

EMILY PORTER

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

FOCUS ON JAILS

Drugs root of overcrowding

Carter County

Boggs discusses causes of overcrowding problem in county jails

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GRAYSON Inside the walls of the Carter County Detention Center, a small city resides — a city with a continually growing population.

Jailer R.W. Boggs said everything one would see in a city has to be inside of the jail. From banking and commerce to groceries and laundry services, the jail must operate as a city within its walls.

Work to keep up those services rises as the inmate population rises.

The jail houses around 215 inmates, which Boggs said is low compared to the typical 250 or so.

Technically, the jail has a capacity of 144. Boggs said the capacity can be a bit misleading.

"You have what we call boats, they're single beds that are able to be put into the cells, there's day rooms, so we're still fairly comfortable with the point we're at now," Boggs said.

However, the numbers are staying above capacity; about 50 percent over capacity.

The jail isn't an anomaly. State prisons and county detention centers across the state are overcrowded.

The reason, according to Boggs, is the drug epidemic.



EMILY PORTER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT
Inmates in a female cell in the Carter County Detention Center. Area jailers said overcrowding is because of the drug epidemic in the area.

"If we didn't have the drug problem, the drug epidemic that we've got, my gosh, we wouldn't need 20 beds. That'd be plenty."

Mike Worthington, Greenup County jailer

Greenup County

Worthington talks about correlation between drugs and inmates

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GREENUP Eliminate the drug epidemic and jail overcrowding dissipates, according to Greenup Jailer Mike Worthington.

"That is the correlation," Worthington said. "If we didn't have the drug problem, the drug epidemic that we've got, my gosh, we wouldn't need 20 beds. That'd be plenty."

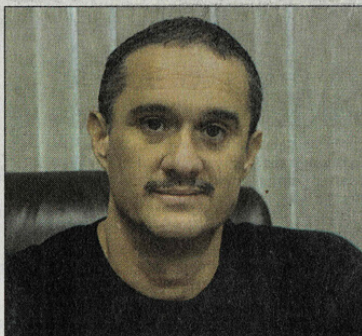
The Greenup County Detention Center's capacity is 98, but the jail averages about 150 to 170 inmates.

Of the inmates booked in Greenup, 60 to 70 are state inmates, but Worthington said they're local people, they're just serving state time.

Worthington made it clear there is a definite correlation between the rise of drug use and jail overcrowding.

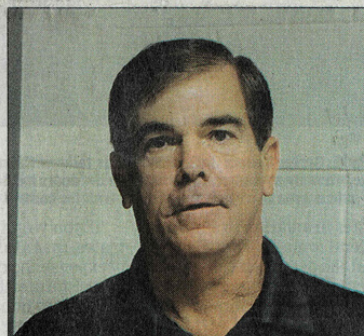
"It's not even questionable. It's huge," he said. Since taking office in 2011, Worthington has watched the rate inmates are booked under drug-related charges rise, and he doesn't expect it to slow down anytime soon.

The Greenup jail averaged around 108 inmates when Worthington took office, "now we run 150 to 170 and we're working harder now to keep them out than we were then,"



SEE CARTER | A2

Carter County Jailer R.W. Boggs



Greenup County Jailer Mike Worthington

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CARTER:

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Boggs said jail is like a little city inside the walls

"Mostly everything's drug related," he said. "If it's not direct drug charges, your second two big charges would be theft or (failure to pay) child support and typically the reasons for those two issues is because of drugs. You're stealing to get drugs or you're not paying your child support because you're spending it on drugs."

Boggs said there are some exceptions, but for a high percentage, that rings true.

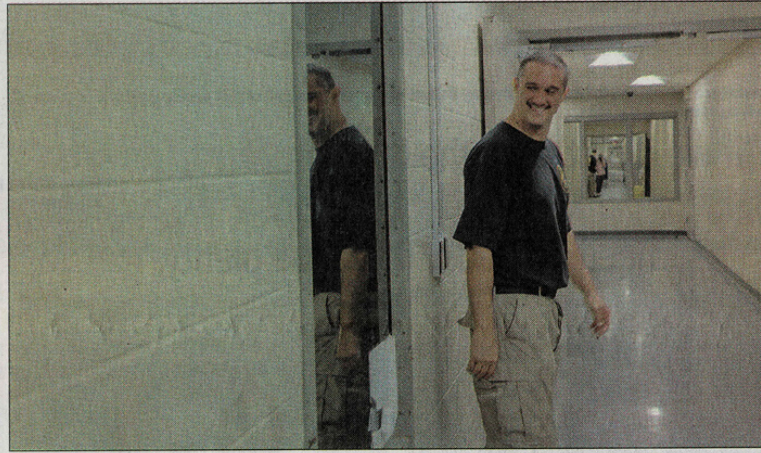
The jailer said it's a younger crowd coming in on drug charges. He thought for a while "we would eventually see a pinnacle and hit a plateau and eventually a decline," Boggs said.

"There's no one that hasn't seen somebody in their family or their friends circle that's been absolutely decimated by it," he said. "I was kind of, in my mind, thinking, people are going to start making better choices on this because everybody sees somebody that this has not been the right route to go."

The pinnacle hasn't been reached.

"From where I'm sitting, we've not seen the pinnacle yet, because the county population continues to rise on drug charges and we're having new people come in that we've not had before, so numbers are increasing," Boggs said.

Last year, the Carter County Detention Center was in on average county in-



ABOVE: Carter County Jailer R.W. Boggs talks with inmates through the inside window of their cell. **INSET:** The intercom system ran by control on the doors inside the Carter County Detention Center. Anyone wishing to gain access to a room or cell must wait for control to open the door.

mates in addition to state and federal inmates. Now, Boggs said the detention center is averaging anywhere between 120 to 150 county inmates this year.

The rise in county inmates impacts more than the detention center. The county court system must process the additional cases.

"One of the things about county overpopulation is it crowds up not just the jail, but it crowds up the county court system, which makes it harder for them to get them through because there are just so many to do and unless they're pleading guilty there's a lengthy court situation there," Boggs said.

In addition to a lengthy court docket, the fiscal responsibility of housing county inmates falls on the county.

Boggs said county inmates are a direct cost to the county. Inmates are charged a daily rate of \$30, but the jail doesn't always receive the money.

"A large bulk of them don't have the money," Boggs said.

"If you've got 100 county inmates, that's quite the monthly expense the county eats, because statutorily the county is required to house and provide for the housing of their (county) inmates," Boggs explained. "When you have as many as we do, you're fortunate that you have a jail. And we're very fortunate that we do have revenue inmates to offset that cost."

Carter County houses both state and federal inmates. Boggs said at any given time, the jail could be holding approximately 24 to 45 state inmates and anywhere between 30 and 70 federal inmates.

State and federal inmates are what Boggs referred to as revenue inmates because the county detention centers are paid a daily dollar amount for housing those inmates.

Boggs said the jail receives \$32.72 for state inmates and approximately \$54 for federal inmates.

The impact of overcrowding goes further than the budget.

All the people inside the walls of the jail, whether inmates or staff, feel the impact of overcrowding.

Adding more inmates to a cell raises the possibility for behavior issues. Boggs said the jail has been lucky and doesn't see a lot of outbursts.

"You get a little bit tighter in there and sometimes they get more agitated, but we've really not seen an increase in behavior (issues) due to that," Boggs said. "We try to monitor that and the state does as well."

The jailer also explained when the detention center is housing more inmates the staff has to work harder.

With so many of the inmates being booked on drug charges, Boggs said the staff has to be hyper vigilant, because many attempt to smuggle contraband into the jail.

"There's definitely more moving parts the more people you have, it makes daily movements a little bit slower," Boggs said.

The jail has about 40 employees working to get out three meals a day, medicine passes and other jail intricacies.

"There's no one that hasn't seen somebody in their family or their friends circle that's been absolutely decimated by (the drug epidemic)."

R.W. Boggs, Carter County jailer

Boggs called the jail a never sleeping city.

"All in all, we're staffed pretty well," he said. "Every jail would probably prefer to have a few more staff, but really the day goes quick and you've got a lot to do."

Boggs feels fortunate to have a well-seasoned staff and a low turnover rate in employment, something he said isn't usual.

