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Nice catch
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Acting Commissioner Jemley's address to graduating class

Eleven new Kentucky conservation officer recruits completed the academy phase of their training last week. Their academies included 23 weeks of basic police training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training, and another 12 weeks in the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife conservation officers academy.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Acting Commissioner Frank Jemley addressed the 11 new conservation officers at their graduation ceremony just prior to their taking the oath of office.

Here is the text of his address.

Good afternoon and welcome to the Graduation Ceremony for Recruit Class 21 of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Law Enforcement Division.

Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the graduation of our eleven new conservation officers.

Please rise and remain standing as the Honor Guard presents the colors for the National Anthem.

This is not just a bright spring day. It's an exciting and significant day.

Exciting for you and your families, gentlemen, because you are concluding a



Franklin District Judge Chris Olds administers the oath of service to 11 new Kentucky Fish and Wildlife conservation officers at a graduation ceremony in Frankfort. The new conservation officers include Andrew Amburgey, Jonathan Barks, James Berry, Timothy Brett, Kyle Clark, Clint Cox, Paul Hughes, Alexander Kidd, Floyd Maggard, Dylan Martin and Paul Sorrell.

Dave Baker photo

demanding nine months of training, and because you and your families will no longer have to spend days and nights apart, as you have these past months.

Significant because you are embarking

on a career that will make a difference for our Commonwealth, continuing a proud tradition for our Department.

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INSIDE:



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Gibson, Cox appointed to lead Law Enforcement, Administrative Services divisions

A 22-year law enforcement veteran and a career Kentucky state government fiscal management specialist are joining the executive management staff at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Acting Commissioner Frank Jemley announced two key appointments last week. Retired Kentucky State Police Sergeant Eric D. Gibson will head the agency's Law Enforcement Division, and Lisa Cox, who served concurrently as director of fiscal management in three Kentucky cabinets, will become the department's new director of the Administrative Services Division.

Gibson and Cox assume their new roles June 1.

"Eric Gibson and Lisa Cox each have long, distinguished professional careers

and their experiences will benefit Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife and Kentucky's sportsmen and sports-women immensely," said Jemley.

Gibson said he is excited to join an agency that he respects tremendously. "To lead one of the premier law enforcement agencies in Kentucky – I am just humbled by the opportunity," he said. "I am looking forward to building some great relationships with our officers and moving the division forward."

Cox echoed those sentiments, saying she is "very excited to be returning to Kentucky government."

Since retiring in 2013 from the Office of the Controller in the Finance and Administration Cabinet, Cox has worked at NTT Data, serving as a contracted budget analyst for the Cabinet of Health and Family Services. She worked in a fiscal

capacity since 1991, serving as a director in fiscal management in four cabinets.

Her management experience includes the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet and the Auditor of Public Accounts. She lives in Lawrenceburg with her husband, Mark, and son, Reese.

Gibson began his Kentucky State Police career in 1995 in the Richmond post. He received a promotion to sergeant in 2006 and detective sergeant a year later.

Gibson led a multi-agency task force investigating illegal narcotics in central Kentucky, later becoming assistant commander and operations director of the Governor's Marijuana Strike Force. He retired from state police in 2017.

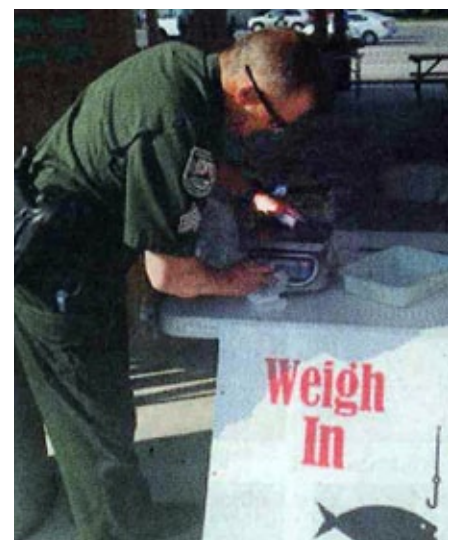
He resides in Danville with his wife, Lachesha, and their four children.

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

This note was received from Glenn Reid, President/CEO of Clinton Bank in Clinton, Kentucky:

"Our bank and the local Rotary Club have recently held our first youth fishing tournament at the Rotary Park of Clinton. Thank you for your part in the development of this community resource and the regular stocking of fish. Conservation Officer Denny Broyles helped in the planning and execution of the event, which could not have been as successful without his participation."



