

GAS LINE, from 1A —

to understand is what they're doing is collecting natural gas and taking it to a compressor station and compressing it under very high pressure to put into these transmission lines. That's a significant safety issue that people need to be concerned about.

"If the lines aren't properly installed, or there is a defect, there are horrible consequences."

Parsley said the gas is compressed under low pressure and that the company began a slow process of complying with all state and safety rules several years ago.

About 22 years ago, Pride Gas created a pipeline in Richardsville that failed to meet standards to have the gas accepted by the transmission line, according to Magistrate Terry Young. The company later went into bankruptcy, leaving vendors and homeowners unpaid.

Young said he's not against a transmission line for selling natural gas, but the company must treat property owners fairly — and Viking's approach doesn't sit well with him.

"When people didn't get paid for the gas and farms that were tore up (20 years ago), people haven't forgotten that," he said.

Parsley, meanwhile, contends Viking is working on a "friendly basis."

"We want to work with people as much as possible. Most of those who are in opposition have gas wells on their property and stand to gain," Parsley said.

But since Pride Gas is no longer in existence and ownership has frequently changed hands, Young said, landowners feel the original contracts signed more than 20 years ago have expired.

A copy of a letter sent from Viking to those with easements says even though homeowners "may have a difference of opinion as to whether the easement has terminated due to an interrupted use of the pipeline ... for an ultimate sale, gas has and continues to be in the pipeline, which is the property of Viking."

Viking Energy began contacting residents a year ago about the easements, and sent checks via certified mail to homeowners. A clause on the back of the checks

STREETS, from 1A —

of the city community center would close a block between Third and Fourth avenues, the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center could close the block between Sixth and Seventh avenues, and a yet-undefined commercial project could close the Seventh and Eighth avenues block of Center, she said.

Public Works Director Emmett Wood said he will bring a cursory analysis of several design changes to the nonvoting city commission work session Tuesday afternoon, and see if commissioners want to explore any of them further.

"We're not going to be able to tell them much beyond what we think it will cost to redesign the project to accommodate those changes, and how long it will take to redesign it with those changes," he said.

Even seemingly small alterations might require extensive design changes, given the interplay of utilities, rights-of-way and property lines downtown, Wood said.

The city was already planning to replace traffic lights at 19 downtown intersections, synchronizing them with lights at state-

Deaths

Bertha Maxey dies at age 100

MUNFORDVILLE — Bertha Maxey, 100, of Horse Cave died at 9:05 a.m. Jan. 30, 2007, at Caverna Memorial Hospital.

The LeGrande native was born Aug. 27, 1906, and was a homemaker. She was a daughter of the late Al Payton and Emily Thompson Payton and the wife of the late Leroy Maxey. She was preceded in death by three daughters, Pauline Reed, Emily Bell Garnett and Lena Naydell Embry; two sons, Henry Allen and Arthur Lee Maxey; and 13 brothers and sisters.

Funeral is at 1 p.m. Saturday at Little Blue Springs Baptist Church, where she was a member, with burial in Bearwallow Cemetery in Horse Cave. Visitation is from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at Brooks Funeral Home and begins at 9 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Survivors include two daughters, Lois Maxey and Earnestine Dixon and her husband, the Rev. Stanford Dixon, all of Horse Cave; three sons, Roy Stanford Maxey, Carl Franklin Maxey and his wife, Pat, and Verlis Theodore Maxey, all of Indianapolis; a daughter-in-law, Christine Maxey of Indianapolis; a son-in-law, Melvin Garnett of Horse Cave; 30 grandchildren; 64 great-grandchildren; 25 great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

'Darby' Louise T. Gifford

"Darby" Louise Talley Gifford, 81, of Bowling Green died at 7:33

DEMAND, from 1A —

commercial and residential heating, dipping during July and August and spiking during January and February, according to the U.S. Energy Information Association.

"We do not have excess gas in the U.S. All it takes is one cold winter and higher prices can be expected," Parsley said. "As long as we don't use those inventories, the price of natural gas will stay down."

Steve Sproles, development manager for Viking Energy, said the United States has increased its natural gas use at least 2 percent every year.

Now, electricity produced by using natural gas is at an all-time high, Sproles said, to the point that "you're beginning to see more natural gas now used to operate the air conditioner."

The EIA says that since natural gas is used to generate a large portion of electricity in the United States, increased electrical demand also means an increased demand for natural gas.

According to the Kentucky Oil and Gas Association, independent producers like Viking Energy drill about 90 percent of American oil and natural gas wells, and

states if the check is endorsed, it gives "ratification of all term and conditions of the easements on the front of the check."

