



The Paducah Sun

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Bevin plans pension fix without tax hike

BY ADAM BEAM
Associated Press
FRANKFORT — Republican Gov. Matt Bevin says Kentucky’s two-year spending plan must go “beyond break even,” calling for the state to generate more money to fix the multibillion-dollar pension shortfalls that threaten the livelihoods of hundreds of

thousands of public workers, teachers and police.
But Bevin, preparing to deliver his first budget proposal to lawmakers in a televised speech Tuesday, said in an interview with The Associated Press that his solution will not raise taxes. Instead, Bevin said his plan will include sweeping what he called “found mon-

ies,” including unexpected windfalls from lawsuit settlements and judgments, into the retirement systems. He pointed to the unprecedented \$870 million a judge has ordered an online poker company to pay the state as an example. That judgment is being appealed.
With every extra dollar going to the retirement system,

that means other programs might not get the increases they requested or, in some cases, could have their budgets cut.
“I am doing intentionally the least amount we can do,” Bevin said about his proposed cuts. “I’m trying to solve this problem a step at a time. But it’s going to come not by

dumping everybody on their ear.”
Kentucky has one of the worst-funded pension systems in the country. Moody’s, a national credit rating agency, says Kentucky’s liability is nearly twice as large as the money it brings in every year.

Please see **PLAN** | 7A



James “Mac” McWaters (center) celebrated his 102nd birthday Monday at Paducah’s Brookdale assisted living community with more family and friends than he could count and plenty of spunk and spirit. It seemed like everybody but the president of the United States was there for his party, he said. When asked how he managed to make it to 102, McWaters answered with a smile and hint of sarcasm, “Oh, I’ve been a good boy.” McWaters is pictured here moments before blowing out his birthday candles, surrounded by his friend and fellow resident Dot Lewis (left), his daughter Shirley Grimm (behind his chair) and Brookdale Activities Director Chris Everett (right).

A surprise for 102nd birthday

BY GENEVIEVE POSTLETHWAIT
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James “Mac” McWaters has seen more than most in life — much of it “not fit for print” he’ll tell you — but even so, his 102nd birthday celebration Monday took him by surprise.
“I ain’t ever seen this many people. Is all of Paducah here?” he said to the crowd of friends, family and fellow Brookdale residents gathered in the Brookdale community room for his party Monday.
“I’m sorry the president can’t

be here, but I’m sure thankful all of you are. I didn’t know I had that many friends. A lot of you maybe came because you don’t know my history. You wouldn’t have come if you did!”
At 102, McWaters is hard of hearing but sharp of wit. For every question asked of him Monday he had a quick retort, just about every one of them laugh-inducing. When a reporter asked him the inevitable question, “What’s your secret, Mr. McWaters?” He answered, “Oh, I’ve been a good boy,” which made him and several others chuckle.

“He’s pretty sharp, and he can be very ornery, but I think the main thing I’ve learned from him is compassion,” said Shirley Grimm, McWaters’ daughter.
“His dad died when he was 6 months old. He was the youngest, but growing up he took care of everybody, and his mom lived to be two weeks short of 100. He took good care of her, looked after all of them one way or another. And of course, he’s very proud of his World War II service.”
McWaters is a relatively private

Please see **BIRTHDAY** | 10A

City, county OK higher sewer rates

BY LAUREN P. DUNCAN
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Users of the Paducah McCracken County Joint Sewer Agency, which serves about 18,250 customers across the city and county, will soon see a rate hike on their monthly bills.
The Paducah City Commission and McCracken County Fiscal Court convened a joint meeting at the McCracken County Courthouse on Monday night, and both approved increased rates proposed by the JSA.
JSA Executive Director John Hodges made separate presentations to the city commission and fiscal court earlier this month when he explained that the

Please see **RATES** | 7A

Zheng gets 2-year contract extension

BY DAVID ZOELLER
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Paducah Power System General Manager Gary Zheng received a two-year extension on his contract with the municipal utility Monday.
The extension comes as Zheng completes one year on the job, the length of his original employment agreement. He came to Paducah Power after 18 years at Lubbock (Texas) Power & Light, where he held several positions including president and CEO.
In hiring Zheng, PPS officials pointed to his experience in pulling the Texas utility out of a difficult financial situation.



