

The Paducah Sun

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RYAN HERMENS | The Sun

Easter egg hunters

Olivia Larkin (center), 9, of Benton, gathers Easter eggs on Saturday morning at Patti's 1880s Settlement in Grand Rivers. Nine thousand plastic eggs with candy were distributed throughout the grounds. While it took two weeks to stuff all of the eggs with candy, they were gathered by the hundreds of children who turned out Saturday in mere minutes.

Former Kentucky couple confirmed as victims in Brussels airport attack

Associated Press
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — An American couple missing since the terrorist attack at the Brussels international airport were confirmed dead Saturday, according to statements from their employers.

Justin Shults, 30, a Gatlinburg native, and his wife, Stephanie Shults, who grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, had not been seen since Tuesday. Shults' employer, Clarcor, said in a post on its website Saturday that he died in the

bombing. "We grieve with the family and continue to offer our support as they mourn this unimaginable loss," the company wrote. Shults has been with

Please see **SHULTS** | 14A

Local park's namesake all but forgotten



Nelson

BY GENEVIEVE POSTLETHWAIT
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McCracken County has more than 80 historical markers standing here, there and everywhere.

The attractive signs, always topped with the Commonwealth of Kentucky seal, memorialize everything from the city's first public well to fallen confederate soldiers. But not one mentions William Stuart Nelson.

To most locals, William Stuart Nelson is the 55-acre park off Highway 60 West in Paducah with softball fields, a disc golf course

and a playground.

With no marker or explanation posted for the park's namesake, few people even know about Nelson.

As the Washington Post reported following Nelson's death at the age of 81 in 1977, "Internationally known as an exponent of nonviolence, (Nelson) had been a friend of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. He had walked with both in protest marches."

Please see **NELSON** | 7A

Graves County seeing strong growth in jobs

BY LAUREN P. DUNCAN
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Graves County and Mayfield have seen a spike in expanding and new business announcements, and Graves County Economic Development President Ryan Drane is eager to maintain that momentum.

The county and city together saw more than 100 new jobs announced last year. So far in 2016, about 225 new jobs have been announced, bringing a total new investment of about \$8.5 million to Mayfield and Graves County.

By the end of 2016, Drane expects the year's total to reach more than 500 new jobs and new investment of \$25 million.

"We've been very blessed, and we have hustled to get to where we are," Drane said. "We see the potential and don't plan on slowing down. We're at the tip of the iceberg."

Job announcements since January include:

Wayne Supply Company bringing 15 to 20 jobs to its new \$2.5 million facility; America SednAir Compressor System Inc. hiring 11 people at its new \$1 million facility; ACE Compressor expanding its operations and adding 10 jobs; air compressor parts manufacturer LSK Inc., breaking ground on a new \$1 million facility with plans to add 10 jobs; and Cracker Barrel restaurant that broke ground in January expects to hire 170 employees.

Please see **GROWING** | 7A

Paducah man victim of apparent homicide

BY KAT RUSSELL

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A Paducah man was charged with murder Saturday after a man's body was found Friday night near a home in Possum Trot.

Marshall County authorities charged Joseph Cunningham, 38, in the death of Gary J. Lambert, 47, of Paducah.

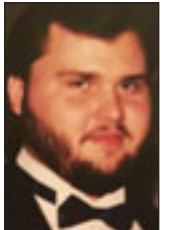
Preliminary results of an autopsy, conducted Saturday in Louisville, showed Lambert died from a single gunshot wound.

Investigators with the sheriff's office found Lambert's body near a home on Dalton Lane Friday night.

The sheriff's department said earlier that a "person of interest" was detained in Illinois and investigators were working with several Kentucky and Illinois agencies on the case.

McCracken County Sheriff Jon Hayden said the person in custody is also a suspect in an arson and burglary at 4102 Schneidman Road in Paducah, which happened on Wednesday. Hayden said the home was burglarized and several firearms were stolen before the fire was set.

Hayden said the victim, Lambert, was employed at Paducah Shooter's Supply.



Lambert

Belgium charges more suspects in bombings

BY LORNE COOK AND DAVID KEYTON

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Belgian prosecutors announced Saturday they have charged three men with terror offenses over the suicide attacks on the Brussels airport and subway, as organizers cancelled a solidarity rally at the government's request because police are too strapped to cope.

At a news conference in Brussels, officials confirmed that 24 of the 31 people killed in the attacks Tuesday had been identified, and a doctor who had served in Afghanistan said he and his colleagues have been shocked by the extreme burns suffered by some of the 270 people wound-

Please see **SUSPECTS** | 14A

Serving a meal



Edward Nelson (left), of Paducah, is served food by Lillie Kirkpatrick, of Calvert City, at Tent City Mission's community Easter Luncheon on Saturday. Kirkpatrick is a member of the West Kentucky Rockin Rollers roller derby team, whose players sponsored and served the meal.

