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Family, community mourn Rawlings

Man who lost life in accident had helped save another's

By Rosalind Essig

rosalind.essig@state-journal.com

The family and friends of Will Rawlings are still grieving for the 26-year-old, who was described as compassionate and an advocate for organ donation.

They filled the chapel at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home Tuesday, 11 days after he went missing, listening to stories of Rawlings' days playing baseball, his childhood and his life-saving liver donation to his nephew.

His body was found in the Kentucky River on April 19, less than two miles from where he is believed to have fallen in.

IF YOU GO

• Western Hills High baseball will honor former pitching standout Will Rawlings 5:30 p.m. today during the game with Franklin County at Western Hills. Former teammates and coaches are encouraged to attend. There will be a pregame moment of silence and a balloon release.

The Rawlings family, including Will, was touched by tragedy almost eight years ago. Will's sister, Kelli, was killed in a car accident in Yuma, Arizona, where she was stationed with the Marine Corps. She was just 23 years old.

"It affected all of us — and Will in par-

ticular, because he was the youngest," said Will's mother, Sharon Rawlings.

Kelli's death in 2009 happened around the time of Will's high school graduation and "hit him very hard," Sharon said.

See RAWLINGS, A6

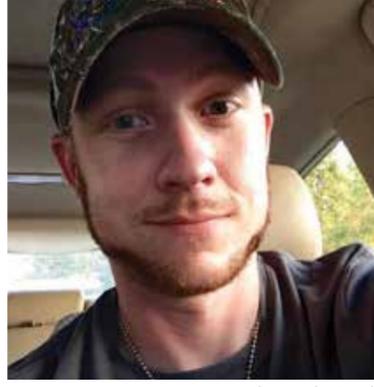


Photo submitted

Will Rawlings' body was found April 19 after several days of authorities searching the Kentucky River.

Having a field day



ABOVE: Cody Miller arrives at Franklin County High School. RIGHT: Miss Kentucky, Laura Jones, arrived at Franklin County High School aboard Zach Anglin's tractor.



Photos by Alfred Miller • alfred.miller@state-journal.com

The smell of diesel fuel and a tinge of John Deere green visited Franklin County High School on Thursday, the 10th annual "Drive Your Tractor to School Day." Students crowded the school's front entrance to cheer on their FFA classmates as they rolled in on tractors big and small. Senior Dustin Penn led the procession, followed by fellow senior Zach Anglin, who brought along Miss Kentucky, Laura Jones, as his passenger. For the full set of photos from the parade, please visit: <http://www.frankfortphotos.com/2017/April-2017/April-28-2017/>.

IT'S IN THE BUDGET

What it costs to fund Ky. fisheries

By Brad Bowman

[@bradleybowman](https://twitter.com/bradleybowman)

The Peter Peiffer Fish Hatchery is a hidden gem among the bucolic twisting turns of Indian Gap Road in northern Franklin County, but with just a \$1 million annual budget, its productivity requires a large net.

For this installment of "It's in the Budget," Josh Pennington, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's fish hatchery manager, shared the costs of harvesting 2016's 151,970 pounds of fish, from a 15-million-plus fish population, to stock many of the state's lakes and rivers.

On Thursday, Pennington and the hatchery's staff had just harvested 4,000 pounds of channel catfish — a slow day.

Since March 1, the hatchery has shipped out more than 120,000 pounds of fish ranging from channel catfish, blue catfish, a hybrid catfish (a blue and channel cat mix) and a hybrid sunfish (a bluegill male crossed with a green sunfish female) to sauger, saugeye and largemouth bass donated as a part of the largemouth bass trophy program.

"Fishermen donate females over 8 pounds and males over 6 pounds. We stock those in ponds

See BUDGET, A8

Employment numbers steady; jobs go unfilled

By Alfred Miller

alfred.miller@state-journal.com

Unemployment rates in the Frankfort area declined slightly last month compared to the same time last year, according to a State Journal analysis of data from the Kentucky Office of Employment and Training.

