

A look back at 2006

in western Kentucky and southern Illinois

Wednesday, January 03, 2007

January

1: Western Baptist Hospital welcomed far western Kentucky's first baby of the year, and her fraternal twin sister a minute later.

Kassey Lynn Douglas was born at 4:51 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and was 17 inches long. Callie Ann Douglas was born at 4:52 a.m. She weighed 5 pounds, 9 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long. They are the first children of Greg Douglas, 40, a farmer, and his wife, Michele, 33, a teacher at Graves County High School.

2: LA CENTER, Ky. — Senior Jessica Rodgers and her fellow 420 students ogled at \$1.6 million in state-of-the-art technology during the first day of classes at the new Ballard Memorial High School.

7: HICKMAN, Ky. — It turns out the amount of unbilled or uncollected franchise taxes in Fulton County is half as much as originally thought. State Auditor Crit Luallen said that the uncollected franchise taxes are \$270,794, not the almost \$600,000 that was reported in an audit by her office and made public earlier this week.

8: Judge-executives in McCracken and Marshall counties issue burn bans in those counties until further notice after high winds caused several fires to spread quickly, but injured no one.

The most serious fire damage was at Green Turtle Bay Marina on Kentucky Lake, near Grand Rivers. Four boats were destroyed, and six others had light to moderate damage.

9: Joe Harry Metzger Jr. says he's just tired. He spent basically his whole life with the family business, Metzger Packing Co. Inc., 520 S. 2nd St., which closed its doors for the final time today after 145 years in business.

9: Paducahans Fred and Peggy Paxton establish a \$1 million endowment through the Community Foundation of West Kentucky to help local African-Americans improve their education and find gainful employment here. Civic leaders seek at least another \$1 million in matching money from individuals, businesses and organizations to supplement the new McCracken County Community Career Endowment, said Paducah Mayor Bill Paxton.

10: HICKMAN, Ky. — Hog farmers plan to file a lawsuit within 10 days challenging a new Fulton County ordinance they say is too restrictive and cost-prohibitive. Fulton County farmer Jim Moss said, "There's no more contemplation." Fulton Fiscal Court passed the ordinance 3-2. It requires barns to be built at least 2,000 feet from schools, homes, businesses and other structures, compared with 1,500 feet under a previous ordinance. The new regulations double the setback distance from roads to 300 feet and require a minimum of 5,000 feet between barns and city limits.