

# NEWSPAPERS continued from page one

the novel coronavirus and sent it out to every household in the county.

“Don’t Panic,” said the banner headline. “But instead be prepared.”

These are unprecedented days in communities throughout Kentucky, the United States and the world, as the novel coronavirus spreads, wreaking medical and economic damage in its wake.

Kentucky’s community newspapers, large and small, in digital and in print, are taking action to keep our communities informed on everything from the latest news about the virus itself to the importance of social distancing. We’re providing resources and connecting citizens in our communities who are affected by the unprecedented steps being taken to stop the spread of the virus. And newspapers are stepping up for their communities even as we’re directly affected, too – with our staffs working from home and many of our advertisers shutting their doors, at least for now.

Newspaper sites throughout the Commonwealth have removed their digital paywalls on stories about COVID-19 and its effects, making this essential information free so it can reach as many citizens in our

communities as possible.

Kentucky’s community newspapers are providing essential information to our towns and cities in other ways, big and small.

The Crittenden Press in Crittenden County, Ky., is hosting a local video news conference each Friday with community leaders, spreading it widely on social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, and YouTube.

“We, too, are in a survival mode on the business side, but there’s little time to count nickels right now because as the town crier of community, we are pledged to keep crucial, reliably consistent and verified information on the streets,” said Chris Evans, editor, and publisher of The Crittenden Press.

Newsrooms from Bardstown to Lexington to Pikeville to Adair County are helping restaurants spread the word with guides listing curbside and takeout services and compiling free lists of resources for community members who may be dealing with sudden unemployment, health crises, or childcare needs.

Jobe Publishing increased the font size of its newspapers in

south-central Kentucky given the increased demand among seniors who can’t leave their homes under social-distancing guidelines.

The Kentucky News Group’s sites are helping funeral homes live-stream funerals at the request of families, so services can be experienced by loved ones even amid restrictions on social gatherings.

Our staffs are working around the clock to knock down rumors and to report, check and distribute verified information to help our communities in a time of need like none we’ve seen before. As we do this essential work for you, we ask that you consider subscribing, support advertisers in our issues and if your business is strong and stable perhaps help by placing an advertisement. In essence, helping your local newspaper is “paying it forward” for the communities we serve.

Now more than ever, Kentucky’s newspapers will be here to help our communities when they need us most.

*Jeff Jobe, our community publisher is the President of the Kentucky Press Association. He asked former President and friend Peter Baniak, of the Lexington Herald to write this on behalf of the association members.*

# MASKS continued from page one

demic, at a rate so fast that fear may be in the minds of some even potentially running out.

However, with the shortage being worldwide, even just every day civilians need a mask. This may be to wear to the doctor, the grocery, or even the post office to check the mail. Due to the shortage, some people in Russell County have been working their fingers to the bone making mask for not only for Russell Countians but all over the United States. Those helping with the shortage of masks include Nancy Jo Wisdom, Kathy & Dwight Gossage, Julie Roy, Carrie Bunch, Kelly Robertson, Tammy Hill, Loretta Cherry, Abigail Tomlin, Jessica Scales, Joni Miller Jessie, and Junetta West.

The thankfulness the community has for these special people and those who have received their masks truly shows not only on social media but also out in the public eye.

Kathy Lynn Gossage has made over 300 masks already. Her husband, Dwight, has been right by her side helping.

“He has turned every mask and clipped the strings, while my grandson Evan has measured the elastic and cut it for me,” Kathy said.

The couple have mailed masks to Danville and all the way to Arizona. Kathy said she had kept scripture in her heart and mind the entire time



Kathy Gossage hard at work making masks



Here are a few masks made by Nancy Jo Wisdom

she has been working. However, two verses stayed in her mind constantly. Hebrews 13:16 was one of those, which states: “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Another scripture in Kathy’s heart was, Acts 20:35: “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord

See MASKS, Page 3

# Comer on the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Bill

Congressman James Comer (KY-1) spoke last week on the floor of the House of Representatives to express his support for the stimulus package.

He noted that while not perfect, the bill helps Americans affected by the coronavirus by putting money into the pockets of workers and families and supporting small businesses.

“My message to the American people affected by the coronavirus is simple: help is on the way,” he said. “This is not a perfect bill, and I am concerned about the 2 trillion-dollar price tag. But the American people need help, and this response to the present crisis will put money into the pockets of struggling workers and families.”

“This response provides help for the small business owners who are the lifeblood of our economy,” the congressman said. “And we are responding to rising healthcare needs with more supplies and financial aid for our struggling hospitals. I will cast a yes vote for this package in support of the medical personnel on the frontlines of this current crisis. That includes heroes like the

more than 200 medical personnel from the Fort Campbell military base in my district, who are in New York to provide medical support.”

I support this bill to help repair the damage caused by the coronavirus to our workers and small businesses,” he said. “But any additional relief measures must focus on assisting main street businesses and working Americans.