The combined unemployment rate in Anderson, Franklin, Henry, Owen, Scott, Shelby and Woodford counties last month fell to 4.11 percent from 4.36 percent a year earlier, the analysis revealed. Woodford County boosted the Frankfort area's March to-

tals by recording the lowest unemployment in Kentucky last month at 3.5 percent, followed by Shelby County, which tied with Oldham County for second lowest at 3.7 percent.

The area's 4.11 percent unadjusted unemployment rate is below the national average of 4.6 percent, unadjusted, as well as below the statewide rate of Kentucky's 5.4 percent, unadjusted. The figures are not seasonally adjusted — that is, they are not recalculated to offset the effect of seasonal hiring — as they are derived from those of the Office of Employment and Training, which does not adjust its numbers due to the small sample sizes involved in

its surveys.

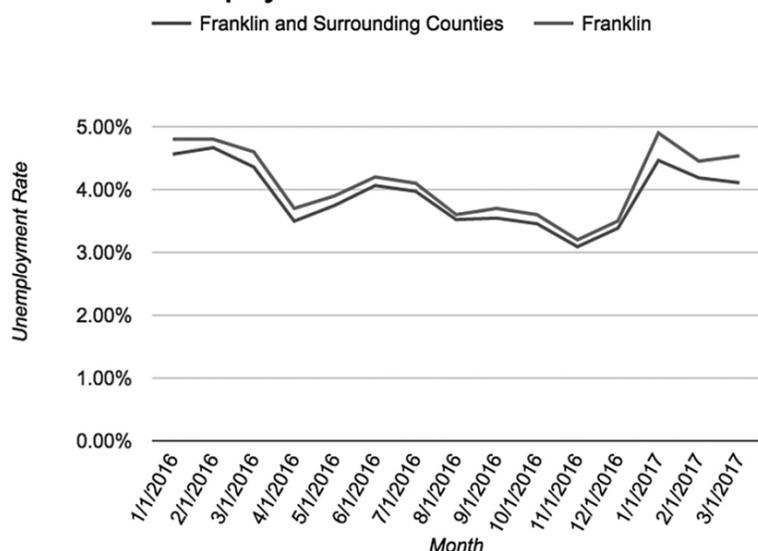
"We consider those numbers to be at full employment," said Kentucky Capital Development Corp. President Terri Bradshaw, describing a state in which all jobs that can be filled in a particular economy are filled. In cases of full employment, economists typically point to a mismatch between skills required and available and normal job changes as the reasons for non-zero unemployment rates.

Bradshaw says the Office of Employment and Training website regularly lists upwards of 900

See JOBS, A6

Month	Franklin and Surrounding Counties Unemployment Rate	Franklin County Unemployment Rate
1/1/2016	4.56%	4.80%
2/1/2016	4.67%	4.80%
3/1/2016	4.36%	4.60%
4/1/2016	3.50%	3.70%
5/1/2016	3.75%	3.90%
6/1/2016	4.06%	4.20%
7/1/2016	3.97%	4.10%
8/1/2016	3.52%	3.60%
9/1/2016	3.55%	3.70%
10/1/2016	3.46%	3.60%
11/1/2016	3.09%	3.20%
12/1/2016	3.39%	3.50%
1/1/2017	4.46%	4.90%
2/1/2017	4.19%	4.45%
3/1/2017	4.11%	4.54%

Unemployment Rate in Frankfort Area



JOBS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

available jobs in Franklin County — an indication, she says, that there are more

jobs than there are people who are suited to take them.

“Just because we are at full employment doesn’t mean there are not still a number of people who are underemployed,” said Bradshaw. “They are skilled enough to have higher-paying jobs, but

maybe those jobs are not available. There are also a number of people who are not skilled enough to have a better job and are currently working a job that does not provide a family-sustainable wage. We need to figure out a way to get them better skills and better-paying jobs.”

The Office of Employment and Training, an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, also cautions that the numbers leave out unemployed Kentuckians who have not sought employment in the past four weeks.

