

# Higdon comments on verdict in the Rogers murder case

Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, released the following statement in the wake of this week's verdict in the trial concerning the disappearance and murder of Bardstown mother Crystal Rogers.

"The verdict this week brings some long-awaited justice for a family and community that've carried the weight of Crystal's disappearance for years. Folks in Bardstown have been through a lot, and this step forward means a great deal to so many.

"I'm grateful to prosecutor Shane Young and everyone who stayed committed to finding jus-

tice for Crystal and her loved ones. Their persistence made this possible.

"While the verdict brings a sense of closure, I know there are still questions and pain that can't be addressed in the courtroom. I hope that the road ahead brings truth, healing, and peace.

"To Sherry, Crystal's children, Mr. and Mrs. Till Ballard, and all who this tragedy has touched, please know that I stand with you today and always."



SENATOR JIMMY HIGDON

Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Bardstown and Nelson County.



Photo submitted

Pictured is Second Baptist Church in Taylorsville, with the former Minor Chapel on the left, which will be turned into community center.

# Wildfire destroys historic Grand Canyon lodge

BY FELICIA FONSECA AND JAIMIE DING  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A fast-moving wildfire destroyed a historic lodge and dozens of other structures on the Grand Canyon's North Rim, forcing officials to close access to that area for the season, the park said Sunday.

The Grand Canyon Lodge, the only lodging inside the park at the North Rim, was consumed by the flames, park Superintendent Ed Keable told in a meeting Sunday morning. He said the visitor center, the gas station, a waste water treatment plant, an administrative building and some employee housing were among the 50 to 80 structures lost. "Numerous" historic cabins in the area also were destroyed, the park said.

Two wildfires are burning at or near the North Rim, known as the White Sage Fire and the Dragon Bravo Fire. The latter is the one that impacted the lodge and other structures.

Started by lightning on July 4, the Dragon Bravo Fire was initially managed by authorities with a "confine and contain" strategy to clear fuel sources. They shifted to aggressive suppression a week later as it rapidly grew to 7.8 square

miles (20 square kilometers) because of hot temperatures, low humidity and strong wind gusts, fire officials said.

No injuries have been reported.

Millions of people visit Grand Canyon National Park annually, with most going to the more popular South Rim. The North Rim is open seasonally. It was evacuated last Thursday because of wildfire, and will remain closed for the rest of the season, the park said in a statement.

Firefighters at the North Rim and hikers in the inner canyon were evacuated over the weekend. The park said along with the fire risk, they could potentially be exposed to chlorine gas after the treatment plant burned. Chlorine gas is heavier than air and can lead to blurred vision, irritation or respiratory problems if high amounts of it are breathed in, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rafters on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon also were told to bypass Phantom Ranch, which has a set of cabins and dormitories along the river.

## HISTORIC LODGE BURNED

The Grand Canyon Lodge  
SEE WILDFIRE/PAGE A6

# County resolution approved for senior living complex

BY JEFF SOPLAND  
THE SPENCER MAGNET

TAYLORSVILLE — Senior citizens will soon have another option for housing in Spencer County.

At the Spencer County Fiscal Court meeting on July 7, Second Baptist Church Senior Pastor Rev. John A. Lewis was in attendance to inform the court and the public of his church's plans on constructing a senior housing complex near the church, which is located at 70 Rev Charles Burton Way in Taylorsville.

"We want to bless our community and seniors with affordable housing on the property of the church," said Lewis.

Lewis said that the complex will address some of the needs of the Spencer County senior citizens by giving them affordable housing.

The apartments will consist of 30 units, with an equal number of 1- and 2-bedroom apartments, in a 3-story building with elevators, and will be available for independent seniors aged 55 and over.

Construction is set to begin in six to nine months after approval of the financing of the tax credits being applied for through the Kentucky Housing Corporation.

The engineering firm that the church is working with for the complex is Cornerstone Engineering, Inc., based out of Jeffersontown, and will be developed by Winterwood Incorporated, which already has a presence in Spencer County. Winterwood has already acquired a land lease from the church to develop on.

With the location of the complex being so close to the Spencer County Schools property next to the Early Learning Center, the church has also expressed its intentions of working with the City of Taylorsville and the county to help incorporate green space, including a healing garden, and walkways connecting the park to the apartment building.

The former Minor Chapel, which is next to Second Baptist Church, will also be renovated and used as a community center, not only

for the residents of the complex, but for the community as well.

Prior to the court meeting on July 7, Spencer County Judge Executive Scott Travis, City of Taylorsville Mayor Karen Spencer, State Representative James Allen Tipton, Lewis, and members of both Winterwood and Cornerstone all met to discuss the plan.

At that meeting, Travis invited the group to attend the court meeting in order to inform the magistrates and the community of their plans, seeking support from the court.

The court voted unanimously to approve a resolution from the county to help the church get their funding.

The resolution read: "This resolution is in support for Second Baptist Church's Senior Citizens Complex project. The Second Baptist Church is proposing the development of a Senior Citizens Complex to address the growing need for affordable senior housing in our community and whereas this project reflects a commitment to serving

our aging population, and enhance the quality of life with safe, accessible housing, and therefore it being resolved the Spencer County Fiscal Court hereby expresses its support for the Second Baptist Church's proposed Senior Citizens Complex, and recognizes the value of such a development with gains to the community. We affirm our commitment to supporting the church's efforts with potential bonds, successful grants, and funding improvement."

"This will be a good addition to our community as a whole," said Travis after the passage of the resolution.

Lewis then informed the court that a contest is now underway for the name of the facility that is open to the community, that will continue until July 27, when the church trustees and deacons will narrow it down to the final three, and have the church vote for the final collective name.

"As we give it a name, that name gives it a life," said Travis in closing.

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