

The Lineup

Today

Senior Medicare Patrol, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., 1400 H.C. Mathis Drive. Learn to detect potential Medicare errors, fraud and abuse. Report errors or suspected fraud to SMP. 442-8993.

Matters of Life Forum, 11:30 a.m. at Ledbetter Senior Center, 2401 Rudd Spees Rd.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 118, potluck at noon, meeting at 1 p.m., Mike Miller Park and Activity Building, Draffenville. 906-8079 or 354-6393.

Steak night, 5-8 p.m., River City Eagles Aerie 3686, 1919 Cairo Road.

Dance, 7-10 p.m., American Legion Post 26, Mayfield. Band: Rushing River Band.

Dance, 7-10 p.m., Traders Mall, 6900 Benton Road, Reidland. Band: Just Breakin' Even.

Dance, 7-10 p.m., Grand Rivers Community Center, 155 W. Cumberland. Stanley Walker Band. \$5.

Saturday

SOAR meeting, 9 a.m., USW Union Hall in Metropolis, USEC retirees welcome. 270-832-2769

Military Order of the Purple Heart for Western Kentucky, Chapter 585, monthly meeting, 9 a.m., Little Castle Restaurant, Lone Oak.

Dance, 7-10 p.m., American Legion Post 26 Hall, Mayfield. Just Friends. \$5.

Legos in the library for children, 1 p.m. 2nd floor in McCracken County Library. Free to the public.

Thursday's lottery Kentucky

Pick 3-midday: 5-7-3
Pick 3-evening: 8-9-9
Pick 4-midday: 2-5-5-7
Pick 4-evening: 5-0-0-9
Cash Ball: 3-12-23-26 **CB** 19
Cash Ball Kicker: 0-8-8-9-3
5 Card Cash: 10S-6S-9C-AD-4D

Illinois

Pick 3-midday: 9-9-7
Pick 3-evening: 1-2-8
Pick 4-midday: 3-1-4-5
Pick 4-evening: 1-9-4-3
My 3-midday: 1-5-5
My 3-evening: 9-1-3
Lucky Day Lotto-midday: 14-16-21-25-35
Lucky Day Lotto-evening: 13-19-21-25-36
Lotto: 8-13-24-37-41-51 **Extra Shot:** 21



ELLEN O'NAN | The Sun

Smoothing the transition

Stacy Johnson and Shane Hook, who are both in sales at Withers Broadcasting, talk to a potential prospect at a job fair on Thursday afternoon at the Julian Carroll Convention Center. The job fair is intended for those in employment transition through the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and is sponsored by Career Solutions Community, Kentucky Career Center and West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board.

Runners to show heart for disabilities

BY LAUREL BLACK

lblack@paducahsun.com

A race scheduled for Saturday will benefit people with disabilities in western Kentucky.

Funds from the Cupid's Chase 5K in Noble Park will go toward the nonprofit organization Community Options, which provides residential and employment services for people with severe disabilities.

"People with disabilities are sometimes forgotten about," Community Options executive director Casey Adams said. "There aren't many options out there as far as who will help these people get support."

The New Jersey-based nonprofit's Paducah and Benton offices support about 50 individuals in the area through residential and case management services. The organization's homes — four in Benton and two in Paducah — provide housing for a maximum of three people per home. Staff work around the clock in the homes, which Community Options purchases and maintains, Adams said.

"Most (people with severe disabilities) need 24-hour support to live, and that can be done in a



Photo contributed

Garth Platt, executive director of Community Options' Chattanooga, Tenn., office and Casey Adams, executive director of the nonprofit's Paducah and Benton offices, stand outside Community Options' Lowertown location. The organization, which provides residential and other support for people with severe disabilities, will hold its annual Cupid's Chase 5K on Saturday in Noble Park.

Please see **COMMUNITY OPTIONS** | 3A

Bed-wetting problem throws wet blanket on relationship moving forward

Dear Annie: My girlfriend of two years has just asked whether we should move in together. I am currently living with my parents, so we would be living at her place.

