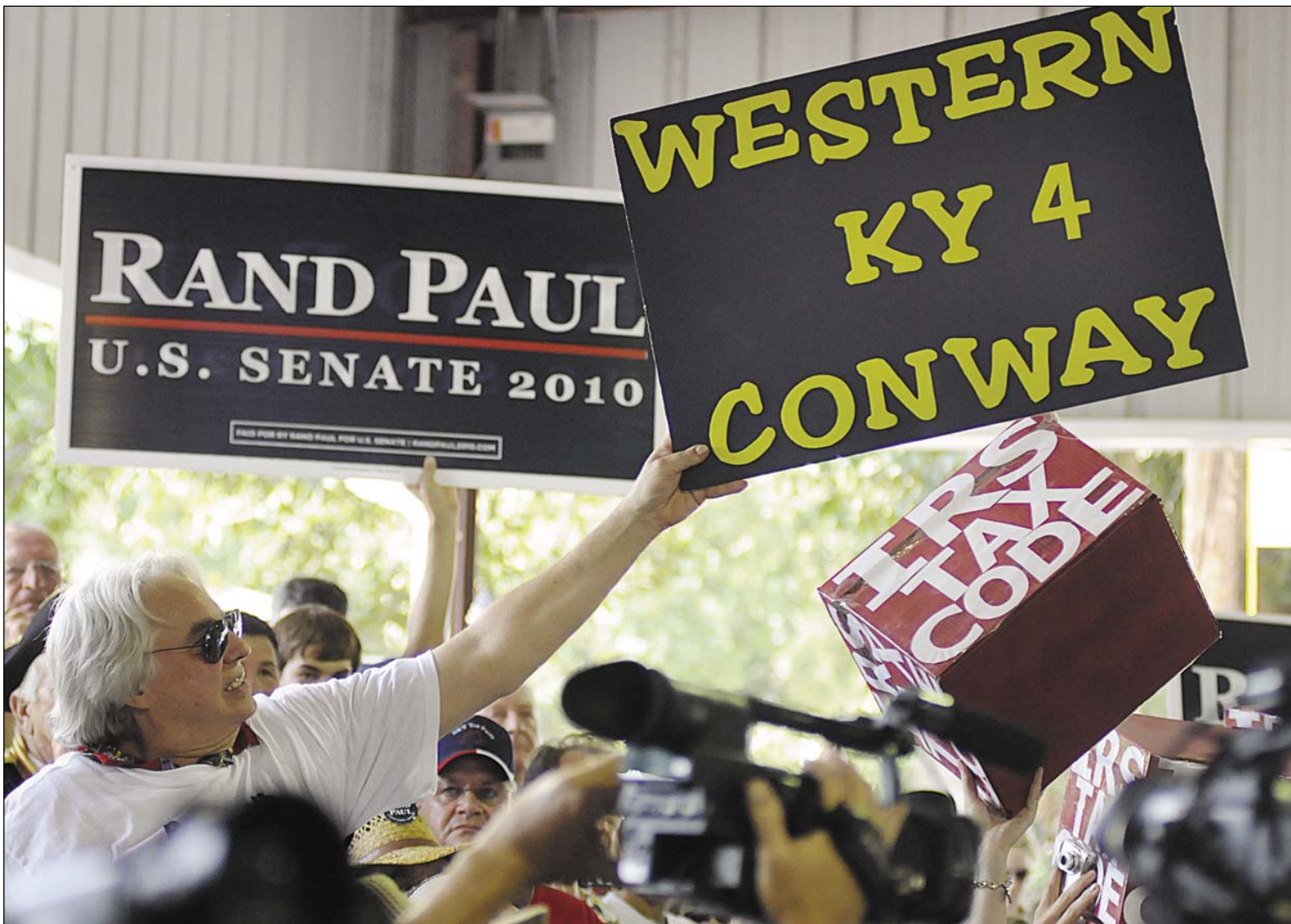


Picnic speaking lacks the unexpected



JOHN WRIGHT | The Sun

A supporter of U.S. Senate candidate Jack Conway uses a sign supporting the Democrat to strike a prop a supporter for Republican opponent Rand Paul was using during Paul's speech at the Fancy Farm Picnic in Graves County on Saturday. Paul was discussing how he believes the federal tax code has too many pages to read, prompting supporters in the crowd to hoist red boxes with 'IRS TAX CODE' written on them. More on the Fancy Farm Picnic, **Page 7A**.

