

Weather Record						
Date	11-19	11-20	11-21	11-22	11-23	11-25
High	48.5	51.2	61.6	57.4	51	48.3
Low	32.8	37.2	36.9	41.8	36.9	35.7
Prec	0.03	0	0.01	1.27	0.12	0

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

Greensburg Record-Herald

B
Section

4 Pages, Greensburg Record-Herald, Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Shuffett to be on Kentucky Life Saturday

BY DALE CURRY
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

Greensburg native, Dave Shuffett, returns to KET's Kentucky Life for a 25th Anniversary Special that airs Saturday night, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. CT. Shuffett has been one of only three hosts in the show's 25 year history. Others who have hosted the program are Byron Crawford and current host, Doug Flynn.

This episode, which can also be seen Thursday, December 5 at 8:30 p.m. CT, will feature some of the show's favorite moments.

One of Shuffett's favorite segments on



Photo courtesy of Steve Shaffer

Dave Shuffett will be on KET's Kentucky Life Saturday at 7 p.m. CT for an anniversary special. He is pictured with Kentucky Life hosts.

the show while he was the host was a series of shows called Kentucky's Last Great Places. In that series, Shuffett and the production crew went to some very isolated areas of Kentucky to places that are still pristine and pure.

"That series took us a couple of months to do," Shuffett recalled. "While we were shooting that series, we had six trips to local emergency rooms and one of the trips was for me. But that turned out to be the most watched special in KET history."

Shuffett has a long history of televised programs, having spent about 30 years

in the industry. For three years, he was the host of a national show, Outdoors with Dave Shuffett. He also spent several years hosting Kentucky Afield in addition to the 16 years as host of Kentucky Life.

Shuffett grew up in Greensburg and it was here that he earned the nickname, Mudcat.

"Around Green County I was known as Mudcat," Shuffett said, "because as a kid I was always outside in the woods. Ike Durham started calling me 'Little Mudcat' and the name just sort of stuck."

See KET, page 4B

Col. William Landrum places his bet on Frankfort's future

BY STEVE STEWART
STATE-JOURNAL

When his obituary is written one day in his hometown Greensburg Record-Herald, retired Col. William M. Landrum III's legacy won't be the fate of a dozen acres of dirt in Downtown Frankfort or the concrete that once stood on it.

Forty-five years of honorable service to country and state isn't defined by singular actions.

In this community, though, Landrum is and will be known for years to come as the guy who tore down our convention center and gambled on a more prosperous use of the state-owned land on which it sat. Landrum formally placed the bet this week by accepting a Hazard developer's bid of \$1,000 for the former Capital Plaza land known as Parcels B and C — property that city and county leaders see as the catalyst for downtown revitalization.

Landrum called me personally Wednesday afternoon to tell me of his decision — a final, unsurprising gesture of mutual respect before he departs as secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet in a couple of weeks to make room for his successor in Gov.-elect Andy Beshear's administration.

Landrum and I have been respectful combatants since his 2017 announcement that the state-owned convention center would come down along with the adjacent Capital Plaza Tower to make way for a new state office building and surrounding private development that he predicted would be a big boost to local tax coffers.

The State Journal covered aggressively a decision of great magnitude for the community we serve. Our dogged pursuit of bid documents on the public-private partnership that would eventually become the Mayo-Underwood Building landed the colonel and me on opposite sides of a law-



Col. William Landrum

suit. The State Journal prevailed — a brief and somewhat hollow victory given that the General Assembly quickly passed a bill to prevent disclosure of such records going forward. The pursuit earned our newspaper the Kentucky Press Association's highest honor for investigative reporting. (In this week's phone call, Landrum, without a hint of sarcasm, congratulated us on the honor.)

Our newspaper's editorial board, while generally sympathetic to local elected leadership's belief that the community had more to gain from cooperating with Landrum than

antagonizing him, urged caution and demanded transparency every step of the way. We published countless letters and guest columns taking him to task. As recently as two weeks ago on this page, I suggested in a column that Landrum, in the wake of his boss' reelection defeat, might be wise to defer a final decision on Parcels B and C to the next administration.

Landrum never took the coverage or commentary personally — a rare thick-skinned player in a modern political arena where hyperpartisans look for conspiracies and media bias in every published word. He told me Wednesday that he understood we had a job to do and thanked us for doing it fairly.

Likewise, even amid disagreement with his decisions, I respected Landrum's difficult job, never subscribing to the conspiracy theories of keyboard cowboys who labeled him part of an evil Republican plot to destroy downtown Frankfort — and who smeared local leaders like Bill May and Huston Wells

as his co-conspirators or clueless pawns.

In the end, Landrum believed that the successful bidder has the wherewithal to fulfill the Downtown Master Plan's vision of mixed-use redevelopment of Parcels B and C and, as that development occurs, sorely needed tax revenue for local governments. Landrum felt a particular obligation to Frankfort Independent Schools Superintendent Houston Barber, who leads award-winning public schools with one hand tied behind his back: a huge percentage of tax-exempt property in his district, the seat of state government. Barber has been an unwavering supporter of Landrum's plan.

I'm not as convinced of its viability. That just one bidder was willing to take on tens of millions of dollars of risk to give it a whirl speaks to the low odds of success. A verdict on such a massive undertaking is likely a decade or more away — during which much progress could have been made on a successful public use of the property.

See Landrum, 4B



File photo by Crystal Cecil

Trees and wreaths will be available for bidding/purchase Saturday at the Old Depot.

Festival of Trees is this Saturday

BY CRYSTAL CECIL
R-H STAFF

Green County Intermediate School PTO will have a Festival of Trees community event Saturday, Nov. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. CT at the Historic Greensburg Depot.

View and bid on fully decorated Christmas trees and wreaths graciously donated by local businesses.

There will be refreshments and live entertainment by The Exie Boys.

"GCIS PTO invites everyone to the Festival of Trees, held at the historic Old Depot this Saturday," organizer Lindsay Landis said.

"We'll have refreshments served by our students, live Christmas music, and beau-

tiful Christmas trees, wreaths, and decor that our sponsors have generously donated for auction. Bids are accepted throughout the evening and those with the highest bids at the end of the night get to take their Christmas goodies home!"

Items purchased must be picked up by 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1.

"Please join us for a fun evening in a historic location to support GCIS students," Landis said.

All proceeds will directly benefit the students.

For more information or to donate a decorated tree or other festive item, contact Crystal Cecil at 270-405-6199 or Jennifer Davenport at 270-528-7940.

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Byron Smith, center, and the Smith Altman staff, from left, Shelly Gribbins, Logan Smith, David Shaw, Byron Smith, Joey Turpin, Matt McDonald, David Mattingly and Haley Underwood.

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