

COMMUNITY

Supporting local newspapers puts community first; HB 368 will harm communities and newspapers

By Jane Ashley Pace, 2024 KPA President

Every county in Kentucky has one local business that has been there longer than any other, most more than a century – while some are even closing in on two centuries. In many of these counties, that business is their local newspaper.

I manage two of those local newspapers. The Oldham Era has been in operation for 149 years and is looking forward to celebrating our 150th next year. The Henry County Local has been publishing 168 proud years and counting. I also assist regionally with 13 other area newspapers with similar tenures.

Newspapers are the heartbeat of every community in Kentucky. We exist to inform, to raise awareness, to build community, to be the voice of those that can't always speak for themselves, to cover local government and hold local officials accountable, to help local businesses grow, to enact change, to celebrate achievements and to archive our community's history.

Our founding fathers felt so strongly about the importance of newspapers and the role we play in communities that we are the only profession explicitly named in the Constitution of the United States of America.

There are three ways in which newspapers have effectively carried out some of our most important roles – covering local government, keeping officials accountable, keeping citizens informed and helping transparency

exist: public notices, open meetings and open records.

Without these three in place, knowing how your tax dollars are being spent, what bids are available and being rewarded, what decisions your elected officials are making for you, when meetings are being held and what new ordinances are being considered would not be as easily accessible.

There is currently a bill, HB368, that seeks to remove legal notices from newspapers and place them on government websites. Websites that are run by the government themselves. What could go possibly go wrong with that?

When a legal ad is placed in a newspaper, it is placed in the local newspaper, dated and cannot be changed after the fact. In addition, it is placed on a website managed by the Kentucky Press Association where all legal notices in Kentucky can be found easily – kypublicnotices.com.

HB368 seeks to have entities including county and city governments place public notices on their own websites, yet many have only one employee, if any, and can't even keep their current websites updated. I found one city website in my area that hadn't been updated with meetings or ordinances since 2020. Two others had very little information, none of the council members were current and the monthly meeting time listed was listed wrong.

Officials have said they would create their own statewide website for all notices. I would argue

that they are going to spend a lot more money creating a website we have already created and maintained successfully. Right now, paid legal notices are currently a very small part of county and city budgets – only 0.16%.

So why change? Is this what is really best for the community?

In counties of 80,000 or more a bill was passed in Kentucky to change the rules of public notices due to the cost of the larger newspapers. Yet, many of those counties, including Boone, Campbell, Fayette, Kenton, Madison and Warren, have decided that newspapers are still the best way to get their notices out and have continued to place them in newspapers despite the

change.

Regardless of the county size, public notices should be posted by a third party, and with a newspaper in almost every county (and statewide website already in place) it just makes good, common sense.

Besides the concerns I've already addressed, while legal notices are not the only revenue that keep newspapers going – it is a part of it, and some smaller, rural counties will probably lose their local newspaper if this bill is passed. A community without a local newspaper is a community without a heartbeat, and countless studies have shown in news desserts across this country that there will be negative, long-term effects for the community.

No, it is not the job of the legislature to keep newspapers running but why are they so against doing something that maintains transparency and at the same time, would hurt some of the oldest local businesses in this state?

I'm not blind to the criticism of the media and think that cable news networks have hurt our industry as a whole. I was trained that a journalist is to cover the facts and to try and keep any biases out. I think your local newspapers do a pretty darn good job at still doing that. We have opinion/editorial pages that are open for opinions to be shared and topics to be discussed but they are clearly labeled and kept separate from the news content.

Your local newspaper employees are not pushing an agenda. We are actively involved and serving in our communities. We live, work, play and volunteer right alongside our community members. We take our role very seriously, and that includes publishing your public notices.

Any bill that seeks to change how public notices are handled, or diminishes public meetings, public records, is going to be harmful to the community, and your local newspaper, in the long run. I urge you to stand up with your local newspaper and help us keep these three in place.

Yesteryear

February 25, 1965

Leely Joins Dowd's Shop.

John Leely, a graduate of the Ashland Barber College is now associated with Dowd's Barber Shop located in the Masonic Building on West Water Street, according to James Dowd, owner. Mr. Dowd termed Leely, "A young man who knows modern styles as well as the traditional ones." He also announced that his shop will be open six days a week Monday through Saturday from 8am until 6pm. Jim and John cordially invite everyone to visit Dowd's Barber Shop, located in the Masonic Building.

Other News...

Mother and Daughter Victims of House Fire.

