

Weather Record						
Date	2-16	2-17	2-18	2-19	2-20	2-22
High	19.5	23.8	29.5	26.4	32.4	52.7
Low	9.5	10.6	23.8	15.6	1.1	15.1
Prec	0	0.21	0.2	0	0	0

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

## Child Abuse: KY ranks #1

JENNIFER MOONSONG  
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Again, for the third consecutive year, Kentucky has ranked an undesirable number one when it comes to child abuse and neglect.

In 2019 there were staggering 182 cases of death/near death incidents amongst Kentucky's children.

The Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel's 2020 annual report revealed that Kentucky averages 20.1 cases of child abuse/neglect for every 100,000 children. West Virginia ranked second with 18.7 cases per 100,000 children.

According to the panel's findings the problem of child abuse and neglect is often rooted in substance abuse.

"Substance abuse continues to be one of the most prevalent risk factors, identified and 48.9% of all cases," said the report. And 17.5% of cases, the caregiver was determined to be impaired.

In many instances, the abuse begins before the child is even born, due to in utero drug exposure. A 2019 review shows that an



Norton Children's Hospital/Abuse Awareness Campaign photo

overwhelming 16% of the children exposed while still in the womb were exposed to benzodiazepines.

"Families struggling with substance abuse often have contributing factors such as mental illness, domestic violence, poverty, and instability. This is well documented in research and evident in the data," the report continued.

Other factors include a caregiver with a criminal history. Joblessness and financial woes, lack of treatment for mental health issues, history of run-ins with law-enforcement, medical issues and lack of treatment, and unsafe access to deadly means including guns and ingestible poisons.

The panel found that for the past three years,

children four years of age and younger were at the highest risk for fatal and near fatal events due to abuse. Children in all age categories were affected.

The report leaves the question: what is the answer to such a horrific problem?

The proposed answer seems to be fixing the problem behind the problem.

A top priority listed in the findings is for the reestablishment of family drug courts that offer treatment programs for people suffering from addiction. The reason for the recommendation is that in 2010, such family drug courts were widely done away with due to budget restrictions.

Another vital aspect and lessening the number of incidents, is recognizing and reporting

abuse. All those statistics are drastic, the number of unreported abuse cases is even more concerning.

The report recommends looking for the Ten-4 Bruising Rule if you suspect abuse: In children four years old and younger, look for bruises on the T (Torso), E (Ears) and N (Neck). Also, any sign of bruising on an infant that does not yet crawl or title is likely abuse. The rule of thumb is "those who don't cruise, don't easily bruise".

The entire report can be read at: <https://justice.ky.gov/Boards-Commissions/cfnferp/Documents/Old%20Site/annual%20reports/2020%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf>

## McConnell on Covid recovery: "Our Nation Needs This Year to be Different"

Capitol Focus



U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell

U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) delivered the following remarks today on the Senate floor regarding COVID-19 recovery:

"The year just behind us will be remembered for the suffering, grief, and sacrifice it forced on our nation.

"Today, as our COVID-19 death toll passes 500,000, millions of Americans are feeling the pain of personal loss.

"But as we mark this terrible milestone, we stand here in early 2021 at what increasingly appears to be a crossroads. Far brighter days appear to be close at hand.

"So far, more than 63 million vaccine doses have been administered, and another 1.8 million Americans are now receiving a shot every day.

"At the same time, the rolling average of COVID-related deaths has fallen to barely half its January high. And mounting evidence suggests our economy is chomping at the bit to rebuild the prosperity we lost last year.

"We reached this threshold because, in part, of the historic, bipartisan work Congress built last year:

"From the job-saving Paycheck Protection Program... to Operation Warp Speed and its historically-successful sprint toward vaccines... to cushioning the blow for unemployed Americans... and so much more.

See Recover, page 4B

## In the local area: Oil Boom on Highway 61

By AMBER HOBAUGH  
ADAIR PROGRESS

If you've ever been out south Highway 61 during the hours of dawn or dusk, then you're no stranger to the perfume of oil that fills the air. Recently, there has been another minor boom of oil around the new Columbia area of Adair County.

In November of last year T&B Drilling struck oil on property owned by Connie Stotts just south of Walmart. Then, in December Burch Drilling out of Albany also hit oil on property owned by Lynn McClean and Dan and Doug Antle and is leased to An-

thony Hale.

This month T&B struck again on property previously owned by Kenneth Bennett that now belongs to RF Enterprises out of Pasadena, Calif.

Drilling started around Feb. 6 for T&B Drilling as well as Bill and John Burness at Pampered Angus Ranch owned Vicky Browning Pike. With a steady flow of oil being struck around 4 p.m. that evening.

Burch Drilling has plans to drill again on the Antle/McClean property while T&B will be back at it again on the properties owned by Stotts and RF Enterprises.



Workers prepare the rig for drilling on property owned by Connie Stotts. Photo courtesy of Vicky Browning Pike



Oil tanks sit just right off the Cumberland Parkway on property owned by RF Enterprises out of California. Photo courtesy of Vicky Browning Pike



T&B Drilling draws a crowd to share in the good fortune at Pampered Angus Ranch. Photo courtesy of Amber Hobough

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