

Raffety sisters connect community to world

Bell Telephone System was founding in 1877, and by 1896, telephone lines were being strung from



VIRGINIA GRAVES

Campbellsville to Lebanon via Spurlington and Calvary, and between Mannsville and Campbellsville.

In 1896, the Campbellsville Telephone Company was organized at 201 E. Main St. in the upstairs of the old Taylor National Bank. In 1908, the Taylor County Telephone Company was organized in Mannsville.

After that, it didn't take long for independent telephone companies to spring up all over the county. In 1913, at least 17 such companies existed, but by three years later, they began to consolidate. By 1920, there was only the Taylor County Telephone Company located above the W.R. Hoskins Store at 223 Main St.

Early telephone companies used switchboards that required operators – mostly women – to physically connect one telephone to another. Operators wore headsets and sat in front of a massive board filled with jacks and cords.

When a light flashed, the operator plugged a cord into the caller's jack, asked who they wanted to reach, then plugged the cord into the recipient's line to connect the two phones. The process required immense skill and stamina.

Eventually there would be party lines – shared local circuits where multiple households connected to the same physical wire. Popular until the mid-20th century, these systems saved on expensive cabling costs and allowed residents to communicate at a discount rate. Families on party lines were assigned a distinctive ring so that they could recog-



Three sisters worked a total of 105 years for the telephone company in Campbellsville. Bertha, Permelia and Mary Raffety each receive honors for their 35 years of service.

nize if a call was for them or another household.

Needless to say, party lines had their issues, including listened-in on a neighbor's phone call. Besides the lack of privacy, there was the annoying problem of only one person on the party line being able to make a phone call at any given time. Long phone conversations were considered poor etiquette.

In 1957, the Southern Continental Telephone Company, then operating in Campbellsville, was sold to General Telephone Company of Kentucky. Around the same time, a new brick telephone exchange was built on what is now the corner of Broadway and North Central Avenue.

Four years earlier, in September of 1953, three Campbellsville telephone operators, all sisters, were honored individually for their 30 years of service. Not only had Permelia, Bertha and Mary Raffety worked as telephone operators in Campbellsville, the sisters had never missed a day's work on account of sickness.

These three hard working sisters, none of whom ever married, were the only daughters of Noble and Margaret Raffety of Spurlington.

The family had four sons before they bore three daughters. One final son would finalize the Raf-

fety's eight children. The brothers were Richard, Mitchel, Obie, Ernest and Truman.

The three sisters would have been quite young when tragedy struck their family in February of 1903. The family's eldest son, Richard, was kicked by a horse and died of a skull fracture. Five months later, Noble Raffety, at age 41, died from what the Taylor County Enquirer referred to as a "congestive chill." Adding additional sadness to the family, Noble's father, Thomas Raffety who was 98-year-old, died the very next day after the death of his son.

Living with their mother, the three sisters began working for the Taylor County Telephone Company in 1923, at which time Bertha was appointed night chief operator.

The 1930 census reveals that the three women, listed as telephone operators, were still living at home with their 64-year-old mother, along with their youngest brother, who was working as a telephone lineman.

But when the children's mother died later that year, the sisters moved into town. In 1940, they were living together on East Main Street, and in 1950, they were living together on North Columbia Avenue.

At the time of their 30-year recognition, the Raffety sisters were not only praised in the Campbellsville newspaper, but the news of their achievements had likewise been

sent to numerous telephone publications.

Then again, in August of 1958, they would be honored one more time at a luncheon at the Kentucky Central Hotel. The Sept. 11 News Journal stated that "H. J. Huether, Jr., President of General Telephone Company of Kentucky presented a service pin to each of the three sisters representing 35 years of service with General Telephone – a grand total of 105 years of kind, friendly and courteous service to the public."

The article when on to tell readers that Bertha had started work with the telephone company on Feb. 1, 1923, and planned to spend her retirement "relaxing at home, raising tomatoes and enjoying life."

Mary, who had started with the company March 15, 1923, and would retire just a week later on Sept. 15, planned to "raise flowers and crochet" during her retirement. She also made it known that she always had preferred working at the office rather than "loafing around the house."

Finally, Permelia, who went to work for the company on Sept. 1, 1923, and had not yet reached her 65th birthday, planned to continue working.

The sisters were in agreement that they had enjoyed their work and that it had not seemed like 35 years since they first began with at General Telephone.

Bertha, Mary and Permelia Raffety lived and worked and thrived together their entire lives; so, it shouldn't surprise anyone that when death began to knock on their door, they left this earth the way they came in ... together ... one right after the other.

Mary died Nov. 20, 1968. Bertha died May 24, 1969. Permelia died Jan. 4, 1970. The three sisters died one year, one month and 15 days apart. Still together, they are buried side by side at Memorial Gardens in Campbellsville.