Zheng

Please see **ZHENG** | 7A

Graves residents to vote today on alcohol sales

BY HAWKINS TEAGUE
The Mayfield Messenger
Graves County voters will decide today whether the local option election will allow alcohol sales county-wide or follow other defeats for alcohol in the 1930s, ’80s and ’90s.
On Nov. 20, County Clerk Barry Kennemore announced that the group Vote Graves Wet 2015 had collected 2,373 certified signatures on its petition, which was 152 more than the 2,221 that were needed to hold

a local option election. The following Monday, Nov. 23, County Judge-Executive Jesse Perry set Jan. 26 as the date for the special election.
The yes-or-no ballot question voters will answer is, “Are you in favor of the sale of alcoholic beverages in Graves County, KY?” Kennemore said the same precincts from the last election will be used today, and voters should make sure to have some

Please see **VOTE** | 7A



Garnering interest

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (left) speaks with host Chris Cuomo during a commercial break Monday at a CNN town hall at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, Martin O’Malley and Sanders took to the stage in an effort to earn the trust of Iowa’s undecided voters. See full story on Page 5A.

Associated Press

LOCAL

CRACKER BARREL HEADED TO MAYFIELD
Following a lot of hard work by Graves County Fiscal Court and support from the community, Cracker Barrel has chosen Mayfield as the site of its newest restaurant.

2A



NATION

MIZZOU ASST. PROFESSOR CHARGED
Melissa Click was charged with misdemeanor assault for a campus run-in with student journalists during a November protest. The assistant professor faces up to 15 days in jail and a fine up to \$300 if convicted.

5A

Forecast

Today
39°
Mostly cloudy

10A

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EU police warn of more attacks by IS extremists

Associated Press

PARIS — Europe’s top police agency issued a stark warning Monday: Islamic State extremists will keep attempting lethal attacks on soft targets in Europe as the militant group increasingly goes global.

Some 2½ months after suicide bombers and gunmen killed 130 people in Paris, the Europol agency said, “there is every reason to expect that IS, IS-inspired terrorists or another religiously inspired terrorist group will undertake a terrorist attack somewhere in Europe again, but particularly in France, intended to cause mass casualties among the civilian population.”

The sobering conclusions reached by experts from the European Union’s chief agency for law enforcement cooperation and EU member states make clear that many, perhaps virtually all in Europe, may be at risk.

“Without reliable intelligence on the intentions, activities and contacts and travels of known terrorists it is nearly impossible to exactly predict when and where the next terrorist attack will take place, and what form it will take,” the Europol report said.

Hours before the report was issued, a new video was released by the Islamic State group celebrating the killers who carried out the Nov. 13 attacks in the French capital — while also threatening fresh bloodshed.

The grisly recording ends with one militant holding a severed head, footage of British Prime Minister David Cameron giving a speech, and an IS warning that whoever stands with the unbelievers “will be a target for our swords.”

The 17-minute video, released Sunday, shows the extent of the planning that went into the multiple attacks in Paris, which French authorities have said from the beginning were planned in Syria. All nine men seen in the video died in the Paris attacks or their aftermath.

All but two of the attackers were from Belgium and France and spoke fluent French. The two others — identified by their noms de guerre as Iraqis — spoke in Arabic.

Seven of the militants, including a 20-year-old who was the youngest of the group, were shown standing behind bound captives, described as “apostates,” who were either beheaded or shot.

“Soon on the Champs-Elysees,” says Samy Amimour, who was raised in a Paris suburb, as he holds a captive’s head aloft.

The Nov. 13 attacks targeted a packed concert hall, a restaurant and cafe, and a soccer match at the French national stadium. The video glorifying the Kalashnikov-wielding gunmen and suicide bombers responsible for that carnage was probably also meant as a recruitment tool.



James McWaters holds one of the many gifts he received at his 102nd birthday party Monday, a framed photo of him on the left, and old friend Buddy Thompson back when McWaters ran a car dealership on South Sixth Street in Paducah. “Not sure who that is there, they tell me it’s me,” McWaters joked, pointing to his younger self. “How old am I, 80-something? Oh, that’s right, 102.”

BIRTHDAY

Continued from 1A

man, but he does love to talk about the war. He got to see the world during his service with the U.S. Army, he said — the Philippines, England, France, Germany. But the only time he shot a gun was when he leaned one up against a tree and it went off. That’s one of his favorite anecdotes.

When McWaters got out of the Army, he worked as a route salesman for Colonial Bread and also ran a car dealership on Paducah’s south side. One of his gifts Monday was two black-and-white photos framed side-by-side, McWaters on the left and his old friend Buddy Thompson on the right, both posing with a foot propped on the bumper of a new car in McWaters’ lot.

