# Woodford Sun

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# Local 12-year-old is anti-obesity ambassador

WOODFORD SUN STAFF

Genna Ringler may be the busiest 12-year-old in Wood-

She peer-tutors children with special needs, or teaches them to swim. She runs cross country and competes for a local swim team, though it was her love of bicycling that led her to speak to the Versailles City Council. She helped put together a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association to honor a friend and classmate who passed away.

'Managing her time is a big thing," says her mother,

Lorelei Ringler. It's about to get bigger.

Genna was recently named to the youth advisory board of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, an honor that took her and her mother to Utah July 17 to 21 to meet the 19 other "ambassadors" for the anti-childhood obesity group.

She says she applied for the post in February, after her gym teacher suggested she look into it. That's the same month she spoke to the council and lost her good friend Dylan Preston. Three months later, she got a call from New York City.

"My phone went off during school, but it was okay because I told my teacher. They called me and said I'd gotten

By then, she'd already learned a lot about childhood obesity.
"I see a lot of kids at my school every day. They want to

be healthier, but they just don't know how, so I'm hoping that when I serve on the board and even after that, that I show



GENNA RINGLER, 12, is one of 20 youth ambassadors for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, an anti-childhood obesity group. The Woodford County Middle School eighth grader is the daughter of Lorelei and Reed Ringler. (Photo submitted)

them ways that they can lead a healthier lifestyle," she says. In Utah, Genna underwent media and interview training,

met adult ambassadors who helped her develop goals for her project, and her fellow youth ambassadors, some of whom are in their second and third "terms."

"They do a lot of amazing things in their community and I'd like to do them as well," she says.

The people who named her to the alliance's youth advisory board thought she'd already done amazing things.

She was a friend of Dylan Preston, the Woodford County Middle School student who suffered from Muscular Dystrophy and passed away in February. Genna gave one of the eulogies at his funeral, but she didn't stop talking about Dylan then.

'We made many, many announcements every day on the intercom and assemblies, which was also hard, because it was all of us trying to talk at once and it was crazy," she says. Genna and company went classroom to classroom with manila envelopes to collect donations. (The Versailles McDonald's, where Dylan Preston's mother works, chipped in \$1,000.) By May, they'd raised nearly \$2,800 for MDA. "She has one of the best souls, and Dylan saw that in

her," says his mother, Sharon Murphy. "She always made him feel good."

Her peer-tutoring of children with special needs makes her feel good.

"I help with them, and I usually do exercises with them

See AMBASSADOR, p. 18



A PRIDE OF THE COUNTIES exhibit will show Kentucky State fairgoers why "All Roads Lead to Woodford County" beginning today and continuing through Aug. 24. From left are Ruggles Sign Company employee Nathan Bradshaw with Lillie Cox and Bessie Bain, co-chairs of an all-volunteer workgroup. The group has ensured Woodford County has had a Pride of the Counties exhibit since becoming involved three years ago. (Photo by Bob Vlach)

# Exhibit shows why 'All Roads Lead to Woodford County'

By Bob Vlach

WOODFORD SUN STAFF

A Pride of the Counties exhibit at this year's Kentucky State Fair will show on-lookers why "All Roads Lead to Woodford Beginning today and continuing through

Aug. 24, community volunteers will serve as greeters so they can tell people from other parts of the state about Versailles, Midway, Woodford County and its many hidden treasures. During last year's state fair, people told

Woodford County's greeters that they had driven by Midway on I-64 or gone past the county while traveling on the Blue Grass Parkway, but never stopped.

The historic places, tourist attractions and businesses that they did not see are being showcased in the "All Roads Lead to Woodford County" exhibit. Each day will feature places like the Jack Jouett House, the Bluegrass Railroad Museum, the Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary, Irish Acres, the Pisgah Historic District, Midway College and Solaris Art Gallery.

