

Youth basketball soars to new heights

By
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Two organizations have wanted to provide a youth basketball program for elementary-age children in Meade County, Ky. The process has allowed, almost 200 children, an outlet for exercise after school. Volunteers with the Meade County High School (MCHS) and the Meade Activity Center (MAC) have partnered together in the effort.

MAC Executive Director, Aaron Greenwell briefly explained about the ever growing success of the program. The ages associated with youth basketball are kindergarten through sixth grade. Kindergarten through second grade is coed and third through sixth grade involves only boys.

"It is the goal of the MAC to grow basketball opportunities throughout the community in all age groups," Greenwell said. "Partnering with MCHS Boys' Basketball was an easy fit for the MAC in offering this program to create a more efficient and well organized youth basketball league. In the

long run, we think this is a win-win for MCHS Basketball, Meade County Schools, and the MAC."

Practice for the league began in early December. Games also started in December. The tournament is scheduled for Feb. 14. Coaches for the teams consists of basketball players from the MCHS boys' basketball team. Games are played at Brandenburg Primary, James R. Allen and David T. Wilson.

"We hope to expand the number of teams and potentially offer a similar program for elementary-age girls in the future," Greenwell mentioned. "It's important to us to bridge the gap and make these types of programs available in our local community. In addition, we continue to offer financial assistance to assure that everyone has a chance to participate."

Greenwell added, "The MAC's mission is to promote active lifestyles and a healthy community through education, wellness, and recreation opportunities for all. I administer the program and take care of most of the behind the scenes ac-

tion, while MCHS Boys basketball coaches Jason Tripure, Kevin Robinson, Ned Cross, and Sean Smith monitor the gyms each week. We've been very fortunate to have the support of the school system to create these new programs that have allowed a great deal of participation."

Meade County Schools Superintendent, John Millay expressed his support for the youth basketball league. He is optimistic of the future for youth sports.

"We appreciate the many partnerships we have with the MAC to help us serve the youth and families of Meade County," Millay said. "The Mac basketball programs have been successful this year and helped broaden future opportunities for many of our young athletes."

Director of Transportation and Pupil Personnel, Jason Sutton also shared feedback concerning the program. Combining the efforts of the volunteers and players, has allowed for a broader reach of opportunities available for today's youth.

"The collaboration between Meade County



Photos by Elissa Youart

Basketball and the Meade Activity Center once again proves the strength of our community," Sutton said. "It is a great example of organizations coming together to offer an outstanding program for all youth, kindergarten through sixth, who wish to participate."

For more information on the MAC, visit www.meadeactivitycenter.org. For additional information about Meade County schools, visit www.meade.kyschools.us.



PSC closes review of LG&E and KU customer service

Submitted Article

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) has ended its heightened scrutiny of the consumer service operations of Louisville Gas and Electric Co. (LG&E) and Kentucky Utilities Co. (KU) because the two companies have completed the improvements recommended in the final report of a management review completed in September 2011.

In a letter sent today to the two utilities, the PSC said all 20 of the recommended actions have been completed, ending the need for further progress reports tied to the review, known as a focused management and operations audit.

The PSC will continue to monitor LG&E's and KU's customer service performance as part of its routine oversight of the utilities.

The customer service audit was prompted by an increase in customer complaints to the PSC, particularly from 2008 through 2010. The review was ordered in July 2010. In keeping with Kentucky law, an independent outside consultant, The Liberty Consulting Group, was selected to conduct the audit.

Liberty's final report found that the companies were regularly failing to meet their own internal performance standards for functions such as answering customer calls, meter reading and billing accuracy. The problems were traced to new computer systems and problems in hiring, training and retaining customer service personnel.

The utilities were required to submit regular reports on their progress in implementing the audit recommendations. Those progress reports tracked items such as how quickly customers calls and e-mails are answered, meter reading accuracy, and billing accuracy.

The latest progress report was delivered in March 2014. The PSC's verification review was completed in November 2014. In a response attached to today's letter, the PSC states that its review found that KU and LG&E had met or exceeded all of the performance goals set by the audit process and had completed work on the final seven of the 20 recommendations.

LG&E and KU reported that they have incurred \$7.4 million in one-time cost implementing the audit recommendations, with most of that being spent on an additional statewide call center located in Morganfield in western Kentucky. Maintaining the improved customer service as recommended in the audit will cost about \$5.6 million annually, the utilities have told the PSC.

LG&E has about 395,000 electric customers in nine counties in and around the Louisville area and 318,000 natural gas customers in 21 counties. KU has 512,000 customers in 77 Kentucky counties.

The full report is available on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Fair Board honored



Photo by Melissa Mudd

Meade County has been honored with second place in the state of Kentucky for most progressive fair amongst other awards. The fair took the top honor at the Convention of the Kentucky Association's Fair and Horse Shows, which was held on Jan. 12-16 at the Galt House in Louisville, Ky. Fair Board President, David Pace, was also honored as the outgoing State County Fair President. Meade County's fair falls into the most eastern county of the state's Western Zone 2 region, with 30 -50 fairs in each zone -- and a total of around 106 fairs competing in the state.

VFW hosted luncheon for National Commander-in-Chief



Photo submitted

Dec. 16, 2014 Meade County Memorial VFW 11404 post and their Ladies Auxiliary hosted a luncheon for National Commander-in-Chief John Stroud. Commander Stroud talked about the ongoing struggle of our veterans and how the VFW and local communities can help. He also honored William Murphy, Frank Barr and Bill Bassett, the three World War II veterans in attendance. Front row: William Murphy, Frank Barr and Bill Bassett. Back row: State Commander Martha Cassidy, National Commander John Stroud, and Post Commander John Wild.

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