

Franklin Favorite

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Some crops impacted negatively by extended dry, hot weather

BY KEITH PYLES
FRANKLIN FAVORITE

About a month-long combination of dry, hot weather that began in early June and continued through early July had a negative impact on some Simpson County crops.

"In Kentucky, the most limiting factor for our crops is rainfall, the lack of rainfall, typically in the summer months," Simpson County Extension Agent for Agriculture Jason Phillips said during an interview with Brian Davis for WPKN radio (1220 AM).

He said the extended period from early June to early July without significant rainfall "was during some very critical growth stages, specifically for corn, that's something we're definitely going to see the effects of."

Rainfall amounts varied in the county, with large amounts in a short time period followed by the extended period of no

rain. After more than 3 inches of rain in Franklin during a two-day period of June 6-7, the next significant rain was more than 1.6 inches on July 7-8. The only measurable rain between June 8 and July 6 was less than a tenth of an inch on June 29.

Phillips talked about the condition of Simpson County's corn crop as a result of the drought.

"There is a lot of variability across the county and even amongst fields, different soil types. If you go up on the hills you may not find an ear of corn."

"On the hills, our corn really suffered. The water runs off the hills, the water retention on the hills is not good. We can see a big difference even amongst individual fields in the low areas compared to the hills. So we are going to see a big drop in the yields as you go up on the hills."

Phillips added, "We've got a lot of poorly pollinated corn. During that time period

(without rain), a lot of our corn was pollinating or attempting to pollinate. That is why we see ears of corn like we do (in bad condition). I've seen a lot of small ears that the tips aren't filled out. That's a sign of poor pollination."

He said very spotty kernels on an ear of corn is another indication of poor pollination.

Phillips said no-till and strip-till fields look better as a whole than conventional tilled fields. Conventionally tilled fields involve working the ground resulting in exposed dirt, which dries out quicker.

He said no till fields, or the ground not being worked, "this year was a major benefit" because a lot more soil moisture was retained.

"Before the canopy of the corn covered the soil, basically early on, that's when you had a lot of evaporation from those

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Simpson County's jobless rate increases in June

BY KEITH PYLES
FRANKLIN FAVORITE

Simpson County's unemployment rate increased nearly 1% from May to June.

Kentucky Labor Force Estimates place Simpson County's preliminary June unemployment rate at 3.7%, eight tenths of a% higher than the revised May rate of 2.9%.

Simpson County's June unemployment rate was 1.4% lower than the June 2021 rate of 5.1%.

During June, Simpson County had a civilian labor force of 9,001 — 8,671 employed and 330 unemployed.

Simpson County's latest unemployment rate was lower than the rates for the Barren River Area Development District's 4.1%, the state's 4.2% and the nation's 3.8%. Simpson County along with

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New CBD company preparing products

Director of Dallas Buyers Club turns his skills toward hemp industry

BY ANDY DENNIS
FRANKLIN FAVORITE

Owner Tony Notargiacomo speaks with excitement and clarity when talking about his XYZ CBD Processing facility at 4395 Witt Road, and for good reason.

The hemp he's grown at the location is ready, along with a high-tech greenhouse and processing equipment to refine the final products.

The operation at 4395 Witt Road has been in place since April 2021, put together during the pandemic and now in sight of delivering its goods. Notargiacomo is ready to make some key hires to refine his company's products and jumpstart via marketing and full production his series of hemp products designed for various medicinal purposes.

Marketing "is the big thing we're doing right now," he said. "What I'm trying to do right now is to hire for about six positions."

Those positions are for a quality assurance manager, a CBD processing tech, two junior processing assistants to support the tech, a facility and farming operations manager to upkeep and maintain facility buildings, equipment and the property, a marketing/sales manager and a president to manage the day-to-day operations.

"The goal is just to hire peo-



Submitted
XYZ CBD Processing owner Tony Notargiacomo stands in a hemp field at his facility at 4395 Witt Road earlier in the growing season.

ple from Simpson County," he said.

Notargiacomo is not a farmer by trade. Far from it. While he has family members in the

ag industry, he has a movie industry background. He was the executive director of Dallas Buyers Club and owns the rights to the blockbuster hit, which won three Academy Awards.

