MOREHEAD A Morehead man is accused of murdering a woman and her daughter on Sept. 19.

Joshua Cottrell, 44, is facing charges stemming from a double homicide last week. He is the suspect in the deaths of Kayla D. Blake, 37,

and Kennedi McWhorter, 13, both of Morehead, according to Kentucky State Police and multiple media outlets.

On the morning of Friday, Sept. 19, the Rowan County Sheriff's Office responded to a welfare check at a South Spring Street residence. They discovered two deceased vic-

According to court records,

the victims were located across the hall from each other. According to KSP, evidence indicated the suspect had moved the bodies.

Cottrell was eventually found at a Paducah hospital, where KSP said he had blood on his clothes.

Based on court records, Cottrell has a violent criminal history. In 2003, he was convicted of the murder of Richie er are scheduled for Saturday Phillips of Rineyville. Court records show Cottrell put Phillips's body in a suitcase and threw it into a lake.

After his charges were amended to second-degree manslaughter, Cottrell was sentenced to 20 years for that crime.

Funeral services for Kayla Blake and Kennedi McWhortat 9 a.m. at Malone Funeral Home in Grayson. Visitation

is today from 6-9 p.m. Cottrell is in the Montgomery County Jail, according to the Mount Sterling Advocate, on a \$1 million cash bond. He is scheduled for a court appearance on Monday morn-



MATT JONES | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Powering up for the sixth time

Kentucky Power employees are seen behind a collection table for Power Up the Pantry outside of their office on the corner of 17th Street and Winchester Avenue on Thursday. The program, in its sixth year, helps those experiencing food insecurities in the region. The event had four locations this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pancake breakfast **Saturday**

ASHLAND

The Ashland Masonic Temple will have an allyou-can-eat breakfast at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Cost is \$10; children 5 and younger will eat free with a paying adult.

The temple is at 150 Central Ave.

MU clinic to offer free screenings

HUNTINGTON

The Marshall University Psychology Clinic will participate in National Depression Screening

Day next week by offering free depression screenings to students, faculty, staff and community members.

Screenings will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday in Harris Hall, Room 449, 1745 3rd Ave.

Participants will complete a brief survey followed by a one-onone review of their responses with a doctoral

student in psychology. While the screening is not a formal diagnosis, it is designed to help individuals who may be experiencing symptoms of depression take the first step toward seeking professional support.

An estimated 40 million adults in the United States are affected by anxiety or depression. National Depression Screening Day, observed



annually in October, aims to raise awareness and encourage individuals to seek help when needed.

For more information, call (304) 696-2772.

Staff reports

Daily Independent

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City awards wastewater plant construction bid

BY MATT JONES

THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND The Ashland City Commission voted to approve construction of the new wastewater treatment plant to Judy Construction Tuesday. The bid for construc-

tion is \$99.782 million - this is in addition to engineering costs of \$5.3 million for a total project cost of the new plant to \$105.122 million.

Construction of the plant should start later this year, Mark Hall, Director of Utilities, said.

Hall said his office hopes to have the signed contracts by the start of November with construction starting soon after.

"Once we issue the notice to proceed they should start soon," Hall

City Manager Tony Grubb said the engineering plans are almost complete. Michelle Veach added they are seeking materials before construction begins.

The project is scheduled to take 42 months to be completed.

The commissioner also approved work on Mayo Plaza from 12th to 17th Streets.

"It is not ADA-compliant, it's not walkable. You can't navigate it," Commissioner DJ Rymer said. "This is a very proactive step."

After approving the first reading to the repel of a city ordinance banning tarot readings in the city voted to table the second reading at a previous city planning meeting, said City Attorney Andrew Wheeler.

Wheeler said the commission voted to send the ordinance to the planning commission.

"We need information with what we can can or we can't do," Mayor Chuck Charles said.

Charles was the tie-breaking vote at the last commission meeting and said "it comes down to to the law. I want to be by the law."

Wheeler said the planning commission will take up the ordinance at its October meeting and should have a recommendation to the city commission by November.

The commission voted to move all meetings to Thursdays — the second Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. and the fourth Thursday at noon.

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