

Weather Record						
Date	2-12	2-13	2-14	2-15	2-16	2-17
High	58.4	44.7	58.3	54.7	41.4	47.4
Low	32.8	29.5	34.9	32.7	26.4	32.8
Prec	0.64	0	0	0	0.14	0

Reporting period for each day runs from midnight to midnight. Statistics from Kentucky Mesonet's Bengal Station.

G.R. Ministries help communities

By CLEVIS JEFFRIES
STAFF WRITER

Green River Ministries is a long-term, semi-private, non-discriminatory homeless shelter located in Campbellsville. The agency offers 30-day shelter placement in conjunction with housing and employment counseling, budgeting and resume building.

Miranda Willis, Executive Director of Green River Ministries, presented an overview of the agency's services and operations to Greensburg Rotary members Feb. 12.

The mission of Green River Ministries is to provide safe shelter, food, support services, and alternative avenues for self-sufficiency to homeless adults and their families in and around the Campbellsville area.

Willis said, "I think our agency provides to a population, to a target area that is underserved. We hope to offer a hand up and not a hand-out. We believe there is a thin line between helping our clients and enabling them. One of our goals is to rapidly rehouse all homeless clients in the Taylor County/Campbellsville area. We want to offer ongoing support to prevent cycles of dysfunction. We want to optimized all clients' quality of life. We do this by making individualized case plans."

The executive director said, "Mostly we are a homeless shelter." The percentage of clients served by the area shelter is around 45 percent from Taylor County and some 20 percent from Green County, she said.

Last year, the Ministries leader noted there were 332 adult applications for shelter.

In describing the shelter, Willis said, it consists of a three-room facility that is comparable to a hotel room, with a private bathroom in addition to a shared living room, kitchenette and laundry room.

The Ministries director said that families have first priority when seeking available shelter.

The 30-day program offered at the facility, she said, includes helping the client find employment, acquire long-term suitable housing, create a budget, assist with their medical needs and provide counseling. They also assist the client in signing up for government benefits.

Willis noted there is a curfew that residents must abide by, such as being in by midnight and not leaving before 7 a.m.

However, for any workers that work third shift, the curfew does not apply, the director said.

In order to qualify for the local shelter, the agency leader said that one must be homeless, have an



Miranda Willis

intake interview and urinalysis, and participate in a background screen which looks for a possible committed violent crime.

Willis mentioned that clients at Green River Ministries are not drug addicts, not lazy, live on a fixed income and are successful. They are required to have employment by their two-week mark.

From January 1 to September 30, 2018, the executive director said, of 272 applications for shelter, of those 77 were placed and of those placed, some 64 clients left the facility with either full-time employment, long-term suitable housing or both.

"That puts our success rate right at 83 percent. Our program does work."

According to Willis, the facility also offers additional services, such as Bible study, Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous classes, as well as makes available emergency hygiene and food boxes to the community. On Tuesday and Thursday, individuals in need within the community may receive food items.

During the cold months, clothing items are available such as jackets, gloves, scarves and toboggans.

Green River Ministries has a yearly total operating budget of \$85,000. With only one full-time employee and one part-time employee, the shelter, she said, depends mostly on volunteers.

Willis commented that the agency depends heavily on the churches in the community and on Campbellsville University who provides the facility with social workers.

"We have no government funding. We operate solely on donations and fundraisers."

To be a part of the ministry, the executive director said, one may donate household items, like pillows, sheets, blankets, paper and cleaning products. The agency also accepts furniture.

An individual may give to this worthwhile cause by becoming a monthly or quarterly donor.

"That's an awesome way to contribute to the community," she said.

To learn more about Green River Ministries, visit the website www.greenriverministries.org or their Facebook page.

Weekend snowfall



Photo by Clevis Jeffries

A blanket of snow fell over the weekend throughout the county. Nature's beauty was evident at the entrance to J. T. Ward Road. Local weather icon Corey Houk says we aren't quite finished with winter yet. Houk says that looking at long range data, he expects a few more cold shots in our area... and maybe even more snow.

Local authors Howell, Milby to sign books at GCPL Monday

Local authors Carl Howell and Robin Milby will be at the Green County Public Library Monday, Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. CT for a book signing of "Kentucky's 120 Counties: A Postcard Album."

Kentucky's 120 Counties: A Postcard Album (1900-1925) gives viewers a front-row seat into the past that enables them to see, for the first time, people, places, and events during a remarkable period in the state's history. Patrons purchased postcards at local drugstores, dry goods establishments, and country stores to catch a glimpse of their hometowns in postcard format. Postcards also portrayed neighboring communities, rural scenes, and people engaging in both work and play. In a time before photojournalism, postcards provided something that newspapers of the time could not; postcards put a face on the news and on the world itself.

A 1908 postcard of William Jennings Bryan speaking in Lebanon, Kentucky, sold like hotcakes. In Leitchfield, a local photographer took his camera to the Grayson County Fair and leaned over the rail to capture an electrifying image of a jockey on his horse, barreling down the track with a whip between his teeth.

Such moments and



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glimpses of everyday life form the heart of this book. Some images provide the only visual records of early communities and their railroad depots, grist mills, country stores, and churches. Other photos depict anglers fishing for "green bass" in Kinniconick, grandiose hotels erected beside rural springs, a man hunting quail in Salem, and converts being baptized in the flood waters of the Ohio River.

This book is a panoramic view of the Bluegrass State and America in the early 1900s. Look into the lives and

the eyes of the people, and you might just see your own hopes, dreams, failures, and successes come into focus.

Carl Howell is nationally known as Kentucky's premier vintage postcard collector. For many years, he contributed articles and postcard images to Kentucky Explorer magazine. He has co-authored three Kentucky county history books illustrated by his extensive postcard collection. His other works include Lincoln's Kentucky Years and Kentucky

He currently lives with his wife, Sharon, in Hodgenville, Kentucky.

Robin Milby is a passionate collector of vintage postcards. He also buys and sells antiques and collectibles, specializing in political memorabilia.

Milby was sports editor and a columnist for the LaRue County Herald News from 1984 to 1991, where he won several awards in photography and writing from the Kentucky Press Association.

He and his wife, Kathy, have three daughters.

Kentucky Proud Legislative Breakfast



State Representative Brandon Reed, right, chats with Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles at the Kentucky Proud Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday in Frankfort. The breakfast is held each year to raise awareness of the many delicious, nutritious foods produced by Kentucky farmers and food businesses. (Kentucky Department of Agriculture photo)