RYAN HERMENS | The Sun

NATION

SANDERS NETS BIG WINS

Bernie Sanders scored big wins in Western caucus contests Saturday, giving a powerful psychological boost to his supporters, but doing little to move him closer to securing the Democratic nomination.

6A



WORLD

NORTH KOREA THREATENS SEOUL

North Korea warned Saturday that it is ready to attack Seoul's presidential palace unless South Korea's president apologizes for acts of "treason."

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GROWING

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Last year, the more than 100 new jobs that were announced came from some employers new to Graves County. They include West Kentucky Concrete and Ingram's Water and Air Equipment, which are both constructing new buildings, and Blue Shore Fishery, which created 66 jobs. Universal Compressor Solutions and Jackson Purchase Medical Center also began hiring more employees in 2015.

Drane said at least three more large retail or mixed-used developments will be announced this year.

GCED has several other things going on behind the scenes of its job announcements. To connect local job seekers with employment opportunities, GCED will be launching a new website, www.GravesCountyJobs.com, on Monday, where available jobs will be posted. GCED also hired a new project manager last month, Patrick Ball, to help Drane keep up with the developments.

City-county agreement

One of the agency's initiatives has involved working with the county and city to form an interlocal agreement concerning annexation that was approved last month.

In most cases when cities annex county properties for business developments, "the county essentially loses" tax revenue, Drane said. But this agreement will allow the county to keep a portion of tax revenues from the new development, and the county in turn will share some of the new development costs with the city.

Drane said the city and county will be putting the new agreement to use

this year.

The recent job announcements come nearly 10 years after the closure of the Mayfield Continental General Tire plant in 2007 and the layoff of about 1,000 employees.

"People thought Graves County was dead," Drane said. "It's taken a long time for us to understand that our community is not built around one company. There's a lot here to offer, there are a lot of people doing great things, and it's about finding those people and giving them every opportunity to succeed, whether it's a big business or 10 jobs."

One of the keys to the recent job announcements is incentives. For example, Ingram's Water and Air Equipment will receive payroll tax incentives for constructing a new facility in Graves County, and Cracker Barrel is being developed with the help of tax increment financing.

"We're in the process of incentivizing every one of those (newly announced) companies," Drane said. "What we try to do ... is sit down, meet with the company, gain an understanding of what they would like to do and see how we can help make it happen."

Another contributing factor to the growth has been the transition of Interstate 69 to Mayfield. It's one of the reasons why Ingram's Water and Air Equipment chose to locate in Graves County.

Jason Ingram, his brother Matt and his dad, Doug, all Graves County residents, operate their family business out of Paducah and Clarksville, Ten-



Drane

nessee. Jason Ingram said the business has seen enough growth in recent years to call for an expansion, which is what led them to begin construction a 76,000-square-foot facility that will serve as a warehouse and showroom right off U.S. 45 in the Hickory Industrial Park owned by GCED.

Ingram said they had thought about expanding in McCracken County, but there were a few reasons they chose to locate in Graves. They include its proximity to I-69, the transportation company they work with, and the West Kentucky Community & Technical College Skilled Craft Training Center, where the company recruits many employees. He said it also helped that the site was build-ready, and local leaders supported them.

"I think we had the support of the community, that was really a big deal for us," Jason Ingram said. "They were excited, they believed in what we're doing. That made a big difference."

Perhaps what's been most essential to the recent job growth has been a cooperation among leaders. Drane gave credit to Mayfield Mayor Teresa Rochetti-Cantrell and Graves County Judge-Executive Jesse Perry for "going above and beyond" to help with economic development efforts.

"Your judge and mayor can either bring everyone together or they can divide a community, and they've chosen to bring everyone together," Drane said.

Rochetti-Cantrell, however, said Drane deserves much of the credit for the recent job announcements. She said the area's development had "kind of dangled around" until Drane began laying the foundation to spur development.

"We're watching (the growth) hap-

pen, but it's not anything that's magic," she said. "A lot of hard work has gone into it, and now we're seeing the results."

Change in focus

Perry said he thinks the growth has come as a result of teamwork as well as a shift in focus to supporting smaller companies.

"(Larger) companies, we'll take them, don't get me wrong, but I think the focus is having the vision of one job is just as important as 100. That's setting us apart, I believe, from a lot of folks," he said.