Background:

- Income for American Families

- One-time tax rebate check

- \$1,200 per individual, \$2,400 per couple and \$500 per eligible child

- The full rebate amount is available for those with incomes at or below \$75,000 for individuals, \$112,500 for head of households, and \$150,000 for married couples

- Expanded unemployment insurance to cover gig workers, self-employed and non-profit

- Small Business Help

- Loans forgiven for keeping employees on payroll

- 8 weeks of cash flow forgiven, as well as rent

and utilities at 100% up to 2.5x average monthly payroll.

- Assistance for Struggling Job Creators

- \$454 billion to be used by Treasury for all sectors and \$75 billion in loans, guarantees and grants for passenger airlines, cargo carriers, and businesses critical to national security.

- Access to Care for Americans

- Increase in Medicare reimbursement rate to assist providers caring for our most vulnerable population

- Increase in access to testing

- FDA can quickly approve new medication and treatments

- Direct Funding to Combat the Pandemic

- \$340 billion supplemental appropriations

- \$150 billion for states, cities, and localities

- Support for health care workers and hospitals

- Funding for Personal Protective Equipment

- Support for our local first responders

- Support for veteran health care

## NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

### RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY'S 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that in a March 31, 2020 Application, Kentucky Utilities Company (“KU”) is seeking approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in Case No. 2020-00060, pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183 of an amended compliance plan (“2020 Plan”). Once approved, KU will begin recovering capital costs associated with new pollution control facilities in the 2020 Plan under KU’s existing Electric Rate Schedule ECR (also known as the Environmental Surcharge tariff) through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers’ bills beginning in late October 2020.

Federal, state, and local environmental regulations require KU to operate facilities that produce energy from burning coal in an environmentally compliant manner. To do so, KU is seeking Commission approval to construct certain water treatment systems at the Ghent and Trimble County generating stations and to install a wastewater diffuser in the Ohio River and construct a Bottom Ash Transport Water recirculation system at the Ghent generating station. Each construction project is a component of the 2020 Plan.

KU is seeking an order approving the 2020 Plan to recover the costs of these new pollution control facilities through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. These projects are required for KU to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s 2015 Effluent Limitations Guidelines Rule as amended. The estimated total capital cost of these new pollution control facilities is \$252.3 million. Additionally, KU is requesting recovery of operation and maintenance expenses associated with certain projects in the 2020 Plan.

Beginning in late October 2020, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 1 customers is estimated to be a 0.04% increase with a maximum increase of 2.13% in 2025. Group 1 includes Rate Schedules Residential Service (RS), Residential Time-of-Day Energy Service (RTODE), Residential Time-of-Day Demand Service (RTODD), Volunteer Fire Department Service (VFD), All Electric School (AES), and all Lighting Rates (i.e., LS, RLS, LE, and TE).

RS, RTOD, and VFD customers using 1,139 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.05 up to \$2.46. AES customers using 19,744 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.75 up to \$38.88. LS and RLS customers could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$0.33. LE customers using 3,573 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.10 up to \$5.12. TE customers using 171 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$0.39.

Beginning in late October 2020, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 2 customers is estimated to be a 0.06% increase with a maximum increase of 2.98% in 2025. Group 2 includes Rate Schedules General Service (GS), Power Service (PS), Time-of-Day Secondary Service (TODS), Time-of-Day Primary Service (TODP), Retail Transmission Service (RTS), Fluctuating Load Service (FLS), and pilot program Outdoor Sports Lighting Service (OSL).

GS customers using 1,717 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.11 up to \$5.59. PS-Secondary customers using 33,725 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$1.45 up to \$77.01. PS-Primary customers using 58,355 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$2.46 up to \$130.68. TODS customers using 208,133 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$5.80 up to \$308.49. TODP customers using 1,294,965 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$29.04 up to \$1,543.53. RTS customers using 4,908,868 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$94.85 up to \$5,041.26. FLS-Transmission customers using 51,873,999 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$859.76 up to \$45,695.77. OSL-Secondary customers using 5,204 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.44 up to \$23.50.

The Application described in this Notice is proposed by KU. However, the Commission may issue an order modifying or denying KU’s Application. Such action may result in an environmental surcharge for customers other than the environmental surcharge described in this Notice.

Comments regarding KU’s 2020 Plan and Application may be submitted to the Commission through its Web site or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Any corporation, association, body politic or person may, by motion within thirty (30) days after publication, request leave to intervene in Case No. 2020-00060. That motion shall be submitted to the Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Blvd., Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, and shall set forth the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. Intervention may be granted beyond the thirty (30) day period for good cause shown; however, if the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of initial publication, the Commission may take final action on the Application. Any person who has been granted intervention may obtain copies of the Application and testimony by contacting Kentucky Utilities Company at 220 West Main Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, Attention: State Regulation and Rates.

A copy of the Application and testimony is available for public inspection on KU’s website (<http://www.lge-ku.com>), on the Commission’s website (<http://www.psc.ky.gov>), and in paper medium Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the office of Kentucky Utilities Company, 100 Quality Street, Lexington, Kentucky or the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, after March 31, 2020.

## GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

Call Today to place your business advertisement in the Times Journal 866-3191