

Fatal crash occurs at traffic signal on Lebanon Bypass

BY CKNJ STAFF

A Loretto resident stopped for a traffic light was killed Saturday morning in a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of U.S. 68 and the Lebanon Bypass in Marion County.

Kentucky State Police Post 15 responded to at 9:54 a.m. Saturday. The preliminary investigation revealed that Justin Baron, 26, of Loretto, was traveling west on U.S. 68 in a 2002 Dodge Ram and approached the intersection. KSP's report said he attempted a right turn at the intersection at a high rate of speed and lost control of his vehicle.

His pickup traveled across the intersection and collided with a 2010 GMC Sierra that was stopped at the traffic light heading south on Lebanon Bypass. The GMC Sierra was driven by William Norris, 55, of Loretto.

Norris was dead at the scene, according to the Marion County coroner. A passenger in Norris' vehicle, Shirley Norris, 82, of Lebanon, was transported to the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville with were described as non-life-threatening injuries.

Baron was transported to Spring View Hospital in Lebanon, where he was treated and released for minor injuries. Upon release from the hospital, he n was arrested by the Marion County Sheriff's Office on charges related to an incident prior to the collision.

Additional charges relating to the collision are forthcoming, the KSP report said.

Senior Trooper Weston Sullivan is investigating the crash.

Nominations open to honor top family physician

SPECIAL TO THE CKNJ

Nominations are being accepted for the Citizen Doctor of the Year award, which was created to recognize a family physician of strong moral values whose deeds and actions exemplified the characteristic of service before self and that magnify the principle of the specialty of Family Medicine's focus on compassion and caring for the wellbeing of patients and communities.

Past recipients of this award have pioneered advances in medical education, research, patient care and community service for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The nominations committee is making its first call for nominees for this award. The public is asked to consider family physicians you know who would represent Kentucky as the "the most outstanding physician who will be recognized by their peers." Groups or individuals have the opportunity to submit nominations.

The deadline for submissions is July 1.

The physician selected will be recognized in the public relations efforts of the KAFP, and will be forwarded as the Kentucky nominee for the prestigious AAFP's "Family Physician of the Year award."

Columbia resident dies in two-vehicle collision

BY CKNJ STAFF

A Columbia man died Monday night in a two-vehicle crash on Russell Springs Road in Adair County.

The preliminary investigation by troopers from Kentucky State Police Post 15 revealed that Lucas Gregorio, 39, of Columbia, was driving a 2015 Nissan Rogue westbound when crossed the centerline of the road and collided with a 2022 Dodge Ram, being driven east by Bobby Sexton, 49, of Columbia. Gregorio was pronounced dead at the scene by the Adair County Ccoroner.

Sexton and a juvenile passenger in his vehicle were transported to the T.J. Health Columbia Hospital for treatment of what KSP described as non-life-threatening injuries.

The wreck occurred at approximately 9 p.m. CDT Monday.

BANK

FROM PAGE A1

wore on, most of the banks in Taylor County had closed. Miller's grandfather J.C. Miller Sr., a builder and engineer by trade, saw a need. The bank's history says he opened Taylor County Bank on Sept. 1, 1937, with \$300,000 in capital.

J.C. Miller Jr., who was a decorated pilot in World War II and became known as a local civic leader, was named president of the bank in 1956, a position he held until his death in 1970, when his son Jim Miller III accepted the role at age 28.

Known by long-time bank employees as Big Jim, Miller had graduated in 1965 from the University of Kentucky with a degree in banking and finance and also served in the U.S. Army.

He would retire from Taylor County Bank in 2007, after more than 60 years of service. His obituary said he worked his way through every area and department and remained as chairman of the board of directors.

He also served many years as a board member and chairman of the Taylor County Industrial Foundation.

Lee left a local CPA firm to join Taylor County Bank at Miller's urging. He would serve as president for 10 years before Jim Miller IV took the role.

He described Miller as a forward-thinking innovator, who introduced new technology in the local bank including one of the first ATMs in the county. He also noted his active role in the Kentucky Bankers Association.

"He was involved in many community projects but what he was most proud of was his family and providing first-class banking to the community," Lee said in his remarks. "Banking is in the Miller DNA, as is demonstrated by his son, James C Miller IV being president now. He will truly be missed, but his legacy lives on. I was proud to call him my friend."

Miller's survivors include his wife of 35 years, Debbie Furkin Miller, his son and three daughters, Meg Miller Januski, Stephanie Miller Claydon and Ashley Tucker Green of Brentwood, Tennessee, plus 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and his sister, Janet Miller Wade.

His funeral was Saturday morning with burial and military honors in Brookside Cemetery.

LOCAL

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Since 1954, the Crusade has raised more than \$222 million and 100 percent of those donations have been returned to the community in the form of grants to schools, hospitals and agencies that make life better for children with special needs.

This year's program ended at 7 p.m. Sunday with \$5,890,189.77 on the tote board.