Senate candidates' speeches don't skew from scripts

BY BILL BARTLEMAN
bartleman@paducahsun.com

FANCY FARM — U.S. Senate candidates stuck to their campaign scripts at Saturday's Fancy Farm Picnic before the largest crowd in recent years.

Republican Rand Paul said Democrat Jack Conway supports a liberal Washington agenda that includes bigger government, more taxes and more regulations.

He said meeting existing tax laws and regulations is complicated and costs businesses and individuals more than \$1 trillion a year. He said the 16,000-page federal tax code is seven feet tall while the 79,000 pages of federal regulations are 30 feet tall.

"We don't need new regulations; we need to enforce the ones we've got."

Rand Paul

"Rand Paul is against nearly all federal spending except that which feathers his own nest."

Jack Conway

al tax code is seven feet tall while the 79,000 pages of federal regulations are 30 feet tall.

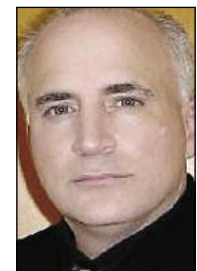
"We don't need new regulations; we need to enforce the ones we've got," Paul said.

Paul said the federal government must stop borrowing and balance the budget. He said Democrats believe they can end the recession by creating government jobs. "We believe that private individuals and business create jobs," Paul said.

Conway said Paul's views are too risky and radical for Kentucky because his policies threaten farm subsidies, worker safety and education, all of which are important to Kentucky's future.

He said Paul doesn't believe businesses should be held accountable

Please see **FANCY FARM** | 8A



Melancon

because it is one of eight states that do not require trailers to have safety chains that help prevent disconnection from the vehicles towing them. "If you choose to build your home without a smoke detector, then you only affect your life," Melancon said. "If you choose to tow a trailer without safety chains, then you affect other people."

Melancon said he is also concerned that most states have no standard for trailer hitches and no system for checking trailers before approving them as safe for the roads.

15,000 dead

An average of more than one person a day dies in crashes involving trailers, according to federal data. Such wrecks killed 382 people in 2008, the most recent year for which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has statistics.

Please see **TRAILERS** | 5A



ADAM SHULL | The Sun

Leroy Harper shows off his most prized comic books in his West Paducah home Thursday. Some of the books range in value from \$2 to \$25,000.

Paducah man has comic collection to keep up with nation's growing interest

BY ADAM SHULL
ashull@paducahsun.com

Leroy Harper, 48, gets a few snickers when he tells friends and co-workers at USEC he has a massive comic book collection.

The yuks usually stop when Harper tells them how much some of his 8,000 comics are worth.

"The Batman comic is worth about \$8,000," Harper said in his West

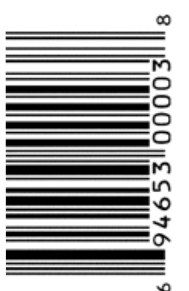
Paducah home, referencing a 1940 edition of D.C. Comics No. 1. Beside the comic in a plastic casing with Batman and Robin swinging on ropes sat another one even more valuable.

"I've turned down \$22,000 for this one," Harper said, looking at a 1941 edition of a Captain America comic. Harper estimates the latter to be

Please see **COMICS** | 3A

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The Lineup

Monday

Paducah VA Clinic, 12:30-3:30 p.m., 2620 Perkins Creek Drive. Veterans and their families provided counseling and assistance in filing benefits. By appointment, walk-ins as time allows. 444-8465

Barkley Regional Airport Authority Board of Directors monthly meeting, 3:30 p.m., Midwest Aviation conference room, 200 Hardy Roberts Drive, West Paducah.