Woodford County's Pride of the Counties exhibit is dedicated to the memory of Benny Cox. He and others on an all-volunteer workgroup have supported using the "All Roads Lead to Woodford County" theme since becoming involved to ensure Woodford County had a presence in the Pride of the Counties exhibit three years ago, said workgroup co-chair Lillie Čox.

Last year's Pride of the Counties exhibit representing Woodford County was dedicated to Bruce Gill, who suggested Uniquely Woodford as a theme. So "All Roads Lead to Woodford County" didn't happen until this year.

People visiting Woodford County's "All Roads" exhibit can register for an array of door prizes and two grand prizes: Free overnight stays at CastlePost and the historic Woodford Inn. Everyone who wins must come here to claim a prize.

The many local businesses, which donated those prizes, as well as the Woodford County Tourism Commission, Versailles Printing and Ruggles Sign Company, made contributions to the exhibit, which promotes tourism in Woodford County.

While visiting "All Roads Lead to Woodford County," state fairgoers can have their pictures taken in a realistic-looking VW Bug. It was inspired by a cardboard vehicle used at a Woodford County Homemakers Club pajama party and pays tribute to Gill, who died last year.

The VW Bug, a stone wall along Mc-Cowans Ferry Road (photographed by Patsy Berry), and several other images of Versailles, Midway and Woodford County are featured in the exhibit designed and created by Nathan Bradshaw and other employees at Ruggles Sign Company.

# Court votes to end EM deal with cities

By John McGary WOODFORD SUN STAFF

A 4 to 3 vote in Woodford Fiscal Court Tuesday means that in three months the cities of Versailles and Midway will likely be handling their own emergency management services.

After discussing the dispute over funding of the county's emergency management program, magistrates voted to inform the cities that the county was exercising its right to give a 90-day notice of termination of the 2009 the three governments.

gency Management Director Keith Slugantz was asked his opinion about whether a second informal meeting between key players would be useful. Some magistrates were in favor of the idea. Slugantz was not, and expressed his frustration over the lack of progress at the July 5 Versailles City Council meeting.

"I think it would be a

how much effort I put in with the state, trying to find a solution. ... I've worked hard for the county... And I'm making you a recommendation as the director that you need to give termination notice and give the cities what they want. Cut this thing off and then, hopefully, somewhere down the road, we can regroup. ... I need to get back to service of the people, and this is not service of the people.'

Magistrates Larry Craig (Dist. 1), Gary Finnell (Dist. 3), Ken Reed (Dist. 4) and interlocal agreement between Jackie Brown (Dist. 8) voted to send the letter. Magistrates The vote came after Gerald Dotson (Dist. 5), Woodford County Emer- Duncan Gardiner (Dist. 6) and Mark McDonald (Dist. 7) voted "no." Magistrate Bozarth told *The Sun* the "Bones" Webber (Dist. 2) county was "taking \$30,000 was not present.

> Coyle and Woodford County the cities and county reach a deal before the 90 days are up, the agreement could be reinstated.

An open records request waste of time to have another submitted by Midway Mayor meeting, Judge, and I never Tom Bozarth last month

go against you. But you know showed that for at least the past six years, the county received about \$30,000 annually from the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KDEM). Bozarth shared his findings with Versailles Mayor Brian Traugott, who met informally late last month with Coyle, Slugantz and a KDEM official. Ironically, it was the same official whose letter Slugantz showed at the July 22 fiscal court meeting raised Traugott's ire by saying only the county could receive state funding if the city offered its own emergency management services.

The two mayors said they didn't know the county was receiving state dollars. from the state and applying Judge-executive John it towards their funding of emergency management." Attorney Alan George said if Traugott said without the state money, Versailles was paying about as much for county emergency management funding as the county.

In an informal meeting

See DEAL, p. 18



A FRESH COAT OF PAINT was applied to the American Legion building on South Main Street in downtown Versailles last week. Workers removed loose paint before painting, which continued this week. (Photo by Bob Vlach)

case like this," said Johnson.