I'm not sure how to respond to "Dayna's" request. I don't want her to think I don't like her. But at the age of 27, I still wet the bed. Whenever I am at Dayna's place, I never let myself fall asleep for fear of soiling both her mattress and our relationship. I always find a reason to leave before morning. How do I broach this subject with her? — Bedwetter

Dear Bedwetter: Childhood enuresis

that persists into adulthood often runs in families. (Adult-onset enuresis may be a result of diabetes, sleep apnea, urinary tract infections and neurological disorders.) First, see your doctor to find out whether you can get this under control. Discuss medications and exercises to increase bladder capacity. Limit your beverage intake so you aren't drinking past late afternoon. Alcohol and caffeine can aggravate the condition.

You are under no obligation to move in with Dayna regardless

of the reason. But this issue is likely to come up at some point in the future, so you should work on the conversation you will need to have. It is important that you be honest, that you make it clear that you are working on it (which you should be) and that you will take precautions so she is not inconvenienced. We hope she will care enough about you to be understanding.

Dear Annie: I need some advice as to whether I

should report a neighbor to our local sheriff or state police. He wears a loaded revolver on his hip all the time, and I don't know whether he has a permit to carry.

This neighbor frightens me. He once said, "Nobody fools with me," and then patted the gun. None of my neighbors likes or respects this man. I have yet to meet a single person who speaks well of him. He is weird and scary.

My concern is that this potential crackpot could go bananas and shoot some-

one. I would feel terrible if there was something I could have done to prevent a tragedy. What should I do? — Concerned Neighbor in Pennsylvania

Dear Concerned: Being "weird and scary" does not prevent your neighbor from obtaining a license to carry a gun in your state. This is a problem with people who have no prior evidence of mental illness, but who may, in fact, be mentally unbalanced. We have no way of knowing whether they will shoot up a school or a post office until they do. If you suspect your neighbor

does not have a valid license, you can report him to the police and ask that it be checked out. Otherwise, there's not much you can do but keep an eye open for signs of increased agitation, major depression or out-of-control behavior.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

Ask Annie

Coming Up ...

SATURDAY



■ What's happening in the great outdoors?

Outdoors

■ News from the local business community.

Business



SUNDAY

MONDAY

teen of the week

■ Who is this week's Teen of the Week?

News

■ Current events of interest to youngsters. The Mini Page.

News



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY



■ Keep up with the latest in the health field.

House Call

■ Who and what is on stage in the region.

Current



THURSDAY

FRIDAY



■ News from the local church communities.

Faith

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Legislators press DOE to release funds

BY LAUREL BLACK

lblack@paducahsun.com

Three members of Congress have urged the U.S. Department of Energy to release funds for cleanup activities at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

In a letter dated Wednesday, U.S. Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, along with Congressman Ed Whitfield, urged DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz to release \$265 million in funds appropriated in the

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 for ongoing and future cleanup operations at the plant.

"We urge you to move as quickly as possible to release funds appropriated for this purpose in an effort to rehire Kentuckians who have recently been laid off and to hire employees to begin new cleanup work," the letter reads.

The three officials also urged Moniz to move as quickly as possible to ex-

ecute the indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity, or IDIQ, contract so work can begin on reclaiming the gaseous diffusion plant. They wrote that it is vital to the Paducah community that the DOE continue cleanup and begin new work to ensure that experienced workers do not leave the region.

"Should these workers leave the area, we feel the quality of the vital cleanup work at the site could suf-

fer and potentially cost taxpayers more in the long run," the letter states.

The letter also recommends that a permanent DOE manager be hired for the Paducah site and asks that full decommissioning and decontamination of the gaseous diffusion plant be made a priority in the upcoming fiscal year.

The cleanup funding was included in a \$1 trillion federal spending bill that passed in mid January. The

omnibus bill provides \$120 million for current cleanup at the site, according to the letter.