Fleming Youth, 24, Killed on a Georgia Expressway.

Colgan Builds Concrete Plant.

Mrs. McKee Hurt In Truck Mishap.

Talk of the Town...

Donna Vaneast born February 18 to Mr. and Mrs. Don Lee Miller.

Betty Ann born Feb-

LEGAL NOTICE

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky's noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) Nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Marestail (*Conyza canadensis*), Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Multi-flora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) Japanese knotweed, (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) and Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*).

Persons who own property adjacent to state right of way and who are involved in eradication efforts on their property can submit a written application to the highway district office in their area. Contact information can be found at transportation.ky.gov/DistrictPages

ruary 8 to Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Crump.

Mary Storey Plights Troth to Mr. and Mrs. John Alderman.

Rev. Harry Oldaker and Audrey Kassler Marry In Indiana.

Ads of the Week...

Salmon .39cents/Lake-wood Foodtown.

Water Heater \$55.21/Perk's Plumbing.

3 lb Ground Beef \$1.99/Palmer's.

4 lb Apples .39cents/Jerry's Shopworth.

February 27, 1975

Brown Joins Kachler Realtor.

Charles Brown, of Route 1, Mayslick, is now associated with Bill Kacher, a real estate broker and auctioneer. Mr. Brown, who has successfully passed his examination as a real estae salesman will work out of Mr. Kachler's branch office, located at Mayslick. A graduate of Fleming County High School, Mr. Brown received his Bachelor's and Master's degree from Morehead State University. A land-owner, he is married

to the former Dorothy Brown and they have three children, Charles "Chuck" Brown, Karen and Melissa Brown. He is currently serving as Fleming County Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Kachler and Mrs. Brown invite the public to visit them for their real estate needs.

Other News...

Clarence Oliver Joins Realtors Group.

Dinner Honors Irue Stevens.

Mr. and Mrs. Waverly Jolley Are FHA Farm Family of the Year.

Paul Ishmael Suffered Cuts In Auto Wreck.

Talk of the Town...

Jody David born February 17 to Mr. and Mrs. David Ramey.

Rebecca Ann born February 11 to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Logan.

Tara Dawn born February 21 to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Dale Newsom.

Robert Colgan Celebrates 83rd Birthday.

Ads of the Week...

25lb Hunter's Choice Dog Food \$3.49/Lake-wood Food Town.

Zenith Consol TV \$649/Campbell Home Furnishings.

AMC Pacer \$3299/Stanley AMC.

Ice Cream .89cents/IGA.

February 24, 2005

Food Check Out Day Observed.

Food Check Out day was observed across the nation and in Fleming County this month. "It's a day to honor farmers

for providing us with the most affordable food in the world, just like it says on this handout," said Mary Jane Cannon, a representative of the Farm Bureau, the sponsoring agency for this observation. The focus of Food Check Out Day is to promote the fact that farmers provide Americans with enough low-cost food that the average American has earned enough money in approximately 40 days of a new year to cover their annual food supply. Cannon was assisted in the handout distribution at Ken's New Market in Flemingsburg by members of the Fleming County High School FFA Chapter.

Other News...

School Board Applauds Student's Achievements.

City Council Ponders Future of Court Days.

Fiscal Court Addresses County Road Damage

Von Hanshaw is New Olive Branch Minister.

Talk of the Town...

Jenny Belt Hosts Garden Club.

4-H Members Sell Flower Bulbs.

SMS Hosts Cougar Classic Invitational Cheer and Dance Competition.

Panther's Winning Streak Snapped.

Ads of the Week...

5.79% APR/US Bank.

30% Off Retired Vera Bradley Style Purses.

Merle Norman.

0% Interest/Young's Farm Machinery.

Renfro Valley Trip \$64 per person/Community Trust Bank.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
FLEMING CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00172

KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION

VS.

RYAN LEWIS

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANT

In obedience to an Order of sale entered on January 21, 2025, in the above action, I will, as Master Commissioner proceed on:

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025
FAMILY COURT ROOM
2ND FLOOR, FLEMING COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
FLEMINGSBURG, FLEMING COUNTY, KENTUCKY
AT 10:00 A.M.

to sell the real estate located at 23 Baltic Avenue, Morehead, Fleming County, Kentucky 40351. This property is described in Deed of record at Deed Book 271, Page 78, Fleming County Clerk's Office, with the PVA records calling for 0.311 acres. Parcel Mapping number: 098-00-00-016.33.

