

PSC announces pipeline safety events in Ashland

STAFF REPORT

ASHLAND The Kentucky Public Service Commission will conduct Pipeline Strike Response Training events across Kentucky, including Ashland on Tuesday, May 20.

It will be at the Ashland Train Depot at 99 15th Street.

The trainings will showcase best practices for excavation and appropriate responses to gas pipeline incidents for utility operators and emergency responders, according to a press release.

The demonstration will highlight line locations, routing pre-excavation practices, a simulated pipeline strike and the appropriate response for all participants to a gas pipeline incident.

There will be a response segment and an in-class portion as well.

The event is in collaboration with Kentucky 811, Duke Energy of Kentucky, Inc., Atmos Energy Corporation, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, the National Utility Contractors Association, Martin Contracting, Spartan Construction and local emergency responders.

The events are free and open to all interested parties, according to the release. Advance registration is recommended. Lunch will be provided.

The first session will be from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The second session is scheduled for 3:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farmers market vouchers info

CATLETTSBURG

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Voucher Cards will be distributed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 28-30 at the Boyd County Extension Office, at 2420 Center St.

Vouchers will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Applicants must bring proof of Boyd County residency, such as a driver's license or state-issued ID. Anyone who received a voucher card last year must re-apply this year. However, if they still have their card from last year, they can reload it if their application for this year is approved.

Low-income seniors may qualify for the Senior Farmers Market Voucher program at the Boyd County Farmers Market. To qualify, the individual must be 60 or older on the day of issuance and have an income level of 185% or less of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Qualifying seniors receive \$50 in the form of an EBT/debit card to purchase fresh, unprocessed, locally grown fruits, honey, vegetables and fresh cut herbs.

BCC bridge winners named

ASHLAND

Bellefonte Country Club bridge winners this week are: first — Kay Memmer; second — Kathy Setterman; third — Cathy Hood; four — Jacque Brownstead.

Staff reports

More images considered for death penalty trial

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG The Commonwealth has filed motions to admit more photos and video footage into evidence in a death penalty case stemming from a double homicide in Ashland in June 2022.

John Tooson V, of Rossford, Ohio, ap-

peared in Boyd County Circuit Court via video-conference from across the street in the detention center on Thursday.

A pre-trial is set for June 12. A hearing is now scheduled for July 3 regarding the photos and video footage discussed Thursday in front of Judge John Vincent.

“We need to sit down and figure that part out,” said Sebastian Joy, Tooson’s defense attorney, referring to what photos and videos will be admitted into evidence.

Tooson will eventually go on trial for the murders of Selina Easter and Summer Algarakhu-ly. The double homicide

occurred in June 2022 in East Ashland. He is charged with two counts of murder, first-degree wanton endangerment, first-degree robbery and convicted felon in possession of a handgun.

He remains in Boyd County Detention Center on no bond.

(606) 326-2664 |
asnyder@dailyindependent.com

Woman pleads guilty to facilitation

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG A Huntington woman was sentenced to five years of active time in jail and five years of probation after pleading guilty to criminal facilitation on Thursday in Boyd County Circuit Court.

Lisa M. Jones, 36, was indicted on trafficking charges in November 2024. Those were amended to facilitation to trafficking.

The Commonwealth’s At-

torney’s Office and Kentucky State Police agreed Jones was too intoxicated to be fully aware of what was transpiring when she was a passenger in a vehicle allegedly involved in trafficking heroin (100 grams or more), fentanyl (greater than 28 grams), marijuana (between 8 ounces and 5 pounds), cocaine (more than 4 grams) and an unspecified drug.

The charges involving fentanyl and heroin resulted in consecutive sentences — five years apiece — while the others were to run

concurrently.

Judge John Vincent communicated the final sentence, which includes five years of active time and five years probated. Jones will also be in an inpatient treatment program.

Mediation is scheduled on June 25 for Jerry J. Ellis, 30, of Detroit, who is the suspected driver in the case, according to court documents.

(606) 326-2664 |
asnyder@dailyindependent.com

I’m turning 65 with retiree benefits ... why do I need Part B?

Good day, Toni:

We saw your article about Medicare Part B enrollment in our local newspaper, but my wife’s and my Medicare enrollment situation is different. We will both turn 65 this year, me in June and Carol in September. I have signed up for Medicare Part A only and Carol will enroll for Part A soon.

I retired when I turned 63 with fantastic retiree benefits for both me and my wife. Currently, I am being paid as a 1099

contract worker, so I do not have health benefits with the company where I am working part-time.

We do not see a need to sign up for Medicare Part B because of our coverage under a retiree employer group health plan. Are we correct in this assumption of us not enrolling in Part B?



TONI KING

Neither the HR department nor Medicare can give us a straight answer we need guidance.

Please explain what you as a Medicare consultant would recommend that we do about applying for Part B with retiree benefits. Thanks in advance, Toni.

