



The State Journal

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HOLMES STREET MURDER

Defenders dealing with death threats

McGraph's family also threatened

BY KEVIN WHEATLEY
STATE JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Vague death threats from family members of a man gunned down on Holmes Street prompted two of Frankfort's public defenders to seek protection from local law enforcement officers.

Tommy McKinney was shot to death outside his Holmes Street home Jan. 5., and Lionel McGraph has been charged with his murder.

"There were apparent threats coming from family members of the deceased in the shooting case," public defender Rodney Barnes told The State Journal Tuesday. Barnes and public defender Kristin Gonzalez represent McGraph.

The threats became heated to the point that McGraph didn't appear in open court during his arraignment Jan. 19. All court proceedings to this date have been conducted by video from Franklin County Regional Jail.

Barnes said threats have come by a third-party, and one family member said, "I'm going to kill everybody."

Barnes isn't sure who the



STATE JOURNAL/KELLY MACKEY
Franklin County Deputy Sheriff Alvin Cummins stands near public defender Kristen Gonzalez as she gathers her papers during a court recess. Vague death threats by family members of gunned down Tommy McKinney resulted in protection for public defenders from local law enforcement officers.

threat is aimed at, but he's not taking any chances.

"I'd like to think it's blowing off steam," Barnes said. "I'd like to think it's not aimed at any of my staff, but you never know."

Barnes said when the public defenders initially took McKinney's case, the office re-

ceived frequent phone calls from unlisted numbers. Most were hang-ups.

"Sometimes as many as 50 per hour," the attorney said.

When meeting with McGraph's family members at the St. Clair Street office, some of McKinney's family "cruised up

and down the street," Barnes said police told him.

Barnes treats every threat as serious. He reported them to Michael Rodgers - law operations division director for the Department of Public Advocacy - and Rodgers hired local off-duty po-

See THREAT, A8

Farmers Bank faces hurdles

List includes need to repay \$30M loan

BY PAUL GLASSER
STATE JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Farmers Capital Bank Corp. still faces obstacles in the wake of CEO Tony Bussen's resignation, including repayment of a \$30 million federal loan and a cease-and-desist order against one of its subsidiaries.

Company officials say they're making progress on all three issues.

Bussen resigned Monday - neither he nor any company officials would comment on the matter.

"The statement speaks for itself," said Frank Sower Jr., chairman of the board of directors.

Lloyd Hillard Jr. was appointed to replace Bussen as CEO and president. Doug Carpenter, senior vice president and CFO, described Hillard as a "great leader."

Farmers Capital Bank Corp. is the holding company for 36 banks in central and northern Kentucky. The company must repay a \$30 million federal loan and a subsidiary is under a cease-and-desist order from federal regulators.

Joe Peek, professor of finance at the University of Kentucky, said there are a variety of reasons a CEO would resign, including personality clashes, lack of support from the board of directors or plans to pursue another job offer.

"All you can do is speculate," Peek said. However, if a bank holding company is performing poorly, the CEO could be held accountable, Peek said. Many small and medium-sized banks are now feeling the effects of the residential and commercial real estate bubble, he said.

Carpenter declined to comment further on Bussen's resignation.

A review of information from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. shows several local subsidiaries were suffering from poor loan quality.

The FDIC recently published an order requiring United Bank and Trust of Versailles, a subsidiary of Farmers Capital Bank Corp., to cease and desist from alleged "unsafe or unsound banking practices."

According to the order, United Bank did not admit or deny the allegations, which included:

>Lack of adequate supervision

See BANK, A8



Lloyd Hillard Jr.

Retirement issues lead to hot race

6 vie for 2 seats on KRS, campaign includes advertising, endorsements

BY PAUL GLASSER
STATE JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Funding issues - there's a nearly \$17 billion shortage - and concerns about independence have made the race for two seats on the Kentucky Retirement Systems a hot contest. Six are vying for them.

Ballots were mailed to approximately 128,000 active and retired state employees on Monday. Several of the candidates

have taken out advertisements or submitted letters to The State Journal.

Bobby Henson, who is seeking a fourth term on the KRS board, said it's the first time he's seen so much interest in the race. The critical lack of funding for the systems may have been a motivating factor, he said.

"The retirement is in pretty hard straits right now," he said. "It's critical that the state in-

creases their contributions."

In his budget speech last week, Gov. Steve Beshear pledged to increase pension contributions and fully fund the system in 25 years. The retirement systems face an unfunded liability of \$16.6 billion and could run out of money by 2015.

Henson, of Frankfort, and fellow candidate Billy Hunt, of Louisville, have received several endorsements, including the

support of Sen. Julian Carroll, D-Frankfort; Franklin County Judge Executive Ted Collins; and the Kentucky Public Retirees.

Henson said he did not seek the endorsements and didn't pay for the advertisements.

Carroll said he got involved because its important retirees' interests be protected. The best way to do that is elect benefi-

See HOT RACE, A7

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

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See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

See THREAT, A8

INSIDE

Classified B8-10
Comics B11
Editorials A4
Obituaries A2

Spectrum A6
Sports B1-4
TV news B12

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MAY PRIMARIES

11 candidates want commission seats

BY CHARLIE PEARL
AND PAUL GLASSER

STATE JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

Warner Caines, long-time general manager of the Frankfort Plant Board who retired last October, filed for City Commission on Tuesday, the filing deadline.

Caines is the 11th candidate seeking the four seats on the commission.

There will be a nonpar-

tisan primary and the eight top vote getters will be on the ballot in November's general election.

The four incumbents - Bill May, Kathy Carter, Rodney Williams and Sellus Wilder - are seeking re-election.

Other candidates include husband and wife Terry L. Sutton and Missy Sutton, Jeff Ruble, Katie Flynn Hed-

den, Michael Turner and Jerry Bailey.

Two county Fiscal Court magistrates will have opposition in the Democratic primary.

District 4 Magistrate Ira Fannin has two opponents - Larry Perkins, currently on the Franklin County Board of Education, and Jim Richardson, longtime superintendent of Frankfort Cem-

etry.

Matthew Conway, an employee of Toyota in Georgetown, is challenging District 5 Magistrate Huston Wells.

Wells and Fannin are seeking their fourth terms as magistrates.

Wells, a retired Bondurant Middle School principal, is a former mayor of Frankfort.

Fannin is a farmer and

a retired geography and government teacher from Franklin County High School.

The May winners in the magistrate races have no opposition in November.

In the Democratic primary for sheriff, Pat Melton and Gregg Muravchick are challenging incumbent Steve

See PRIMARIES, A7

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