In addition to WHAS radio, television and online broadcasts, portions of the telethon are carried by other broadcasters including the live remote conducted Saturday in Campbellsville by WBKO-TV.

In addition to the local fire department, others reporting from Campbellsville and their contributions were Breeding Volunteer Fire Department, \$3,018.50; Summersville Fire Department, \$5,831.51; Greensburg-Green County Volunteer Fire Department, \$17,111.62; McCubbin Family Lemonade Stand, \$550; and Tripp Lemonade Stand \$2,164.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made year-round securely online on WHASCrusade.org or by mail at WHAS Crusade for Children, 520 W. Chestnut St., Louisville KY 40202.

Digital donations can be made using Venmo, CashApp and PayPal.

CLUB

FROM PAGE A1

as you can is always a plus," said Ron McMahan, CEO of Team Taylor County. "Having quality of life things might influence a company's decision, especially if their short list of final location options is coming up equal. It's an elimination game from the start."

For the community, many school, civic and other groups, Campbellsville Country Club has been where they go to host fundraising golf scrambles. During the months warm enough to play, the club will have three or four groups a month use the club for such events.

However, for most local residents, the property on Hodgenville Road has been like a fortress that they could not gain access. For many years, golf was considered to be a sport too expensive for the common person, one for the well-to-do who could fork over the annual dues. Other than charitable events, local were only allowed to play golf at the club three times per year, and they had to be the guest of a member to do so.

It is not that way anymore. Struggling to stay afloat financially, the club could not overcome the 2008 recession. Several members dropped out, causing board members of the Campbellsville Country Club to make some crucial decisions.

"I think our membership got up to around 300 at one time," Superintendent Joel Hardesty said. "We took a hit on our membership after the recession. The club struggled for a while to find someone to take care of the course. Membership dropped and so the money wasn't there to take care of the course. Things just started snowballing from there."

The decision was made to charge membership an assessment in 2018 to help pay the bills.

"We lost a lot of members with the assessments," Hardesty said. "There were a few of them. The condition of the course was going down but the rates were not. When people are paying \$1,700 or more for a membership and the course isn't very good and you hit them with an assessment at the end of the year, the members were not very happy."

Membership dropped until there only 115 members, not nearly enough to sustain an 18-hole golf course.

The decision to open the course to the public proved to be the spark the club needed to survive. Local residents now can play golf there as many times as they would like. This move saved the club and even allowed it to continue improving the course conditions.

"The first year we went public, we took in almost \$100,000 in green fees," said Keith Taylor, president of the club. "Each year since then it has gone up about \$25,000 a year."

Members of the club still can get priority tee times by booking two weeks in advance. The rate to join for unlimited golf with a cart is \$1,700 for a single, \$2,100 for a couple and \$2,880 for a family. Pool memberships also are available.

Greens fee players can book a tee time on the Golf Now App, by going to campbellsvillecc.club/teetimes or by calling the pro shop.

Membership has grown to 175 since the club opened play to the public. Also, the driving

Country club also builds champions

For the local schools, Campbellsville Country Club is the place young players honed their skills.

Whereas in most sports advancing to the state tournament is a major accomplishment, local golfers have produced results of a different kind. They've been state champions.

It started in 1965 when Campbellsville High School's Kaye Beard won the first of her three individual titles, adding the others in 1967 and 1968. She also helped the Lady Eagles' win consecutive team championships in 1967 and 1968.

While there were others who qualified for the state tournament in the next three decades, the next local state champion didn't happen until John Holmes won the individual title in 1998.

Of course, Holmes made the locals proud when he went on play at the University of Kentucky before cruising through Q-School and earning a place on the PGA Tour. He won five times and was runner-up on three occasions. He was also a part of two Ryder Cup teams, including the winning USA team that won at Valhalla.

Taylor County High School just missed out on two other champions who had a chance to hoist the big trophy when Luke Coyle (2020) and Seth Smith (2023) missed putts on the final hole that would have earned them a spot in a playoff for the championship.

The Cardinals won team titles in 2018 and 2019.

range has flourished in the past few years with the closing of Blue Hole Driving Range and opening the country club range to the community.

There are also activities that the club hopes will draw in even more members, or at least brings more interest to the sport.

"We're really pushing to get more women and more kids out here," Taylor said. "We have a Family Night on Monday when you can bring your kids under 12 and they play for free with a paying adult."

PGA professional Travis Inchcliff will be holding golf clinics for youngsters in June, and is also available for private lessons.

Primrose on Main, a local caterer, has moved to Campbellsville Country Club and Taylor hopes they can be a draw for people to come out and see what the club has to offer.

"We will be able to have member dinners out here," Taylor said.

There is now a positive vibe at the club, and rejuvenated members raised \$40,000 last year to upgrade the fairways with HGT, a bluegrass that works with the bermuda already there. That means the grass will be green year around.

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