

KY TRIVIA

Volleyball player Lisa Bokovoy set a University of Kentucky career record in 1985-88 with 1,657 kills.

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Frankfort & Kentucky



Beshear OKs new mine inspections

Approval comes in effort to help state meet requirements for reviews

BY JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Gov. Steve Beshear approved an increase Tuesday in the number of Kentucky coal mine inspectors and mine permit reviewers for the state's Energy and Environment Cabinet.

Beshear approved an additional 15 new mine inspectors in an effort to help the state meet its required mine inspections. The governor also approved the addition of 19 new mine permit reviewers — 16 permanent slots and three interim posi-

tions.

"It's excellent news," mine safety advocate Tony Oppengard said. "It's the safest day of the year for coal miners when inspectors are present. The more days inspectors are present on the job, the more likely it is that they're going to observe safety problems and less likely that miners will be killed or injured."

The new mine inspectors will be paid for with revenue generated by Kentucky's severance tax on coal. New assessments on coal mining permit applications, plus a federal match, are expected

to raise enough money to cover the cost of adding new permit reviewers, Beshear said.

About \$1.3 million in coal severance money is going toward paying for the new mine inspectors, Linda Potter, a spokeswoman for the state's Department for Natural Resources said.

Assessments on mine permit applications will vary, Potter said.

Currently, mine applicants pay a base \$375 permit fee. Under Beshear's emergency regulation that went into effect Tuesday af-

ternoon, Potter said, minor revisions will cost \$375; amendments or major revisions will cost \$1,375; and new permit applications will be assessed \$2,125.

Potter said she expects the additional people assigned to review mine applications should hasten the process.

Earlier this year, a measure in the Kentucky General Assembly would have reduced the number of inspections performed by the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing. It would have still required six visits from

inspectors, but the trips could have involved other activities such as mine rescue training.

The measure failed.

In 2006, 16 Kentucky coal miners were killed on the job, including five deaths from a single underground mine explosion in Harlan County. Seventy-three miners were killed across the country that year, including 12 in an explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia.

The following year, Congress and legislatures in coal-producing states reacted with new mine safety

laws.

Adding new mine inspectors is expected to help the state meet its required inspections.

Kentucky requires six annual inspections per mine, while federal law calls for four underground mine inspections each year.

"Our state law is more stringent than the federal law," Oppengard said. "Most companies run less coal on the days when inspectors are present. They're spending more time on safety and less on production."

Mouse trapped



A cat plays with a mouse in the leaves on Ryswick Lane.

STATE JOURNAL/KELLY MACKAY

AROUND KENTUCKY

Jane Beshear launches coat drive for poor

(AP) — First lady Jane Beshear is urging Kentuckians to donate coats to help the poor during this year's upcoming winter.

Gov. Steve Beshear's office is working with Goodwill Industries of Kentucky on a coat drive that runs through Nov. 27.

Mrs. Beshear says she's encouraging people to donate coats that could help provide warmth for low-income families. She's asking for new or gently used winter coats.

Bins are being set up in lobbies of government buildings across Frankfort, including inside the Transportation Cabinet, Cabinet for Health and Family Resources, Library and Archives, Central Lab and the governor's office.

People who can't make it to Frankfort are asked to make a winter coat donation to their local Goodwill.

3 candidates sent to governor

(AP) — Gov. Steve Beshear is considering three

candidates for a family court opening in a judicial circuit that covers three counties in eastern Kentucky.

A judicial nominating panel on Tuesday sent Beshear the names of three finalists for the vacancy in the 37th Judicial Circuit, Division 2. The district covers Carter, Elliott and Morgan counties.

The three people under consideration are Gary Everett Conn of Grayson, David Doran Flatt of Olive Hill and Steve O'Connor of West Liberty.

It's up to Beshear to select someone nominated by the commission to replace Judge Kristi Gossett, who resigned in May.