— Richard and Carol from Corsicana, Texas

Hello Richard and Carol:

Great Medicare question. I would advise you to enroll in Part B NOW because both you and

Carol are in your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). Not enrolling in Medicare Part B can result in a Medicare nightmare.

I did write a Medicare article recently about someone who was self-employed, working as a “sole proprietor” with individual coverage and not a “contract worker” as you currently are, Richard, but the same rule applies. A contract worker’s status

SEE KING | A3

Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical names Harrison president

SUBMITTED CONTENT

Following a national search, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System has chosen one of its own as the next president of Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC).

Andrea “Lee” Harrison, Ed.D., a longtime advocate of the Appalachian region, will take the helm on July 1 of the 3,500-student college based in Cumberland.

For the past year, Harrison has served as the college’s chief advancement officer and dean of advancement and public relations, where she oversees institutional fundraising, strategic communications, community engagement, and a grant portfolio of \$11 million. She is also the executive director of

the Southeast Education Foundation.

“I’m excited to announce Dr. Harrison’s selection. She brings a deep understanding of the unique challenges facing the Appalachian region, along with a strong commitment and appreciation for its rich culture,” said KCTCS President Ryan Quarles. “Her proven leadership will be a tremendous asset as we continue to expand educational access, workforce training and economic development throughout the region.”

Prior to joining SKCTC, Harrison spent more than two decades at Milligan University in a variety of executive and academic roles, including vice president for enrollment and marketing and associate professor of communications. Her work encompassed enrollment and student success planning, program development, strategic planning, internal and external communications, and participation in multiple accreditation processes.

She has also served as vice president for partner services at Clark Higher Ed, where she supported enrollment strategy and marketing efforts for colleges and

universities across multiple states.

“It is the honor of a lifetime to serve this college and community,” said Harrison. “I believe deeply in the life-changing power of education and the importance of preparing students for meaningful work and engaged citizenship in our Appalachian region. I am committed to building on our legacy of excellence and working alongside our faculty, staff and community partners to expand opportunity and impact.”

Harrison holds a doctorate in higher education leadership and a master’s degree in organizational communication from Regent University, as well as a bachelor’s degree in communication from Milligan University. She also completed executive education programs at Vanderbilt University, Bryn Mawr College and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

The college offers more than 50 programs at the associate degree, diploma and certificate levels across six campuses: Cumberland, Harlan, Middlesboro, Pineville, the Knox Campus in Barbourville and Whitesburg.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Carter Liquor Inc., 417 7th Street, Paintsville, KY 41240 hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package and Quota Retail Package Beverages Licenses no later than May 30, 2025. The business to be licensed will be located at 2464 State Highway 2 Unit B, Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164 doing business as Kash Stop Liquor 2 The owner is as follows: Officer, Kasyap Patel of 417 7th Street, Paintsville, Kentucky 41240. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St. 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.
Published: May 16, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The annual return of the Vannatter Memorial Scholarship Trust is available at the address noted below for inspection during normal business hours by any citizen who so requests within 180 days after publication of this notice of availability.

Morning Pointe
1000 Addington Dr. Apt. 137
Russell, Kentucky 41169
Martha L. Vannatter, Administrator
606-923-6402
Published: May 16 ,2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

On May 13, 2025 the Boyd County Fiscal Court passed Ordinance 2025-02, An Ordinance of the County of Boyd, Kentucky approving a lease agreement to finance a project and refund and retire certain existing indebtedness; providing for the payment of and the security for the lease; affirming the maintenance of the existing sinking fund; and authorizing the execution of various documents related to the lease.

A copy of the Ordinance in its entirety is available for viewing in the County Judge Executive’s Office during normal business hours.

Published: May 16, 2025

HOW TO REACH US

Daily Independent

224 17th St.
Ashland, KY 41101-7606

ONLINE:
dailyindependent.com

Daily Independent ISSN 0744-6837 Copyright © 2020 by CNHI, LLC 224 17th St., Ashland, Ky. 41101 is published Daily except for Tuesday and Sunday and Christmas Day or 259 issues per year by CNHI, LLC. Business, Editorial, Accounting and Circulations offices: Daily Independent, 224 17th St., Ashland, Ky. 41101. Call 606-326-2674 to subscribe. Periodicals Postage Paid at Ashland, Kentucky.
POSTMASTER: Send address change to Daily Independent, P.O. Box 311, Ashland, KY 41105-0311.

Business hours:
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
weekdays

Phone:
(606) 326-2600
(800) 955-5860

Advertising:
(606) 326-2619
kpratt@dailyindependent.com

Delivery issues and
subscription information:
(606)326-2674
customerservice@dailyindependent.com

Newsroom:
News: (606) 326-2664
Sports: (606) 326-2658
asnyder@dailyindependent.com

The Independent

Classified is the key

to more sales.

Call Today!

326-2600