McWaters tinkered with cars and engines all his life, Grimm said.

“I grew up around him fixing things and jerry-rigging things,” she said. “He had a mower that

he couldn’t start, so he fixed up an engine with a pulley on it, and that’s how he would start his mower. This was when he was 95, mowing the yard.”

McWaters didn’t move into the Brookdale community until two years ago when he lost Grimm’s mother and his wife, Mary Ham McWaters.

“They were married 73 years,” Grimm said. “I don’t know how she did it. They must have been doing something right though.”

About a year ago McWaters found a friend in Dot Lewis, a fellow centenarian and Brookdale resident who also lost her spouse a few years ago. They’re “sweethearts,” everyone says, but they won’t let anyone call them a couple. Lewis’ daughter said Monday that every time McWaters leaves the dining room at lunch he’ll give Lewis a kiss on the forehead and she’ll tell him, “I’m a married woman!”

Lewis never left McWaters’ side Monday afternoon. Even

when the party was at its loudest with the band playing and people talking, McWaters was entirely focused on Lewis, making sure she had enough to drink and liked her cake.

Chris Everett, the activities director at Brookdale, said she’s betting they’ll be voted King and Queen of the community’s Valentine’s Day celebration next month.

McWaters insisted Monday that he wasn’t going to brag, but that he’s had a good life.

“Just don’t make it out like I’m smarter than anybody,” he said. “Because I’m not. I’ve had a big life, I have. But being old like this is not what I expected it to be. I’m not a public man. I’ve never had nothing like this. If you want to say something, say ‘He had a nice birthday.’ That’s my statement.”

Contact Genevieve Postlethwait, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8651.

Paducah 5-Day Forecast

Today ☁️ 39° Mostly cloudy and chilly	Tonight 🌙 24° Clearing	Wednesday ☀️ 38° 🌙 24° Mostly sunny and chilly	Thursday ☀️ 46° 🌙 28° Plenty of sun	Friday ☀️ 49° 🌙 39° Partly to mostly sunny	Saturday ☀️ 58° 🌙 46° Mild with partial sunshine
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Almanac

Paducah through 6 p.m. yesterday

High	56°
Low	37°
Normal high	44°
Normal low	26°
Record high	75° in 1950
Record low	1° in 1963

Precipitation

24 hrs ending 6 p.m. yest.	Trace
Month to date	2.48"
Normal month to date	2.94"
Year to date	2.48"
Last year to date	2.56"
Normal year to date	2.94"

Sun and Moon

Last Jan 31	New Feb 8	First Feb 15	Full Feb 22
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Sunrise today	7:03 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:13 p.m.
Moonrise today	8:03 p.m.
Moonset today	8:25 a.m.

UV Index Today

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

0	1	1	1	0
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m.

0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme

Regional Forecast

Kentucky: Mainly cloudy today; showers around; however, a snow shower in the north.

Illinois: Mostly cloudy and colder today; a snow shower in the north and eastern parts.

Indiana: Rather cloudy today with a snow shower, but dry in the south; colder in central parts of the state.

Missouri: Colder today with times of sun and clouds. Clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Arkansas: Cooler today with periods of sunshine.

Tennessee: Mostly cloudy today with a shower. Turning colder in central parts; patchy morning fog in the east.

Around the Region

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
St. Louis	39/25	
Evansville	38/25	
Carbondale	37/22	
Owensboro	37/25	
Paducah	39/24	
Cadiz	41/26	
Clarksville	41/25	
Nashville	46/28	
Pulaski	50/30	
Memphis	46/29	
Jackson	45/26	
Mayfield	41/25	
Union City	41/25	
Blytheville	45/28	
Cape Girardeau	40/25	

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Belleville, IL	37/23/c	38/26/s
Bowling Gn., KY	41/25/c	38/22/pc
Bristol, TN	45/30/r	38/19/pc
C. Girardeau, MO	40/25/c	39/25/s
Carbondale, IL	37/22/c	37/25/s
Charleston, WV	46/29/c	33/16/pc
Chattanooga, TN	51/33/r	45/27/pc
Clarksville, TN	41/25/c	39/22/pc
Columbia, MO	35/21/c	40/28/s
Evansville, IN	38/25/c	37/25/pc
Ft. Smith, AR	49/24/pc	48/28/s
Hopkinsville, KY	40/26/c	38/23/pc
Indianapolis, IN	33/22/sf	33/24/pc
Jackson, KY	44/25/c	35/20/pc
Jackson, TN	45/26/c	41/23/s

