

By ex-assistant police chief

# Suit Filed Against City, Mayor

Staff Report

A former Russell Springs assistant police chief claims she was the victim of discrimination in a lawsuit filed last week, court records said.

Melissa Taylor, who served with the Russell Springs Police Department (RSPD) 17 years, filed a legal action in Russell Circuit Court Friday against the City of Russell Springs and Mayor "Fred Thomas."

In the lawsuit, Taylor claims she was the victim of alleged "gender discrimination" when

the City of Russell Springs hired a new, male police chief.

Taylor was appointed interim police chief when RSPD Chief Joe Michael Irvin retired in July 2020.

Last March, Tim Pierce was hired as chief for the police department.

Taylor, who had served as a patrol officer, sergeant, assistant police chief, and interim police chief, claims "the reasons given for the City's decision to hire a male applicant over Plaintiff (Taylor) were invalid

and pre-textual," the lawsuit said.

She is seeking a "judgement that will fairly and adequately compensate her for the damages herein alleged...her costs expended in furtherance of this action, including her reasonable attorneys fees...(and a) Trial by jury."

The lawsuit was filed locally by Lance W. Turner of Carroll & Turner, P.S.C., Attorneys at Law, of Monticello.

At presstime, the city had "no comment."

# Cabinet/Furniture Maker Locating in Jamestown

The Russell County Industrial Development Authority (RCIDA) has announced the sale of its 9,400 square foot manufacturing building in Jamestown to Von Gruenigen Furniture Makers, LLC.

while utilizing modern technology in their manufacturing, the company will be looking for qualified, skilled craftsmen in the fields of engineering, project management, design, fabrication, CNC operation, and installation.

"We greatly appreciate their business and we're so grateful for the trust they've placed in us," Casey said. "We would also like to thank our employees for their outstanding work and dedication. We appreciate them helping us get to where we are today."

The company plans to move in and have the new facility operational in spring of this year.

"The expansion will allow us to foster a more active relationship with the Lake Cumberland Regional College and Workforce Center and

Last week's announcement comes on the heels of other recent business investments in the Russell County. With last month's purchase of the



The Von Gruenigen family closed on a new business location last Thursday at the headquarters of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (SKRECC). SKRECC facilitated a loan through a USDA program. Pictured from left, SKRECC President and CEO Kenneth Simmons, RCIDA Board Chairman Clint Voils, and Ed and Casey Von Gruenigen.

father and son team Ed and Casey Von Gruenigen began operations in 2009 designing and building custom furniture.

utilize the Kentucky Career Center - Cumberland for finding local employees as needed," Casey said.

former spec building in the Lake Cumberland Regional Industrial Complex Site One, Lake Cumberland Family Medical will operate a distribution center.

The company has since expanded into the cabinet making business, added commercial clients, and invested in state-of-the-art equipment.

Jamestown Mayor Regena Hinton said she is glad to see new manufacturing come to the city.

Neat Distributing is building a new manufacturing facility in the northern part of the county, and Davis Gate and Wire Manufacturing is expanding their operation with a new, 75,000 square foot plant near Jamestown.

Currently, they have eight full-time employees, and anticipate adding five to 10 new employees by 2024.

"We appreciate Von Gruenigen Cabinet and Furniture Makers moving to Jamestown and will be happy to assist with whatever we can to help them move forward in their business," she said.

The Russell County Industrial Development Authority is set up to streamline the entire process of relocation, expansion or creating

Relocating into the new facility will give their manufacturing business more room

"The RCIDA worked diligently and quickly with



From left, Ed and Casey Von Gruenigen, Russell County Judge Executive Gary D. Robertson, Jamestown Mayor Regena Hinton, Russell Springs Mayor Eddie Thomas, and RCIDA Board Chairman Clint Voils gathered last week for an announcement regarding the Von Gruenigen's business. (TJ/Lisa Coffey)

for production and expansion, but it's not a far move for the company.

The Von Gruenigen team as they needed to identify a facility for their growth," RCIDA Board Chairman Clint Voils said. "They have been a locally-grown company which made this deal even more attractive."

a new development in Russell County, Kentucky. RCIDA can help locate available state and local incentives, efficiently channel building permits, provide statistical information, secure quality service accounts and deliver a whole range of other services.

