

The State Journal

Tonight: Slim chance for rain
WEATHER A9

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY ■ 50c ■ STATE-JOURNAL.COM

No firefighter pay refund

Judge rules fire commission won't return disputed \$12,000

BY KEVIN WHEATLEY
STATE JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

A judge has denied the city's request for a \$12,000 refund from the state fire commission over the incentive pay for three firefighters with the Frankfort Fire Department in 2007.

The city had contended that the pay was justified and asked for the Kentucky

Fire Commission to pay it. The commission, however, said that the incentive pay for training had been awarded due to flawed records, and the city paid it back.

The city then appealed the matter to Franklin Circuit Court.

Circuit Judge Phillip Shepherd denied it Monday.

Shepherd ruled that the fire commission had substantial evidence that the training hours claimed by the three firefighters for the pay were invalid, late or unreported.

Shepherd noted in his decision that Scott Morgan, the Frankfort Fire Department's official training officer during 2007, repeatedly warned firefighters and ad-

ministrators of problems with the records used for the incentive pay.

Court documents show Morgan said he tried to get city firefighters and officials to file their training hours on time and properly.

Shepherd also said the fire commission acted within its authority and based its decision on records submitted by Morgan. The court

wasn't going into fact-finding and evaluating the credibility of witnesses, Shepherd ruled.

City Solicitor Rob Moore, who filed the appeal in November 2008, said the city wasn't happy with the decision, but understood why the court sided with the fire commission.

See **FIREFIGHTER PAY**, A7

Will we follow Ohio on casinos?

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

Local legislators say approval of casinos in Ohio will make the issue more urgent in Kentucky during the 2010 legislative session.

"I'm glad for Ohio and sorry for Kentucky," said Rep. Carl Rollins, D-Midway. "We should have done it first. This just puts us further in the hole."

With 91 percent of precincts reporting, the question passed 53 percent to 47 percent in Ohio Tuesday. The plan will include four casinos, or one each, in Colum-

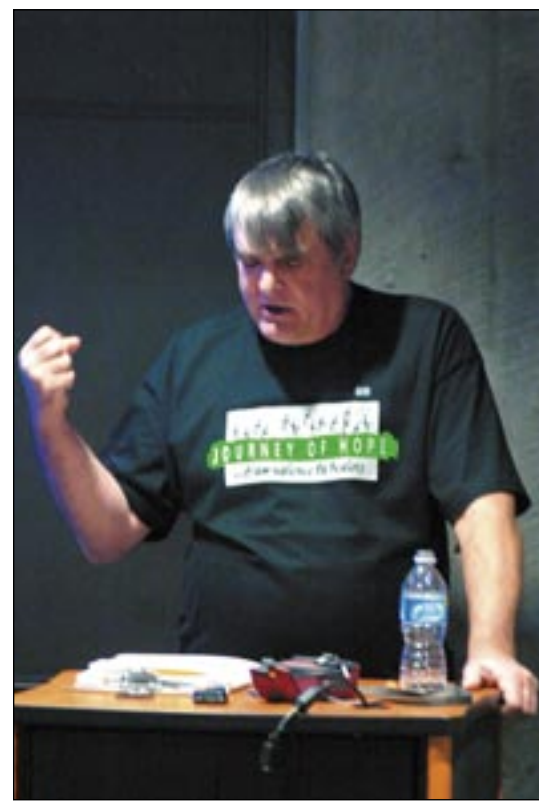
See **CASINOS**, A8



Shujaa Graham, a former death row inmate, speaks about his experience and exoneration.



Terri Steinberg talks about her son, Justin Wolfe, Virginia's youngest death row resident.



Bill Pelke talks about how he helped save his grandmother's killer from being executed.

AN EMOTIONAL APPEAL

Speakers urge KSU students to fight to abolish death penalty

PHOTOS BY
KELLY MACKEY

BY KEREN HENDERSON
STATE JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Kentucky needs to join 15 other states that have abolished the death penalty, speakers who oppose it told an audience at Kentucky State University Tuesday.

They included the grandson of a woman bru-

tally murdered by teenage girls, the mother of the youngest killer on Virginia's death row, and a man who faced execution for three years after being framed in the murder of a prison guard.

They are part of the Journey of Hope, a national group touring Kentucky campuses speaking against the death penalty.

Today, there are 37 people (all but one are men) on Kentucky's death row.

In Kentucky, the death penalty is applied in murders with aggravating circumstances.

No circumstance justifies the death penalty, according to Journey speakers. They include Bill Pelke, whose grandmother was stabbed to death; Terri Steinberg, the mother of Justin Wolfe, the Virginia death row inmate; and Shujaa Graham, whose death sentence was overturned in 1979.

"It's on our backs to change this," said Kate Miller, with the American Civil Liberties Union, as she introduced the speakers in Hathaway Hall Auditorium. "Our tax dollars pay for these murders."

The death penalty is unjust, unnecessary, expensive and ineffective, Miller said.

The ACLU of Kentucky and The Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty invited the advo-

cate to speak and encouraged the more than 100 students in attendance to send postcards to their legislators.

Shujaa Graham

Graham is one of 138 innocent men who lived on death row. "Think about the innocent people who have been condemned to death," said Graham, who spent three years there be-

See **DEATH PENALTY**, A7

Students can get swine flu shots next week

Parents must give written consent

BY KATHERAN WASSON
STATE JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The wait is over - Franklin County Public Schools students will get their swine flu vaccines next week.

Parents can choose between a shot or nasal mist for their children.

Information packets and consent forms will be available at schools by the end of

the week. Students must have a signed consent form to participate.

The Franklin County Health Department will administer the vaccine to enrolled students only. There is no charge.

Vaccine clinics haven't been scheduled for Frankfort Independent Schools, Superintendent Rich Crowe said today.

THE SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTERING THE VACCINE IS:

- >Early Learning Village - Monday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- >Bridgeport Elementary - Monday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- >Westridge Elementary - Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- >Collins Lane Elementary - Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- >Peaks Mill Elementary - Wednesday morning
- >Bondurant Middle - Wednesday morning
- >Western Hills High School - Wednesday afternoon
- >Hearn Elementary - Thursday morning
- >Elkhorn Elementary - Thursday morning

- Thursday morning
- >Elkhorn Middle - Thursday afternoon
- >Franklin County High School - Friday morning
- >Educational Development Center - Friday morning
- >Career and Technical Center - Friday morning

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WEB POLL Tree name

What should we call the lighted tree in front of the capitol?

Holiday tree, 8%
Christmas tree, 91%
Total votes: 301

Vote on state-journal.com



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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Nov. 6th & 7th 10 am-5:30 pm; Nov. 8th 1-4 pm
Country Peddler & Twisted Twigs
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(502) 863-4116 (502) 867-0460
Downtown Georgetown

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