



The Paducah Sun

SATURDAY, July 26, 2014

www.paducahsun.com

Vol. 118 No. 207

For a GREAT deal See Page B10.
Leon Riley Ford

Lighthouse no ordinary job for contractors

Hope Light workers among those touched by cancer

BY DAVID ZOELLER

dzoeller@paducahsun.com

METROPOLIS, Ill. — Most everyone knows someone who has been touched by cancer.

Volunteers working on the Metropolis Hope Light lighthouse project certainly do, like Mark Dillon and his team from Eggemeyer Associates Architects of Carbondale. They were laying bricks around the collar ring circling the 30-foot-tall lighthouse Friday.

The Hope Light is the only lighthouse in the world dedicated to the fight against cancer, according to Rudy Bess, Hope Light Foundation founding director. The bricks are part of the overall effort to raise cancer awareness, many of them personalized by donors to the project commemorating the memory of loved ones.

Eggemeyer Associates has been a partner in the project since it began some nine years ago.

"We were approached back in 2005, and asked if we'd like to design the lighthouse," Dillon said. "At that time, the wife of our owner, Andy Eggemeyer, was battling throat cancer. We thought it would be a great project for us to be involved in, in her honor."

Toni Eggemeyer survived, but in 2009, her husband lost his life to cancer. Dillon subsequently lost his father, and other members lost loved ones to the disease. "It really hit us hard and very personally," Dillon said.

He said the firm is pleased with the outcome. "It's nice to see it finished. It's a great thing for Metropolis and southern Illinois," Dillon said.

Bess is also pleased with the results, and having volunteers like Dillon and his group involved. Eggemey-

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JOHN PAUL HENRY | The Sun

Mark Dillon, president of Eggemeyer Architects, cuts bricks on Friday while laying working with his architecture firm at the Metropolis Hope Light in Metropolis. The lighthouse is part of the Hope Light Mission, which is dedicated to communicating cancer awareness information to impact cancer prevention. "This is out of our hearts," Dillon said of the work they are doing with the lighthouse. He said many at the firm have been affected by cancer.

U.S. says Russia firing on Ukraine

BY DAVID MCHUGH

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Russia is launching artillery attacks from its soil on Ukrainian troops and preparing to move heavier weaponry across the border, the U.S. and Ukraine charged Friday in what appeared to be an ominous escalation of the crisis.

Russia accused Washington of lying and charged Ukraine with firing across the border on a Russian village. It also toughened its economic measures against Ukraine by banning dairy imports.

Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said five salvos of heavy rockets were fired across the border near the town of Kolesnikov in the Luhansk region in the country's east. A border crossing point near Marynovka was fired on twice with mortars, also from the Russian side, while Ukrainian forces shot down three Russian drones, Lysenko said.

If true, the allegations mean Moscow is playing a more direct role in the fighting than it has been accused of up to now — a dangerous turn in what is already the gravest crisis between Russia and the West since the end of the Cold War.

In addition, Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said that the U.S. has seen powerful rocket systems moving closer to the Ukraine border and that they could be put into the hands of the Russian-backed separatists as soon as Friday.

It wasn't clear what those developments mean for the inter-

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Cattle rustling increases in commonwealth

BY GREGORY A. HALL

The Courier-Journal

Cattle rustling, associated with Western movies and stories from frontier days, is increasing in Kentucky, cattlemen say, as record prices entice thieves in the biggest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River.

Lincoln County farmer Boyd

Coleman lost about \$30,000 worth of cattle in a recent theft. That doesn't count the \$15,000 a year he'd have received from selling the cow's offspring in future years.

"I've lost income for years down the road," he said.

About a half dozen incidents have been reported in Lincoln

County since May, said Dan Grigson, the agricultural agent there for the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension.

Grigson said the recent level of thefts is far worse than the one or two annual cases he'd typically hear about over the past 25 years.

"Farmers are constantly hav-

ing things stolen — tools, chainsaws, four-wheelers — that's been going on for 10 years pretty heavy," Grigson said. "... It's gone to the next level when you start taking cows."

There's no central collection of cattle theft statistics in Ken-

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Fire destroys hobby shop's inventory

BY DANIEL PAXTON

dpaxton@paducahsun.com

The fire that blazed through Court Square in downtown Murray on Wednesday morning wrecked three properties and did severe damage to several other businesses.

In the case of Wizard of Sportscards, a collectible shop located on the Square, it also caused the destruction of millions of pieces of sports history.

