

YOUTH

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opportunity for my career field,” says Tellez, who wants to work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, although not particularly as an astronaut.

Instead the young girl envisions herself as an “on-the-ground scientist,” as someone, she notes, who will look at the rocks once the astronauts bring them back from space.

According to a news article available on Western’s website at wku.edu, Tellez is among 98 students chosen from 47 counties across the state who will make up Gatton’s Class of 2027.

She is the seventh student from Trigg County selected to attend the academy, with the last being Alexander Perry in the Class of 2020.

Others include Corey Goodwin, Class of 2016; John Adams and Suzanna Sadler, Class of 2009; and Lloyd Bridges and Taylor Bryant, in the academy’s second class, the Class of 2008.

A plaque inscribed with the students’ names hangs on a wall at the high school, and Tellez’ name will soon be added to the list of honorees.

To date, students have attended The Gatton Academy from 118 of Kentucky’s 120 counties since the program was established in 2007, according to the WKU news article.

Applicants were evaluated based on their ACT/SAT scores, high school grades, awards

and accomplishments, extracurricular activities, responses to essay and short answer questions, and recommendation forms, officials said.

Additionally, candidates were invited to interview with WKU faculty, community leaders from across the state and academy alumni.

Tellez begins her two-year stint in the fall, finishing her junior and senior years of high school while at the same time accruing enough hours at WKU to receive an associate’s degree.

The Gatton program is made for high school students who are gifted in STEM, in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, according to the TCHS youth.

Tellez said she took the ACT college entrance exam three times, and “somehow managed to pull out a 35,” on her last try in April, she noted.

The young girl said science teacher Mikayla Hopson suggested that Tellez, the daughter of Jordan and Robin Robison of Cadiz, apply to participate in The Gatton Academy program.

The teacher noticed how interested she was in her earth sciences unit, the young girl said.

Tellez noted that she’s passionate about astronomy and is hoping to pursue astronomy and space as a career; space, she said, has always been fascinating to her and drawn her in, although Tellez said she’s not exactly sure what it is about the subject that piques her interest.

At Gatton, there is an elective class in astronomy that she will take, but Tellez also notes that other courses are “adjacent” and will complement her studies in astronomy, helping her reach her goals toward a career in science.

The young girl said she could continue her studies at Western after finishing with The Gatton Academy but doesn’t think she will.

She wants to choose a school that will be optimal for her and says she is trying to keep “my options as open as I can,” Tellez noted.

She said it’s a prestigious thing to be chosen for The Gatton Academy and “incredible if you get there,” she noted of being among the 100 students selected for the program each year.

She said Gatton tries to select students from across the state; while many of the participants do come from Bowling Green, Tellez says there’s a better chance of getting in if the youth are from counties where not a lot of people apply.

Gatton Academy is “reachable,” she says, and worth looking into for students who like science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“It’s a really great opportunity,” Tellez notes as she encourages other youth to consider applying. “It opens up your opportunities in a lot of places.”

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Paul points to business-sector resistance to Trump’s tariffs

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — In solidly Republican Kentucky, resistance to President Donald Trump’s trade wars has sprung up from a cross-section of key business sectors, GOP Sen. Rand Paul said Monday.

Paul said he’s heard concerns from agriculture, the auto sector, bourbon production, home building and package shipping in response to Trump’s aggressive use of tariffs. Paul — among the few GOP senators willing to challenge Trump on tariffs — met with a group of Louisville business leaders on Monday.

“Virtually every business that I have met in Kentucky has said they’re not excited about having tariffs and that international trade has been good for their company and good for the consumer by bringing lower prices,” the libertarian-leaning Paul told reporters afterward.

Paul welcomed the sudden de-escalation of the trade conflict between the U.S. and China, when the two global economic powerhouses agreed Monday to slash their massive recent tariffs. The 90-day truce creates time for U.S. and Chinese



U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Bowling Green, speaks during a Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on Capitol Hill on March 6 in Washington, D.C.

negotiators to reach a more substantive agreement.

As for prospects of a longer-term deal, the senator said: “We’ll see how it shakes out.”

“Anything we can do to bring down tariffs is good,” Paul said. “I said I’ll be the first person to compliment President Trump if the end of this shakes out and in six months, all the tariffs are lower and there’s more trade. I’m perfectly willing and big enough to say: ‘Good job, Mr. President.’”

Trump used tariffs in his first term and has been even more aggressive and unpredictable about imposing them in his second. He’s slapped a 10% tariff on a myriad of countries, blowing up the

rules that had governed global trade for decades.

Trump dominated Kentucky in each presidential election since 2016, but the GOP lawmakers willing to speak out against his trade wars include Paul and Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Trump’s tariffs forged a rare bipartisan alliance in Kentucky among the senators and Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear. They raised concerns that trade wars would drive up prices for consumers and damage key business sectors, including the bourbon industry. In Canada, some liquor stores cleared American spirits from their shelves amid trade acrimony and Trump’s calls to make Canada the 51st state.

502 area code running out of numbers; hearings scheduled

BY CADIZ RECORD STAFF

The Kentucky Public Service Commission will hold a series of public meetings in June to gather input on potential changes to the 502 area code, which is projected to run out of available phone numbers by the third quarter of 2027.

The North American Numbering Plan Administrator has submitted five relief options and recommended an all-service distributed overlay, which would add a new area code to the same geographic region. The change would require 10-digit dialing for local calls. The PSC is considering the proposal as it works to establish Kentucky’s sixth area code.

According to a PSC news release issued Monday, the meetings will take place in Bard-

stown, Georgetown, Louisville, Carrollton, and Frankfort.

“We want to hear from the telecommunications industry, from businesses that might be affected by the change, and from area code 502 residents,” PSC Chair Angie Hatton said in the release. “We seek public input so that we will have a full understanding of the issues before we make a decision that may have a significant impact on the economy and on people’s daily lives.”

Traditionally, new area codes in Kentucky have been implemented through geographic splits, but overlays have become more common in recent years.

Documents related to the case are available on the PSC website under case number

2024-00333.

The public meetings schedule follows. All meeting are 6 p.m. ET:

June 2 — BARDSTOWN: Nelson Co. Fiscal Courtroom

One Court Square, Second Floor, Bardstown

June 3 — GEORGETOWN: Scott Co. Fiscal Courtroom

160 E. Main St, Georgetown

June 5 — LOUISVILLE: Jefferson Community & Technical

College Southwest Campus; 1000 Community College Drive, Louisville.

June 16 — CARROLLTON: Carroll Co. Fiscal Courtroom

440 Main St, Carrollton

June 17 — FRANKFORT: Kentucky Public Service Commission

211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort



Photo by TONYA S. GRACE | Cadiz Record

Signs dot the landscape along Main Street in Cadiz. Some signs in Trigg County have piqued concern about their suitability and how they make the community look.

SIGNAGE

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“make our community still look nice.”

Trigg County Treasurer Lucy Kyler says the county doesn’t get a whole lot of complaints about business signs but is more likely to hear

about campaign signs during that season.

Signs cannot be placed on rights of way.

“Placing sign on state rights of way is generally prohibited unless its official signage,” Kyler says of interstate signs, road signs and the like that would be allowed on rights of way.

The treasurer notes

that some signs have been removed when individuals are in violation.

And there could be repercussions.

“I think you can get fined,” she said.

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