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Joplin, MO	39/21/pc	44/31/s
Kansas City, MO	34/18/pc	43/29/s
Knoxville, TN	49/29/sh	40/24/pc
Lexington, KY	42/23/c	35/21/pc
Little Rock, AR	49/27/pc	44/27/s
London, KY	44/24/c	35/17/pc
Louisville, KY	39/26/c	37/23/pc
Memphis, TN	46/29/c	44/26/s
Nashville, TN	46/28/c	40/23/pc
Owensboro, KY	37/25/c	37/26/pc
Peoria, IL	32/21/c	34/27/pc
St. Louis, MO	39/25/c	40/30/s
Springfield, IL	33/21/c	36/27/pc
Springfield, MO	38/22/pc	42/30/s
Terre Haute, IN	34/22/c	33/24/pc

Lakes and Rivers

Through 7 a.m. yesterday (in feet)

River	Flood stage	Stage	24-hr Change
Ohio River	39	19.98	-1.47
Paducah	38	16.70	+0.50
Owensboro	38	16.70	+0.50

River	Flood stage	Stage	24-hr Change
Mississippi River	40	29.79	-1.62

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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Around the Nation

Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Fronts: Cold, Warm, Stationary

T-storms, Rain, Showers, Snow, Flurries, Ice

-10s, -0s, 0s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 100s, 110s

National Summary

Milder air will flow northward along the Atlantic Seaboard today. Rain showers will extend from upstate New York to coastal Texas with spotty ice in the central Appalachians. Snow showers will occur over the Upper Midwest. Rain showers with mountain snow are in store for the coastal Northwest. Much of the rest of the nation will be dry.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	46/24/pc	50/26/s	Little Rock	49/27/pc	44/27/s
Atlanta	60/40/sh	47/35/r	Los Angeles	74/50/s	75/50/pc
Baltimore	42/34/c	40/17/pc	Miami	78/69/pc	79/67/t
Billings	43/35/pc	50/36/pc	Milwaukee	33/19/sf	29/27/c
Boise	44/28/pc	44/29/pc	Minneapolis	27/16/c	32/30/pc
Boston	47/35/pc	43/26/pc	New Orleans	69/45/sh	52/39/r
Charleston, SC	67/49/pc	62/40/r	New York City	40/34/c	41/26/pc
Charleston, WV	46/29/c	33/16/pc	Oklahoma City	48/28/pc	54/32/s
Chicago	32/21/sf	32/27/pc	Omaha	31/14/c	39/29/s
Cincinnati	39/24/sf	34/22/pc	Orlando	73/59/pc	70/60/t
Cleveland	44/26/sf	33/23/c	Philadelphia	43/34/c	41/21/pc
Dallas	51/32/c	56/35/s	Phoenix	68/42/s	69/45/s
Denver	41/23/s	50/31/s	Pittsburgh	45/26/c	33/20/c
Des Moines	29/21/c	35/29/s	Portland, OR	52/45/r	57/50/c
Detroit	39/27/sf	36/25/pc	Salt Lake City	35/20/pc	34/22/pc
El Paso	54/28/pc	54/29/s	San Antonio	55/38/r	59/33/pc
Fairbanks	17/9/s	27/17/pc	San Diego	71/48/s	70/49/pc
Honolulu	82/66/pc	82/67/s	San Francisco	60/48/pc	61/48/pc
Houston	52/40/r	57/33/pc	San Jose	65/46/pc	67/46/pc
Indianapolis	33/22/sf	33/24/pc	Seattle	55/48/r	57/49/r
Jacksonville	69/51/pc	64/49/r	Tucson	64/38/s	67/40/s
Las Vegas	59/38/s	60/40/pc	Wash., DC	43/36/c	40/22/pc

Around the World

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W
Athens	54/40/pc	Moscow	16/13/c
Beijing	34/9/s	Paris	53/48/c
Berlin	47/41/sh	Rome	58/40/pc
Buenos Aires	79/65/pc	Seoul	36/18/pc
Cairo	55/45/pc	Sydney	78/68/t
Hong Kong	57/53/r	Tokyo	48/36/s
Jerusalem	40/29/c	Warsaw	41/37/r
London	54/51/sh	Zurich	54/33/s
Manila	85/77/s		
Mexico City	68/40/pc		

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