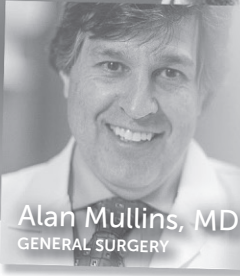
“We dropped anchor, Mr. McBride,” the commander said.

And then I knew. That large cylinder in my workplace housed a very large chain holding the anchor. Somebody should have told me. I wish somebody had told me.

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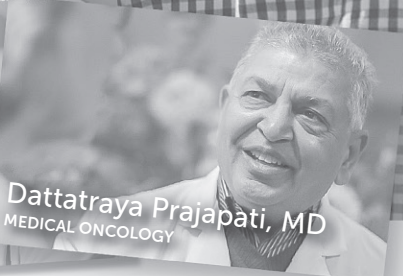
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