

Weather Record						
Date	2-19	2-20	2-21	2-22	2-23	2-25
High	38.2	57	50.2	45.2	60.7	63.5
Low	23.6	34.4	33.8	40.3	42.3	36.9
Prec	0.17	1.59	0.05	0.12	2.63	0.08
Reporting period for each day runs from midnight to midnight. Statistics from Kentucky Mesonet's Bengal Station.						

Senator David Givens gives Legislative update



Senate report
State Sen. David Givens

We are halfway through the 2019 Regular Session, and the Senate is eager to continue making progress in these final weeks.

The General Assembly did not convene on Monday in observation of Presidents Day. Before resuming legislative business on Tuesday, both the House and the Senate reconvened at the historic Old State Capitol in downtown Frankfort.

We passed a wide range of bills concerning issues, including public education, agribusiness, medical licensing, animal safety, and more. Both chambers still have an extensive array of legislation to consider in the weeks ahead.

Several bills are

moving to the House following an extremely productive week in the Senate. Among those passed was Senate Bill 34, sponsored by Senator Damon Thayer. SB 34 amends state law regarding the voter registration database. This bill requires the Kentucky Board of Elections to institute measures to ensure there is no inappropriate use of the voter registration roster. Only county clerks, assistant county clerks, and Kentucky Board

of Elections staff will have the authority to access the roster.

A bill designed to reduce drunk driving also passed in the Senate this week. Senate Bill 85, Sponsored by Senator Whitney Westerfield, strengthens Kentucky's current ignition interlock device (IID) measure by making these breathalyzer-type devices available to all driving under the influence (DUI) offenders. SB 85 also includes a compliance-based component that incentivizes the use of IID by mandating stiffer penalties for those DUI offenders who choose not to use the device.

Senate Bill 65 would establish the Palliative Care Interdisciplin-

ary Advisory Council within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. SB 65 would also establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program within the cabinet.

Recent studies indicate that by closely matching treatments with the patients' goals in improving their quality of life, palliative care can provide substantial cost reductions. Supporters of SB 65 said when pain and distress are alleviated the length of stay at hospitals can be reduced. It passed by a 36-0 vote.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 46 would create the Alzheimer's and Dementia Work-



LRC News Photo
Senate President Pro Tem David P. Givens, R-Greensburg, presents Senate Bill 175, a bill relating to public school assessments and accountability, in the Senate Education Committee.

force Assessment Task Force to study the state's healthcare workforce needs as well as the state's long-term care services and supports infrastructure.

See Update, page 4B

School Board attends conference



Photo submitted

Green County School Board members, from left, Mike McCubbin, Marshel Davis, Dan Hedgespeth, Marcy Goff, Clevis Jeffries and Supt. of Schools Will Hodges attended the 83rd Annual Conference of the Kentucky School Boards Association held Feb. 22-24 at the Galt House in Louisville. Chris Long's Green County Middle School Art students created the banner for the school district which was displayed at the conference.

KY house passes "Day of Prayer"

STAFF REPORTS

The Kentucky House voted 79-18 last week to set aside one day each year for Kentuckians to pray or reflect on the state's public schools and their students.

House Bill 166 would designate "A Day of Prayer for Kentucky's Students" on the last Wednesday of each September to coincide with the global See You at the Pole™ student-led school prayer event held on that day for nearly 30 years. HB 166 sponsor Rep. Regina Huff said the bill supports a time of student-led prayer or contemplation one day a year on school campuses

statewide.

Student participation in the event would be voluntary and open to all faiths and religious traditions, said Huff, R-Williamsburg.

"This bill clearly states that it is all in accordance to their own faith and conscience to pray, meditate or otherwise reflect. There (are) not any particular religions ... mapped out in this bill," said Huff.

"It is for whomever. This is an event where all are welcome and united in a positive manner," she said.

Similar legislation found in 2018 HB 40 passed the House 83-5 last year.

See Prayer, page 4B

Public safety issues receive attention

Capitol Focus



State Rep. Brandon Reed

In the House of Representatives, this past week was a banner week for a cause not only important to me – but also critical to the safety and protection of Kentucky families. Public safety took a large, bipartisan step forward as multiple bills began moving through the General Assembly that are designed to protect children from obscene crimes, consumers from scans, and some of our most vulnerable citizens from harm.

Nothing is more of a pressing issue for the General Assembly at this point in time than school safety. The School Safety and Resiliency Act took another monumental step forward this past week, advancing through the House Education Committee and to the full House for consideration. I am proud to support this measure, which secures our schools and strengthens our students with a comprehensive approach.

We also passed House Bill 375 – a measure which would require wireless providers to give call location information to emergency responders, upon request, when there is a risk of death or serious injury. Widely known as "pinging," this mea-

sure would give law enforcement more tools to respond to emergency situations by informing them of the general location of a missing person based on where they last received a cell phone signal. HB 375 was inspired by the tragic death of Leah Carter of Monroe County, who drowned after being swept away by rising flood waters. It took searchers five days to locate her.

Likewise, public safety measures like HB 298 and HB 130 moved through the House Judiciary Committee and will soon move on to the Senate. HB 298 stiffens penalties for the possession and distribution of child pornography that displays minors under the age of 12, attacking a troubling trend of using young children for criminal purposes. Meanwhile, HB 130 expands the definition of terroristic threatening and raises the penalty for this crime to a Class C felony when an individual is caught preparing to carry out a threat,

such as loading guns or ammunition in preparation of the crime.

On another note, I was proud to present and pass my signature legislation, House Bill 46, through the Education Committee. This measure requires schools to display our national motto, "In God We Trust," in a prominent location, such as a cafeteria, common area, or entryway. This could come in the form of student artwork, a plaque, poster or other display. I look forward to carrying this bill on the House floor soon, and will keep you updated on its progress.

I also passed House Concurrent Resolution 62 on the House floor at the end of last week, which establishes a "Farmer Suicide Prevention Day." I would like to thank Larue County native Dale Dobson with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for spearheading this initiative throughout the Commonwealth, and Larue County FFA student Isaiah Pruitt for helping us advance this issue. Isaiah also sat next to me as I presented the "In God We Trust" bill in committee, and explained why the measure was important to him on a patriotic level.

Bills designed to strengthen our reporting systems for missing disabled persons as well as missing veterans also passed the House this past week. HB 150 creates a "Golden Alert" System to notify the public through the news media and highway signs when an impaired individual goes missing, while HB 180 includes missing or at-risk veterans within a Golden Alert, identifying them separately as a "Green Alert."

I'm proud to have supported critical public safety issues during this legislative session, which will strengthen our communities and protect families. As we enter the final few weeks of the 2019 session, I will continue to keep you informed about progress on issues of importance. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your thoughts on issues we should address.

Rep. Brandon Reed represents the 24th House District, which includes Green, Larue and Marion Counties. Contact him with any questions, concerns, or advice. He can be reached through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181, or via e-mail at Brandon.Reed@lrc.ky.gov

A U.S. 68 stroll



Photo by Walt Gorin

Mike Daugherty, operator of the Green River Paddle Trail, arrived at Greensburg's historic courthouse at 1:26 CT Thursday after a three hour and five minute walk from Campbellsville. Daugherty, who is known for his canoe and kayak rentals, is no stranger to brisk activities. For the past 21 years he has been refereeing soccer, including a boys and a girls state championship and four other state tournament competitions.