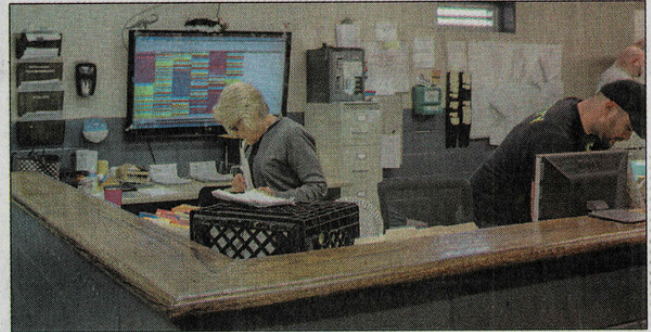
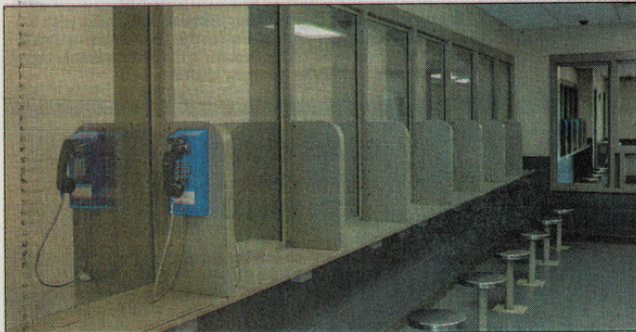
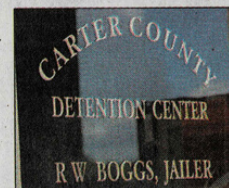
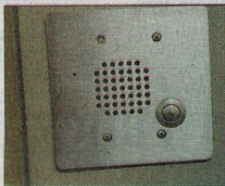
"Typically, in most jails, there's a high turnover rate of staff, but we're very fortunate," he said. "We have a good crew and they know their job. If we have 190 people in there and if we have 240 in there, the day seems to go the same."

No matter the number of inmates, the jail must continue to operate a small city.

"You do what needs to be done and you move onto the next," Boggs said.

said. "It's just a daily grind."

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ABOVE LEFT: Inmate visiting area in the Carter County Detention Center. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Carter County jail staff book and track inmates lodged in the detention center. **INSET ABOVE:** Door to the Carter County Detention Center in Grayson.

GREENUP:

From Page A1

Bulk of inmates faces charges due to drug use

he said. "We've raised probably 40 percent since I've been here."

Worthington explained programs ran in the jail have helped keep the population from rising beyond 200, but when the jailer looks to the future he expects a continued increase. Worthington said it's likely Greenup will either have to build or begin paying other jails to house inmates if trends don't change.

However, jails and detention centers across the state are overcrowded and the cost of housing inmates in another jail could cost more than housing them in Greenup.

For now, Worthington and his staff keep working to manage the population.

He commended his staff for their work. It's a tough, tiring job and takes a special kind of person, he said.

The connection between overcrowding and the drug crisis is clear to Worthington even if the inmate is booked on other charges.

"They may be in because they didn't pay their child support or they may be in for murder, but most of the time if they didn't pay their child support (it's) because they spent the money on drugs or they got into a disagreement in a drug deal and killed somebody," Worthington explained. "It ranges from that level, from (failure to pay) child support to murder. It may be a burglary or it may be an assault," but Worthington said 98 to 99 percent of the time, the crime is drug-related.

Jail overcrowding has an impact on the staff and inmates as well as the county and jail budgets.

The cost of housing inmates has to be covered by the county budget. Inmates are charged approximately \$25 a day,

but most don't have the money to pay it back, Worthington said.

"It affects us. If you can't pay your jail fees, it just falls upon the taxpayer ... somebody has to pay for them," he said.

Worthington knows the financial impact failing to pay fines has on the county, but he also understands how inmates can struggle financially after being released.

Many inmates have children and jail fees. Restitution and child support add up, he said.

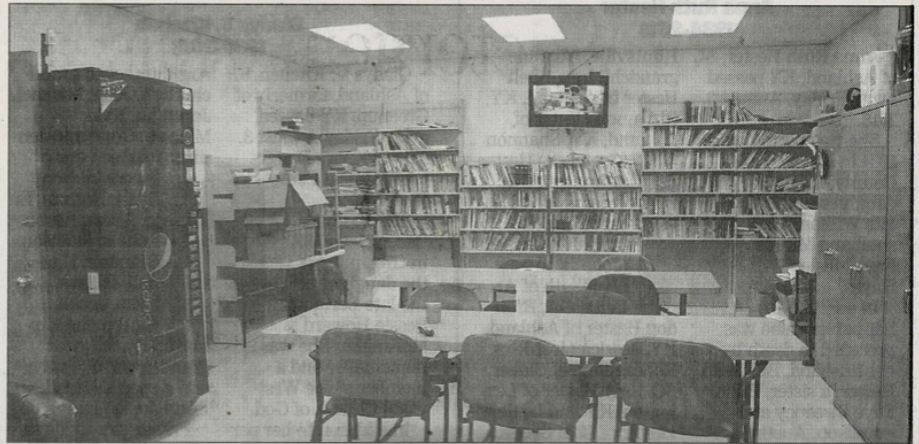
"The problem that we have is when these people get out of jail, most of them are felons and when they get out of jail they've got to pay back child support, restitution, jail fees, and most of them can't get a job anywhere but fast food," Worthington explained.

When an inmate fails to pay back their fines, fees and child support, Worthington sees a cycle forming as they are rebooked.

"These people get out and they can't pay even if they're really trying hard," Worthington said. "If they can't pay their jail fees, they can't pay their restitution, they can't pay their child support, if you can't pay your child support, there's no question, they're going to put you back in jail."

Worthington says it's a recipe for failure. The cycle is a reason for a lot of the cynicism he encounters toward the detention center, deputies and what they do, but solutions are hard to come by.

Finding work for inmates while incarcerated, so they can begin



The library room inside the Greenup County Detention Center where inmates attend church services, GED classes and more.

paying back restitution is a goal for Worthington. Ideas to do so include partnering with private companies willing to hire inmates or building a work dormitory.

These ideas would require money, space and willing business owners.

"It's hard to find people who own a business that want to bring in four or five convicted felons that'll do work for them," Worthington said.

The goal for Worthington is for inmates to not return to jail.

"Any way you can help them get through the problems they have and help them stay out," he said. "These deputies here, when they've got somebody they know is getting out, they'll talk to them, try to get them going in the right direction."

Jail deputies wear many hats day to day. They are asked legal questions, must feed and care for inmates med-

ically, be a friend, a psychiatrist, a police officer and more, Worthington said.

The jailer said more deputies are on duty and some take on longer shifts so the detention center can keep enough staff on the floor to manage the increase in population.

Worthington continued bragging on his staff.

"Your strongest asset isn't you, it's the people you have," he said.

Increasing incarceration rates means a possible rise in behavioral issues between inmates.

"If you're on a boat

crossing a river, and there's two of you on that boat and several seats, it's not bad, but how uncomfortable do you get when you've got 10 seats and 18 people on it?" Worthington said. "You want to get off that thing as quick as you can."

"That's how the inmates feel, so their aggression rises as soon as it starts getting crowded, and it's understandable, that's just human nature," he said.

Worthington added since a large percentage of crimes are drug-related, the majority of the inmates are "coming off

of drugs" and "it doesn't take much to bring things to a boil," he said.

Overcrowding adds wear and tear to the building. Worthington said typically a jail is in good shape for about 20 to 25 years when at capacity, but that time gets shorter when housing 50 percent or more over capacity.

The jail recently had a remodel, including new kitchen appliances and commercial laundry, which Worthington said is always running.

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Plants to keep them away
REGION, A2



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SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018

Haspel relatives couldn't be more proud

Family recalls CIA nominee as
'wise above her years'

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND On a dead end street in Boyd County sits a cluster of homes on property that has been in the Walker family for more than 150 years. In these homes are where CIA director nominee

Gina Cheri Walker Haspel spent some of her childhood.

Relatives of Haspel said they couldn't be more proud as they watched her Senate hearing this past week. Haspel will soon be up for a vote to determine if she will be the next director of the Central Intelligence Agency

EMILY PORTER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT
Kathy Helms and her mother Jackie Stapleton sit on Stapleton's front porch as they recall memories of a young Gina Haspel, who is now nominated to be the director of the CIA.

and the first woman to head the agency in its history.

Boyd County resident Jackie Walker Stapleton is Haspel's aunt. She and her daughter, Kathy Helms, Haspel's cousin, watched

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CIA:

From Page A1

Aunt: Haspel has always had an interest in the military

roudly as Haspel answered questions from the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee in her confirmation hearing this past week.

Haspel is acting director of the CIA and has been with the agency for more than three decades. During that time, her family knew she worked for the government, but didn't know the extent.

"We thought she was an interpreter," Stapleton said. Haspel studied language and journalism at the University of Kentucky for three years

and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville.

Stapleton said Haspel knows multiple languages, so it now makes sense. Haspel has remained in contact with her family even while serving overseas. Stapleton said she always knew, at least generally, where her niece was in the world.

"I knew when she was in Turkey ... Africa," Stapleton said. Haspel would send gifts home to family from different countries she visited. She always kept in touch and still does, her family said.

Randy Stapleton is Haspel's first cousin. He said her father was in the military and her time in eastern Kentucky as a child was not extensive.

"She was born here in Ashland and attended some elementary schools down in Rus-

sell," he said. "She stayed with us maybe a month one summer when she was going to UK. A very humble person."

Helms remembers when Haspel came to Lexington to watch Helms' daughter in a tennis tournament at UK.

Helms and Jackie Stapleton describe her as an ordinary girl, but highly intelligent. When Helms was about 3 or 4, Jackie Stapleton and her husband were driving Haspel home. Even as a young child she was able to describe exactly how to get to her house and directed Stapleton's husband to her house, turn by turn, she said.

"She's always been wise above her years," Jackie Stapleton said.