Young and others received checks, he said, and some cashed them, according to Milan.

Viking said about 48 have accepted the payments and will allow Viking to access the easements.

Resident Jackie Young said those who accepted the checks owned smaller lots, "but the majority of the footage they need is from homeowners who have not signed the check."

In response, Viking said the company offered \$1 per foot for an affirmation of rights so landowners would be justly and equally compensated in case there (have) to be repairs. ... To date, the majority of the landowners with pipeline on their properties have "affirmed our rights and accepted a payment of \$1 per foot. Also, three indepen-

controlled intersections.

City officials decided to study the two-way idea at the same time, possibly combining the signal project with the traffic changes proposed in the downtown redevelopment master plan.

The city has spent more than \$250,000 studying the idea, which boils down to three options: leaving the streets one-way, changing them to two-way traffic, or arranging signals now on one-way streets so they could be converted to two-way within five years.

Putting in new traffic light hardware but leaving streets one-way would cost an estimated \$2.18 million, while going to two-way would cost \$2.39 million, and a convertible system would probably cost \$2.49 million including the later changeover, Assistant City Engineer Melissa Cansler said.

At the upcoming work session, Cansler will have the answers to some questions commissioners asked two weeks ago, such as how much it might cost to use pole-top traffic lights on corners rather than lights hanging from overhead arms; the traffic effects of closing parts of Center Street; and how the

produce about 65 percent of American oil and more than 80 percent of America's natural gas.

"Natural gas is probably the best energy of the future because it's clean, environmentally friendly and we have an abundant supply of it in the Appalachian basin," Sproles said.

Viking Energy is spending between \$3 million to \$5 million to build its new facility in Bowling Green and reactivate the pipeline once owned by Pride Energy Corp., Parsley said, and a company statement claims it will benefit the local economy in the short-term, beginning with the startup of its plant this summer.

After operations stabilize, a possible \$1 million in taxes may be generated, Parsley said. In addition to supplying income to landowners who possess gas wells, Viking's capacity, which will initially generate 3 million cubic feet of gas, has plans to grow to 18 million cubic feet. The company currently employs 30 people but is set to grow by 100 percent this year, according to the statement.

— For more on Viking Energy, visit www.viking-energy.com.

dent appraisers assigned by the court were appointed to appraise the properties and have validated the price of \$1 per foot for the right-of-ways."

Viking Energy is also seeking to extend the gas line from its former location on Slim Island Road to its new plant at 425 Power St., according to Parsley.

The new plant will serve as the headquarters for gathering and refining natural gas from northern Warren County, as well as areas of Butler and Edmonson counties. Natural gas produced from the facility will service Bowling Green through Atmos Energy and may also be sold into the Texas Gas interstate pipeline, according to the company's Web site.

Viking Energy has also contracted a local operator to drill about 50 new wells, including a new drilling rig for the Richardsville area.

city could compensate for lost parking from making streets two-way.

"We can get a rough estimate of how much per parking space a parking structure would run," she said.

Wood said making the streets two-way would eliminate about 140 downtown parking spaces, mostly those clustered around intersections.

At least to start with, the city needs to focus on deciding the basic idea of one-way vs. two-way, City Manager Kevin DeFebbo said.

"But there are sub-alternatives for all these plans," he said. A number of possible variations have been mentioned, all of which would take further study, DeFebbo said.

"These are all ideas that were thrown and left hanging in the air," he said. "I don't know if we need further study. I think we need to refine the alternatives we have, in a common-sense way."

That should be done within a couple of weeks, without spending much more money, DeFebbo said.

Funeral is at 1 p.m. Saturday at Sego Funeral Home, with burial in Memory Park Cemetery in Bonnieville. Visitation begins at 2 p.m. Friday and at 8 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Other survivors include his companion of nine years, Raejean Harpool; two brothers, Charles Lee Nunn of Munfordville and Curt Douglas Nunn of Bonnieville; and a sister, Jackie Stasel of Glasgow.

Elsie Sanders

LOUISVILLE — Elsie Sanders, 90, of Louisville died Jan. 30, 2007.

Funeral is at 1 p.m. EST Friday at Owen Funeral Home, with burial in Highland Memory Garden. Visitation is from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. EST today and begins at 11 a.m. EST Friday at the funeral home.

Survivors include her husband of 69 years, James Everett Sanders; five children, Beatrice Hazelip and her husband, Rex, of Franklin, James Sanders, Linda York and her husband, Roger, of Franklin, Leon Sanders and Debbie Engler and her husband, Leonard; and grandchildren, Leslie, Steve, Tamara, Todd, Daryl, Brandy, Jennifer, Shawna, Michelle, Bryant, Shane, Jodie Lynn, Candance, Leslie and Morgan; and 26 great-grandchildren.

