



**SOCCER: MARSHALL REMAINS UNDEFEATED B1**

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## UK-Paducah engineering grad works on capsule project

BY KELLY FARRELL  
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A former Paducah engineering student had the chance to help with an exciting project at the University of Kentucky, where a team worked together on research-related capsules that were sent to the International Space Station.



John Schmidt

John Schmidt, 23, graduated last year from the UK College of Engineering, Paducah Campus with a degree in mechanical engineering, and he later started a master's degree program at the main campus in Lexington.

"The Paducah program was really convenient because it was within driving distance of where I grew up," said Schmidt, who was homeschooled in the area. "It was very conveniently located and the campus was also just really great to attend because ... (the) smaller student body allowed me to get to know the professors more."

He's currently a graduate research assistant for the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering at UK, and he's been part of a team of student and faculty researchers who built three capsules that went to the International Space Station, according to the university.

"The capsule, essentially, it's a device to measure how hot it gets as it re-enters the atmosphere. These three capsules all have a heat shield, which is located on the bottom side of it, so that as it re-enters, it is protected from the massive amount of friction that builds up," Schmidt told The Sun.

"The purpose of the capsule is to measure how hot it gets on that surface, and then send data down back to Earth to us, so that we can analyze it."

SEE CAPSULE/PAGE A10

## Unemployment rates drop throughout the Purchase area

BY DAVID B. SNOW  
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The Kentucky Center for Statistics on Thursday released the county-by-county unemployment rates for July, and every county in the Jackson Purchase region showed improvement over June.

Carlisle County had the lowest rate in the eight-county region with 3.9%, down from 4.6% in the previous month. Fulton County had

the highest July unemployment rate at 6.6%, down from June's 6.8%.

Other Purchase-area counties' rates — with the June figures in parentheses — were:

- **McCracken:** 5.2% (5.9% in July)
- **Ballard:** 5.1 (5.8)
- **Calloway:** 4.8 (5.5)
- **Graves:** 4.5 (5.2)
- **Hickman:** 5.0 (5.6)



Mary Anne Medlock

• **Marshall:** 4.3 (4.9)  
As a state, Kentucky has a 4.7% unemployment rate, down from 5.5% in June and 6.1% in July 2020. The national unemployment rate is 5.7%. Baptist Health Paducah — which recently adjusted its minimum wage to \$15 an hour — has 170 open positions in Paducah, while throughout the Baptist

Health organization, there are 2,452 open positions, according to the Baptist Health website.

The McCracken County School District has 70 open positions — some to be filled internally — while the Paducah Independent School District has 27, according to the district's website.

Mary Anne Medlock, a business services liaison

SEE DROP/PAGE A9



Nelson, a therapy dog, and his owner, Kerrie Peck, who volunteers with 4 Rivers Love on a Leash, visit nursing staff Thursday at Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital.

HANNAH SAAD | The Sun

## Local canines provide, need support

BY HANNAH SAAD  
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It's fitting the national day to celebrate man's best friend comes at the end of summer. National Dog Day, held annually on Aug. 26, was founded in 2004 by animal welfare advocate Colleen Paige, according to the National Dog Day website. In honor the 'Fido's' special day, The Sun highlighted some of the canines in the community; those who want to lend a helping paw and those who could use the support of the community or a potential new family.

### THERAPY DOG VISITS MERCY HEALTH-LOURDES HOSPITAL

Nelson, a golden retriever therapy dog, celebrated National Dog Day by visiting nursing staff at Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital with his owner, Kerrie Peck. Nelson has visited with other staff members at Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital before and will start visiting staff working on the night shift, according to a news release from Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital.

Nelson is one of seven dogs that work with 4 Rivers Love on a Leash,

a local chapter of a national, nonprofit pet therapy group. The local chapter serves McCracken and Marshall counties, according to the nonprofit's website. Melanie Watson, chapter leader who founded the local chapter in 2012, said the therapy dogs, and one therapy cat, have worked at hospitals, schools, hospice care centers and libraries, noting the therapy dogs will go anywhere they are invited.

"Our biggest mission is just to bring smiles to people," Watson said.

SEE CANINES/PAGE A9

## Kabul airport attack kills 60 Afghans and 13 U.S. troops

BY SAYED ZIARMAL HASHEMI, RAHIM FAIEZ, LOLITA C. BALDOR AND JOSEPH KRAUSS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two suicide bombers and gunmen attacked crowds of Afghans flocking to Kabul's airport Thursday, transforming a scene of desperation into one of horror in the waning days of an airlift for those fleeing the Taliban takeover. The attacks killed

at least 60 Afghans and 13 U.S. troops, Afghan and U.S. officials said.

The U.S. general overseeing the evacuation said the attacks would not stop the United States from evacuating Americans and others, and flights out were continuing. Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, said there was a large amount of security at the airport, and alternate routes

were being used to get evacuees in. About 5,000 people were awaiting flights on the airfield, McKenzie said.

The blasts came hours after Western officials warned of a major attack, urging people to leave the airport. But that advice went largely unheeded by Afghans desperate to escape the country in the last few days of an American-led evacuation before the U.S. officially ends its 20-year

presence on Aug. 31.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killings on its Amaq news channel. The IS affiliate in Afghanistan is far more radical than the Taliban, who recently took control of the country in a lightning blitz. The Taliban were not believed to have been involved in the attacks and condemned the blasts.

In an emotional speech

from the White House, U.S. President Joe Biden said the latest bloodshed would not drive the U.S. out of Afghanistan earlier than scheduled, and that he had instructed the U.S. military to develop plans to strike IS.

### MORE INSIDE

For more on Afghanistan please go to page A12.

SEE ATTACK/PAGE A10

### NEWS

#### COVID-19 SURGE

Virus surge breaks hospital records amid rising toll on kids.

Page A8



### INSIDE

#### 'WAS IT WORTH IT?'

A fallen Marine and a war's crushing end.

Page B5

### INDEX

- Classifieds ..... B10-11
- Comics ..... B12
- Dear Annie ..... B7
- Deaths ..... A6
- Lottery ..... A2

### FORECAST

#### TODAY

High: 91 Low: 72