She's a lot like her father, Stapleton said. Haspel's father was a career military man serving in the Air Force

for many years, which took Haspel and her siblings overseas at points

All of Haspel's uncles and at least one brother have served in the military. Her aunt said she had an interest in military and the operations when she was in high school.

Haspel's bio on the CIA's website explains she wanted to go to West Point, but her father had to tell her she couldn't because only men were admitted.

Haspel has risen through the ranks and is the first female deputy director of the CIA and is now the first woman nominated to be director.

Her family is extremely proud of her and believes she has what it takes for the position. Now in a public position in the CIA, her family knows a little more about her life.

"She's been through a lot," Jackie Stapleton said. "I'm glad I didn't know."

Helms credited Haspel for her service to her country. Everything she's done was to serve her country and she's given up 30 some years to protect the U.S., she said proudly.

The two women recalled moments of their lives with Haspel. Stapleton recalled a memory of helping to move Haspel out of a dorm when her pet hamster got loose.

The Senate Intelligence Committee will vote to move the nomination to the Senate floor or not. If moved, Haspel will then need a majority vote from the Senate to be confirmed as the next director of the CIA. Neither vote has been scheduled.

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PHOTOS BY EMILY PORTER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ABOVE: Sixteen-year-old pilot Erik Vonderheide and instructor Brady Lipscomb fly to Portsmouth, Ohio. **BELOW:** Vonderheide packs and cleans up the plane after his flying lesson.

FLYING SOLO

16-year-old pilots plane alone before getting driver's permit

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

WORTHINGTON A small plane, a Cessna 172, circles in the skies above Worthington.

It makes its way to the Ashland Regional Airport where it touches down on the runway, only to regain speed and take off again.



Visit our website at
dailyindependent.com
for video of Erik
Vonderheide in action

SEE PILOT | A2

PILOT:

From Page A1

Vonderheide plans to be a commercial pilot in the future

At the helm is Erik Vonderheide.

At just 16, he can fly an airplane all on his own. In fact, he recently flew the aircraft solo before he got his driver's permit.

He talked recently to *The Daily Independent* about flying a plane solo for the first time.

"It was nerve wracking at first," he recalled. "I kinda got down to the end of the taxiway and had to force myself onto the runway. It was nerve wracking, but once I got up there I kind of calmed down and it was just peaceful."

His father, Marc Vonderheide, recalled watching his son Erik pilot a plane alone for the first time. "The day he solo'd, it's like he'd always done it," he said. "He did really well. Of course the first time he came in (landed) everybody held their breath."

Marc stood between Erik's current instructor, Brady Lipscomb, and his first instructor, Dan Bricker, as Erik circled the airport high above them.

"The first time he took off I was standing out there with both instructors and his original one, Dan said 'that take off was perfect' and his current instructor Brady said 'yeah and right about now he's realizing, oh shucks, I've gotta land this thing,'" Marc remembered.

That proved to be true. "When I got up there it was just kind of peaceful at first, then it hit me, oh, I'm in a plane, I should focus. I've got to land!" Erik said.

When Erik was a baby he took his first plane ride to Germany, where his mother is from, and as a child was fascinated by the machines, his father said.

"Ever since I can remember I've liked big machines ... being in command of them," Erik said. "Where I've been around planes a lot, it kind of clicked with me."

When he was 10, Erik received two flying lessons for Christmas from his parents.

"He had always talked about planes when he was growing up and that Christmas we bought our daughter two horse back riding lessons and looked for things to buy him for Christmas and decided, after my wife and I talked, we'd try flying lessons, even if he just go to go up, fly around and come back down," Marc said.



That first lesson took place just a few days after Christmas.

"We did the first lesson and from then on, I was like I'm set," Erik said.

At 10 he was too short to reach the pedals and had to sit on a pillow to see over the dash.

Dan Bricker, Erik's first instructor who has since retired, told Marc that Erik was probably too young and "that he probably wouldn't be serious about it, so he would take him up for the two lessons that we bought and go from there," Marc said. "After his second lesson, Dan said he wanted to teach Erik how to fly because he could see his dedication."

Now, at 16, Erik has his intermediate pilot's license and can fly within 25 miles of the Ashland Regional Airport with other restrictions on things such as visibility, speed and height.

He and Lipscomb are working to "solo him" at surrounding airports such as Portsmouth, Lawrence County and Tri-State Airports. He will then be able to fly with the same restrictions at those airports and if the 25 mile radius touches, he can fly from one airport to another.

Erik successfully flew a plane by himself before he got

his permit to drive a car. Now his goal is to get his full pilot's license when he turns 17 in April, which will eliminate the restrictions.

"What he has done, not very many 16-year-olds do," Lipscomb said, adding that Erik is only the third one in Lipscomb's 25 years of flight instruction to do so.

Many, especially when Erik was younger, didn't believe he was flying planes in his free time.

"Nobody believed me," he said, even his teachers thought he was making it up.

"I remember I brought pictures to school and I was showing people. Everybody was like, 'No, you're just saying that, you're not doing anything,'" he said.

Erik recalled when his best friend told him he didn't believe him, so he brought him to the airport and took him on a flight. When they landed his friend looked at him and said "maybe I was wrong," Erik laughed.

Now, he's being asked by people if they can come out and fly with him.

The Daily Independent was able to tag along on a flight. Over the course of about an hour, Erik took off from the Ashland Regional Airport and flew to Portsmouth where he practiced touch-and-go land-

cisions as a pilot. The less Lipscomb talks during a flight, the better a student is doing, he said.

"Their goal is to shut me up, it doesn't happen," he joked.

There were many moments of silence where Erik didn't need instruction, at other points he did, sometimes Lipscomb was testing him or the two were just talking.

On one particular landing, Erik felt he wasn't entering the runway quite right, so he pulled the plane back up, circled the airport and went in again, able to land the plane and taxi in.

Lipscomb applauded him for making a wise decision, something he likes to see from students. Erik knows his limitations and made a smart decision in that moment, he said.

Erik continues to learn. He flies as much as possible and has a flight simulator at home he works with when he can't actually be in the air.

His future career goal is to fly commercial planes. He's considered living in Dubai and flying for Emirates Airlines. Now he's leaning towards living in Los Angeles with the hopes of flying for American Airlines.

He hasn't figured out his future exactly, but he knows he wants to be a pilot.

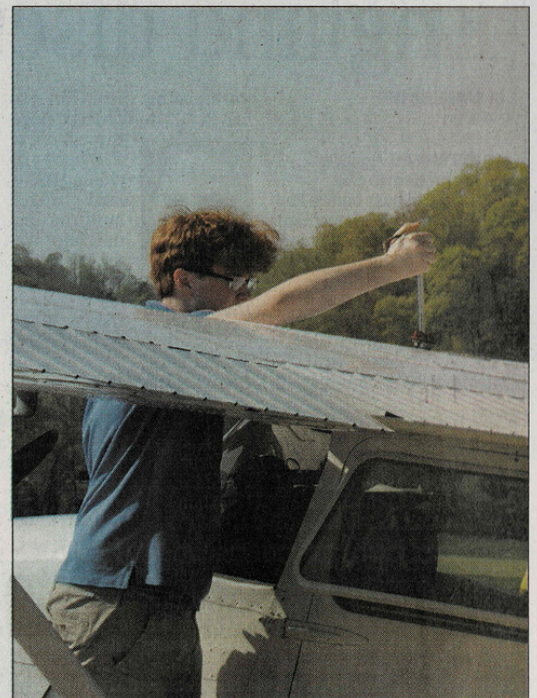
"It's peaceful when you get up there and you get to meet so many different people, hear a bunch of good stories," Erik said. "And traveling. I love the traveling aspect of it. It's just so easy to jump in a plane and go somewhere."

PHOTOS BY EMILY PORTER |
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT
ABOVE: The view from the plane as Erik Vonderheide flies from Ashland Regional Airport to Portsmouth, Ohio. **LEFT:** Vonderheide looks to instructor Brady Lipscomb after his final landing of the lesson. **BELOW:** Vonderheide completes his preflight assessment of the plane he will fly during his lesson.

ings before returning to Ashland.

Cross winds began to affect the flight and Lipscomb watched and advised as Erik made decisions. Lipscomb is always testing Erik, whether it be a situation he puts him in or just asking questions during the flight.

Lipscomb explained Erik isn't just learning to maneuver a plane, but to make good de-



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Boyd inmates booked without mugshots

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG In January, a former law enforcement officer was arrested on public intoxication and lodged in the Boyd County Detention Center with no mugshot accompanying his booking information. It seemed to raise the possibility of special treatment for the now former Greenup deputy, but upon further investigation, *The Daily Independent* has found a large number of inmates booked at the Boyd County jail did not have a photo of their face taken either. Instead, a photo of a blank wall accompanied their booking information.

A scroll through JailTracker, the program the jail uses to list inmates online, showed there were many in the detention center without a mugshot.

The Daily Independent filed an open records request with the Boyd County Detention Cen-



JOE BURCHETT

ter for the booking records and photo identification of a small sample of the inmates that seem to have been booked without a mugshot.

