

Todd County Standard

LADY
REBELS GET
ALL 'A'
REGION WIN,
PAGE 10.



Race bias claimed in hearing

Funeral home owner says councilman used race to kill crematory

BY RYAN CRAIG
TODD COUNTY STANDARD

The owner of an Elktion funeral home told the Elktion City Council that he believes a councilman used race to help drum up support against a crematory being put inside the old

Flynn Enterprises jean washing facility on North Main Street.

Todd County Funeral Home owner Shane Hessey told the council at its regular meeting Monday night that he thought Councilman Frank McReynolds used his position improperly to “draw a line in the

sand between blacks and whites” when it came to the location of a proposed crematory.

McReynolds disputed Hessey’s claims, saying the issue was more about putting a crematory near low-income housing and not about race.

Hessey said he withdrew the pro-

posal for the crematory after listening to the public — mostly African-American, he said — at a Planning Commission meeting last Thursday.

“I never knew (the area near the jean washing facility) was considered the black part of town,” Hessey said.

Hessey claimed he was unfairly

accused of targeting a certain part of town because of who lives there.

Hessey told the council that he has African-American employees and claimed that another business publicly said “I am the n— funeral home of Todd County.”

SEE CREMATORY, PAGE 5

BAILEY TO HEAD MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME STATE PARK



The Federal Hill historic mansion is located at My Old Kentucky Home State Park. Elktion native Matthew Colin Bailey has been named as the manager of this flagship state park.

FROM STAFF REPORTS
TODD COUNTY STANDARD

An Elktion native has been chosen as the manager at the Commonwealth’s flagship state park.

Matthew Colin Bailey will take over the position at My Old Kentucky Home State Park in Bardstown, State Parks Commissioner Elaine Walker announced this week.

Bailey is a University of Kentucky graduate with a bachelor’s degree in architecture and is working to complete a masters in historic preservation. Bailey has worked as a research assistant at the University of Kentucky, for the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Division of Historic Properties, and as Director of Preservation and Development at Belle Meade Plantation Historic Site in Nashville.

He has served as lead designer and director of advertising at Willow Branch Partners in Franklin, Tenn.,

most recently working as a designer at Chad James Group in Nashville, where he completed projects for country music artists Luke Bryan and Joe Don Rooney of Rascal Flatts.

Bailey is president and founder of the Green River Academy Preservation Society. Bailey also founded the Guthrie Transportation Museum.

It feels right that he is headed back to Kentucky, Bailey said: “Gov. Happy Chandler once said, ‘I’ve never seen a Kentuckian who wasn’t either thinking about going home or actually going home,’ to which I’m sure any person from Kentucky has found to be true, so when the opportunity to help My Old Kentucky Home became available, I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to finally come back home.”

My Old Kentucky Home State Park,

the first state-owned park, established July 4, 1923, includes the historic mansion formally known as Federal Hill. Construction of Federal Hill was started by John Rowan — a cousin of Stephen Foster, who visited the home in his youth and later penned the state song “My Old Kentucky Home” with the historic home in mind — in 1795 and was completed in 1818.

The 235-acre park also has an 18-hole state-owned golf course, campground, picnic area and a summertime theatrical production — “The Stephen Foster Story,” which is the longest-running outdoor musical.

My Old Kentucky Home sees its largest number of visitors before Derby and during the summer months, a large portion of which are guests native to foreign countries and primarily China and Japan, where Stephen Foster-composed songs are part of school curricula, Bailey said.

SEE BAILEY, PAGE 9



Bailey

Trenton to seek fire department renovation

BY AMY DUNCAN KEARNS
TODD COUNTY STANDARD

Though it has been taking steps toward building a new fire department, the Trenton City Commission voted Monday to seek bids for renovation of the city’s existing fire department.

A new fire department building has been on the commission agenda and residents’ minds for several months.

In January, Clarksville architect Josh Wright pre-

sented the commission with a preliminary cost estimate of \$329,128. The cost included a 2,400 square feet pre-engineered steel truck bay in addition to a training room, kitchenette and 2 bathrooms.

The commission had planned to apply for a Community Development Block Grant to fund 85 percent of the cost.