### INSIDE .... CLASSIFIED ......13-17 OBITUARIES ..... COMMUNITY ......4-9 PUBLIC RECORDS ..... EXTENSION ......10 Sports ......11-12

### GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

P&Z — 6:30 p.m. today, Thursday, Aug. 14, courthouse. Midway council — 5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, city hall. Versailles council — 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, municipal

**School board** — 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, board office.



# Louisville man gets 25 years for murder

By Bob Vlach WOODFORD SUN STAFF

A 28-year-old Louisville man was sentenced to 25 years in prison for causing the death of a 5-year-old Lexington

boy in a 2013 motor vehicle crash in Woodford County. In June, Alfonso Diaz-Diaz entered an Alford plea acknowledging that prosecutors had sufficient evidence to convict him of murder and numerous other felony charges if he went to trial. However, before sentencing in Woodford Circuit Court on Aug. 6, Diaz-Diaz told Judge Rob Johnson

that he wanted to withdraw his plea. Speaking through a court-appointed interpreter, Diaz-Diaz told Johnson, "I am conscious that there should be some punishment for the harm that I caused." However, he did not want to follow through with a plea requiring him to serve 85 percent of a 25-year prison sentence.

"That night," Diaz-Diaz said, "there was no intention on my part to hurt anyone.'

Whether or not Diaz-Diaz intended to harm anyone was

not a defense to the murder charge, Johnson said. He told Diaz-Diaz "if you were driving in such way intoxicated or otherwise ... that you caused the harm in this case, which you agreed to (in your plea), then you're guilty of that charge" by demonstrating an "extreme indifference to human life" through your actions.

When you choose to drink alcohol to the extent that you chose to drink alcohol in this case and then get behind the wheel and get on the road and put everyone that comes past you in danger – you choose possible outcomes of a

According to an arrest warrant, Diaz-Diaz was traveling

See MURDER, p. 18

### RECORD

Continued from p. 8

convenience store was made Aug. 7.

Dollar General Store reported hair spray and shampoo worth \$10.15 stolen on

A Tincher Drive resident reported a stolen credit card Lane residence Aug. 10. on Aug. 7.

On Aug. 8, a Garnett Court resident reported vandalism estimated at \$400 to a Volkswagen Jetta.

Between July 30 and Aug.

8, copper wire worth \$500 was stolen from a Crossfield Drive residence. On July 30, a Lexington Road gas station reported

stolen "consumable goods" worth \$696.90.

Jewelry worth \$6,000 was reported stolen from a Powhatan Trail residence on Aug. 8 or 9.

A Kia worth \$9,000 was reported stolen from a Laval Heights residence between Aug. 8 and 10.

A report of terroristic threatening was made on

Carter Lane on Aug. 9.

## **Fire Reports**

City

child safety seats during the past week. An alarm malfunctioned at St. Leo Church on Hunt-

ertown Road Aug. 5. Firefighters responded to vehicle accidents on Clifton Road Aug. 5 and on Maple

Avenue Aug. 7. An electrical outage caused an alarm to activate on North Main Street Aug. 9.

An alarm malfunctioned at a Sugartree Lane residence Aug. 10. Fire on a utility pole on

Park Street was out on the arrival of firefighters Aug. 10. Firefighters investigated a report of a natural gas

odor on Woodford Village Drive and South Main Street Aug. 11.

Firefighters investigated a report of a natural gas odor on Sheffield Drive Aug. 6.

July 25, Slugantz responded

with expense figures for fis-

cal 2014 that Bozarth and

Traugott said they hadn't

seen before, with "soft costs

absorbed by the county," like

office space and utilities in

the courthouse, amounting

to \$36,543. At the Aug.

5 Versailles City Council

meeting, Traugott noted that

Versailles contributes a com-

mand center rent-free, along

with storage and equipment

insurance.

