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Obituaries, 6A

Sharon Conley
 Lynda Pelphey
 Melissa Pridemore
 Janet Salyer
 Hansford Stapleton
 Fred Wheeler

PPD: Paintsville man charged with arson

Officer says suspect found with bottle of gasoline

BY WAYLON WHITSON
 STAFF WRITER

A Paintsville man was arrested on charges including arson and wanton endangerment Thursday after a vacant house on Pine Street caught fire, according to Paintsville Police Department officer Zach Mitchell.

Paintsville Fire and Rescue responded to the scene of the fire first, followed by Mitchell and fellow PPD officer Jeremy Shepherd. The officers said that fire department workers saw Michael Eldridge, 46, of Paintsville, carrying a soda container full of gasoline shortly after the fire erupted.

"Through investigation, we could figure out that this fire started off as burning trash, but it

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Above, Paintsville Fire and Rescue responded to a house fire on Pine Street Thursday afternoon which led to the arrest, left, of Michael Eldridge on arson and wanton endangerment charges, according to Paintsville Police Department Officer Zach Mitchell, who also responded to the scene.

Paintsville Herald photos by Waylon Whitson

Inside this edition

- 'Born Alive' bill passes Kentucky Senate with unanimous vote — 2A
- JCBOE honors Golden Eagle Award winners — 3A
- Suntrust and BB&T approve merger — 3A
- Investigation halts rate increase for local gas companies — 4A
- Courthouse news — 4A
- Virginia company to purchase Big Sandy Broadband — 6A
- Several lodged in Big Sandy Detention Center — 7A



Paintsville Herald photo by Waylon Whitson

Attendants at the Johnson County Public Library's Dr. Seuss festivities at the Paintsville Recreation Center had a day of fun including games, prizes, crafts, food and readings from Seuss classics.

Library hosts Dr. Seuss carnival

BY AARON K. NELSON
 EDITOR

Dozens of children gathered at the Paintsville Recreation Center on Thursday for a carnival-style celebration of the life and works of children's author Dr. Seuss, put on by the Johnson County Public

Library.

Children had the opportunity to play carnival games, win prizes, make Seuss-themed crafts, enjoy popcorn and cake, meet and get a photo with the Cat in the Hat, and sit in on readings of Seuss books.

Shannon Reinthaler, with the

See HOSTS, Page A2



Submitted photo

The Paintsville Police Department has vowed to "shut down" the methamphetamine problem in Paintsville, according to PPD Chief Mike Roe, who said the department netted three meth trafficking busts due to controlled buys occurring within a week last month, an effort he says has been led by PPD Capt. John Holbrook.

PPD vows to 'shut down' meth problem

BY WAYLON WHITSON
 STAFF WRITER

The Paintsville Police Department netted three meth busts in February thanks to controlled buys orchestrated by Capt. John Holbrook in conjunction with confidential informants, according to PPD Chief Mike Roe.

Roe said the department will continue its work to crack down on suppliers of the drug in the city and continue to support the efforts

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