

PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Tiana, a mixed breed seven-month old female who came to the Leitchfield Animal Shelter as a stray. Her vaccinations are up to date; she has been altered; and she would do well in a home with other dogs, cats, and/or children. For more information, call the Leitchfield Animal Shelter at 270-230-8839 or email adoptlaspets@gmail.com. To sponsor this animal (lower the adoption fee), make checks payable to Leitchfield Animal Shelter and mail to 213 William Thomason Byway, Leitchfield, KY 42754.

Courtesy photo

Local author publishes volume 1 of series

Local author Gail Lyn Tomes-McCraday has released her first book of a three-volume series. Tom's Girl, by Riley Leigh (pen name) was released on Feb. 10, with Simon & Shuster, Archway Publishing Division. The cover describes a mischievous tomboy, as Tom's girl gets into trouble and has to figure her way out of several situations. Friends and family encourage good choices, but challenges present themselves at every turn. This book is available on Amazon, Kindle Edition, and will be available soon as an audio book.

McCraday is a retired

30-year public school teacher, holds multiple teaching awards, writing degrees and faculty awards, and remains a collegiate instructor for WKU's Department of Communication (PCAL) and ECTC's Department of English. For anyone looking for a fun book to read, try this new book, hot off the presses. Tom's Girl is based on the narrator's adventures as a kid, on the farm, at school, and around a small hometown. Visit amazon.com to order. You will frown, giggle, cry, and laugh out loud!

— Submitted



GAIL LYN TOMES-MCCRADY

BILLS

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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 could 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 deserts 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. 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 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 public notices. Any bill that seeks to change how public notices are handled or diminishes public meetings or 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. Jane Ashley Pace, a Campbellsville native, is publisher of the Oldham Era and Henry County Local, a regional advertising manager for Paxton Media and the 2024 president of the Kentucky Press Association.

Classified advertising *gets the job done.*



— Submitted



David Michael Hargis

Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville, right, testifies on Senate Bill 93 during Wednesday's Senate Health Services meeting. SB 93 would help parents offset some costs associated with hearing aids through insurance plans. With Berg is Jennifer Hughes, who testified about the challenges parents face when paying for hearing aids.

Senate hearing loss bill advances Wednesday

The Senate Health Services Committee unanimously advanced a bill Wednesday that would make buying hearing aids for children more affordable through insurance plans in Kentucky. Sponsored by Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville, the bill would require all health benefit plans to provide coverage for hearing aids and related services for children with documented hearing loss. It also calls for state regulations that establish a minimum coverage amount of \$2,500 per hearing aid.

One supporter, Jennifer Hughes, testified that her son was born with hearing loss, and the family faced challenges with inadequate insurance coverage for his hearing aids. Hughes said her son received his first pair of hearing aids when he was two months old, and there was an immediate difference. When he turned three years old, his audiologist recommended upgrading to a pair that cost \$5,000. "Long story short, we paid the full \$5,000 for the hearing aids," Hughes said. "Only \$2,000 of that went towards our deductible and out-of-pocket. And then the insurance didn't pay anything." Pediatric audiologist Shelley Moats also testified that prior legislation needs to be updated to meet today's situations. She said a law passed in 2002 required insurance plans to cover the devices for children, but it has not kept pace with the changes in the health care environment, specifically when it comes to high-deductible insurance plans. "Most parents end up being completely out-of-pocket on the purchase of hearing aids

for their child," she said, adding that of the roughly 58,000 babies born in Kentucky in 2023, about 175 had permanent hearing loss. Sen. Craig Richardson, R-Hopkinsville, asked if the price for hearing aids is associated with the size and development of children. Moats said children are typically fit with hearing aids that go behind the ear and have a life expectancy of about five years as children sweat and get dirty. That creates a replacement cost over time, she said. Berg said the original version of the bill included coverage requirements for adults as well, but she removed those provisions in the current version. She also expressed concern about a lack of pediatric audiologists in Kentucky networks. Senate Majority Caucus Chair Robby Mills, R-Henderson, asked about a fiscal note, and Berg said it was for the original bill. "We have requested a second fiscal note. We've not gotten that back, but the assumption is it's going to be less than the current because we excluded adults, and the original fiscal bill included those people," she said. Mills asked about breakage, loss and maintenance of hearing aids. Moats said manufacturers understand that hearing aids for children are at risk of loss or breakage, and the cost includes unlimited repair and a one-time replacement for loss or damage during the warranty period. The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

Absolute Auction

Absolute Real Estate Auction

Saturday March 15th @ 10:00 A.M.

Location: 1637 Lashley Street Leitchfield, KY

1259 Sq. Ft. 3 Bedroom 2 Bath House with Attached Garage

Selling at Absolute Auction will be a 3 Bedroom 2 Bath 1259 Sq. Ft. Home on Nice Lot with Attached Garage & Fenced Back Yard. Total Square ft. including garage 1721 Sq. Ft.

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