EARLY DAYS

TEN YEARS AGO July 2016

It was a dream come true for Brennan Wheatley as he suited up in his Campbellsville police uniform. The soon-to-be 23-year-old with Down syndrome had wanted to be a cop for as long as his family can remember. It was a birthday wish to come true!

Alma Allen's family conducted a public celebration of her 90th birthday on Saturday, July 23, at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Guy Anthony and Danae Wood of Campbellsville announced the birth of their daughter Millie Ann, on Monday, July 18, 2016, at Taylor Regional Hospital. Millie was born at 12:57 p.m., weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

The Taylor County Volunteer Fire Department responded to a fire that damaged a home in the 1800 block of Friendship Pike. Officials say the family was home at the time of the fire but was able to get out and was uninjured.

TWENTY YEARS AGO July 2006

Drs. Phillip and Nine Stiles of Tempe, Arizona celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception Corinth Baptist Church.

Terry Lee Pace, 51, of Anna Court in Campbellsville, died Friday, July 21, 2006.

THIRTY YEARS AGO July 1996

It rained on Veronica Duka's parade Saturday, but that didn't dampen her spirit or those of the hundreds who turned out to greet her during her first official visit home as Miss Kentucky 1996.

Elvis and Marie Cornelius celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at Mannsville Separate Baptist Church.

On April 6, Patti Lynn Carter became the bride of Frank Owen Brockman in a ceremony at First United Methodist Church in Campbellsville.

Pitman Valley Baptist Church announced plans for special dedication service in honor of the church's history.

FORTY YEARS AGO July 1986

The Taylor County Public Library announced new hours and began operating six days a week. Walter Douglas Young,

Campbellsville, and his sisters announced their parents, Isles and Pauline Young, Hatcher Road, would renew their vows at Pleasant Run Baptist Church.

FIFTY YEARS AGO July 1976

St. Mary's College in Lebanon closed after 15 years of preparing students for the priesthood.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Cobb Montgomery and daughter, Samantha Duke of Lexington, were guests of Mr. Montgomery's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Montgomery.

Rachel Lynn Corbin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Corbin, celebrated her second birthday July 13 at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Perkins. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Willard Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Shreve, Mark and Kathy.

SIXTY YEARS AGO July 1966

Wanda Walls, Route 4, Campbellsville, was among 800 "youth scholars" from 40 states attending the 38th Farm Business Conference of the American Institution of Cooperation in summer session at Colorado State University.

Mrs. Lee Edwards, Campbellsville, won a trip for her family to Five Flags, Texas, a historical attraction. The contest was sponsored by the Humble Oil Company.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO July 1956

Clem Leslie Hendrickson, 46, died at his home on Route 1, in the Dry Creek community. He had been in ill health for the past several years and suffered a heart condition and asthma.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO July 1946

A birthday dinner was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cassius Davis on Davis Street, in honor of her father, Reese Frogg, and Cassius Davis. The occasion was Mr. Frogg's 70th birthday and her husband's 66th birthday.

JoAnna Durham had a tonsillectomy at the Lebanon hospital. She's the daughter of Mrs. Olivia Durham.

NINETY YEARS AGO July 1936

Carl Goin and Russell Morrison of Greensburg received painful cuts on their faces and bodies when the car which they were riding collided with another motor vehicle on the Green River Hill.

YOUR CUSTOMER
JUST READ THIS AD.
ADVERTISE WITH US.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Green-Taylor Water District expects to file an application with the Public Service Commission on or about July 31, 2026, seeking approval of a proposed adjustment to its rates for water service. The proposed rates shall not become effective until the Public Service Commission has issued an order approving these rates or six (6) months from the date of the filing of the application, whichever occurs first.