DOE contractor LATA Kentucky confirmed last week that \$102 million was allotted for its part in the cleanup operations. The amount allowed it to hire 47 workers, with more job openings possible in the coming months for a total of about 95 jobs, LATA spokesman Joe Walker said.

The DOE allotted an additional \$47 million for operations at a recycling facility for depleted uranium hexafluoride, as well as about \$9.5 million to fund security and safeguards, for a total of about \$321 million allocated to Paducah for the 2014 fiscal year.

Contact Laurel Black, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8641, or follow @LaurelBlack on Twitter.

McConnell farm bill vote ruffles cockfighters' feathers

BY SAM YOUNGMAN AND JANET PATTON

Lexington Herald-Leader

Add cockfighters to the long list of Kentuckians angry with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

McConnell's vote in favor of the federal farm bill has left cockfighting enthusiasts furious and threatening political damage to Kentucky's senior senator in the May 20 Republican primary.

"This will destroy Mitch McConnell in Kentucky," said Craig Davis, president of the United Gamefowl Breeders Association.

At issue is an amendment included in the \$956 billion farm bill, approved and signed into law this month, that makes it a federal crime to be a spectator at an animal fight.

The new law makes attending a cockfight or dogfight a federal misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in prison and \$100,000 fine. It makes bringing a minor to such fights a federal felony, punishable by up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Davis and several hundred cockfighting enthusiasts greeted McConnell, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul and Agriculture Commissioner



McConnell

promote economic development proposals.

In an interview Tuesday, Davis said the new law could have any number of unintended consequences that make criminals of law-abiding citizens, boasting that he could move as many as 60,000 votes against McConnell if their concerns were not heard.

Paul, who voted against the bill, has escaped the wrath of people who say their "culture and heritage" was misunderstood and wrongly maligned.

"When you make a law like that, you take good taxpaying people and you turn them into criminals overnight," Davis said. "The grass roots on this are not playing games anymore. They've been beaten and battered for 30 years. They're rural people. They want to be left alone."

Davis said a number of his association's members

suggested Monday that they return to Republican challenger Matt Bevin in the May primary, but Davis said they should wait to see whether McConnell was amenable to hearing them out.

Robert Steurer, a McConnell spokesman, said in an email Tuesday night that "a representative of Sen. McConnell's office would be happy to meet with them to discuss the issue and hear their concerns."

Davis' group also wants the Kentucky legislature to pass a law that would guarantee their right to hold cockfights, such as Kentucky voters amended the state Constitution in 2012 to protect their right to hunt and fish.

John Goodwin, director of animal cruelty policy for The Humane Society of the United States, said cockfighting advocates were right to be concerned.

"All these cockfighting pits in Kentucky are in danger of being put out of business," Goodwin said.

The penalties included in the new federal law put serious teeth into what is already criminal activity, although Kentucky law enforcement officials have rarely cited individuals for the misdemeanor offense.

"I think we're going to get

some enforcement." Goodwin said. "Law enforcement agents all across the country are really tired of these cockfighting pits because they see the cruelty, but they see these pits are magnets for other crime as well."

Goodwin cited a 2008 Drug Enforcement Agency bust of a Cumberland County, Tenn., cockfighting ring linked to a Mexican drug cartel.

Cockfighting is a felony offense in a majority of states, but the risk of being caught in Kentucky has been more than offset by gambling profits, Goodwin said.

In 2010, for example, The Humane Society released a video showing a Kentucky State Police trooper and another law enforcement officer attending cockfights in Manchester without taking any action. At the time, House Speaker Greg Stumbo, a former state attorney general, said he wasn't sure cockfighting should be illegal.

"Now, if the feds raid a cockfighting pit, anyone there can pay fines and do prison time," Goodwin said. "All the gambling dollars are not going to offset that. They're starting to figure out, 'Hey, there may not be a future in cockfighting.'"