Following the filing of the open records request, mugshots began to appear on the Boyd jail's JailTracker website for those listed in the request. By the time the jail responded with the files requested, inmates on the list that were in the Boyd jail had new mugs taken with a time and date stamp following the filing of the open records request. Others had old-

SEE MUGSHOT | A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Many inmates booked in the Boyd County Detention Center don't have a mugshot of their face, but rather of a wall as their photo identification.

MUGSHOTS:

From Page A1

No Ky. statutes or jail standards require detention center photos

er mug shots from 2014 and booking information for two others was denied because, according to the jail, they were never booked, though they were previously listed in JailTracker as inmates at the Boyd County jail.

The Daily Independent requested a reason why any or all of the photos were missing. The request was formally denied, but when a reporter picked up the files from the jail, Records Officer Lt. Gus Guzman explained many of the inmates were arrested on public intoxication and they do not fight the inmates for a mug shot because they don't want anyone to get hurt. He said the photos don't get taken later because the night shift has left.

Fifteen inmate files were requested, two of which were not provided because, according to Guzman, they were never booked. Of the 13 returned, six were public intoxication cases leaving seven with other charges. Those charges include two men accused of burglary, three others were arrested on drug-related charges, another was accused of receiving stolen property and one more was arrested on a theft charge.

There is no Kentucky Revised Statute or Jail Standard that requires the detention center to take photos, according to Kentucky Department of Corrections Director of Communication Lisa Lamb. It is up to the individual jail to determine what its policy is on the photo identification.

In regards to the Boyd jail's policy, Jailer Joe Burchett said, "I think we do take them, unless they're drunk."

Further questions were not answered and Burchett hung up the phone.

Greenup County Jailer Mike Worthington said the Greenup County Detention Center tries to take a mug shot for everyone when they come in unless there is a problem and they aren't able to do so. Worthing-

SUBMITTED PHOTO
A sample of mugshots taken by the Boyd County Detention Center listed online prior to an open records request.

ton explained inmates can be too intoxicated or too violent to take a mugshot, but said they go back the next day and take the photo once the inmate has calmed down or sobered up.

Worthington also said occasionally the jail isn't allowed to release a photo because of possible endangerment of another person or authorities working a case and it would take a court order for them to release any information about the inmate. He said they still take the photo, it is just not released without the permission of a judge.

Carter County Jailer R.W. Boggs said their policy is that every inmate booked in the Carter County Detention Center has a mugshot taken and there's not a reason they wouldn't. He explained Carter County also has trouble with inmates coming in intoxicated, but said by the time they are medically cleared they are typically able to book them with a photo.

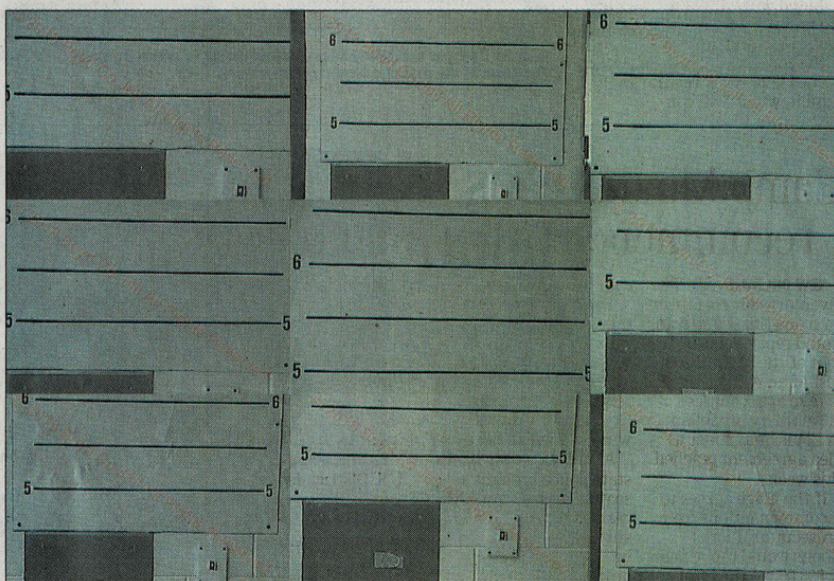
Worthington said it is important to take the photos for many reasons. If they need to identify someone giving a fake name, they can match their photo along with their finger prints. The visual is an extra confirmation of the person's true identity.

Boggs said the photos are a part of public records and thinks it's important for the community to know who is booked.

In the event of an escape or a fleeing suspect, the use of mugshots can be vital for law enforcement officers.

"We can use the most recent photograph taken to try to apprehend or get the photograph to those who don't know that individual is quite important to law enforcement, the community," Ashland Police Chief Todd Kelley explained. "They may be standing beside the person right there in the grocery line and they not know it. To us, not only does it document someone with criminal activity, but it's a resource for us if we need it. It's very viable in the apprehension."

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The Daily Independent | Ashland, Kentucky

INSIGHT

Wednesday, October 31, 2018 D3

Poised and on pointe



ABOVE: Sisters Ava, 8, Ella, 13, and Anna Detherage, 17, all dance at the Ashland Regional Dance Theater. BELOW: Ella Detherage practices in a studio at the Ashland Regional Dance Theater. INSET: Ava Detherage in her dance shoes.

Sisters bonded through ballet

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND Each of the Detherage sisters began training ballet when she was about 3.

Their mother, Leslie, thought it would be a good idea to have the girls involved in an activity that made them more graceful and poised young ladies.

"I thought ballet would be a good artistic medium for them," Mrs. Detherage said. "It's worked out well."

The three, Anna, 17, Ella, 13, and Ava, 8, train at the Ashland Regional Dance Theater. They take ballet, tap and jazz classes and are a part of the Ashland Youth Ballet and dance team. The girls have also explored a bit of modern dance.

Ballet remains the favorite, but what part of the discipline can differ depending on the sister. Ella and Ava both favor movements across the floor.

"I like doing stuff in the middle of the floor because I find joy in the movements," Ella said.

"I like going across the floor," Ava said. She also loves the costumes and makeup. Her favorite is the costume she wore while performing in the party scene during last year's presentation of "The Nutcracker."

Anna enjoys another aspect of training most. "I like working at the barre the most because what we do at the barre is what translates into what we do across the floor. And once you perfect what you do at the barre, then everything across the floor is that much better," she said.

The girls aren't the first in their family to dance ballet. Their mother took ballet classes as a young girl.

"My mom always wanted us all to dance," she said. "I think it helped me be a little more poised and graceful."

Now she enjoys watching her daughters perfect their art. "It's kind of nice to have them do something that I had once done when I was a child as well," Mrs. Detherage said.

As the girls have pro-

gressed, they have been given further opportunities to learn. One is the American Ballet Theatre. Ella has twice applied and been accepted to the prestigious summer program.



Performance arts
learned new techniques and some different styles of dance.

The family made a trip out of the experience, traveling to Tampa to watch Ella dance.

"It's nice experiencing different artistic shows and different ballet shows while we were there," Mrs. Detherage said. "It's been a nice thing for us all to get involved in."

Ella put in many long hours during the program. She

worked from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days a week for three weeks.

"She got to dance with some of the great teachers of ballet methods," the mother said.

Ella continues to work hard and type of drive and motivation and love for it, of course. Ella has been cast as Marzipan, which Whaley said is a very technically challenging role. "It's got a lot of little jumps and beats and turns," she said.

Ava will be a bon-bon and in the party scene. "They each have different strengths," Whaley said. "It's nice to see them develop at their own pace with their own strength, and that can kind of shine in the different roles they have."

Ava gets to learn from two older sisters and she's counting down the days until she gets her pointe shoes.

Ava is about two or three years away from her pointe shoes, which is a rite of passage in ballet.

"She's practicing walking on her toes all the time," the mother said, adding Ava imitates her sisters trying to do the skills they do.

Ella works with Ava's class and the mother said she's good at helping Ava as she learns the basics. "I like to help her with her

self my senior year I really wanted to be the Sugar Plum Fairy and I worked really, really hard and am fortunate to be it this year."

Anna is putting in many hours of work for the role. Once a week she has a private session to work on the solo. Other rehearsals will include her duet with "The Nutcracker" and rehearsing with different groups of dancers for the other pieces.

Both Anna and Ella will be in "The Waltz of the Snowflakes," "which we just run all the time because it has to be so strong," she explained.

She also gets to rehearse with Ava, who is one of the children in the party scene. "It's a lot of practices, but I enjoy doing it," Anna said. "Obviously every day in class it's giving 110 percent."

Anna, Ella and Ava are dedicated to their craft and Ashland Youth Ballet director Maria Whaley has taken notice. Whaley said each year the Detherage sisters do their absolute best in whatever role they've been given.

"They take it very serious," Whaley said. "They do their best, they rehearse above and beyond. They take initiative to rehearse on their own as well. As a teacher that's what you hope for in all of your students is to have that same type of drive and motivation and love for it, of course."