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Kentucky Capital Development Corp. President Terri Bradshaw

RAWLINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

“He just grieved her death and missed her, and would talk about it some,” Sharon said. “Then fast forward to Eli needing a liver and Will stepped up right away and said he wanted to be tested.”

Will’s nephew, Eli, had biliary atresia, a rare disease affecting the liver and bile ducts, according to the Cincinnati Children’s medical center. Rachel Rawlings, Eli’s mother and Will’s sister-in-law, said there was nothing they could do for Will — no matter how big — that could repay Will for what he did for their family.

“That’s kind of hard to put into words. There’s nothing that even compares to that,” Rachel said.

Sharon said the family “sat on pins and needles for a while,” waiting while Will went through strenuous testing, because the smallest thing could have meant Will couldn’t donate to Eli.

“It was such a commitment — physically, men-

“I remember even then standing there, thinking afterward, I thought, ‘Wow, that was something special.’ And I think that even more so now — and I’m glad that Will and I could stand there after that game and share that moment together. And make yet another memory that I did not plan on making with Will.”

Former baseball teammate Matt Friere on sharing a moment with Will Rawlings while a prayer was delivered following a recent softball game

tally and otherwise,” Sharon said. But Will didn’t waver at all.

“He felt like saving Eli’s life was his purpose,” she said.

Will’s liver “was perfect,” she said. He donated 10 ounces of his liver in December 2015, and both he and Eli progressed well.

“There were lots of tears and joy. The surgery was not easy. I’ve never seen anyone in as much pain as he was that first night,” Sharon said.

The week before Will went missing, Eli’s blood work was normal for the first time since the surgery.

Growing

Will was from Frankfort and went to Western Hills High School. He played baseball grow-

ing up. He had worked in some different jobs, finding his interests and what he wanted to do in the future, Sharon said. She added with a laugh that “sometimes none of us figure that out, even at 40 or 50.”

Will worked at Buffalo Trace Distillery in his job with a security company and had met someone — he was saving money and working toward a goal. If he wasn’t working, he helped his mother and father, David, take care of his elderly grandmother. Sharon said it was in her son’s nature to be very kind, caring and empathetic to others.

“He would give you the shirt off of his back,” she said.

Rachel, who graduated from high school with Will’s brother Charlie in

2007, remembered how he treated the people around him.

“He didn’t meet a stranger. He was nice to everybody and gave everybody a chance,” she said.

Sharon said Will loved his family and his nieces and nephews, and his friends and baseball teammates were important to him. He got to share his love of baseball with younger kids by coaching a team last year and had also reconnected with some of his high school teammates to play on softball teams.

One of Will’s old teammates, Matt Freire, spoke at the funeral about a softball game they played together. He said he thought people never know when they’re making memories.

“I was with Will a few hours before he went missing,” he said. “We were playing softball and we were throwing partners, and we were throwing together, just like we’ve done hundreds of times.”

The winning pitcher said a beautiful prayer

about hope because it was a couple of days before Easter Sunday, Freire said.

“I remember even then standing there, thinking afterward, I thought, ‘Wow, that was something special.’ And I think that even more so now — and I’m glad that Will and I could stand there after that game and share that moment together. And make yet another memory that I did not plan on making with Will.”

In high school, Sharon said, Will was a pitcher and played shortstop and second base, though he would play any position because he just wanted to be on the field.

Of all the memories that come with years of being a baseball parent, Will’s senior night is important to Sharon. Will pitched that game and the team won, but it wasn’t just another game. It was just days after his sister’s death.

Will’s teammates lined up along the third base line with their arms around each other, and surrounded him with a prayer when he took the mound.

“I think that must have been very hard to do, but he wanted to do it in Kelli’s honor,” Sharon said.

David said it was an emotional night, but he was proud of Will.

“He did a very good job. He kept his composure because he wanted

to have a good performance for his sister,” David said.

And he did just that. Sharon said Will had one of the “best pitching nights that he had ever had,” adding that she had the stats from the game saved.

Western Hills baseball team will honor Rawlings during their game Friday night.