Earl Schroader opened Wizard of Sportscard in 1995 and says

Please see **FIRE** | 10A



JOHN PAUL HENRY | The Sun

Earl Schroader, owner of Wizard of Sportscards, is surprised that a Halloween doll in his shop survived fire and water damage Thursday in Murray. Schroader said his store suffered about a 95 percent loss of inventory and he lost more than 3 million cards in the Wednesday blaze. Schroader said he has no insurance on the lost items.

Bridge closed 1 more week

Staff report

Drivers hoping to cross the Brookport bridge will have to wait another week or so, despite the fact that completion of the Greenway Trail underpass is on schedule, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

The U.S. 45 bridge connecting Paducah to Brookport, Illinois, has been closed since July 8 to allow for construction of the underpass, scheduled to be finished by Tuesday.

However, the bridge is now projected not to reopen before Aug. 4 so the Transportation Cabinet can repair a damaged beam that was discovered in June.

Engineers had hoped the \$68,269 bridge repair project would be finished around the same time as the underpass, but

a steel beam made to replace the damaged one can't be delivered until Sunday. The beam repair is expected to take about a week, weather permitting.

Transportation Cabinet engineers asked the public on June 18 for information about the vehicle that damaged the beam and caused the bridge to be reduced to a 20-ton load limit while repairs were being planned. With the public's help, transportation officials determined the beam was hit around April 30.

Engineers now believe the vehicle was a red truck, most likely hauling a large piece of equipment. The bridge — which usually carries some 5,000 vehicles across the river each day — is limited to vehicles no more than 8 feet wide, which eliminates most truck traffic.

REGION

PAUL SHARES MESSAGE

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul tells the National Urban League conference that he will introduce legislation to eliminate federal sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine.

3A



SPORTS

GROWING ATTENTION

Graves County sophomore Chris Vogt already is getting attention from college basketball recruiters after an eye-opening summer playing AAU ball.

1B

Forecast

Today

94°

Partly sunny.

3B

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An Eggemeyer Architects employee lays brick on Friday at the Metropolis Lighthouse in Metropolis. There are bricks available for purchase between \$35 to \$100 each.

LIGHTHOUSE

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er Associates did all their work pro bono.

"This has been a great partnership from day one," Bess said.

Of the 960 bricks in the project, about 150 have already been personalized. Donors can purchase a 4-by-8 inch brick for \$35, and a 8-by-8 inch one for \$70. Corporations wishing

to donate can include their logo on the 8-by-8 bricks for \$100.

The lighthouse beacon is visible for 5 miles. The lantern is turned down to half-power, so not to interfere with river navigation, Bess said.

Funding for the approximately \$45,000 project included Metropolis Area Tourism grant money, donated construction work

and materials, and other community support.

"It's a beacon of hope," Bess said. "Lighthouses are about saving lives. That's what we're trying to do. It's about early detection, and treating the disease early. It gives a lot of hope that a lot of lives can be saved."

Contact David Zoeller, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8676.

RUSTLING

CONTINUED FROM 1A

tucky, and rustling sometimes goes unreported because in small numbers it could be attributed to an animal wandering off. But word spreads among cattle farmers when the numbers are larger.

Steve Downs, a Marion County cattleman and president of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, said he heard about a theft over the weekend in neighboring Washington County where six steers and a mature Angus bull were stolen.

"It's getting too close to home over here," he said.

Cattle industry officials say the historic prices make rustling a threat that producers would do well not to ignore.

"Prices are so high that (rustling) is something farmers should be aware of, especially those that live a distance from their cattle or have cattle in places that are easy for someone to get in and out of," said UK agricultural economist Kenny Burdine, who specializes in livestock.

Several factors are behind those prices, Burdine said, including Southwestern droughts the last several years that have forced the culling of herds, resulting in higher demand.

"I have never seen feeder cattle and calf prices this high," Burdine said.

Many cows sell for about \$1,500 at current prices, double the price of five years ago, Grigson said. Drought in big cattle states

— particularly Texas — along with higher costs for grain to feed cattle have figured into the price increase.

"It doesn't take very many calves to add up to a whole lot of money," Grigson said.

Cattle has grown in importance to Kentucky agriculture as tobacco decreased.

Downs said he's surprised there aren't more cases because of the current prices.

"I guess they figured that (since) cattle's where the money is now, we'll start stealing cattle," Downs said. "Pretty good mark up on 'em. Just got to load 'em up and sell 'em."

Branding cattle has largely fallen out of favor in Kentucky, so stockyards don't have a practical way of knowing whether the seller actually owns the cows.

Shelby County cattleman Rondal Dawson said he isn't worried about his cattle being stolen since he lives in a remote area and his home is close to the cattle — though he isn't surprised it's occurring because of the financial incentive.