"It takes a village right? It's not just like I did it. I was a piece of it," he said of Dallas Buyers Club.

"My family has a lot of background in farming (on the East

Coast). But I was in the movie industry for just a minute, had some success there, and I was thinking what else I was going to do.

"I have a friend who is still on the cannabis side in Colorado. He has one of the original companies in Colorado. I lived in Colorado from '95 to about 2005. In 2017, I started thinking I really wanted to do this. I really thought the best place to do it was Kentucky. It's one of the best places in the country to grow hemp, especially southcentral Kentucky. And they have great farmers here."

His research into investing in the hemp industry led him to Franklin — for the fertile soil conducive to growing hemp and its strategic location to Nashville and its international airport and transportation. With a curing process similar to tobacco, farmers here know the methodology.

"Those skillsets are here, just in a different way. So I thought this was going to be the best place," Notargiacomo said. "Incredibly blessed to find this property in 2018. And

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Plans for new FB&T building approved

BY KEITH PYLES
FRANKLIN FAVORITE

Plans presented by Franklin Bank and Trust Company for a new building at the site of their main branch on North Main Street were approved July 26 by the Franklin-Simpson Planning and Zoning Commission.

Preliminary and final development plans for 317 North Main St. were approved.

The planning and zoning commission also recommended approval of a zone change from general business to central business at the site. Franklin City Commission will now consider approval of the zone change.

The current main branch building is being torn down in sections as the new building is built. The back part of the building has been torn down in preparation.

Plans include more greenspace than at the current site. The new plan has approximately 28% of greenspace on the lot. There is currently approximately 5%.

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What's Inside

A — news, sports, features, obituaries, classifieds

Weather Forecast



FRIDAY
Partly sunny
high 87°
low 72°



SATURDAY
Mostly sunny
high 88°
low 71°



SUNDAY
Mostly sunny
high 88°
low 72°

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Back to school: Scholarship, financial help available

BY SHAWN MCPHERSON
KENTUCKY REPRESENTATIVE

It is back to school time, and thousands of Kentucky parents and students are staring down college tuition bills, while others are beginning to lay the groundwork as their students enter their senior year. Over the next few weeks, I thought I might share a few updates on different scholarship and financial assistance programs that can help those who are going the traditional college route, as well as those who plan to pursue a career with a trade school education.

From 1980 to the 2019-2020 school year, college tuition increased by 180%. With Kentucky coming in 35th for four-year college graduation rates, it is crucial we give people the incentive to attend university if they want to. Attending university may seem like a necessity of the 21st century, but other avenues to a great and prosperous life exist. However, if a student does wish to attend university and excels academically in high school, incentives and scholarships are available. Approximately 87% of high school graduates in Kentucky have earned money through

the KEEES program. KEEES' eligibility requirements are less stringent for students compared to other scholarships which results in more students receiving assistance. Students who are most likely to benefit from KEEES are students who are not likely to attend university without the financial incentive KEEES offers. But, what exactly is KEEES money, and how is it funded? The Commonwealth Merit Scholarship, later changed to the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship, was created by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1998. The amount a high school

student can earn from KEEES is determined by his or her annual school year grade-point average. Awards and bonuses are also based on a student's ACT composite score and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams. The Kentucky lottery funds the KEEES program. The Kentucky lottery was established in 1989 after 60% of voters cast ballots in November 1988 stating they were in favor of its creation. With the creation of the lottery, the profits would go toward funding scholarships for the KEEES program. KEEES has awarded over \$4 billion in

funding since 1999, and every dime has come from the profits of the Kentucky lottery. The legislature is continuing to work on expanding the use of KEEES money to include pathways for students who do not wish to attend a traditional college or university, but still wish to pursue post-secondary instruction. This continues to be an area we are working on. I encourage you to keep up to date with legislative happenings during this interim, and as always, feel free to contact me via email shawn.mcperson@lrc.ky.gov. If you would like more information, please visit the LRC website legislature.ky.gov.