West Kentucky Songwriters Chapter, Nashville Songwriters Association International, 6-8 p.m. Curris Center, Murray State University. 293-7252.

Ledbetter Masonic Lodge 952 F&AM, 7 p.m. Meal at 6:15.

Graves County Genealogical Society, 7 p.m., Graves County Library. Refreshments. David Cissell, 247-4010.

Paducah Masonic Lodge No. 127 F&AM, 7:30 p.m. , 24th and Jackson streets. Meal at 6. 443-3127.

Blood drive

11:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m., today, Reidland United Methodist Church, 5515 Reidland Road.

Traffic alerts

Beltline one lane westbound and eastbound from Old Mayfield Road to 21st Street, curb work. Project to continue through mid-September.

U.S. 60 one lane between Borden Road and Barlow, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., for repairs; work to take about six weeks.

In Our Schools

- Marshall County school board, special session, 4 p.m. Wednesday, board office. Recommendation to approve declaration of school emergency to replace heating/air conditioning system at high school.
- Calloway County school board, 6 p.m., Thursday, at Calloway County Day Treatment Center, 2003 College Farm Road.

Saturday's lottery
Kentucky
Pick 3-midday: 7-9-1
Pick 3-evening: 1-2-1
Pick 4-midday: 6-9-0-5
Pick 4-evening: 2-8-5-4
Cash Ball: 14-15-16-28 **CB** 26
Cash Ball Kicker: 4-1-0-1-4
Win For Life: 02-17-25-26-30-33
FreeBall: 22
Powerball: 04-22-26-31-52 **PB** 30

Numbers are unofficial.
Website: www.kylottery.com
Lottery headquarters: (Louisville) 502-560-1500
Regional Office (Madisonville) 270-825-0205

Illinois
Pick 3-midday: 6-8-1
Pick 3-evening: 2-7-8
Pick 4-midday: 4-6-3-2
Pick 4-evening: 6-2-9-1
Little Lotto: 7-20-24-28-37
Lotto: 4-7-13-37-45-47
Est. Lotto Jackpot: \$4.5 million

Website: www.illinoislottery.com
800-252-1775
Outside Illinois: 217-524-5156

Workers rally over plant lockout

BY DANIELLE RAY
dray@paducahsun.com
METROPOLIS, Ill. — Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor once said that we don't accomplish anything on our own; we do it together.

United Steelworkers Local 7-669 echoed that notion Saturday afternoon as more than 1,000 members and supporters marched down East Fifth Street to Fort Massac State Park for a union rally.

Mike Mezo, staff representative for USW's district office in Gary, Ind., was shocked at the turnout — he was expecting only a few hundred attendees. Union workers — including United Mine Workers, millwrights, plumbers and pipefitters from northwest Indiana, Chicago, Calvert City, Paducah and Granite City, Ill. — also gathered to show their support.

"It was a good show of labor solidarity," said Mezo.

The march was in support of union workers at the nuclear fuel-producing Honeywell plant. The company locked its doors June 28 after lengthy negotiations failed to produce a contract agreement. The company and union have met once since then, without substantial advance, said Dave Dowling, director of USW's sub-district 2, headquartered in Granite City.

The company has offered a contract that would offer increased wages over the life of the contract but asks the union to pay a greater portion of health insurance costs, comparable to what other nonunion workers pay, said Honeywell spokesman Peter Dalpe in a statement.

Dalpe said that the facility lost \$100 million over the past 10 years and is on track to lose \$20 million this year. Meanwhile, hourly employees at the plant received an average annual compensation of



DANIELLE RAY | The Sun

Members and supporters of the United Steel Workers Local 7-669 march down East Fifth Street to Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis, Ill., for a Saturday afternoon rally. The workers have been locked out of Honeywell since the two sides failed to reach a contract agreement June 28.

\$103,000 in 2009, including base pay, overtime and benefits, said Dalpe.