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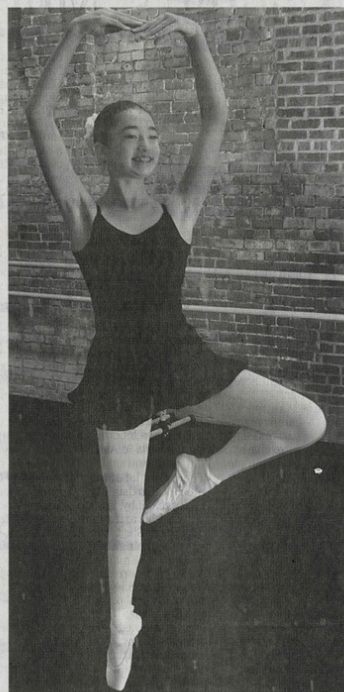
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Ella works with Ava's class and the mother said she's good at helping Ava as she learns the basics. "I like to help her with her



classes and get to see her technique," Ella said, adding she looks up to Anna to see what she can improve upon.

The girls are well-rounded. Anna and Ella play tennis and are in Beta Club, National Honor Society and various other clubs and activities.

Anna believes dance has helped her grow and will continue to help her as she heads to college next year.

"I think with dance I've learned a lot about just how to be focused and how to manage my time well," she said. "I think that's great to apply to college and everything."

She laughed as she explained her tennis teammates always comment on her run.

"I always come off the court and they're like, 'You run on your tip toes,'" Anna said of

her team, adding she will reply with "Well, I'm a dancer, I guess," she smiled.

Dance has helped the girls grow in other areas of life. Their mother said the girls are good public speakers because they have been on stage their whole lives.

"Working with others is a big one," Anna said. "In the core pieces we have to work together because if one of us is doing something different than the rest, we have to be able to work it out amicably."

The sisters are different, but share a commitment to working on technique, Whaley said. "They're serious about what they're doing, yet they love the movement."

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PHOTOS BY EMILY PORTER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ABOVE: The Singing Kernels chorus is made up of men, and sometimes women, of all ages. Currently the chorus is made up of men ages 16 to 84. **BELOW:** A Singing Kernel hold his music as the chorus rehearses its Christmas melody.

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

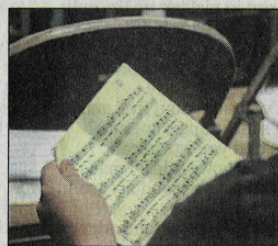
Kernels' camaraderie as beautiful as their harmony

ASHLAND If someone were to step out of the elevator on the 12th floor of Skytower on any given Monday night, he or she would



Vocal arts

be greeted with the harmonious sound of barbershop. Follow that sound down the hall and you'll stumble upon the cheerful men that make up the Singing Kernels barbershop chorus. For nearly 30 years, Kernels



have gathered to learn and create. The men, and sometimes women, of the chorus don't solely learn and create music. They learn about each other and create friendships bonded like a perfect-

ly executed chord.

"It's the harmony and the closeness and the camaraderie with all the guys," Mike Hager said. "It's just a wonderful organization."

Hager is the oldest member of the Singing Kernels at 84. He has sung in a world-champion chorus in Cincinnati and has been with the Kernels for 10 years. The bass singer said competitions are great experiences, but the preparation and hard work are the most rewarding parts of barbershop.

The Kernels have about 25 ac-

SEE KERNELS | B4

KERNELS:

From Page B1

Kernels beginning to use digital devices to learn music

five members. Five or six drive from the Huntington area to sing with the Kernels. Nathan Miller is one of those who make the weekly trip. Miller has been with the Kernels almost eight years and said the atmosphere is worth the drive.

With an overhead view of the city and picture-perfect scenery of the sun falling over the Ohio, the men build each new song piece by piece, part by part.

The process of learning a new song typically begins with learning tracks. First, one with all four parts, lead, tenor, baritone and bass is played as the men look at their music. Following the notes on the page with their eyes, some mouth the words along to the track.

From there, one by one, each part is played as the men sit as silently as possible. Once the note progression is in their head, they begin building each chord. The basses begin rumbling below the treble clef, the tenors harmonize, the leads bring the melody to life as the baritones fill out the chord. The sweet sounds of barbershop have begun.

The song is alive and filling the room as director Carl Taylor takes a moment to help the men fine tune the song. Taylor makes a point to ensure each word is pronounced correctly throughout the chorus as each Kernel matches his vowel so they all seem as one. The shape of the mouth, the placement of the tongue, the lips, the teeth, each member must keep the same shape so the chorus sings crisp, clear lyrics.

Learned songs are moved to the risers while an energy sweeps over the room. Taylor, with an excitement coursing through his veins, moves with the song as he directs the Kernels.

Taylor is a founding member of the chorus, which began in 1989 with a quartet of Taylor, Paul Dempsey, Gary Taylor and Mike Barber called the KYOVA Sound Authority. After seeing success in a competition, the four men decided to start a chapter.

"We had 16 guys show up the first night," Carl Taylor

said. "It sort of grew from there, a little bit at a time and then all of a sudden we just exploded and we had as many as 60 members at one time."

Carl Taylor said the numbers ebb and flow, which is normal with barbershop. "People come and people go," Taylor said.

Over those years, Carl Taylor has been a constant in the group, but not always as the director. The first two years fellow founding member Paul Dempsey directed the chorus. When he decided to take a leave of absence, Carl Taylor filled the role. He vacated the position 13 or 14 years ago and Paul Hesson took the reins.

"I decided I was going to retire and just sing," Carl Taylor said. However, five years later when Hesson needed to step down, Carl Taylor jumped back in the driver's seat. "I've been here ever since," he said.

"I'm going to retire again one of these days, but I'm having too much fun right now," he laughed.

Carl Taylor's leadership and musical knowledge is something his fellow Kernels admire.

"Carl Taylor, here, you can't find anybody better than him around here to teach this stuff," Hager said.

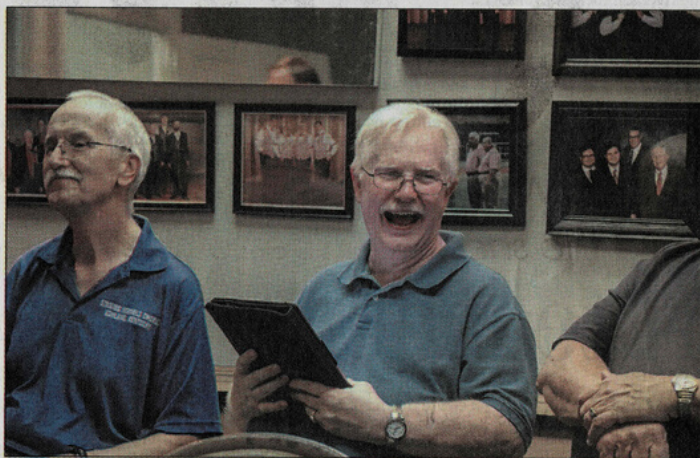
Carl Taylor is clearly passionate about his work and the success of his fellow members.

"Carl is a Tri-State musical treasure," Kernels President Brian Sparks said. "He's forgotten more than I've ever known. And I thought I knew music. But Carl keeps it fresh and he's very energetic. You can see that. He's in three quartets right now and he directs the chorus."

Carl Taylor's whole life has revolved around music. He has been the music director at Plaza Church of the Nazarene for 49 years. And over the years he has shared his musical knowledge with many high school students as a band director and choir director.

Twenty of his 27 years teaching music to students were at Boyd County High School; he retired in 2014. Carl Taylor said he pushes every choir he directs. "I won't let them stop," he said. "I'll work them and work them. You come in the door singing, you walk out the door singing."

Justin Elswick is a former BCHS choir member who recently joined the Kernels after graduating college and moving back to Ashland. Elswick



PHOTOS BY EMILY PORTER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ABOVE: Mike Bartram laughs as the Kernels joke with each other during rehearsals. **Beside him is Richard Hovevar. RIGHT:** Carl Taylor jokingly pauses to think after a fellow chorus member asks a sarcastic question with an obvious answer. **BELOW:** Justin Elswick and Brian Sparks sing along to a learning track made to help them learn their respective parts.

graduated from high school the same year Taylor retired.

Having sung in a choir under Taylor's direction, Elswick knew he was going to be challenged going into his first Kernels rehearsal.

"Carl is a wonderful guy," he said. "He knows music inside and out, and he is a very encouraging, yet demanding, teacher. He expects the best from us and encourages us to reach that level."

The Singing Kernels are proud of the diversity in age among the members.

"We range in age from 16 to 84," Sparks said. "A lot of people see barbershop as an older gentleman's (chorus), but we have a great youth movement in this chorus."

Among the younger crowd is assistant director Steven Arthur. The 18-year-old is a graduate of Paul G. Blazer High and was introduced to the Kernels through his high school chorus.