This sale is to satisfy Judgment in the sum of \$61,723.80, plus interest, taxes, court costs and attorney fees. The purchaser may pay in full at the sale if he/she chooses to do so. Otherwise, the purchaser immediately after the sale shall pay not less than 10% of the purchase price, and execute bond with surety, who is a Kentucky resident with net worth of greater or equal to the amount of the bond and who is approved by the Master Commissioner, and who must be present at the sale and execute the sale bond and affidavit of surety at the sale, for the balance of the purchase price, payable to the Fleming Circuit Court Clerk within thirty days with interest at 5.25% per annum on the balance from date of sale until paid in full. The bond shall have the force of a judgment and a first lien shall be retained on the property as security for the payment of said bond and interest. The purchaser shall at his/her own expense carry fire and extended coverage insurance on all insurable improvements located on the real property from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full, with loss payable to the Master Commissioner. The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed against the property for 2025 and all subsequent years. The title interest of the parties to this lawsuit will be conveyed without warranty by the Master Commissioner to the purchaser and the purchaser shall be entitled to possession upon payment of the purchase price in full after confirmation of the sale by Fleming Circuit Court, subject to any equity of redemption if the property does not sell for two-thirds of its appraised value.

Buyer is advised to have a title search completed on the property and must file any exceptions to the sale within ten (10) days. The purchasers will be required to have any persons evicted or property removed from the premises. The sale is subject to any terms and conditions that may be announced on the day of sale.

JOHN C. PRICE
MASTER COMMISSIONER
FLEMING CIRCUIT COURT

Published in the Flemingsburg Gazette 02.19.25, 02.26.25 and 03.05.25

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
FLEMING CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00094
ELECTRONICALLY FILED

THE CITIZENS BANK (MOREHEAD, KY.)
VS.

PLAINTIFF

NOTICE OF
MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE

LESLIE M. WRIGHT a/k/a LESLIE WRIGHT;
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LESLIE M. WRIGHT; and
CREDIT ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION

DEFENDANTS

In obedience to Orders of sale entered on October 7, 2024 and January 21, 2025, in the above action, I will, as Master Commissioner proceed on:

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025
FAMILY COURT ROOM
2P FLOOR, FLEMING COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
FLEMINGSBURG, FLEMING COUNTY, KENTUCKY
AT 10:00 A.M.

to sell the real estate located at 325 Lambert Lane, Hillsboro, Fleming County, Kentucky 41049. This property is described in a Deed of record at Deed Book 285, Page 776, Fleming County Clerk's Office, calling for 1.078 acres, including a 2000 Clayton Heartland doublewide mobile home, serial number CAP008512TN, Title No: 133230350008, which has been permanently affixed to the subject property and is classified as real property. Parcel Mapping number: 087-00-00-008.01.

This sale is to satisfy Judgment in the sum of \$30,047.28, plus interest, taxes, court costs and attorney fees. The purchaser may pay in full at the sale if he/she chooses to do so. Otherwise, the purchaser immediately after the sale shall pay not less than 10% of the purchase price, and execute bond with surety, who is a Kentucky resident with net worth of greater or equal to the amount of the bond and who is approved by the Master Commissioner, and who must be present at the sale and execute the sale bond and affidavit of surety at the sale, for the balance of the purchase price, payable to the Fleming Circuit Court Clerk within thirty days with interest at 7.49% per annum on the balance from date of sale until paid in full. The bond shall have the force of a judgment and a first lien shall be retained on the property as security for the payment of said bond and interest. The purchaser shall at his/her own expense carry fire and extended coverage insurance on all insurable improvements located on the real property from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full, with loss payable to the Master Commissioner. The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed against the property for 2024 and all subsequent years. The title interest of the parties to this lawsuit will be conveyed without warranty by the Master Commissioner to the purchaser and the purchaser shall be entitled to possession upon payment of the purchase price in full after confirmation of the sale by Fleming Circuit Court, subject to any equity of redemption if the property does not sell for two-thirds of its appraised value.

Buyer is advised to have a title search completed on the property and must file any exceptions to the sale within ten (10) days. The purchasers will be required to have any persons evicted or property removed from the premises. The sale is subject to any terms and conditions that may be announced on the day of sale.

JOHN C. PRICE
MASTER COMMISSIONER
FLEMING CIRCUIT COURT

Published in the Flemingsburg Gazette 02.19.25, 02.26.25 and 03.05.25