Conservation Officer Denny Broyles helps with weighing their fish.

CAMP CURRIE DINING HALL RIBBON CUTTING



Camp Currie celebrated its readiness for the 2018 summer camp season by cutting the ribbon on its new dining hall. Fish and Wildlife Commission members conducted the official announcement as camp staff members and retirees joined in the fun. Camp staff and other were out in force for the ceremony, as were some retired legends, former camp superintendent Dick Hudson and his wife, former camp cook Mabel Hudson, and conservation educator Rory Flynn. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation was a significant underwriter for the new facility, and Executive Director Rachel Crume thanked those in attendance for their support.



Cargill Company donates plastic pallets for fish habitat

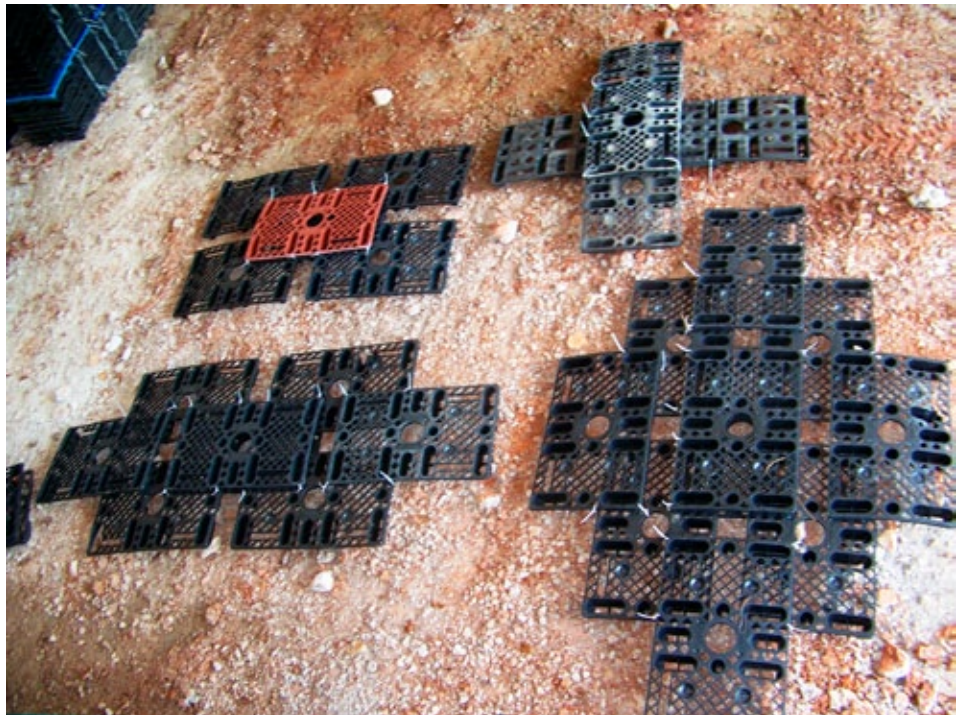
The Cargill Company in Winchester is taking a “green” approach to its disposal of plastic pallets.

The plant is donating its plastic pallets to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, who converts them to fish habitat to be placed in lakes and streams.

Plant manager Jeff Mayo and assistant plant manager Roger Pitts are leading Cargill's effort.

The Department uses the materials to build underwater pallet trees. Fisheries biologist Eric Cummins says the new habitat will likely find a home in Green River Lake and possibly some state owned lakes.

In a photo below, Mayo presents loads of pallets to Phillip Matlock of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.



Commission committees meet at Kentucky Dam

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission conducted its quarterly committee meetings this month at Kentucky Dam village. The committee members discussed a long list of wildlife and fisheries issues before a large group in attendance that they will bring before the full commission in June.





MERCER FISH AND GAME FISHING DERBY

The Mercer Outdoors Group of the Mercer Fish and Game Club's 6th Annual Fishing Derby, co-sponsored by the Harrodsburg Police Department DARE Program, attracted more than 130 people, including about 70 youth earlier this month. DARE sponsorship ensured that every youth received a prize, but most were thrilled to catch fish. Conservation officer Jason Wells is always instrumental in getting the event together and held young son, Asher, while helping get balloons filled.