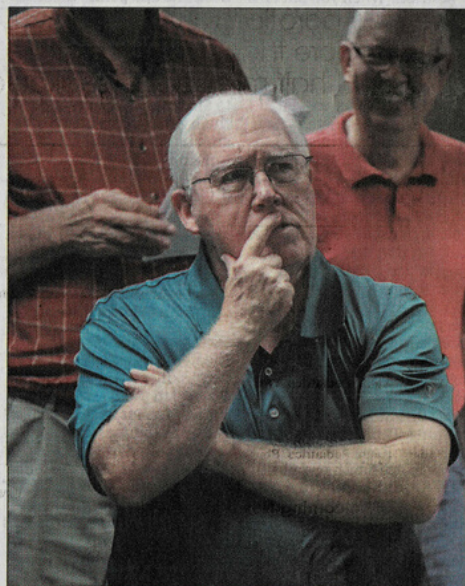
Arthur first encountered a barbershop quartet during his middle school years in Illinois. After moving to Ashland, he asked about barbershop and was introduced to the Singing Kernels.

Arthur serves as the chorus' assistant director. He leads warm-ups, directs songs in shows and teaches tags, "which is the closing section of barbershop songs where all the good chords and stuff are," he explained.

At 18, he's teaching men more than twice his age. "It's incredibly humbling, but also intimidating to be young and to be (a leader)," he said.

Arthur is grateful to have Taylor as a mentor. "It's nice to be under Carl's wing and for him to be able to teach me how to be a better director and how to bring the music out of an intergenerational chorus," he said.

Much like Taylor, Arthur directs with care for the people. He points out mistakes, but



follows it with encouragement the singer will get there and is doing a fine job. The people obviously matter to both directors.

"There is nothing I can think of off the top of my head that is as inclusive to men and women of all ages, from different backgrounds and different levels of musical training," Arthur said.

The Kernels recently went digital. While some members still prefer to have a paper copy of the sheet music, most are beginning to bring devices to access the sheet music and learn tracks digitally. This also allows them to rehearse at home.

The chorus purchased about six devices for new, inquiring singers until they acquire their own devices. All the music is prepped and ready for the singer, saving time, paper and money.

"We have a lot of fun and trying to do this helps get the younger guys," Miller said. "A little technology never hurts to attract people."

With devices in hand and excitement brewing, the Kernels are prepping for their 29th-annual show Dec. 8 in the Boyd County High School Auditorium. This year's title is "Music at the Movies."

"We have songs from 'The

Wizard of Oz' to 'Guardians of the Galaxy,'" Sparks said. "A lot of fun stuff."

The chorus will sing traditional barbershop songs like "Hooked on a Feeling," but this year's theme will have it harmonizing to a popular song from a movie in every decade from 1930 to 2014.

Carl Taylor mentioned "Edelweiss" from "The Sound of Music" and "What a Wonderful World" from "Good Morning, Vietnam" as two the chorus is working on along with many others, including a "Music Man" medley and a Disney song.

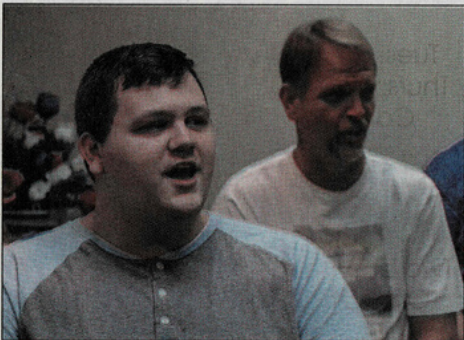
Of course, Christmas songs will be included in the December show.

"We're one of the few groups who get to sing Christmas music year round," Carl Taylor said.

The Kernels encourage anyone wanting to get involved or those who don't know and just want to check things out to attend a Monday rehearsal. The chorus rehearses on the 12th floor of the Skytower at 7:15 p.m. Mondays.

"I go home so energized on Monday nights," Carl Taylor said. "We're just having too much fun."

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TIGERS' NO.2 STEPS DOWN: Kenner resigns, citing desire for more family time. B1

THE DAILY Independent

75 CENTS

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SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018



Judge questions jail's procedure

Employee appears in court regarding mistaken release of inmate

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG Boyd Circuit Court Judge John Vincent on Wednesday ordered representatives from the Boyd County Detention Center to court Friday to answer for the mistaken release of James D. Muth on July 1.

In response to Vincent's order for representatives, Sgt. Brad Roberts was present for the hearing.

Vincent's questioning surrounded two main topics: How the mistake occurred and why local authorities were not notified by jail staff.

Vincent said he was not notified of the incident by the jail, but was told by a court clerk on July 3.



MUTH

He immediately issued a warrant for Muth's arrest. No arrest has been made.

Muth has a pending case in Boyd Circuit Court in

which he faces charges of first degree assault and persistent felony offender stemming from an incident that occurred in March 2017.

Muth is accused of being in-

volved in an altercation in which the victim suffered a broken nose, split face and caved in cheekbone. Muth was arrested and arraigned on the charge last month, according to Vincent.

Just days before Muth's release on July 2, Vincent set Muth's bond at \$50,000 because Muth was a flight risk and a danger to the public.

Boyd Commonwealth's Attorney Rhonda Copley told *The Daily Independent* Wednesday that Muth was released from jail in 2017 because former Common-

Second inmate released in error

BY GLENN PUTT
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG Another inmate was erroneously released from the Boyd County Detention Center Friday — this time because of an apparent miscalculation of credit for time served.

Commonwealth's Attorney Rhonda Copley said Richard Layne was serving time for a misdemeanor offense.

"He should have been released on the 20th, but he was released on the 13th," Copley said.

Copley said she was never notified by the jail of the error.

On July 2, an inmate being held on a first-degree assault complaint, James D. Muth, was erroneously released. This incident prompted a judge to order a jail officer to appear in court Friday to answer how it could have happened.

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SEE JAIL | A10

JAIL:

From Page A1

Vincent questioned Roberts regarding jail's failure to notify local authorities

wealth's Attorney David Justice failed to indict Muth within the 60 day period allotted for the prosecutor to bring the case to a grand jury.

Copley said Muth was found in April in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Muth was arraigned on the charges by Vincent on June 28.

"Because of the flight risk, which unfortunately appears to have been proven quite true, and because of the risk to the public based upon the nature of the allegations set forth in the materials by the participant, which we pray is never going to be proven true, I set the bond at \$50,000," Vincent said.

"It is my understanding that despite those orders of the court... Mr. Muth no longer is being detained by the Boyd County Detention Center," he continued.

Roberts was advised of his legal rights by Vincent and after a long pause agreed to speak to the court about the matter.

Vincent's first line of questioning concerned the typical procedures of releasing an inmate from the jail.

Roberts explained deputy jailers and staff use the third party site JailTracker to keep track of records. As for how Muth was released while under a \$50,000 bond, Roberts didn't have many answers.

Roberts said he was checking state email and saw he had two notices of discharge for two inmates, one of which was Muth, and advised the booking officer of the notices.

Roberts said he left for the day not long after, at approximately 4:30 p.m. on July 2. He said Muth was released between 5:30 and 6 p.m. that same night.

He said he was not involved in the decision to release Muth and was unaware of the mistake until he reported back to work at 8 a.m. July 3.

Vincent asked who was responsible for the mistake. Roberts said the mistake was made by the booking officer.

Vincent questioned why the county court records in which the jail serves were not checked. Roberts could not answer, and deferred to the booking officer who was not present.

"I don't understand why no one would check the county in which the jail serves to determine if an individual had an order that was being held at, can you explain that?" Vincent asked. Roberts said he could not explain.

Vincent's other questions mainly concerned the jail's failure to notify local authorities.

Vincent was not notified by the jail of the mistake, but by



BOYD COUNTY DETENTION CENTER SGT. BRAD ROBERTS RETURNS TO HIS SEAT FOLLOWING QUESTIONING BY BOYD CIRCUIT JUDGE JOHN VINCENT ABOUT THE EARLY, MISTAKEN RELEASE OF INMATE JAMES MUTH.

EMILY PORTER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

a court clerk. Copley said she was unaware of the incident until more than a week later on Tuesday when the case appeared on the court docket.

Boyd Sheriff Bobby Jack Woods told *The Daily Independent* Wednesday he had not been officially notified.

Based on Roberts' testimony, no one from the jail made any contact with any authorities until he arrived at work more than 12 hours after Muth was released.

Vincent asked who was in charge at the jail when the mistake occurred. Roberts named another sergeant.

Vincent asked Roberts who he notified.

Roberts said he notified dispatch and authorities in Muth's county of residence

near Cincinnati as well as authorities in Florida after he was made aware of the incident the next morning. He sent "copies of the warrant, images and described that we had an inadvertent release from here in Boyd County," Roberts said.

"So we let him out all night without anybody being contacted and then you got there and you contacted your dispatch center and the two agencies in Cincinnati and Florida, did they respond to you?" he asked.

Roberts said authorities in Cincinnati attempted to make contact with Muth's sister, but were unsuccessful.

When asked why local authorities were not notified, Roberts claimed he believed

his chief deputy was making those contacts.

Roberts confirmed, to his knowledge, no one from the jail notified the court, the Commonwealth Attorney's office, Sheriff Woods, Catlettsburg Police, Ashland Police or Kentucky State Police of Muth's release.

"If no one from the jail... of which you are aware contacted anybody with the court, the prosecutor or any local law enforcement office upon learning of this release, how are we supposed to catch him?" Vincent asked.