Understanding

Franklin County Coroner Will Harrod said that the autopsy was able to rule out the possibility of any trauma being caused by another person. Will Rawlings’ death appears to be consistent with drowning, but because there were no witnesses on the river bank with him that night, Harrod said there are limits to the answers that can be found about what happened before he fell.

Sharon thinks her son just went to the river to shine the flashlight in briefly and see the conditions. He knew that she would be calling and always answered when she did.

“We’ve had so much heartache that he just completely respected that,” she said. “... That night I called and he didn’t answer his phone.”

He had gone to get something to eat and was driving with his windows down, listening to music. After he went to look in the water, he would have come home. David said Will enjoyed life and being with people.

“He was just a good kid. I was very proud of him,” he said.

Eli is too young to understand that Will saved his life or to understand what happened to Will, Sharon said, but he has asked a few times where “Uncle Will” is. She said he’s a smart boy.

“Most recently,” Sharon said, “Rachel was lying down with Eli to help him go to sleep and he pointed to his scar and said, ‘Uncle Will up in the air.’”

The family knows that Uncle Will isn’t the only one who is up in the air watching over them — they believe Kelli has been there for them, too.

“We have no doubt that not only has God been with us through all of this, because there have been so many miracles, but he had a special angel on his shoulder and so did Will,” Sharon said.

INSPECTION PERIOD FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

The Franklin County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from **May 1 through May 15, 2017**. Under the supervision of the Property Valuation Administrator or one of the deputies, any person may inspect the tax roll. This is the January 1, 2017 assessment on which state, county and all local taxes including school taxes for 2017 will be due and payable.

The tax roll is located in the office of the Property Valuation Administrator in the Courthouse Annex and **may be inspected during the above dates between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays 9:00 a.m. -12 noon.**

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA **must first request a conference** with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy, **may appeal to the County Board of Assessment Appeals.**

The taxpayer can appeal his assessment by filing in person or sending a letter or other written petition stating the reasons for appeal, identifying the property and stating the taxpayer’s opinion of the **fair cash value of the property.**

The appeal must be filed with the County Clerk’s office no later than one work day following the conclusions of the inspection period.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the County Board of Assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal to the **Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.**

Appeals of personal property assessments **shall not** be made to the County Board of Assessment Appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the office of the Property Valuation Administrator.

- (1) He must list under protest (for certification) what he believes to be the fair cash value of his property.
- (2) He must file a written protest directly with the Department of Revenue, Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of assessment.
- (3) This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.
- (4) The final decision of the Department of Revenue may be appealed to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Franklin County Property Valuation Administrator

313 West Main Street – Room 209, Second Floor – Courthouse Annex, Frankfort, KY 40601
Web Site: www.FranklinCountyPVA.com
502-875-8780; FAX 502-226-5495



Household Hazardous WasteSpringCollection

**Saturday, April 29
8:00 AM- 12:00 PM**

**Frankfort Recycling Center
309 Rouse Ave (off Holmes St)**

Open for Frankfort and Franklin County residents.
Must show valid identification.
First 500 vehicles.
Please, no early drop offs

Items to be collected include:

- Poison (liquid and solid) • Herbicide (liquid and solid) • Batteries (all types) • Aerosol cans • Propane cylinders • Oil based paint
- Solvents, gasoline, thinners • Antifreeze • Fluorescent tubes
- Fire extinguishers • Adhesives, tars • Asbestos • Corrosive acids, bases, cleaners • Dioxins • Fertilizers • Organic peroxides • Reactive solids
- Oxidizers • Flammable solids • Mercury • Freon, acetylene, etc
- Electronics (including box-style TVs) •

Items not accepted:

Water based paints (latex or acrylic): These paints may be hardened with sand, kitty litter or a paint hardener and disposed of in the trash.

Motor oil and hydraulic oil: These materials are accepted at local retailers or at the Franklin County Road Department on the first Wednesday of each month.

Medications: may be disposed of at the Frankfort Police Department or Health Department

Questions? Contact Blair Hecker, 875-8751