SKYCTC's SKY Fame hosts national faculty training with FAME-USA

Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College Franklin-Simpson Center hosted instructors and staff from across the state for three days of training July 26-28 to deliver the Manufacturing Core Exercise curriculum on problem solving. Embedded in the program are five MCEs: safety culture, visual workplace organization, lean principles and practices for maintenance, problem solving, and machine reliability. The MCEs are taught by FAME faculty, with exercises for students in the classroom and at work to ensure proficiency. Intentionally, the FAME MCEs are delivered through a "Learn It, Do It, Apply It, and Tell It" sequence to produce a well-rounded, knowledgeable technician. The FAME chapter representing SKYCTC and Southcentral Kentucky, SKY FAME, has two full-time dedicated faculty members, Brian Sparks and Tony Keen, who have taught the Manufacturing Core Exercises to over 100 students since the inception of SKY FAME in 2015. In recognition of the superior program at SKY FAME, FAME USA asked the chapter to host this training to showcase the chapter's successful track record of recruitment, retention, and job

placement. SKY FAME was proud to offer the training and highlight the dedication of Sparks and Keen to train the new faculty to deliver the MCEs effectively in their classrooms. "Problem solving gets the student to think about the root cause of a problem on the manufacturing floor to create a '100-year fix' instead of having the same problem consistently reoccur," said SKY FAME assistant professor Tony Keen. Additionally, "the problem solving MCE teaches a student or technician how to follow a step-by-step process from identifying the problem to finding the root cause of a problem and ultimately determining the most effective solution," said SKY FAME professor Brian Sparks. Alexandra Becker of FAME USA adds, "The 'Train-the-Trainer' is an essential aspect of the FAME program to ensure

best-in-class instructors transfer the technical and professional knowledge and expertise that molds students into global best. We are thrilled to provide in-person training and proudly showcase the great partners at the SKY FAME chapter." Created by Toyota and transitioned to the Manufacturing Institute in 2019, FAME USA supports hundreds of employers, comprising more than three dozen chapters across the country. More than 1,500 global-best Advanced Manufacturing Technicians have graduated from the program, with more than half graduating in the last three years. To learn more about FAME-USA, visit www.fame-usa.com or contact Franklin-Simpson Center Campus Director Kelcie Richard at Kelcie.richard@kctcs.edu.

More voters added to rolls than removed in June

FRANKFORT — Secretary of State Michael Adams announced on July 29 that voter registration continues to rebound after two years of stasis, with 8,486 new voters added in June. Before the fall campaign heats up and early voting starts, now is a good time to check voter information at govoteky.com. In June, 5,733 voters were removed from the rolls, 3,251 deceased voters, 1,350 voters convicted of felonies, 948 who moved out of state, 115 voters who voluntarily de-registered, 66 adjudged mentally incom-

petent and three duplicate registrations. Republican registrants account for 45.2% of the electorate, with 1,612,060 voters. Republican registration increased by 3,857 voters, a 0.24% increase. Democratic registrants account for 45.1% of the electorate, with 1,609,569 voters. Democratic registration dropped by 2,754, a 0.17% decrease. Voters with other affiliations, including independent, account for 9.7% of the electorate, with 345,674 voters. Other registration increased by 1,650 voters, a 0.48% increase. — Kentucky Secretary of State's Office

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— Submitted



The hemp production facility is ready to begin marketing its products. Submitted

CBD

FROM PAGE A1

this just hit it out of the park. It was ideal. We're right on the border. It takes about 35 minutes to get to downtown Nashville. Close to an international airport. We're 25 minutes from Bowling Green." He has become acquainted with musicians in Nashville and wants to market his business as a venue for shooting music videos and having events where locals can come and listen to music and see the operation. While Bardstown has its bourbon trail, Notargiacomo wants a similarly themed

hemp trail, with his Franklin facility as a key stop. "The public can come and see how hemp is grown, inside and outside, and also from a processing standpoint, and how we do things, from the beginning to the end," he said. "We're doing everything from the beginning to end, all here in Kentucky." His interest in the industry was somewhat sparked by his parents and others' reliance on prescriptions to ease the pains of advancing age. His father "started taking it, literally got off a half dozen daily medications and he's doing much better," he said. Notargiacomo wants to have his products ready to go in 60 days, he said.

SIMPSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the Simpson County Farm Bureau Federation will be held August 16th at 6 p.m. at the Franklin-Simpson Community Park AG Building. All members are invited to attend there will be a meal served, door prizes, entertainment, and a meeting to follow directly afterwards.

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