Mezo said the union has offered to cut costs in employee health insurance, pensions and salaries.

Mezo believes money could be the driving force behind the lockout. The plant is the only first-stage uranium enrichment facility in the country. It manufactures uranium hexafluoride. Mezo said that upon ratification of a new contract, the company stands to make a large profit from its product as market prices for uranium hexafluoride continue to rise.

But the company refuted the theory.

"There is absolutely no connection between our efforts at the bargaining table to resolve the current work stoppage and our customer contracts," said Dalpe.

Dalpe also released new details about anonymous acts of vandalism and harassment targeting both salaried employees and temporary contingent workers.

Incidents have included threats via telephone and text message, slashed tires, a rock thrown through a house window and herbicide applied to an employee's yard and garden, according to Dalpe.

"These actions do not reflect the way we do things in Metropolis," Dalpe said. "We hope that the union will join us in condemning these dangerous and unproductive behaviors."

Contract talks resume Tuesday.

Contact Danielle Ray, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8657.

Dalton-Russell named WKCTC vice president

Staff report
West Kentucky Community & Technical College has named Belinda A. Dalton-Russell vice president of student affairs.

Student affairs at WKCTC encompasses academic advising, recruiting, career services and student life.

Dalton-Russell most recently served seven years as associate vice president of

student services at Danville Area Community College in Danville, Ill. She served simultaneously for four years as chief student affairs officer at Lakeview College of Nursing in Danville. She also has worked at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Ill., Harris Stowe State College in St. Louis, Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J., Glassboro State College in Glassboro, N.J., and the University of Memphis.

She earned her doctorate in organizational leadership from the University of Sarasota, master's degree in counseling/higher education administration from Murray State University, a bachelor's degree in sociology/psychology from the Florida International University, and at the

age of 17 earned an associate degree in counseling services from Shawnee Community College. She completed post-doctoral work at Columbia University in New York.

She is married to Martin Russell. Her father, Dorris Edward Dalton Sr., is a lifelong resident of Wickliffe. Her mother, Shirley Virginia Dalton, resides in Future City, Ill.



Dalton-Russell

Marshall school regains its cool in time for classes

Staff report
Teachers, staff members and students can expect to start the school year next week with a well air-conditioned Marshall County High School, district facilities director Danny Davis said Friday.

A 400-ton portable air-conditioning unit mounted on a tractor-trailer bed began cooling the

Draffenville school Friday. Davis secured the equipment from Ohio after the school's main unit, which dates to the building's original construction in 1974, stopped working last week. To worsen matters, a secondary system added during a school expansion also no longer works.

The temperature at the school

rose to 85 in recent days, Davis said. The outlook improved by late afternoon Friday, and Davis predicted teachers would work in comfort Monday. Thursday is students' first day.

The portable unit can handle the cooling job until the district installs a replacement system, Davis said. That process will accelerate after the Marshall school board holds a special meeting at 4 p.m. Wednesday to declare a school emergency and hire an engineering firm to design the new system. That will shorten the time needed in the contracting process, he said.

Davis declined to estimate the cost of a new system.

NEWS TRACKER

1. On the street, in lobbies and at dinner, TVs seem to be everywhere. **1E**
2. Vets diagnose war stress in dogs. **1B**
3. Lone Oak volleyball team ready to close the deal in First Region. **1C**
4. Three women on high court: Historic but impact unclear. **4B**
5. Lucasfilm, George Lucas' production company, has started a project aimed at capturing — and promoting — the ongoing obsession with the "Star Wars" brand. **6D**



Forecast

Today
96°
Mostly sunny.
8C

Coming Up ...

