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Wednesday, March 07, 2001

Kentucky News Briefs

Suspect denies dumping body

BURLINGTON — A 22-year-old Petersburg man accused of dumping a body in the Ohio River pleaded not guilty in a Boone County court Tuesday to charges of tampering with physical evidence and abuse of a corpse.

Richard Lambert was extradited from Ohio this week and is being held in the Boone County jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail. He could face up to five years in prison if found guilty of tampering with physical evidence, the most serious of the two charges.

Police suspect Mr. Lambert dumped a body from a Petersburg boat ramp into the river. Police have said blood was found in his pickup truck and on the boat ramp leading to the river.

Boone County Water Rescue and police suspended their search for the body on Sunday because of deteriorating weather and river conditions. The search will resume when conditions improve, said Boone County police spokesman Lt. Jack Banks.

State troopers plan roadblocks

LAGRANGE — State troopers from Post 5 will set up roadblocks in Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Oldham, Owen and Trimble counties during the next month. This includes the stretch of Interstate 71 that runs between Sparta and Louisville.

Most of the checkpoints will be during weekend nights. Police said they will be targeting people driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. But troopers will also check to see whether drivers are buckled up and children are secured in car seats.

Kenton Co. class offers budget tips



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COVINGTON — Basic budgeting tips will be discussed at a free class offered March 20 at the Kenton County Cooperative Extension office.

The class will focus on ways to trim expenses and track spending. It will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the cooperative extension office at 10990 Marshall Road.

To register, call (859) 356-3155.

Free class covers basics of computers

COVINGTON — If you have a computer in your home and don't know a thing about it, the Kenton County Cooperative Extension office is offering a class in Computer 101.

The class will be offered March 29 at the extension office at 10990 Marshall Road.

The class is free, but enrollment is limited to eight. Call (859) 356-3155 to register.

Murgatroyd joins group's board

WASHINGTON — Kenton County Judge-executive Dick Murgatroyd has been elected to the board of directors of the County Executives of America.

Mr. Murgatroyd, a first-term Republican judge-executive and former two-term state representative, joins Jefferson County Judge-executive Rebecca Jackson on the board. Louisville Mayor David Armstrong previously served as president of the group.

“Judge Dick Murgatroyd brings a unique perspective to the board, having served in the state legislature,” said Robert Eckles, county judge of Harris County, Texas. “During the two years since he joined this organization, he has demonstrated a sincere interest in learning how things are done in other counties, and is a strong advocate for his county in Washington. We are pleased he has agreed to serve on our board.”

Kenton official seeks federal dollars

WASHINGTON — Kenton County Judge-executive Dick Murgatroyd recently sought federal assistance for major initiatives.

During a meeting with Karl Rove, special assistant to President Bush, Mr. Murgatroyd sought funding for mobile terminals for all public safety vehicles in Kenton County, flood

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mitigation funds for the Banklick area and \$5 million for a new jail.

Racial profiling bill gets approval

FRANKFORT — A Senate-passed bill to prod Kentucky law enforcement agencies into banning racial profiling was approved by the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

Police agencies whose officers get extra pay from a state training incentive fund would lose that funding if they refused, under the bill by Sen. Gerald Neal, D-Louisville.

The bill would require the Justice Cabinet to draft a model policy against racial profiling. About 360 departments and agencies around the state would have to adopt it.

Racial profiling refers to officers targeting individuals by race. A number of cities and states — including New Jersey — have enacted ordinances and laws that prohibit the practice following racial profiling studies of law enforcement.

Senate votes to plug loophole

FRANKFORT — The Senate on Tuesday gave final passage to legislation to plug a multimillion-dollar hole in the state budget caused by a Kentucky Supreme Court ruling.

By a vote of 36-0, the Senate passed legislation to restore a sales tax exemption only for equipment purchased for new or expanded manufacturing industry. The court ruled last year that the exemption should apply to equipment bought by most companies, including retailers.

Since the ruling, the Revenue Cabinet said it has received requests for exemptions from many companies, including for such things as pizza ovens.

The cabinet estimated it could lose as much as \$70 million annually in sales tax receipts and might have to refund as much as \$300 million. The legislation would close the loophole and prohibit refunds unless they were filed before the court ruling.

The House has already passed the bill, and it now goes to Gov. Paul Patton for his signature.

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