The proposed land site was not included in the cost

SEE TRENTON, PAGE 3

Kirkmansville Activity Center damaged by fire

BY TONYA S. GRACE
TODD COUNTY STANDARD

A fire at the Kirkmansville Activity Center caused minimal damage and resulted in no injuries to residents living in a house that is attached to the center just across from Helen’s Place.

Todd County Emergency Management Deputy Director

Judy Toombs said Todd County Dispatch was notified of the fire at 9:13 a.m. April 11, with firefighters from the Clifty and Allegre Volunteer Fire Departments responding to the blaze, which started in the attic.

No one was at the house at the time of the fire, Toombs said.

SEE FIRE, PAGE 3

Fiscal Court to seek grant for new resque squad facility

BY TONYA S. GRACE
TODD COUNTY STANDARD

construction of the squad’s pole barn building.

“I want to help them build this anyway they can,” said Greenfield, who noted that local labor could be utilized as an in-kind match if the squad is awarded a grant.

He said local workers could easily contribute \$8,000 or \$9,000 of in-kind labor to the project, and Greenfield asked for a consensus agreement among the magistrates.

They said they would be

Todd County Fiscal Court magistrates have expressed an interest in pursuing a grant to support the building of a new facility for the Todd County Rescue Squad.

Todd County Judge-Executive Daryl Greenfield told magistrates during Friday’s court meeting that he talked with William Randolph, the rescue squad chief, about applying for a grant to support

SEE RESCUE, PAGE 3

NEW ARRIVAL

Cade Andrew Wilson, son of Kyle and Kasey Wilson, was born March 6, 2015 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Cade has two siblings, Jake and Abby Wilson. His maternal grandparents are Phil and Reta Templeman. His paternal grandparent is Teresa Wilhite. His maternal great-grandparents are Carl and Cynthia Templeman and the late Estel and Mildred Turner. His paternal great-grandparents are the Rev. Tommy and Mary Wilhite.



Cade Andrew Wilson

AWARD

Christopher Lynn Young received the Annual President’s Award for 2014 and was named “Employee of the Year” for Silgan Plastics Inc. Chris was honored at a dinner in St. Louis, Missouri on March 24. Chris is a Process Technician at the Franklin, Ky. plant. Silgan Plastics is an International Corporation headquartered in Chesterfield, Missouri with currently 20 manufacturing plants within the United States and Canada. Silgan Plastics is a premier manufacturer of plastic containers in North America. Chris has been at the Franklin plant for 18 plus years (19 as of May). Chris is a 1991 graduate of Todd County Central High School and the son of Dana and Cheryl Young.



Crematory

Continued from Page 1

Hessey said he felt he had a good record on race relations with his business and the community and he withdrew his plans for the crematory because of “the people in the chairs” at last week’s planning commission.

Hessey said he had a \$250,000 investment in the building and offered to sell the building to the city.

McReynolds told Hessey and the council that he attended the Planning Commission meeting as a private citizen.

“I did not draw a race line,” the councilman said. “The objection wasn’t race-based. It was more or less about (the crematory) being put in a lower income area.”

McReynolds said he spoke to business owners and citizens of all races across the city and even claimed that a local person, who is white, was prepared to submit a petition against the crematory if it had passed the Planning Commission.

“I talked to people all over the community, not just African-Americans, who were opposed,” McReynolds said. “The (opposition) was not based on race.”

Hessey also complained about having his business plans discussed by members of the Planning Commission to the public and competing businesses, but City Attorney Jeff Traugher told Hessey that discussions in a public meeting are not privileged.

There has been a lot of controversy in Tennessee over crematories near the residential areas, but the proposed site for the crematory would not have been in a “residential area.”

After the meeting Traugher said the old Flynn’s washing facility was zoned as “light industrial” and was not part of any residential zoning in the city.


Traugher said that even if the crematory plan had passed the Planning Commission, the city council would still have to approve an ordinance change to allow crematories.

For now, Traugher said, if Hessey or anyone wants to have a crematory in Elkton, they would have to start over in the process.



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Kindergarten! ... here I come!

R

Kindergarten registration for North Todd Elementary School will be held all day on April 24. Children must be 5 years old by Oct. 1 to be registered. The registration is only for students that did not attend preschool at North Todd Elementary or South Todd Elementary. You will need to bring an official birth certificate, social security card, physical, eye exam, and dental exam. You may call the front office to schedule an appointment. Your child will need to attend the meeting as well. All documents are needed prior to the first day of school.

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