Shirley Walkup

ELIZABETHTOWN — Shirley Walkup, 69, of Elizabethtown died Jan. 31, 2007, at Jewish Hospital in Louisville.

The Barren County native retired from teaching at Helmswood Heights Elementary School after 35 years. After retirement,

Researchers counting state's endangered bats

LAUREL CAVE (AP) — Dave Waldien stretches, shining his helmet's light into a limestone crevice.

"I've got two," he says. "One's a big brown ... and I'm not sure what that one is." Stepping across a few of the cave's boulders, Jim Kennedy takes a look.

It's a northern myotis, he says, making a tick in his notebook — and it's one of thousands of bats the Bat Conservation International researchers counted as a part of their census during Carter Caves' Crawlathon last weekend in north-eastern Kentucky.

While the annual event attracts some 700 cavers and thrill-seekers for three days of cave tours, Kennedy and Waldien traveled into darkness on a different mission.

"We're doing science," Kennedy, a BCI biologist, told The Independent of Ashland. "Not big science ... but we go to some of the bigger caves that have the endangered Indiana bat and count in those caves every two years so we can get an idea of what the populations are doing, whether they're increasing, decreasing or remaining stable."

That data then gives scientists information for better management of the species, he said.

In fact, Kennedy and BCI, a global member- and scientist-driven organization in Austin, Texas, devoted to bat conservation and research, have been studying Indiana bats at Carter Caves since 1998. The state park in western Carter County harbors some of its best habitat — complex cold-air caves with a steady climate.

The bat has been on the federal endangered species list for decades, with less than 500,000

DOCTORATE, from 1A —

happen, we should be able to offer a doctorate."

The Board of Regents, Miller said, had to approve the degree before other entities so that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools could. He said SACS wants to see where the university's governing board has said "yes" before giving approval to move up in its accreditation status.

The university is at level four, which allows them to offer master's degrees, and the educational specialist EDS — both accredited programs under SACS. Moving to a level five, Fiene said, would allow the university to give an accredited doctorate.

While most doctorate programs are scholarly or research-based, the Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership will be for working professionals.

"They will be approaching problem solving by being proactive," Fiene said. "It doesn't mean to go out and change everything, but to recognize what to do ahead of time."

The program, Fiene said, targets four areas. Those areas are principal or school leadership — those in traditional school leadership setting; teacher leadership for those heading committees like department chairs; organizational leadership, which looks at those working in the educational setting

she substituted in the Hardin County School District for a number of years. She worked as a consultant for the Professional Development Center at Western Kentucky University and was an active member of the Elizabethtown Church of Christ. She earned her bachelor's and master's degree from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. She was a member of the Elizabethtown Education Association, Kentucky Education Association, and National Education Association and served on various committees at the local level. She was first runner-up in 1977 as Kentucky Teacher of the Year. She was past president of the Lincoln Heritage Reading Council, which is affiliated with the International Reading Association. She was also a Kentucky Colonel.

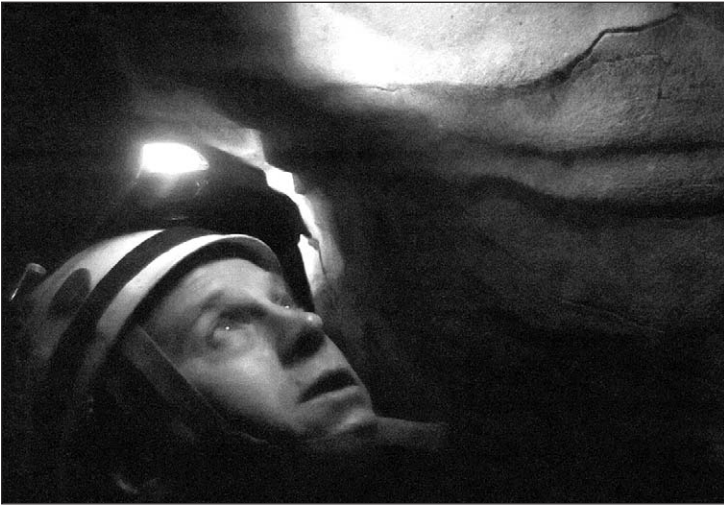
She was a daughter of the late Jess and Edna Matthews Belcher. She was preceded in death by a brother, Guy William Belcher; and two sisters, Rosa Leigh Belcher and Carolyn Mussnug.