MONDAY ■ Promotions and awards at regional businesses. <i>People & Business</i>	TUESDAY ■ Baseball: Cardinals at Cincinnati. <i>Sports</i>	WEDNESDAY ■ Food and beverages: Get the delicious details. <i>Taste</i>	THURSDAY ■ Friday at Maiden Alley Cinema: 48 Hour Film Project. <i>Current</i>	FRIDAY ■ News from the local church communities. <i>Faith</i>	SATURDAY ■ What's going on in the great outdoors. <i>Outdoors</i>	SUNDAY ■ Health care reform: What's in store for businesses? <i>Business</i>
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TRAILERS: ‘A big load, if you’re even up to the weight limit, you need to go 5 or 10 miles under the speed limit’

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Agency reports showed 15,211 people have died in wrecks involving trailers since 1975. In Kentucky, 182 people have lost their lives in such wrecks. Since 1988, 5,541 people have been injured in Kentucky wrecks involving trailers, 9,770 properties have been damaged, and the value of the damage to those properties is estimated at \$427.5 million.

Recent wrecks in western Kentucky and southern Illinois highlight the problem.

■ On July 10, two people died in Massac County, Ill., after a Ford Explorer towing a loaded single-axle trailer ran off Interstate 24. State police said the trailer started whipping back and forth, causing the driver to lose control.

■ On July 19, a wreck on the I-24 bridge over the Ohio River closed both east and westbound lanes for two hours. According to the McCracken County Sheriff’s Department, the driver of a westbound pickup truck pulling a trailer lost control and swerved into a tractor-trailer. The truck landed on one side, and firefighters had to free the driver.

■ On July 23, a pickup truck pulling a trailer on which another truck was riding hit a concrete bridge wall on I-24, a mile west of the Husbands Road exit. Deputy Sheriff Chad Shaw said the driver and a passenger had stopped at the 8 mile marker after the weight of the load broke a trailer hitch. They attached the trailer to the truck’s rear bumper and continued down the highway two more miles before the weight broke the bumper, causing the trailer and truck to sway out of control, hit the bridge,



LANCE DENNEE | The Sun

A pick-up on a trailer is on its side at the scene of a wreck on Interstate 24 near Exit 11 on July 23. James Jackson, 23, of Princeton was traveling east when he struck the bridge, causing the trailer that was hauling a pick-up to overturn.

and flip the trailer and the truck on it onto their sides.

A dealer’s advice

Teddy Wynn, owner of Kentucky Lake Trailer Sales in Calvert City, has seen many of the problems people inexperienced with pulling a trailer have. Travelers often see his lot while driving down I-24 and stop for repairs.

“The main thing I see is people overload the trailer with more than it’s rated to hold,” he said. “Therefore they’re bending axles and blowing out tires.”

They also drive too fast. “A big load, if you’re even up to the weight limit, you probably need to go 5 or 10 miles under the speed limit,” he said. “(With those going faster) the trailer gets to weaving, and before you know it, they’ve wrecked it.”

Sway bars that hook to a trailer hitch can help prevent some of the instability, Wynn said.

People also don’t realize they need to outfit the vehicle towing the trailer with appropriate mirrors and, in

some cases, an electric brake controller that controls the electric brakes on the trailer, he said.

The best way to prevent problems is to take time to check a trailer before and as it is being loaded, Wynn said. Make sure the lights are working properly. Make sure the load is balanced. Make sure the tires stay properly inflated under the weight of the load.

Kentucky law

Trailers 18 feet and shorter that are privately owned and being used for personal business do not have to be licensed in Kentucky, McCracken County Sheriff Jon Hayden said. Those used commercially must have license plates. Trailers need turn signals and taillights only if the

Trailer Safety Tips

- Distribute cargo weight evenly along the trailer’s length and width.
- Make sure brake lights, taillights and turn signals are working and easily visible.
- Check side and rearview mirrors to ensure good visibility.
- Attach safety chains from trailer to trailer hitch.
- Check tire condition and pressure on the vehicle and trailer. Make sure all wheel bolts are tightened.
- Drive at moderate speeds. Trailer sway is more likely to occur as speed increases.
- Avoid sudden steering that might create undue side force on the trailer.
- Slow down when traveling over bumpy roads, railroad crossings and ditches.
- Make wider turns at curves and corners.
- Allow considerably more distance for stopping.
- Avoid passing on steep upgrades or downgrades.
- On long downgrades, apply brakes at intervals to keep speed in check.
- Never leave brakes on for extended periods or they may overheat.
- When uncoupling a trailer, place blocks at the front and rear trailer tires to ensure the trailer does not roll away.
- An unbalanced load may cause the tongue to suddenly rotate upward; therefore, before uncoupling, place jack stands under the trailer’s rear to prevent injury.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



trailer or load obscures the towing vehicle’s lights.