Continued from p. 1

A tire on a tractor trailer truck caught fire on Lexington Road Aug. 7.

caught fire on Leestown Road Aug. 7. Firefighters responded to

A sofa in a garbage truck

a vehicle accident on Fords Mill Road Aug. 9.

Fire damaged a Granger

An alarm was accidentally activated at a Clifton Road residence Aug. 10.

A tree fire, probably caused by lightning, was extinguished on Shannon Run Road Aug. 10.

Burning food on stoves activated smoke alarms at a Locust Grove residence and at a Huntertown Road residence Aug. 11.

### **Animal Control**

Woodford County Animal Control (879-0598) is holding a stray large short-haired gray tomcat and a brown tabby and white short-haired male kitten.

Animal Control holds stray pets for five days. A list of impounded animals may be found on the front door of the animal control building at 210 Beasley Road.

### Firefighters installed four Public Records

**SUITS** 

Wells Fargo Bank, NA vs. Nathan J. Perry, et al., for \$76,487.92 plus interest and costs claimed due on a debt.

Cach, LLC, vs. Marcy T. Schlesinger for \$8,896.81 plus interest and costs claimed due on a debt.

Jamos Fund 1, LP, vs. Walter Stocker, et al., for \$1,186.59 plus interest and costs claimed due on a debt. DEEDS

Kimberly S. Herbert and

Benjamin Brown to Steven P. Scott and Elizabeth Scott, 3897 Delaney Ferry Road,

Jimmie R. Fathergill to Joseph Peter Correll and Katie Correll, 748 Eureka Drive, \$167,250.

William K. LaFrana to Gail A. Duggins and Mary E. Duggins, 2999 Huntertown Louis Driskell.

Versailles changed their in-

terpretation on the definition

of per capita used in previous

had decided that definition

of "per capita" for fund-

ing purposes in the 2009

interlocal agreement should

add both cities' populations

to that of the county, as

both Midway and Versailles

residents pay both city and

county taxes. As a result,

both cities budgeted less

for emergency management

than Slugantz requested.

Traugott and Bozarth

Road, \$152,000.

JAMB2 Builders, LLC, to Mark A. Mullins and Rebecca Sloce-Mullins, 6044 Crabapple Road, \$289,900.

Philip A. Ridings and Janet S. Ridings to Edgar C. Neal Jr. and Katherine B. Neal, 10020 Clifton Road, \$185,000. Jerry Scot Skidmore and

Jason Lynn Green to Danny A. Davis and Erin D. Davis, 219 North Gratz Street, Midway, \$85,000.

Robert Shellhammer to JPMorgan Chase Bank, 506 Scarborough Drive, other consideration.

Robert C. Stilz Jr., as master commissioner of the Woodford Circuit Court, to Lucy Annette Cain, 3210 Paynes Mill Road, quitclaim deed, no deed tax noted.

Robert C. Stilz Jr., as master commissioner of the Woodford Circuit Court, to Jane Schenck and Stephen Schenck, 2050 Pisgah Pike, quitclaim deed, no deed tax noted.

Robert C. Stilz Jr., as

master commissioner of the Woodford Circuit Court, to Leah D. Kruger, 2040 Pisgah Pike, quitclaim deed, no deed tax noted. Ball Homes, LLC, to Shawn S. Maloney and Oliv-

ia Maloney, 361 Gleneagles Way, \$174,606. Timothy L. Lester and Maria Lester to Buan

Smith III, 428 Wells Lane, \$166,500. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation to Stephen E. Bishop and Kelly N.

Bishop, 115 Broadway, \$119,000. John R. Smith and Moni L. Smith to Adam Vance and Kehla Vance, 110 Chestnut

Lane, \$150,000. Pamela Wallace Helton and Bruce Wayne Helton to Dixie Creech and Emmanual Pinales, 104 Loy Street,

### **MARRIAGE LICENSES**

Marsha Carol Johnson and James Owen Tate Jr.; Rachel Lynn Wilson and Juan Dominquez Ventura; Briana Nicole Turner and Jordan

issue, but not if Midway and from previous years.