Ironically, Goodwin said,

McConnell probably had nothing to do with the language being inserted into the farm bill.

"He just voted for the farm bill," Goodwin said.

McConnell focused his explanation of support for the bill on a provision that allows states, including Kentucky, to begin growing industrial hemp in pilot projects. Bevin said he would have voted against the bill, citing its cost and the nation's deficit.

Fans of cockfighting are unlikely to find a political patron to take up their cause, Goodwin predicted.

"What they've got to realize is, at the federal level, there's nobody in Congress who wants to buddy up with people engaged in something that is illegal in all 50 states," he said.

The amendment was pushed by Senate Agriculture Committee chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., who campaigned in Kentucky this week with likely Democratic Senate nominee Alison Lundergan Grimes.

Davis said ties between cockfighting and illegal gambling and drugs were overstated, and his members were willing to let official monitors observe the fights for some measure of

legal protection.

For many rural Kentuckians, Davis said, breeding gamefowl is crucial to helping shore up incomes decimated by the decline of coal and a dearth of manufacturing jobs. Hens used for breeding can sell for \$100 and roosters can sell for \$250, but Davis said two hens and a rooster that come from a winning progeny can fetch as much as \$1,500.

Davis said the grassroots movement associated with cockfighters was fed up after three decades of watching their freedoms being taken from them.

If McConnell won't listen or help, he said, they would back a candidate who would.

"He's thrown us in the gully for 30 years," Davis said. "If Mitch McConnell doesn't help us now, then we're going to drag him down into the gully with us on Election Day."

Briefs

Traffic stop leads to drug arrests

Two Paducah men faces various drug charges after a routine traffic stop Thursday.

Detectives with the McCracken County Sheriff's Department stopped a Cadillac driven by Steven Smith, 31, on IC Avenue just before noon for traffic violations. Detectives

located William "Ashton" Guill in the same vehicle and arrested him on two outstanding warrants. Guill was found with marijuana.

Further investigation led detectives to search Smith's residence on Lane Road in McCracken County. During the search detectives seized quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana and assorted items

of drug paraphernalia.

Smith is charged with possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine; possession of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

Guill, 19, of Benton Road is charged with possession of marijuana. He also was served with a bench warrant for contempt of court and an arrest warrant charging him

with theft over \$10,000, a motor vehicle.

They were taken to the McCracken County Regional Jail.

— Staff report

Child hit on parkway dies from injuries

MANCHESTER — A coroner says a 7-year-old girl has died after being hit by a truck on the Hal Rogers

Parkway.

The Clay County coroner said Jasmine Collins died Wednesday night shortly after being struck.

Clay County Sheriff Kevin Johnson said the girl was attempted to cross the parkway on foot with a 12-year-old child. He said no adults were with them.

The 12-year-old wasn't injured.

— Associated Press

COMMUNITY OPTIONS

CONTINUED FROM 2A

community versus an institution. We provide the housing and 24-hour staffing to have that meaningful life so they don't have to go to an institution or a bigger group home setting," she said.

Community Options also works closely with local groups such as Easter Seals and the Department for Community Based Services.

Money raised from Saturday's race will support projects such as providing new flooring and other

modifications for homes, as well as other efforts to improve residents' quality of life, such as purchasing new furniture and funding trips, Adams said.

Community Options also has offices in New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. The Cupid's Chase 5K usually happens simultaneously in these states before Valentine's Day, Adams said, but Paducah's was rescheduled from Feb. 8 due to the icy weather.

The race will take place at 10 a.m. in Noble Park. Race-day registration costs \$50 and begins at 8 a.m. For more information on the Cupid's Chase 5K or Community Options' services, call 270-444-9470 or email casey.adams@comop.org.

Contact Laurel Black, a Paducah Sun staff writer,

at 270-575-8641, or follow @LaurelBlack on Twitter.

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The Paducah Sun

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