Loads protruding more than four feet behind a trailer must be marked with two red flags during the day and two red lights at night. Loads subject to spilling or shifting must be covered if traveling more than one mile.

The recent wrecks concern Hayden.

“A lot of people who own these trailers may use these trailers just a very few times a year, and oftentimes they’ll pull these trailers out into the

woods and out of the way, and then they’ll hook up to them and load them with 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of cargo and pull them on the public right of way,” he said.

He urged those pulling trailers to allow greater distances for stopping and not to follow other vehicles too closely.

They should also safely strap their loads down. Hayden recalled a wreck in which someone swerved to avoid a recliner that had fallen off a trailer and was seri-

ously injured.

Finally, Hayden said, drivers should check trailer tires for dry rot and proper inflation.

“If you had a car you drove once or twice a year and pulled it out in the woods and left it for six to eight months, would you just get in it and take off on a trip without inspecting it and making sure everything works?” he asked.

Contact Shelley Byrne, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8667.

Region

Man struck, killed after passing out in Lexington street

LEXINGTON — The Kentucky State Police say a man who had likely been drinking was struck and killed after he passed out in the road.

The Lexington Division of Police determined the victim had stopped his Ford Expedition in the northbound lane of Old Frankfort Pike before getting out, throwing up and passing out in the southbound lane.

A Honda Civic traveling southbound toward Lexington ran over the man who was transported to the University of Kentucky Medical Center where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

Lawnmower blade flies through wall into house

SHELBIANA — Pike County Judge-Executive Wayne Rutherford has parked all county-owned lawnmowers

indefinitely while officials investigate why a 12-pound blade flew off a mower there and into a house.

Valerie Keene, 47, of Shelbiana said the blade flew 500 feet before cutting through the wall of her house and landing in the room where her infant daughter was sleeping.

Rutherford spokesman Brandon Roberts said all the county’s mowers will be inspected but the county is considering getting rid of all its current mowers and replacing them with sickle-bar mowers.

Man killed when tree crushes SUV

PIKEVILLE — A Pike

County man has been killed when a storm toppled a tree onto his sport utility vehicle.


Teresa Reynolds of the Phyllis community said the large tree came down across Route 194 on Thursday afternoon and crushed the vehicle.

Firefighters say it appears the driver was killed instantly.

Neighbors say the man was driving home and was within a mile of his house when the storm struck.

Associated Press

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Visitors to the Fancy Farm Picnic walk past the Rand Paul's Waffle House prop on Saturday, left. Supporters of Jack Conway, Paul's Democratic opponent for U.S. Senate, set up the prop to promote the idea that Paul, a Republican, waffles on issues and does not stay set with his beliefs. **Trooper Trevor Pervine** of the Kentucky State Police watches the crowd for troublemakers during the political speaking, right.

Picnic tidbits: From fly swatters to the Waffle House

BY BILL BARTLEMAN
bartleman@paducahsun.com
FANCY FARM — The Graves County Sheriff's Department had plenty of help with security at Saturday's Fancy Farm Picnic.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Dewayne Redmon said officers received information of possible demonstrations and activity from outside groups that raised concerns and promoted a request for help.

He did not give details of the threat, but said it was related to the high-profile race for the U.S. Senate between Republican Rand Paul and Democrat Jack Conway.

He said as many as 30 officers were at the picnic, up from the normal eight deputies who in the past casually patrol the picnic grounds. They represented the sheriff's department, Kentucky State Police, Mayfield police and U.S. Capitol police, who protect U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader.

