



Greensburg *Record-Herald*

Serving Green County Since 1895 2 Sections, 16 Pages No. 2 Wednesday, January 13, 2021



Sunday house fire is fatal

STAFF REPORTS

A house fire at 253 Cherry Road claimed the life of a Green County woman Sunday afternoon.

Renita Turner, 65, was pronounced deceased by Green County Coroner David Taylor at 5:25 p.m., Jan. 10.

The Greensburg/Green County E-911 Center received a report of a house fire at 12:32 p.m. on Sunday. Units from the Summersville Fire Department arrived on the shortly after.

According to officials, two individuals lived in the home, but the male, Jesse Turner, was not home at the time the fire started.

"We arrived thinking there was someone inside, so we attacked the living room first, hopeful," Summersville Fire Chief David Milby said.

Officials said the structure was older and the fire began in the living room area; the structure above the living room and kitchen area collapsed.

During the initial attack of that area, a primary search was being conducted from the backside of the house, Summersville Fire Officer Todd Price said.

"With fire conditions worsening, the search team backed out and efforts were moved to fire suppression," Price said. "Suppression efforts were successful."

Approximately 20 minutes thereafter, another search crew entered from the backside and did another search of the bedrooms and bathroom area as well as the basement area.

At 4:43 p.m., the deceased was found in the kitchen area.

The home was considered a complete loss.

In addition to Summersville, Greensburg/Green County and Taylor County fire departments assisted, with the Buffalo Fire Department on standby. Along with the Green County Coroner, the Kentucky State Police and State Fire Marshal's Office were also on the scene.

Arson is not suspected, however, per normal procedure when a death is involved in a fire, the State Fire Marshal's office was contacted and an official responded to the scene. The fire is still under investigation.

The full obituary can be found on page 5A; photos on page 12A.



Photo courtesy of Summersville Fire Department

Summersville Fire Department, along with Greensburg/Green County and Taylor County fire departments combatted this house fire Sunday afternoon which ended in one fatality. Renita Turner, 65, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The fire was located in the Summersville community.

Green County School Board honored this month

STAFF REPORTS

As Kentucky observes School Board Recognition Month in January, Green County Schools is joining in the celebration.

Green County's Marshal Davis, Marcy Goff, Dan

Hedgespeth, Clevis Jeffries and Mike McCubbin are among the more than 850 school board members in the state's 171 local school districts being recognized this month for their service.

This is the perfect time

to thank school board members for serving in a role that has become increasingly complex, said Ronnie Holmes, president of the Kentucky School Boards Association and chairman of the Graves County School Board.

"Members of the Green County Board of Education are responsible for making decisions aimed at ensuring that every child in their district has a chance to be successful both in school and in life," Holmes said.

"To do that, members oversee a \$16-million budget, keep up with changing education laws and policies, and spend hours on professional learning and state-mandated training."

See Board, page 6A

First Baby of the New Year



Photo submitted

Lana Kate Leftwich is Green County's 2021 First Baby of the Year. Lana Kate was born January 2, 2021 at 11:07 a.m. ET at Taylor Regional Hospital to proud parents Zachary and Sarah Leftwich. Their blessing, arriving 17 days early, weighed an even 7 pounds and was 19 inches in length. She was welcomed home by grandparents—Barry and DeeDee Bennett, Jackie Penick and James Malone, Jason Leftwich and Tammy McDonald; great-grandparents—Maxine Bennett, Coakley and Sue Leftwich, Ronnie and Geraldine Russell; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. This precious baby girl wins numerous prizes from local advertisers worth hundreds of dollars for being the first baby of 2021.

Doctors: Please do not skip the flu shot

Opinion compilations by Dale Toney, M.D., Ben Chandler, Jeff Reynolds, M.D., Nancy Galvagni, Lisa Galloway, M.D., Jon Copley and Sandra Guerra, M.D.

In a typical year, only about four in 10 Kentucky adults get a flu shot, which the overwhelming majority of health experts say is the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community, against influenza and its potentially serious complications.

The year 2020 was anything but typical. But while reported cases are lower than normal so far this flu season — likely due to people wearing masks and social distancing — the risks of a "twindemic" of the flu and COVID-19 are extremely high. Rampant simultaneous spread of both threaten the very lives of many who don't have the physical and financial resources to fight off two potentially serious viruses at the same time. It also could overwhelm our health care system which, in many areas, is already strained with the large influx of COVID-19 patients.

In the 2019-2020 flu season, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the flu sickened 38 million and hospitalized 400,000 people in the United States. About 22,000 people died. As startling as those

numbers are, they're actually quite low; the flu sickened 45 million, hospitalized 810,000, and killed 61,000 in 2017-2018. The flu is a serious illness.

Meanwhile this year, COVID-19 has already taken more than 300,000 U.S. lives, including those of 2,500 Kentuckians'. Sometimes, the victims were young and otherwise healthy. Most times, they were older, had chronic health conditions, or couldn't find, get to, or afford necessary health care.

If you haven't gotten around to your flu shot this year or you're hesitating, we encourage you to contact your physician or another trusted health professional to ask your questions. You have a right to answers. Once you get them, please, get your flu shot.

It's absolutely true that the effectiveness of the annual flu shot varies, depending on how closely the vaccine matches the flu strain that's most common in any given year. But multiple studies show that the vaccine prevents tens of thousands of flu-related hospitalizations annually. And even if you get a different strain of flu than is addressed by this year's vaccine, your symptoms are much more likely to be milder and your risk of serious complications lower, than if you skip the flu shot.

See Flu shot, page 12A