"We chose to locate in Russell County because it is our home," Casey Von Gruenigen said. "This is the area that we have lived, raised our families and have our friends. Russell County means a lot to us and we want to see it grow and prosper. We believe that expanding our local economy begins with investing in the local workers and providing opportunities to the local workforce."

"The RCIDA acquired this building years ago to ensure we had an opportunity to recruit a company such as Von Gruenigen Furniture Makers," Voils said. "We look forward to their continued success in our community."

The RCIDA Board draws its members from key areas of the county's business and industrial community, with executives representing the areas of finance, public utilities, construction, development, education and business.

With a focus on quality

The Von Gruenigen's attribute their success to the support of their customers.

## 3/16/22 Super Crossword HER LEADING FATHER

**ACROSS**

1 Passengers  
7 It's used for simmering  
14 Good for farming  
20 Texas wildcat  
21 Huffington of HuffPost  
22 Hooded snakes  
23 Noted  
25 Potatoes, yam and rutabaga  
26 Impressionist painter Mary  
27 Toaster waffle brand  
28 Ancestry  
29 Not needing an Rx  
30 Unkempt sort  
33 Swimmer who won six Olympic gold medals  
35 It has triceps  
38 Radical type  
40 Work units  
41 Author of the Edgar-winning novel "New Orleans Mourning"  
45 "TRL Top 10" channel  
46 Wig makeup

**DOWN**

1 "The Famous Teddy Z" actor Alex  
2 Old Apple instant-messaging app  
3 Reduce in intensity  
4 Pipe bends  
5 Civil rights figure Parks  
6 Leaves in, to an editor  
7 On the — (fleeing)  
8 "... boy — girl?"  
9 Claret, e.g.  
10 Plane house  
11 Mystery  
12 Irk  
13 Dog's jingler  
14 Role-playing  
15 Boxers' units  
16 Nuns' place  
17 Period of rest  
18 Jumbo-sized  
19 Ruhr city  
24 Fla.'s ocean  
28 Future flies  
31 Yes, to Pierre  
32 Deli classics, for short  
34 Critters' doc  
36 Irks  
37 Israel's  
39 — McAn (shoe brand)  
41 7, monthwise

**ACROSS**

50 Not similar  
51 2014 Olympics host city  
54 Pooh and Roo's creator  
57 Erudite class  
59 Actress called "The Queen of Technicolor"  
61 The "Y" of YSL  
62 UFO pilots, presumably  
64 Surveyor's map  
65 Caught in a lasso  
66 Whom each of this puzzle's featured women have as a namesake  
70 Like hot stuff  
74 State of mind  
75 Always, to Keats  
76 Dismounted  
80 "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" actress (#35)  
83 Black or red candy  
86 Grow to accept  
87 High-stick billiards shot

**DOWN**

42 Part of UCLA: Abbr.  
43 Reggae grew from it  
44 Taxi ticker  
45 Saharan illusion  
46 Longtime Ritz rival  
47 "How sad!"  
48 As to  
49 Enjoy a book  
52 Ice — (longtime skating show)  
53 Netflix alternative  
55 Crooner Murray  
56 Heathland  
58 "You know who I am"  
60 Merman of old musicals  
63 Full of tumult  
66 Fedora fabric  
67 Still having a shot to win  
68 Qatar's capital  
69 Van Devere of "The Changeling"  
70 Hoodwink  
71 "There, I did it!"  
72 Said aloud  
73 Bound along  
76 — Detoo ("Star Wars" droid)  
77 Neighbor of a Pole  
78 Frozen drink brand  
79 Beach bird  
81 In a prying way  
82 Admin. aide  
84 W-2 pro  
85 "Yeow!"  
88 Hearing pair  
92 Clumsy ox  
94 Suture  
95 Baby whales  
96 Mount St. —  
97 Add-on cost for a science course  
98 Shortly, informally  
100 Fonda and Austen  
101 Really praise  
102 Gunpowder component  
103 Dewy-eyed  
104 The Pine Tree State  
106 "— bin ein Berliner"  
107 Totally lose it  
109 Charlotte — (rich dessert)  
110 Anesthetic of old  
113 Flabbergast  
115 451, to Nero  
116 Keats poems  
118 Dosage amt.  
119 By birth  
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