Uniformed officers were stationed around the speakers' platform. Redmon said officers in plain clothes also were stationed throughout the crowd.

No incidents or demonstrations were reported. "It is better to be prepared and be safe than to be sorry," Redmon said.

Waffle House

Conway's Senate campaign set up a mock restaurant to criticize what they say have been position changes by Paul.

It was modeled after a Waffle House restaurant, implying that Rand has waffled on issues such as farm subsidies, term limits, national security and sources of campaign contributions.

Volunteers passed out a menu with items such as the "term-limit scramble: Rand won't eat these, but insists you do."



Crowds mill around at the picnic on Saturday, left. **Beth Keeling** of Frankfort checks her bingo card, right.



Reaction to the political prop was mixed. Most Democrats laughed as they read the menu, while two Republicans who walked by wondered aloud if the use of the Waffle House theme violated federal copyright laws.

2009 remembered

There were two references to Conway's use of a profanity at last year's picnic in an attempt to describe his roughness.

The Rev. William Medley, bishop of the Owensboro diocese, said he had two prayers for the event. The first was "Lord may our words be those of grace and tenderness today for tomorrow we may have to eat them."

Last year, post-picnic criticism resulted in Conway offering an apology to the members of the St. Jerome Catholic Church, the picnic sponsor.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell noted that the picnic was being broadcast live on KET and C-SPAN. He said that when it came time for Conway to speak, the networks would implement a seven-second delay so they could bleep any of Conway's salty comments.

Candidates for governor

Reporters spent the day trying to figure out who in

the crowd might be running for governor next year.

House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins said he's been encouraged to run, but said he's happy in the legislature and working to get Democrats elected to the House in this year's elections. At least he's happy for now.

"I've learned along time ago not to rule anything out," he said.

Secretary of State Trey Grayson made it clear in remarks prepared for delivery at the picnic that he's considering running for governor.

His term as secretary of state ends next year and he is barred by the state constitution for seeking a third term.

The only problem for Grayson was that his allotted time for speaking ran out before he could talk about his interest in running for governor.

Here's what he would have said:

"As I look to the future, I don't know what role I may

play, if any. But I can tell you this, Frankfort is still broken and we need more good leaders to fix it. That's why we need a governor who actually has an agenda for the next four years."

He hinted he might run for attorney general, saying Kentucky needs an attorney general willing to fight against federal government programs.

Senate President David Williams was present at Republican events and also has made no secret he wants to

run next year. He's been talking to Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer about being his running mate. A possible announcement is several weeks off.

Two announced candidates for governor were highly visible: Gatewood Galbraith, running in 2011 as a Democrat, and Republican Phil Moffett,

a Louisville businessman running as a tea party movement candidate.

Fly swatter enforcement

Mark Wilson, chairman of the political speaking, put out an early warning for the crowd to behave. He brandished a large fly swatter and told the crowd that he'd call out the law enforcement SWAT team if they got out of hand.

"Make our mommas proud and act fairly civilly," said Wilson, emphasizing "fairly" with a smile.

The crowd, however, was loud in voicing support or displeasure that made it difficult at times to hear speakers, who appeared unfazed by the anticipated attempts at interrupting.

Contact Bill Bartleman, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8651.



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The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), in accordance with its established "Statewide Transportation Planning Interested Parties, Public Involvement, and Consultation Process," hereby provides notice of the availability of the Draft FY 2011-2014 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for public inspection, review, and comment for a 30-day period beginning August 2, 2010, and ending August 31, 2010.