LEXINGTON

Man sent to prison in child porn case

(AP) — A federal judge in Lexington has sentenced a Las Vegas man to more than 20 years in prison for sexually exploiting a 12-year-old girl.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for Eastern Kentucky said Sean Marcus Hix's crime was aided by the child's Boyle County father, who

was earlier sentenced to prison.

Hix was sentenced on Monday to 244 months by Senior U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Hood.

Hix had been charged with conspiring to produce child pornography and receipt of child pornography.

A news release by the U.S. Attorney's Office said when Hix's home in Las Vegas was searched, agents found thousands of images of child pornography including nude photographs of the Kentucky child.

Authorities said Hix and the girl's father met online.

College cost panel gives report

(AP) — A task force on college affordability has made more than a dozen recommendations to Gov. Steve Beshear.

The panel met over the past year and concluded Kentucky should put at least \$64 million more per year into need-based student financial aid.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported that among key recommendations are changing criteria for students to receive Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships to track higher

expectations and providing more financial aid to part-time and nontraditional college students.

In a statement Tuesday, Beshear said the state has a bleak budget outlook in the next two years and gave no indication whether he would back any of the recommendations in the next legislative session.

LOUISVILLE

Horse art to benefit charity

(AP) — A herd of colorful horses has been appearing at various locations around Louisville, and some of the statues are slated to go on the auction block later this month.

It's a reprise of "Gallopalooza," which first placed the decorated life-sized horse models on the streets of Kentucky's largest city in 2004. Organizers say that event had been modeled on a similar "Cow Parade" in Chicago.

Forty of the horse statues will be put on the block at a live auction on Nov. 20, to benefit Brightside, a nonprofit group that works on community beautification projects such as tree planting.

Among the horses that

will be auctioned is one dubbed "A Horse Divided," which features a blue background and a Kentucky Wildcat on one side and a red background with a Louisville Cardinal on the other.

GRAYSON

GOP chooses House candidate

(AP) — Republicans in two northeastern Kentucky counties have chosen Grayson businesswoman Jill York to run for an open House seat.

Carter County GOP Chairwoman Mignon (mih-NON') Colley says York, who has a local printing business, was chosen by secret ballot Tuesday night by Republicans in Carter and Lewis counties. The vote total was not released.

Democrats met Monday night and selected Barry Webb of Grayson to run for the seat, which was left open when Robin Webb was elected to the state Senate in August.

Gov. Steve Beshear has called a special election for Dec. 8 to fill the 96th Legislative District seat.

AROUND FRANKFORT

Teacher nomination deadline today

Good Shepherd School is accepting nominations of former or current teachers for an Outstanding Teacher Award and of alumni for a Distinguished Alumni Award.

For a nomination form go to www.edline.net/pages/gss or call MaryAnn Stevens at 227-9962.

The deadline for nominations is today. The awards will be presented at the Sixth Annual Good Shepherd Gala Nov. 14.

Senior class now selling poinsettias

The Frankfort High School senior class is selling poinsettias through Nov. 30.

Cost is \$10. The colors are red, white-star, pink, marble and peppermint. Each plant comes in a foil wrapped 6-inch pot. Delivery is Dec. 10. Call Jennifer at 320-3359 or Cheryl at 695-4560 to place an order.

Students holding yard sale Saturday

Health Occupations Students of America will have a large indoor yard sale Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the foyer of the Franklin County Career and Technical Center, located behind Franklin County High School.

Proceeds will fund students in the HOSA state competition held in Louisville in March.

Help wanted for Veterans Day celebration

The Franklin County High School Air Force JROTC is asking Franklin County to help celebrate Veterans Day Nov. 11.

Anyone serving in the military or who has a friend or relative in the service or who has served is asked to send or bring a picture of the service member with information about him or her to FCHS.

Pictures and information may also be e-mailed to Ed.Parsons@franklin.kyschools.us or mailed to FCHSAFJROTC, 1100 E. Main St., Frankfort, KY 40601.

For more information call Master Sgt. James Kinsella or Maj. Ed Parsons at 695-6750.