CURRENT AND PROPOSED RATES GREEN-TAYLOR WATER DISTRICT									
		Current	Proposed	Difference	% Increase				
<u>5/8 Inch Meter</u>									
First	2,000 gallons	\$24.05 per month	\$24.78 per month	\$0.73	3.04%				
Next	3,000 gallons	\$0.01018 per gallon	\$0.01049 per gallon	\$0.00031	3.05%				
Next	5,000 gallons	\$0.00832 per gallon	\$0.00857 per gallon	\$0.00025	3.00%				
Over	10,000 gallons	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00580 per gallon	\$0.00017	3.02%				
<u>3/4 Inch Meter</u>									
First	3,000 gallons	\$34.23 per month	\$35.27 per month	\$1.04	3.04%				
Next	2,000 gallons	\$0.01018 per gallon	\$0.01049 per gallon	\$0.00031	3.05%				
Next	5,000 gallons	\$0.00832 per gallon	\$0.00857 per gallon	\$0.00025	3.00%				
Over	10,000 gallons	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00580 per gallon	\$0.00017	3.02%				
<u>1 Inch Meter</u>									
First	5,000 gallons	\$54.59 per month	\$56.25 per month	\$1.66	3.04%				
Next	5,000 gallons	\$0.00832 per gallon	\$0.00857 per gallon	\$0.00025	3.00%				
Over	10,000 gallons	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00580 per gallon	\$0.00017	3.02%				
<u>1 1/2 Inch Meter</u>									
First	10,000 gallons	\$96.19 per month	\$99.12 per month	\$2.93	3.05%				
Over	10,000 gallons	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00580 per gallon	\$0.00017	3.02%				
<u>2 Inch Meter</u>									
First	20,000 gallons	\$152.49 per month	\$157.13 per month	\$4.64	3.04%				
Over	20,000 gallons	\$0.00563 per gallon	\$0.00580 per gallon	\$0.00017	3.02%				
<u>Leak Adjustment Rate</u>									
		Current	Proposed	Difference	% Increase				
Wholesale									
Larue County Water									
District #1		\$0.00361 per gallon	\$0.00372 per gallon	\$0.00011	3.04%				
City of Greensburg		\$0.00322 per gallon	\$0.00332 per gallon	\$0.00010	3.04%				
Monthly Water Loss Reduction Surcharge		\$0.00 Per customer	\$2.76 Per customer	\$2.76	100%				

(New charge for all customers for forty-eights months)

If the Public Service Commission approves the proposed water rates, then the effect on the average monthly bill for each customer class is set out in the table below.

Gallons per Month	Meter Size	Existing Bill	Proposed Bill	Change	% Increase	Proposed WLRS	Proposed Bill+WLRS	Change	% Increase
4,000	5/8"	\$ 44.41	\$ 45.76	\$ 1.35	3.04%	\$ 2.76	\$ 48.52	\$ 4.11	9.3%
6,000	3/4"	\$ 62.91	\$ 64.82	\$ 1.91	3.04%	\$ 2.76	\$ 67.58	\$ 4.67	7.4%
15,000	1"	\$ 124.34	\$ 128.10	\$ 3.76	3.02%	\$ 2.76	\$ 130.86	\$ 6.52	5.2%
30,000	1 1/2"	\$ 208.79	\$ 215.12	\$ 6.33	3.03%	\$ 2.76	\$ 217.88	\$ 9.09	4.4%
60,000	2"	\$ 377.69	\$ 389.13	\$ 11.44	3.03%	\$ 2.76	\$ 391.89	\$ 14.20	3.8%
Larue County WD #1		\$ 1,125.06	\$ 1,159.28	\$ 34.22	3.04%	\$ 2.76	\$ 1,162.04	\$ 36.98	3.3%
City of Greensburg		\$ 1,910.53	\$ 1,968.64	\$ 58.11	3.04%	\$ 2.76	\$ 1,971.40	\$ 60.87	3.2%

The Application may be examined at the utility's office located at 250 Industrial Park Road, Greensburg, Ky; 42743 telephone (270) 932-4947.

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by the utility. However, the PSC may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice.

A person may examine this application at the Public Service Commission offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm or through the PSC website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the PSC through its website or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602. You may contact the Public Service Commission at (502) 564-3940.

A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Public Service Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this notice, the Public Service Commission may take final action on the application.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE 2027002 relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations. Be it ordained by the Taylor County Judge Executive, Commonwealth of Kentucky: The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 26-27 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purpose indicated.

GENERAL Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$3,280,841.00
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	\$271,460.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	\$997,095.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	\$17,000.00
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE	\$339,250.00
6000	TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES	\$260,000.00
6100	ROADS	\$1,075,000.00
6200	AIRPORTS	\$128,650.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	\$2,484,500.00
Total GENERAL Fund		\$8,853,796.00

ROAD Fund		
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	\$40,000.00
6000	TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES	\$50,000.00
6100	ROADS	\$1,491,350.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	\$319,000.00
Total ROAD Fund		\$1,900,350.00

JAIL Fund		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	\$3,047,072.00
7000	DEBT SERVICE	\$680,000.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	\$1,212,200.00
Total JAIL Fund		\$4,939,272.00

EDA PROJECT Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$2,101,421.00
Total EDA PROJECT Fund		\$2,101,421.00

OPIOID Fund		
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	\$400,000.00
Total OPIOID Fund		\$400,000.00

CLERK Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$80,000.00
Total CLERK Fund		\$80,000.00

TRANSIENT Fund		
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE	\$200,000.00
Total TRANSIENT Fund		\$200,000.00

POOL CD Fund		
9000	ADMINISTRATION	\$2,489,070.00
Total POOL CD Fund		\$2,489,070.00

Adopted by the Taylor County Judge Executive this the 11 day of June, 2026.

County Judge/Executive

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

All interested persons and organizations in the County are hereby notified that a copy of the County's adopted budget in full is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.