



PHOTOS BY MAX DAVIS | The Sun

Above: The Marshall County Care Need Line storeroom. While the room may look well-stocked, it needs donations and support due to having less than it needs for the month. **Left:** Candace Nichols watches over a table of people packing food at Family Service Society on Nov. 5.

Local food banks in need of donations, support

BY MAX DAVIS | THE SUN
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Despite increased demand due to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding cuts, food banks are holding firm due to community support.

The SNAP program has now been without funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for five days. Many food banks in western Kentucky are seeing higher demand, helping the same number of people in a few days that they would in a week or a month.

A volunteer at the Marshall County Caring Needline told reporters for The Sun that they typically serve about 500 families a month, but in just a few days, they served 100. The

increased demand, along with fewer donations, has drained the food bank to lower levels for this early in the month.

Food banks in Paducah said they have kept up with the increased demand. Both Paducah Cooperative Ministry and Family Service Society reported an increase in demand, but have been able to keep up through community support.

“We’ve already done close to over 100 households so far,” said Community Engagement Coordinator for PCM William Brandon. “Every day we’re getting calls from new people that have never had to use our services before, and the old people that still need the help as well. So, the need’s here,

and the community is being generous, but people need food, and they need a bit of sense of someone’s going to help them, and we’re here to meet that need.”

Candace Nichols, Executive Director of Family Service Society, echoed that sentiment, saying demand is high, but FSS has been able to meet it due to the community’s support.

“The last few days, we’ve been very fortunate to have donations coming in pretty regularly,” Nichols said. “That has really helped us with being able to meet the need that’s coming in every day. Already, in just two and a half days, we’ve seen the amount of households that we’d normally see in the first full week of the month. So, the

only way we’ve been able to do that, though, is because every, every time we go up front, somebody’s coming in with a food donation, and so that is really helping us.”

Nichols said the amount of donations currently coming in has allowed them to help a record amount of people this early in the month. She said the shelter is sustainable as long as people continue to donate, as they have been since the SNAP cuts began.

“I do think it’s sustainable as long as people continue realizing that this impacts them,” Nichols said. “If you’re going grocery shopping and all you can afford to do is pick up an extra box of macaroni and cheese, that helps us, because

that’s just that much more that we can provide to the community.”

Nichols mentioned that while they are keeping up with demand, they do need some small items to help pack food for people, such as plastic shopping bags.

“If you want to make a donation to us, you can either come to our agency or you can drop off cash or a check,” Nichols said. “You can also mail us a check, or you can go to our website and donate online there as well.”

Donations can be made to the Community Food Pantry Support fund that United Way is doing in partnership with PCM, The Salvation Army and Family Service Society.

Terminated Paducah fire captain files lawsuit against city

BY JOSH BAYAN | THE SUN
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PADUCAH — Former Paducah Fire Captain Nathan Torian filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Paducah, the Board of Commissioners, City Manager Daron Jordan and Fire Chief Stephen Kyle, alleging retaliation, wrongful termination and a violation of his First Amendment rights.

On Oct. 3, the Paducah City Commission unanimously voted to terminate Nathan Torian from his position as Fire Captain following a 10-hour-long public disciplinary hearing regarding allegations of insubordination. Torian claimed that the firing was a result of his being targeted due to union adjacency.

The lawsuit was filed Nov. 3 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. The complaint claims that Torian was fired for speaking out on public safety issues, engaging in union activity and filing labor and wage complaints.

Torian is now seeking reinstatement to



his position, back pay, as well as damages and attorney fees. He is alleging violations of his First and Fourteenth Amendment rights, the Fair Labor Standards Act and multiple Kentucky statutes.

Torian served the Paducah Fire Department for over 20 years and has held leadership positions with the Paducah Professional Firefighters Local 168. He said city officials began retaliating against him after he filed grievances and lawsuits challenging department policies and labor conditions.

He alleges the city disciplined him for filing grievances, contacting elected officials about safety concerns, and applying for a safety grant on behalf of the union.



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Nathan Torian is sworn in to testify for his defense at a public hearing that ultimately ended in this termination Friday, Oct. 3.

The lawsuit details a series of disciplinary actions leading up to his October termination, which Torian claims were premeditated attempts aimed at punishing him for protected union activity. He also argues that his firing followed a state Labor Cabinet complaint over unpaid overtime and coincided with the city’s participation in that investigation.

Torian’s complaint alleges that the defendants violated his rights to free speech, association, and petition, retaliated against him

under federal and state labor laws, and wrongfully terminated him in violation of Kentucky’s public policy that protects union advocacy. His team is demanding a jury trial.

Torian declined to comment when reporters for The Sun reached out.

A statement sent from the City of Paducah to The Sun read:

“The City of Paducah is aware of the lawsuit that has been filed. As this is an active legal matter, we will not be commenting at this time. However, we look



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The Paducah City Commission listens to Paducah Fire Department Battalion Chief April Tinsman’s testimony regarding Torian’s referring to her in an official capacity as her previous, lesser rank.



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Paducah Fire Capt. Nathan Torian was terminated from his position by a unanimous vote of the Paducah City Commission on Oct. 3 based on what the city called a pattern of insubordination.

forward to vigorously defending against the allegations.” The formal complaint is available on a QR code provided.

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