Other matters

The court voted unanimously to again tax real property at 7 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Magistrate Ken Reed (Dist. 4) said the county hasn't raised taxes since 2006, and said not having to do so was a result of the county managing its money wisely. As of Jan. 1, 2014, the total assessment of all real property in Woodford County subject to taxation was \$2.03 billion, the value of real estate for public service companies \$13.13 Tuesday night, George Traugott acknowledged to million, and the estimated said that progress might be The Sun that it was a change county revenue from those possible on the "soft costs" in interpretation of per capita sources, \$1,435,223.

### MURDER Continued from p. 1 westbound in the eastbound

lane of Frankfort Road on April 21, 2013, when his Volkswagen Jetta collided with a vehicle operated by Rocky Cohorn, killing Cohorn's son, Blake.

Wendi, were seriously injured in the wreck. They spoke prior to Diaz-Diaz being sentenced. "It bothers me to see him

get upset over his punishment when I don't get to see my son again," said Wendi Cohorn.
"He'll get to see his family again later on in life. I won't get to see my son again." She said the wreck "shat-

tered every bone in my face." Her husband said he was recently approved for disability at the age of 26 because of injuries sustained in the crash. "Mr. Diaz-Diaz was driving (with a blood-alcohol

level) about two-and-a-half times over the legal limit in the wrong lane when he smashed into the Cohorns' car head-on," said Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Keith Eardley. He described this case as "one of the saddest, most tragic cases I've ever worked in my career as an attorney." He said it bothered him that Diaz-Diaz was only concerned about

his punishment and never expressed any remorse for his actions. "There are some things in life you can't take back, Johnson said. He said regard-

less of the amount of time Diaz-Diaz serves in prison, "it's hard to believe that you can think that you can make up for what's happened in this case." Johnson denied a motion that would have allowed

Diaz-Diaz to withdraw his

plea, which acknowledged

that the commonwealth had

sufficient evidence to convict involuntary," a legal basis to him of murder, four counts of first-degree assault, two motor vehicle while under the plea on the felony charges. influence and driving with no operator's license.

"The motion appears to Cohorn and his wife, indicate that (Diaz-Diaz) doesn't want to go forward because he's had a change of heart, ...but that's not a basis behind which the court's going to allow someone to change their plea," Johnson Pointing out that Diaz-

Diaz was fully informed of his rights prior to entering his plea on June 2, Johnson said, "I have not heard anything that (his plea) was withdraw a guilty plea.

A jury trial set to begin on counts of first-degree wanton May 21 was cancelled after endangerment, operating a Diaz-Diaz agreed to enter a



dream of an education after high school. U.S. Department of Education 1-800-4-FED-AID

# About political announcements The Sun will accept one free announcement from

on the ballot in the 2014 general election. Political announcements may contain brief personal and biographical information and may be

candidates for local political offices that will appear

followed by a statement on the reasons for seeking the office. Announcements should be no more than 200 words in length and may include a photo of the candidate. The deadline for announcements is noon the Friday before the next issue is published.

The Sun reserves the right to edit all copy. No personal references to the integrity, character, or conduct of any other candidate or incumbent will

be accepted in these news announcements. Candidates must furnish their own photographs to accompany the announcements, preferably professionally made black and white glossy prints or high

quality digital photographs in jpeg format. Any other material submitted by candidates after the initial announcement must be in the form of paid advertisements, and ALL political advertising must

be paid for in advance. Candidates who have already had free announcements for this political cycle are not eligible for a second announcement. No free announcements will

be published after *The Sun's* Oct. 9 issue.