Roberts continued to say he believed the deputy chief was taking care of notifying local authorities.

Yet, local authorities said they were not notified of the release by the jail.

"There's no protocol involved within your facility that upon the release of a person that should not have been released to contact the local authorities?" Vincent asked.

"Not to my knowledge, sir," Roberts answered.

"I might suggest that become a part of the protocol," Vincent advised, adding "local law enforcement agencies have the best chance to correcting errors would be notified immediately."

Vincent excused Roberts and asked Copley to bring the case before a grand jury for further investigation. She said her office is already working on the case.

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EMILY PORTER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Chief Todd Kelley presents Maj. Bill Hensley with a unique shadow box commemorating his time of service with the Ashland Police Department.

Maj. Hensley celebrates successful career at APD

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND Ashland Police Department Major William D. Hensley celebrated his retirement Friday with local law enforcement, community leaders and friends in the department's community room.

Hensley began his career with the APD in 1994 and since climbed



HENSLEY

through the ranks to administrative leadership.

Hensley moved from the position of patrolman to sergeant in 2003 and five years later began serving as a lieutenant. Two years ago, in August

of 2016, Hensley was promoted to the rank of major.

Friday afternoon, many of those who have worked along side Hensley gathered for pizza and cake to celebrate his successful career.

"I'm really thankful to the city of Ashland and the citizens," Hensley said. "They've allowed me to pro-

SEE HENSLEY | A3

A2 Saturday, September 1, 2018

REGION

The Daily Independent | Ashland, Kentucky

HENSLEY:

From Page A1

Hensley thanked city, community, fellow officers

vide for my family while doing a job I loved the whole time. So, it's been really good. It's been really good. I'll definitely miss them."

Photos from Hensley's 25 years of service were pasted on boards that served as table decorations.

Hensley specifically pointed out where the photos of his father, also Bill Hensley, were in the room.

"I'm second generation," he said. The major explained his dad retired from APD at the rank of lieutenant. "So, really growing up watching him and camaraderie that they have is what made me want to do this."

While speaking to the crowd gathered to celebrate his career, an emotional Hensley recalled the times he interacted with officers as a young child. He reminisced on a time when he saw his father's fellow officers out the window playing the role of Santa as they attempted to sneak the family's Christmas presents under the tree.

That same care for another officer's family remained as Hensley took his own journey through the APD. He recalled times when he was out of town and his wife, Heather, was sick and couldn't get to the hospital, so fellow officers went to the Hensley's home, took her to the doctor and helped care

for her while he was gone.

"They've been like an extended family for 25 years," he said. "It's going to be a big change."

Officers on a patrol trip with children to Washington, D.C. took so many photos of his daughter and sent them back to him it was like having a personal photographer following her. Hensley said the officers made sure he knew his daughter was safe and they would have those photographs as memories.

Chief Todd Kelley presented Hensley with a shadow box to honor his years of service with the department, one of the paintings of the department and a holster with the APD logo on it.

"With any police officer's career, the main goal is that when your final tour of duty is over that we send you home well and back to your family," Kelley said. Kelley told the crowd it was a good day. Though Hensley was retiring, he was able to return to his family.

Kelley thanked Hensley as well as his family for letting the department borrow him.

"He's to be commended for his outstanding career," Kelley said. "His family ought to be very, very proud that he got to achieve the status and the level of leadership that he attained in the department."

Kelley recalled the movement in 2016 when he took on the role of Chief and Hensley moved into his position of major.

"It was his leadership that assisted me in getting the department going in the direction we



Boards lined the tables with photos of Maj. Bill Hensley's almost 25 years of service at APD.

EMILY PORTER | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

wanted and he played a crucial role in moving us forward in the direction we're going," he said.

Kelley not only worked with Hensley, but worked under his father.

"He's a second generation cop like I am," Kelley said. "My father was here; his father was here. We learned and were instilled our values as law enforcement from them. I feel like personally it's in our genes to do what we've done. He's got a great family. I worked for his father."

"It is without a doubt, when we got him hired as a patrol officer, when he first started we knew we were getting someone very important to our organization," Kelley continued. "We knew we had an officer that was instilled the values and things we look for in a police officer for the city."

As for Hensley's replacement, a lieutenant will be promoted to major. Kelley will be working with the city to de-

termine candidates, but no one specifically has been placed in the role yet. Kelley said a domino effect will take place as a sergeant will then promote into the position of lieutenant and a patrolman to sergeant.

"There's big shoes to fill for the person who gets promoted to major," Kelley said. "It's going to be a hard decision because we've prepared everybody to get to this level. Whoever it be, will do just fine."

During the celebration, Kelley opened the floor to elected leaders, colleagues and others who knew and worked with Hensley to speak a kind word or tell a story.

Boyd County Sheriff Bobby Jack Woods said he worked with Hensley's father and so he always called the major "Billy" because his dad was "Bill." Woods recalled working with the elder Hensley and assured the younger that though they shared a name, the major had his own identity he created

through his quality police work.

APD Lieutenant Jim Dooley told *The Daily Independent* Hensley is the ideal mentor for a young patrolman and what Dooley would strive to be.

"He taught us everything we needed to know and then some about how we needed to do our jobs," Dooley said. "He was just an exceptional supervisor and it was a great privilege to work for him. You always knew where you stood with him."

Fellow Major Scott Sexton worked with Hensley for much of his career. Sexton, who has been at the APD for 23 years, worked alongside Hensley as a patrolman, had him as a supervisor while a sergeant and lieutenant, then worked beside him again as a major.

"We've been friends a long time and he's one of the most knowledgeable people," Sexton said.

"You're not going to find a better person who will help you anytime you call. He's just a great person and the department's going to miss him and I'm going to miss him personally."

Fellow officers shared stories and laughs as Hensley began to get emotional before addressing the crowd. He thanked the city, community and fellow officers for their family-like care and camaraderie as he shared more memories.

Hensley talked about the courage and bravery he sees in the men and women who serve on local law enforcement. He told the crowd about speaking with children about courage and bravery.

When he first asked who the children saw as brave people, they said police, fire, military and other similar professions. He then asked who they knew in their lives who was brave. The children said, mom, dad and coach. When Hensley inquired why, the children said it was because they do what is right and make hard decisions.

Hensley told the crowd his personal hero is Jesus Christ, because Jesus always did the right thing. Physical bravery is a great thing, but making the right decision and hard choice is also courage and bravery, Hensley said.

Through tears Hensley told his fellow officers, "You are in my thoughts and prayers daily."

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Copley works to improve prosecutor's office

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG After eight months on the job, Boyd Commonwealth's Attorney Rhonda Copley is on track to almost double last year's indictment numbers.

Copley was appointed by Gov. Matt Bevin in September after her predecessor, and longtime prosecutor, David Justice died suddenly in August.

She was sworn in by Boyd Circuit Court Judge George Davis last October. During the ceremony Copley told the crowd it's "time to take our

community back."

When asked about her current goals and outlook on the job, Copley said, "It really is still the same. Just trying to get the community back to where it's safe."

"That's not going to be something that's going to happen overnight, that's not going to be something that may happen in two years, it's a work in progress," she said.

Copley and the prosecutors in her office work alongside law enforcement, judges and others involved in the criminal justice system to make strides toward a

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FILE PHOTO
Commonwealth's Attorney Rhonda Copley addresses the crowd at her swearing in ceremony last October.

COPLEY:

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Copley has worked to improve efficiency in her office

safer community.

A refusal to drop cases and continuing prosecution even with reluctant or missing victims is one reason Copley's had such success in numbers. Copley said many times family members filing complaints, specifically in drug cases, for one reason or another decide they don't want to follow through on prosecution after an arrest is made.

Copley's position is different. She believes once a complaint is filed, there must be a follow through. She takes the victim's wishes into consideration when it comes to resolution of the case, but unless Copley doesn't have the evidence for a conviction, she's not dismissing cases.

Approaching her six month mark, Copley sat down and looked at her indictment and criminal information numbers, or circuit court cases, and compared them to the previous year.

From Jan. 1 to May 1, Copley had 279 circuit cases. In the same time period the year prior, David Justice had 119.

In total, from her first day in October to May 1, Copley indicted 409 people. "David Justice for that same period of

time a year earlier had 209," she said.

As of June 11, Copley had 326 indictments, last year Justice had at 207.

May was a slow month for indictments, which Copley said happens periodically.

"You always have these slow periods," she said. "It usually happens toward the end of school because people are vacationing. Then you'll have an upswing. We are now in our upswing."

As a part of the upswing, Copley said she had about 30 cases to bring to the grand jury last week and as of Friday her indictment number for the year was 355.

"At this point we are on track to reach 700 to 800 cases," Copley said. The total number for 2017 was 541.

Copley works with five primary agencies, Ashland and Catlettsburg Police Departments, the Boyd County Sheriff's Department, Boyd County Detention Center and Kentucky State Police.

"I've been very lucky with all the agencies, they've been phenomenal to work with," Copley said.

She calls law enforcement phenomenal and they call her phenomenal.