REACHING A MILESTONE

With the arrival of a new barge for Duck Island and the removal of the old Barge, the circle is complete. Several Division staff have heard about the old barge, but not many ever were able to see the vessel used over the last few decades to move equipment out to the island to do work. It is on its way out, and appears as if it, or parts of it, will spend its remaining years in Minnesota. *Pat Habs photo*

Commission members hope prep trapshooters step up to State Shoot Challenge

The members of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission are challenging Kentucky high school trapshooting teams to compete this year at the Kentucky State Trap Shoot.

Fish and Wildlife Commission members are excited to make you aware of a trophy section of the 2018 Kentucky State Trap Singles Championship this summer designated especially for you.

The Kentucky Singles Championship, a 200-target event in the 115th Kentucky State Trap Shoot, Saturday, July 7, will crown the 2018 Kentucky State Trap Singles Champion. The event also will include the second annual Kentucky Trapshooters League (KTL) "Kentucky High School Challenge" open to all Kentucky high schools.

Teams consist of five shooters from the same high school, and schools may enter more than one team.

Shooters from high schools without an established trapshooting team may form an eligible team by acquiring a letter from the school's athletics director to accompany their entry. Teams must enter by 9 a.m. on the day of the shoot, and the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission hope youth shooters will take full advantage of this opportunity.

KTL will award champion and runner-up trophies to winning high schools and team members. High female and high male shooters will receive belt buckles.

Fish and Wildlife Commission Member and competitive trapshooter Kenny Knott says Kentucky High School youth should get their teams together and enjoy this unique experience on trapshooting's biggest Kentucky stage.

"The Kentucky State Trap Shoot is Kentucky's premier annual trapshooting event," said Knott, who is challenging

his fellow Commission members to field teams from their districts. "It presents awesome opportunities for young shooters to see and mingle among some of the nation's best trapshooters, step up to the line and break some clays on a major stage, and put some special hardware in their school trophy case and their own."

The Commission is creating its own traveling Challenge Trophy that will be held by the high scoring team each year.

For more information, check out the program for the 115th Kentucky State Trap Shoot [here](#).



GUIST CREEK LAKE SAUGEYE

Three-year-old Sawyer Wilkes, son of Fisheries Division Assistant Director Paul Wilkes, caught this 17-inch saugeye while fishing Guist Creek Lake earlier this month with his dad. (Note to retired Information and Education Director Tim Slone – Sawyer says he is happy to help you with your saugeye fishing technique.)

“Address,” continued

We are grateful to you for your willingness to serve Kentucky, and to your families and loved ones for their willingness to support you in your service.

What better time to begin your professional journey as a Kentucky conservation officer than the start of a Memorial Day Weekend, as our country celebrates the sacrifices of so many who gave the last full measure of devotion so that we may live in, grow, and protect this greatest nation on earth.

I encourage you to remember the essence of the oath you are about to take, so that it will guide your actions as a conservation officer: to faithfully execute the laws of this Commonwealth.

You have volunteered for a difficult job.

As a conservation officer, you will be part goodwill ambassador for our Department, helping the public, representing Fish and Wildlife, serving the sportsmen and sportswomen of Kentucky.

You will enforce and encourage compliance with the hunting, fishing, and boating laws of the Commonwealth.

And you will be a police officer, authorized to keep the peace by enforcing all of the laws of Kentucky.

You should rest assured that you are supported by our Department and by our government.

As you commence your service in the field, I want to give you your standing orders as conservation officers of the Commonwealth:

1. Make your safety and that of the public your top priority, at all times.



After the ceremony, as his fellow classmates looked on, new officer Clint Cox took the opportunity to propose to his childhood sweetheart, Ashley Gibson. She said yes. *Dave Baker photo*

2. The hunting, fishing, and boating laws of the Commonwealth are your enforcement priorities.

3. Respect and obey the chain of command. Remember that when you do so, the chain of command protects you.

4. Remember also that good order and discipline are essential to the success of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement and to the safety of you and your fellow and sister officers.

5. Do your duty, and do so with honor. Operate at all times with integrity.

6. Be mindful that you must earn the public's trust. Protect that trust through your words and deeds.

7. Represent Fish and Wildlife well. Make your pride in your profession and your organization always evident to our fellow citizens.

Those are your orders, gentlemen.

Now it is time to administer your oath.

It is my pleasure to ask Judge David Olds of Franklin District Court to do so.

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Gentlemen, welcome aboard the Fish and Wildlife Team. To your loved ones, we welcome you to the Fish and Wildlife family.

This concludes our ceremony. Thank you again for joining us this afternoon. Happy Memorial Day.