The Draft FY 2011-2014 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program will be displayed at the following locations throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

- KYTC Highway District Offices in Paducah, Madisonville, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Louisville, Covington, Lexington, Somerset, Flemingsburg, Jackson, Manchester, and Pikeville.
- Area Development District Offices in Mayfield, Hopkinsville, Owensboro, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Louisville, Florence, Maysville, Lexington, Owingsville, Catlettsburg, Prestonsburg, Hazard, London, and Russell Springs.
- Metropolitan Planning Organization Offices in Clarksville, Tennessee (Fort Campbell); Evansville, Indiana (Henderson); Owensboro; Louisville; Lexington; Cincinnati, Ohio (Northern Kentucky); Catlettsburg; Bowling Green; and Elizabethtown.
- KYTC's Division of Transportation Planning Offices located in the Transportation Cabinet Office Building, 5th Floor, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort.
- KYTC's Division of Program Management Office located in the Transportation Cabinet Office Building, 6th Floor, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort.
- KYTC's Web site at: <http://transportation.ky.gov/progmgmt/stip/stip2010.htm>

Any individual, agency, or organization may provide written comments to:

MR. STEVE WADDLE, P.E.
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A woman raises a sign during the political speaking portion of the Fancy Farm Picnic in Graves County on Saturday. The ‘Boo’ sign was raised during the speeches of both Democrat Jack Conway and Republican Rand Paul.

FANCY FARM: Speeches were similar to those the candidates gave at other events earlier in the week

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when there are incidents such as the Gulf oil spill, the coal mine explosion that killed workers in West Virginia or the financial failures on Wall Street. “He just thinks accidents happen,” Conway said.

“Rand Paul is against nearly all federal spending except that which feathers his own nest,” Conway added.

The Fancy Farm speeches were similar to speeches they gave at other events earlier in the week. Officials estimated more than 10,000 people attended the picnic throughout the day, while more than 3,000 were present for the political speaking.

For some, the lack of theatrics and the unexpected was disappointing. “The buildup and expectation was a lot more exciting than the reality of what happened,” Robert Ellis of Henderson County said.

Jeff Moyer of Lexington said he was hoping for political fireworks that would become part of the picnic’s history. “I was hoping for something that I could look back on and say ‘I was there when that happened,’” he said. “It wasn’t much more than a sparkler in the sunlight.”

However, the politically divided crowd cheered, chanted and booed as candidates and other state-elected officials spoke. The rancorous behavior didn’t bother or disrupt any of the speakers.

Paul, however, appeared nervous as he approached the podium and stood silent for a moment as he surveyed the crowd. He then read his remarks from a prepared text.

Conway looked at his supporters, speaking to them and ignoring chants of Paul supporters.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell focused his remarks on the unpopularity of President Barack Obama in Kentucky, and the need to elect Paul to help in the fight against liberal Democratic policies.

“Those who stand with Obama don’t stand with Kentucky.”

Sen. Mitch McConnell

“Jack Conway is in the mainstream and Rand Paul is the extreme.”

Gov. Steve Beshear

He said Conway is for Obama’s health care, in favor of taxes on energy produced by Kentucky coal, and against limiting government to help create new jobs in the private sector.

“Those who stand with Obama don’t stand with Kentucky,” McConnell said. “We know better than to send Jack Conway to Washington to rubber stamp Obama’s agenda.”

Gov. Steve Beshear touted his own record as governor and said he’s provided leadership to get bipartisan support to improve public safety, adopt a more effective economic development incentive program and maintain funding for education when the budget has been cut by more than \$1 billion in three years.

He also offered strong support for Conway, saying Paul has radical views. “Jack Conway is in the mainstream and Rand Paul is the extreme,” Beshear said.

McConnell and Paul left the picnic grounds immediately after speaking and avoided reporters with the help of security personnel, who had vehicles parked a few feet from the rear exit of the speakers’ platform.

Contact Bill Bartleman, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8651.

Candidates, speakers fill the podium



Photos by JOHN WRIGHT | The Sun

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., speaks in support of U.S. Senate candidate Rand Paul as TV lights illuminate the face of Jack Conway, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, at the Fancy Farm Picnic on Saturday, right. Conway sits next to Gov. Steve Beshear, who spoke on Conway’s behalf earlier.

Conway, above, and Paul, below, talk to the crowd during the political speaking portion of the picnic.



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