"She has been engaged with the law enforcement community at a level that in my entire career is phenomenal," said Ashland Police Chief Todd Kelley. "She has been communicating with us, we've been communicating with her and our relationship today is probably the

strongest I've seen with the Commonwealth Attorney's office in my 31-year career."

After being appointed Copley contacted the agencies and worked to find a process focused on efficiency while working toward her goal of a safer community.

"When she was named, she immediately reached out to not only our agency, but all of the law enforcement agencies in the county and sat down and listened to our issues and things we were worried about," said Kelley. "She grabbed what we had to say and has hit the ground running."

Copley has worked on streamlining cases, bypassing the wait time in district court and working with law enforcement agencies to bring cases before the grand jury quickly.

When a suspect is arrested on criminal charges, he or she appears in district court for arraignment and is scheduled for a preliminary hearing within 10 days. The Commonwealth Attorney's office has 60 days to indict.

This can equate 70 days in jail before a defendant is in circuit court. Copley is shrinking that wait time by bringing cases before the grand jury prior to a preliminary hearing. After the defendant is indicted they're scheduled in circuit court.

Less wait time in jail could, at some point, help the detention center financially, Copley said.

"It also helps streamline

the process from the court's point of view," said Boyd Circuit Court Judge George Davis. "If you cut out that step and you go after the arrest, but before the preliminary hearing and you indict them it makes it much easier on the district court's docket."

Davis has seen an increase in his caseload since Copley took office.

"We're basically getting back up to where we were, exceeding it actually, where we were about seven or eight years ago," he said. Justice was the prosecutor in Boyd during those years, Davis said.

"For whatever reason our numbers started dropping and crime certainly hasn't gone down," Davis continued. "For whatever reason there were fewer cases that were indicted. I think those numbers are now reflective of what's going on in the community."

Davis conducted Copley's swearing in ceremony. During the proceedings he called her "tough as nails."

His opinion of Copley remains the same. "I think that pretty well sums her up," Davis said. "She's a no nonsense, roll up your sleeves, get to work kind of person."

"From all accounts, she's done a really good job as far as putting together her office, managing cases as they come in, keeping victims informed, things that you're supposed to be doing as a prosecutor, she's in there working very hard," he said.

Copley's work goes beyond indictments and grand jury sessions. She is working with victims, informing them on the case proceedings and what different sentences and resolutions mean for them.

Her passion is for the people of Boyd County to have a safe community to live and work in.

In an area with many struggling with drug addiction, Copley said probably 80 percent of cases she sees have a drug component.

"We use drug court when we can," Copley said. "We want people to get off drugs. We want them to get help if they can."

Chief Kelley said she has assisted his officers not just in streamlining cases, but the inner-workings of the legal system.

"Maybe one of our younger officers that's not testified quite as much or has not testified yet, she is assisting us in preparing these officers on proper testimony and process in the court system," he explained.

Kelley said she has taken the job to another level.

This election cycle, all Commonwealth's Attorneys across Kentucky are up for re-election. Copley, however, has remained unopposed through election season.

Barring a successful write-in candidacy, Copley will hold the office for a full six-year term beginning January 2019.

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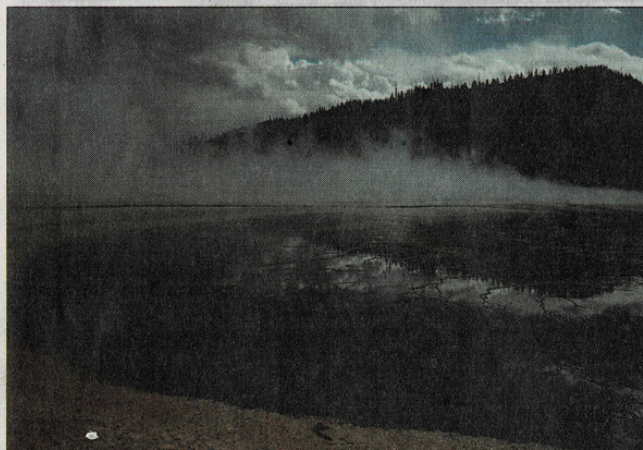
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Arts in the Tri-State

THE DAILY
Independent

Focusing on the product

Photographers of
all styles and
skills come
together to learn

BY EMILY PORTER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

RUSSELL It's been almost two years since the Tri-State Camera Club began at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital.

Dr. Cheryl Cook, a pediatrician, had the idea a long time ago. She and Mark Hamilton, an OLBH pharmacist, talked about having a camera club at the hospital. Years later, Hamilton, his wife, Jennifer, and Cook met to discuss the possibility.

"That was kind of my dream for us to have a camera club at Bellefonte," Cook said.

Not long after, CEO Kevin Halter gave them a go and offered a room for the club to use.

"He said, 'Sure. Go ahead and run with it,'" Cook said. "(Halter) was kind enough to give us a room and he's supported us tremendously."

The first meeting was on a snowy winter evening, Cook said.

"We had 15 people at our first meeting on a January snowy night and I

thought we'd be lucky to have five, and that included me and my two friends," Cook said. "We had to move to a bigger room."

The goal of the club is for anyone with any interest or skill behind a camera, including phone cameras, to share their passion and learn



eras, to share their passion and learn



Photography



Jeanette Ramey, right, points out a detail in Dianna Ross' photo she didn't notice.

TOP AND INSERT: Images by club members show the wide subjects area photographers capture.

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CAMERA

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from one another.

"We have people who only use their phone, we have people with 2-foot-long lenses and all the gear," Cook said. "We have beginners and we have what you'd probably consider professionals. And we just learn from each other."

The group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. on the fifth floor of Bellefonte Centre, with social time at 6:30 p.m.

Cook said they have about 20 to 25 regular attendees, but 50 in total on the group's Facebook page. On the page, the group posts photos from recent adventures or old pictures they found.

Mark Hamilton gives the group a challenge each week to get the members thinking creatively. Silhouettes, abstract and yellow have been a few of the recent challenge topics.

"Almost every week we have a different challenge topic," he said. "We have more participation on certain ones than we do others."

Cook said some take the challenge and seek out new photographs, while others go through old files and reimagine the image, taking a different perspective.

Some edit photos, some don't. Cook said she doesn't manipulate her photos, but leaves them natural because for her, it's all about the hunt. She doesn't want to add anything she didn't see.

Others create small worlds and use faux backdrops to give an interesting take on a subject.

"We have a lot of creative people," Cook said.

A speaker is at each meeting. He or she might be a professor from a local college or a well-known local photographer. Sports, nature and baby photography and many more topics are covered.

"We've really had some good lecturers," Cook said.

Cook said she once had her brother-in-law come give a lecture on how to critique. He taught the group that



TOP, BOTTOM AND INSERT: Images by club members show the wide subjects area photographers capture.

someone should begin with two positive statements and end with a possible improvement, but always frame it nicely and be positive.

One month a speaker was unable to come to the meeting at the last minute and the group used the time to critique images and get to know each other a little better.

They went around the room telling their fellow members about their favorite photos. Almost every one was because of the sentimental value of the image.

When Cook was younger she was at the beach with her parents using a Fuji camera she had saved up to buy. She captured a golden, silhouetted photo of her parents holding hands. It was many years ago and Cook has taken far more photos than she can count, but that one remains her favorite.

She calls it a happy accident because she didn't know what she was doing with her camera, she was new to photography and everything happened to line up perfectly.

Mark Hamilton was in college when he and his roommate shared a camera.

"We didn't have anything to do and my roommate had come back to school," he said. "He had worked and had a credit card and we saw this camera. We went out and he charged this camera."

The members of the camera club all have different stories about how they began in photography.

Dianna Ross said her son being born was a kick-starter for her. She became more passionate about photography once she had her son to be her subject.

She took classes at Ashland Community College. "I learned what I could, but real-

ly the best teacher is to just go out and shoot and have somebody who is a little more skilled than you to critique your work," Ross said.

The people and their work make the group go round.

"Everybody has to really participate to make the group function well," she said.

"That's what's going to make it function, participation and enthusiasm for our passion, which is photography."

Jeannette Ramey said this is her time. Her family and friends know not to schedule her for anything the second Tuesday of every month.

"This is the one thing I do for me and I really enjoy it," she said.

The group's second exhibit at the Highland's Museum and Discovery Center titled Nature's Wonders began Sept. 7 and ran through today.

"Some people had exhibited, but most of us hadn't and it was so much fun," Cook said of the first exhibit the club did together.

Club members' photos can be found all around Bellefonte Hospital. A photo contest for employees and the club resulted in 400 entries. Winners are hanging on the hospital walls, are on book-marks in patient rooms, and a calendar was created with the winning images.

The group explores different photography styles, lighting experiments and locations.

They have taken trips to The Wilds in Columbus and Carter Caves. They spent a night walking around Ashland and taking photos of the Festival of Trees at the Paramount Arts Center.

"There's tons of stuff to photograph around here," Cook said. "Your own backyard is incredible. You don't have to go anywhere."

The group is planning other excursions. Those interested in membership can stop by on the second Tuesday of each month to check things out.

"We'd like to get more members, all sorts of levels and expertise," Cook said. "It's just learning."

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