### **AMBASSADOR** Continued from p. 1

in P.E. and I like helping them because they usually don't get enough physical activity, and so it's really fun and exciting to get them moving and get them excited about it," she says. Genna Ringler speaks

with the poise and articulateness of someone several years older. But her younger brother doesn't mind taking a swipe at his sister when someone asks, jokingly, if all the activities and honors have given her a big head. "Yes!" Cam quickly re-

plies.
"I do not have a big head,"
"You

Genna shoots back. "You

PROJECT

Continued from p. 3 their stories to The Girl Project 2014 script, and 15 will share them with audiences. "When you hear other

we're asking (participants in The Girl Project) is just tell these stories for the  $\underline{girls}$  who can't tell them yet.' About one-third of the teens in this year's Girl Project saw last year's inaugural performances by another

people raising their voice,'

explains Clark, "it inspires

you to tell your story. So what

group of girls. Theater is a way to spread a message," explains

Madison.

**WRITES** 

### Continued from p. 3

walked into a surprise party organized by her daughter. Part of the surprise was when friends and co-workers learned she was 75.

"When there's somebody physically on a stage in front of an audience," she adds, "... it's just so powerful." Clark says many other

have a bigger head!"

Whatever her hat size,

she's filling some of what's

inside it with ideas aimed at

helping her classmates and

those to come live healthier

wasn't just playing video games," she said of child-

hood obesity. "It's so much

more. It's your economic

background and how your

parents raise you ... and all

that kind of stuff," she says.

turned to school Wednesday.

She'll be 13 on Sept. 23 (she

notes her three names contain

a total of 23 letters). She says

she might wind up in sports

medicine when she grows

up, but plans to continue

Genna (and Cam) re-

"I didn't know that it

programs are tackling issues facing young girls related to 'their place in society and the extreme objectification that's happening," which she describes as "a little frightening." However, she says the performance aspect of The Girl Project sets it apart from similar initiatives.

"The need for it seems to be growing and so the scope of The (Girl) Project is expanding," says Clark. She says starting a mentoring program for middle school girls, reaching out to at-risk dac.tix.com.

working with children who have special needs. Perhaps public office, one day. For now, there's cross country, swimming, other school projects, and a 5-K run members of the youth advisory board plan for next spring at 20 different sites. Genna's time manage-

ment challenges won't be fading any time soon.

"I feel like childhood obesity is a lot bigger than all of us, and it doesn't take one person to reverse the epidemic, and that's what the alliance thinks it is, an epidemic," she says. "It takes a lot of people to help change one person's lifestyle and I thought that one more person could help make a difference." teens and taking The Girl

Project on the road are ways to reach more people. "It's wonderful for these girls to get to go through The

Project," adds Becker Weig,

but how can we reach more Woodford Theatre performances of The Girl Project 2014 are set for Friday, Aug. 15, and Saturday, Aug. 16, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Aug.

17, at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 873-0648 or visit woodfordtheatre.com. Additional performances

at the Downtown Arts Center in Lexington will take place Aug. 22, 23, and 24. For tickets, call 425-2550 or visit

Clarification

rectly described Versailles

Mayor Brian Traugott and

Midway Mayor Tom Bo-

Last week, The Sun incor-

Fifteen years later, she

It was more of a 'Don't

ask, don't tell' sort of thing. I came out of the closet as a 75-year-old," she says with a laugh. Another surprise was waiting: Her boss told her he'd pay for a tattoo. Austin chose a butterfly for her right ankle to symbolize the path on Amazon.com.

of someone who didn't know she could fly until she burst out of her cocoon. 'I'm blessed, really. And

I know who I am and I feel good about myself. I have four wonderful children and five grandchildren and I'm healthy and have energy, so what more could you want?" Austin will hold a book-

signing from 6:30 to 8:30 Thursday, Aug. 21, at Marketplace On Main, 161 North Main Street. Versailles. Starting Over is available

### zarth's interpretation of per capita" for emergency management funding. See today's story, which begins

on page 1, for the correct description. The Sun regrets





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