"They could probably take a feed bucket and steal mine," he said, joking that the livestock would follow the food.

Specialists are urging farmers to be cautious and consider branding, still the most practical identification method available. Attaching an identification tag to the cow's ear is more common in Kentucky than burning the farmer's identi-

fication into the cow's hide. But tagging isn't foolproof, however, because tags can be cut off.

One of the ironies of the crime is that it takes some wherewithal — experience dealing with cattle and a truck — to pull off.

"These are people who know how to handle cattle," Grigson said. "They're used to loading cattle on trucks or trailers or whatever."

For Coleman, whose cattle were taken, there's a sense of betrayal.

The theft of his cattle occurred while he spent about 10 days at a Lexington hospital with his brother who was injured in a wreck and ultimately died. Coleman's cattle were taken from a farm with no home on it and, he suspects, by someone who knew what his situation was.

"That's the thing that hurt worse," he said.

When he got back to the farm, he noticed a dented gate and kept coming up short when he counted cattle. He noticed some cows had stopped producing milk because they didn't have a calf nursing. That's when he notified authorities.

More than 20 cows and calves were gone.

The one silver lining for Coleman is he's had insurance on his herd for the past 18 years. Observers recommend cattlemen consider insuring their herd in addition to common-sense measures such as talking to neighbors about unusual sightings, like strange vehicles on each other's farms.

FIRE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

the store's offerings were unique in the western Kentucky area. The store specialized in sports cards, with millions of those cards lost to fire, smoke and water damage. Also offered in the store were other collectibles such as coins, toys and antiques.

By Friday, Schroader still had not been able to assess damages inside the building himself, but he said the loss is extreme.

"I expect 95 percent of the inventory is going to be gone," said Schroader,

based on what he's seen. He went on to say that it will take time to determine the value of all the damaged inventory, but estimates it to be between \$300,000 and \$600,000.

Schroader first learned of the fire in Court Square from an attendant at a gas station shortly before 5 a.m. Wednesday as he was on the way to his store. As he arrived downtown, Schroader saw the flames roaring.

"Words don't describe what you feel," explained Schroader as to what he felt as he watched the fire burn. "You work all those years

to build all this up, then it's gone in a flash."

Despite all the lost inventory, Schroader does not think the fire spells the end for Wizard of Sportscards. He plans to start the process of reopening the store in the coming months, even though it will likely mean starting from scratch at a new location.

"We'll be back," Schroader professed. "It'll be just like starting all over again, but we'll be back."

Contact Daniel Paxton, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8667.

UKRAINE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

national investigation into the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. U.S. authorities believe the separatists shot it down with a missile, perhaps in the mistaken belief it was a military plane.

A small group of Dutch and Australian investigators combed the sprawling, unsecured field where the plane came down on July 17, taking notes and photos as their governments prepared police detachments they hope can protect the crash site and help bring the last of the 298 victims home.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said the Security Council will likely endorse any agreement that Netherlands and Australia reach with Ukraine on deploying their police to the site. It is "quite likely that the Security Council will want to take note of that agreement, very possibly in a resolution," Lyall Grant said, adding that he wouldn't expect this to be controversial and it could happen very quickly.

U.S. officials said this week that they had new evidence that Russia intended to deliver heavier and more powerful multiple rocket launchers to the separatists. Warren said Friday that the delivery could happen at any time, adding "it's that close" to the border.

Warren also corroborated Ukrainian reports of artillery fire from Russia. He said there was no indication Ukraine had shelled Russia.

"For the last several days Russian forces using Rus-



Investigators examine pieces of the crashed Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 Friday in the village of Rassipne, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine.

sian artillery from Russian soil have conducted attacks against Ukrainian military positions in Ukraine," Warren said. "This is unquestionably an escalation from a military perspective."

Russia's Foreign Ministry responded to U.S. allegations about cross-border shelling by saying: "Facts and details to confirm these lying contentions do not exist."

The allegations come amid a Ukrainian government offensive against the separatists that has won back control of several important towns over the past few weeks.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko told U.S. Vice President Joe Biden in a telephone conversa-

tion Friday that Ukrainian troops are increasingly coming under direct fire from the Russian side of the border, according to a White House statement. Biden told Poroshenko that the U.S. "would continue to coordinate with the European Union and the G-7 about imposing further costs on Russia for its deeply destabilizing and irresponsible actions in Ukraine," the statement said.

Douglas Lute, U.S. ambassador to NATO, accused Russia of waging "civil war by proxy" in Ukraine and said the Russians have about 15,000 troops massed near the border. He spoke at a security forum in Aspen, Colorado.

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