Funeral is at 10 a.m. EST Saturday at Brown Funeral Home, with burial in Glasgow Municipal Cemetery in Barren County. Visitation is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. EST Friday at the funeral home.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to

the food pantry or the clothing center at the Elizabethtown Church of Christ or perform a random act of kindness.

Survivors include a daughter, Amy Elizabeth Walkup of Louisville and Elroy Walkup; an honorary granddaughter, Lily Derthick of Goshen; a special "adopted" daughter, Robyn Skaggs of Elizabethtown; four sisters and their husbands, Laura and Roy Woodcock of Glasgow, Nancy and Donald Steele of Sarasota, Fla., Mary Ann and Stephen Spaeth of Canyon Lake, Calif., and Edie and Bob Bell of Glasgow; two brothers and their wives, Doug and Marie Belcher of Glasgow and Danny and Christi Belcher of Madisonville; special friends, Beth Jones and Rick and Jennifer Derthick of Goshen; and 12 nieces and nephews.



John Flavell/AP
Bat Conservation International biologist Jim Kennedy peers into a crevasse Jan. 25 to count endangered Indiana bats at Carter Caves State Resort Park near Olive Hill.

individuals and declining. Many thousands hibernate in Bat Cave here, listed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife authorities as one of two "critical habitats" in Kentucky.

The Indiana bat, as well as all bats, are important to the environment because they control insect populations, researchers say. (A single bat can eat up to 2,000 insects a night, on average.)

The difficulty in helping the species recover deals with how sensitive it is to environmental change.

In Laurel Cave, for instance, the temperature is not steady or in the range the Indiana bat likes while hibernating during winter, Kennedy said.

Indiana bats are extremely susceptible to disturbance, he said, and if awakened will expend too much of the energy they have stored, and die. In other caves, flooding, mineral extraction and

commercialization have likely contributed to the bats' decline.

That's why biologists have taken measures to not only close caves during the hibernation season — both Bat Cave and Saltpetre Cave are gated and off limits in winter — but also to redirect airflow, Kennedy said.

"In Saltpetre, they've been steadily increasing," he said. "It's almost doubling every two years, as we're doing the counts."

And it's that counting, the not-so-big science Kennedy does, that, with other studies, allows such success.

"It's been a hypothesis of ours, just looking at Bat Cave is not giving us the full picture," he said. "There are at least eight to 10 caves in the immediate vicinity they also use. By not counting (those) we're not getting a true picture of health."

in industries, like nonprofits; and higher education, which is broken down into two-year and four-year institution tracks.

Only three universities in the state — the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and Northern Kentucky University, which gives doctorates in law — are authorized to dole out such degrees.

Western does have a collaborative effort with the University of Louisville that provides students with the opportunity to receive a doctorate.

"So a student can receive a doctorate, but it would carry the U of L name and not that of Western," Miller said. "And it's the only way a student can get a doctorate degree."

The Educational Professional Standards Board is reviewing the education leadership programs in the state and a report will be generated in the spring, said Sue Patrick, director of communications for the Council on Post Secondary Education. At that time, the council will consider Western's doctorate program proposal.

"I don't think we have an opinion yet on this," Patrick said. "We have to wait on the findings from the educational professionals standards board before we develop an opinion. So it's too early to say."

But Miller said the university is

optimistic it will gain positive responses.

"We are trying to fill a need in the community ... and the faculty believes this will appeal to a broad spectrum in the education community," he said. "I think there will be a need to offer other doctorates in the future. This is our first attempt to mount one, but it won't be the last."

During the university's Board of Regents meeting, other programs were also approved, like a master's of arts in Applied Economics and a minor in nutrition — both pending University Senate approval — and the creation of a School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Services.

"We moved the school of nursing to the community college, which we've seen growth," said Dr. Barbara Burch, university provost. "There is a huge need in the nursing field. We're not moving from associates degree program from the community college, but joining together the associates, bachelors and master's degrees under one umbrella."

There is a critical nursing education shortage, university officials said. Creating a school of nursing would help attract high-level faculty and students. It would also add visibility to the university's nursing program and better utilize resources.

29, 2007, in Scottsville.

The Allen County native was a farmer and a member of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church. He was a son of the late William Earl White and Jean Marie Ramsey White of Scottsville, who survives.

Funeral is at 1 p.m. Friday at Goad Funeral Home, with burial in Allen County Memorial Gardens. Visitation begins at 4 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Other survivors include a sister, Deborah Gribbins of Bowling Green; an uncle, Willard Alvis Ramsey of Simpsonville, S.C.; an aunt, Mary Edwards Jernigan of Portland, Tenn.; and several cousins.

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