Community support also has played a role in the recent announcements. Drane explained that the Cracker Barrel development started after a local pastor thought of the idea to create a social media campaign to attract the business. Drane created a Facebook page for it, and after it received 6,500 likes in only two days, he sent a developer an email with a link to the page. He received a response the next day and soon had a meeting.

When the Cracker Barrel representative and his wife first visited Mayfield, Drane said they asked some local citizens for their thoughts on the area.

"Before (their meeting at GCED), they went to McDonald's, and they went to the back where the old men sit around and loaf and drink coffee, and they asked them what they think about Mayfield and Graves County," Drane said.

"Thankfully, they had some good things to say. It's an attitude. The citizens have to understand that they play an important role in development, and the most important thing they can do is have a positive attitude."

NELSON

CONTINUED FROM 1A

And that only begins to scratch the surface of the incredible life of one of Paducah's own.

An accomplished educator, civil rights activist and theologian, Nelson was a graduate of both Howard University and Yale, studied at the Sorbonne in France and the University of Berlin and University of Marburg in Germany. His studies were interrupted briefly by his service as a U.S. Army lieutenant on the European front in World War I.

He had a long career at Howard — first teaching philosophy and eventually becoming the dean of Howard's School of Religion — and was also the first black president at both Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Dillard University in New Orleans.

After visiting India in 1946 and walking with Gandhi from village to village trying to quell tensions between Muslim and Hindu communities there, he returned to India as a Fulbright scholar in 1958 to further study Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence.

He brought what he learned back to America and advocated passionately for nonviolence in the civil rights movement, corresponding and working regularly with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders.

But you won't find much about these or Nelson's other accomplishments easily in his hometown of Paducah.

"Most locals who have visited (Stuart Nelson Park), black or white, don't know anything about the man for whom it was named," community columnist Carolyn Stratton wrote in a recent article for The Sun.

"It's been hard for me to believe I'd spent all those years growing up without having a clue about who Stuart Nelson was, but discovering his identity has been as

personally fulfilling as finding genealogical records of a lost relative," she wrote.

Stuart Nelson Park was Paducah's first black park. Mayor Edgar T. Washburn presented the park to the local African-American community in 1936 during the town's annual Eighth of August celebrations. At the time, the neighboring Bob Noble Park was for whites only.

A brief entry on the park in the McCracken County Genealogical-Historical Society's "History and Families, McCracken County, Kentucky 1824-1989" says Nelson was in Paducah for the dedication and celebration of the park.

However, no mention of Nelson was made in newspaper articles covering the park's opening at that time, making it unclear when exactly the park took on Nelson's name. When it opened in 1936, it was merely referred to as the "Colored Park."

Far more seems to have been written about Nelson outside of Paducah than in it. Following Nelson's death in 1977, Howard University's Journal of Religious Thought, which Nelson founded, published a collection of tributes written by his fellow scholars and friends.

Dr. James Nabrit, a prominent civil rights attorney who worked closely with Nelson at Howard, wrote that Nelson was "a great American, yet one whose view encompassed the world."

"He asked those questions that should be asked but that you hoped would not be asked," Nabrit wrote. "At times, that quality was very irksome, but it was always beneficial to his cause."

In spite of his sweet disposition, he was a man of great determination."

Another of Nelson's close friends and col-

"Stuart was a man of virtue; one could see in him the virtues he taught and espoused. If this kind of living is what we call Christianity, Stuart was a Christian and has earned the right to be in God's Kingdom."

Benjamin Mays

leagues at Howard, Benjamin Mays, wrote:

"William Stuart Nelson was a gentleman of the first magnitude. ... Stuart was a man of virtue; one could see in him the virtues he taught and espoused. If this kind of living is what we call Christianity, Stuart was a Christian and has earned the right to be in

God's Kingdom. ... Stuart will live on and on in the memories of his friends and students."

Too few Paducahans have any memory or knowledge of this incredible Paducah native today, but it doesn't have to stay that way.

Paducah Parks Department Director Mark Thompson said for years

people have talked about posting more informative signs in the parks, including Stuart Nelson. Usually it just comes down to the expense, he said. There always seem to be things higher on the priority list. A privately erected sign may be more likely.

Getting an official Kentucky historical

marker erected at Stuart Nelson — or at any of Paducah's other parks named after noteworthy Paducahans — would take considerable time, effort and about \$2,500.

It's possible, however, and any organization or individual can apply for such a sign through the state's Historical Marker Program.

People have clearly gone through the process and been successful locally over 80 times already.

Perhaps the next sign Paducah sees will be in memory of William Stuart Nelson, an exceptional man by any measure.

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