

# Greenup County library construction imminent

*'Anxious to expand,' longtime director says*

*"We're all very excited to step into this new building."*

By **CARRIE STAMBAUGH**  
*The Independent*

**GREENUP** Construction on the new Greenup County Public Library is expected to start within a month.

On Wednesday, the library's board of directors voted to award bids for construction of the new 15,000-square-foot facility in downtown Greenup. More than a dozen contractors — including five from the surrounding area — will be involved in the project that will cost \$5.3 million to build.

Architect Chuck Trimble, an associate principal of Murphy Graves Architects, said bids came in slightly above the projected cost of \$4.8 million. He attributed the higher price to the rising cost of construction materials. March

tornadoes in the region, along with rising oil prices, are driving local demand and costs up quickly, he said.

Trimble said he has confidence in the contractors hired and is looking forward to breaking ground. "The group of contractors you have on the table are a great group of contractors," Trimble told the board. "These are all guys we've worked with in the past and they have done a tremendous job."

"We're ready to go," added project manager David Sumner of Codell Construction. "We're just looking forward to getting in here and getting started."

Library officials shared that sentiment. The project has been in the planning stages for nearly two years, suffering several delays

**Dr. Tim Brom, president of the Greenup County Library Board of Directors**

because of design tweaks needed in part because of the library's location inside a flood plain.

Construction time is estimated at 14 months.

"I'm really happy about this," said Dr. Tim Brom, president of the Greenup County Library board. "We're all very excited to step into this new building," he said, noting the library is outgrowing its current space.

"This is costing a little more than we anticipated, but it was two years ago that we started," Brom said. He said the higher

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PHOTOS BY MARK MAYNARD / THE INDEPENDENT

**Joshua Smith plays the drums with his feet in the Boyd County Middle School band room on Friday morning.**

# Better ride a need, not a want, for teen

*BCMS student with physical challenges hopes to win van*

By **SHANNON MILLER**  
*The Independent*

**SUMMIT** Joshua Smith doesn't let his disability get him down, but his unavoidable dependence on his parents when it comes to transportation proves to be a challenge for everyone involved.

Smith, a 13-year-old student at Boyd County Middle School, was born with arthrogyposis, a condition in which contractures affect one or more areas of the body, meaning joints become permanently fixed in a bent or straightened position, completely or partially restricting the movement of the affected joint. Physical symptoms found in patients can vary greatly in range and severity.

"It affects some people's brains, but Joshua is really smart," said his mother, Mary Smith. "It just affects his arms



**JOSHUA SMITH**

and legs."

The teen is unable to use his hands and he cannot walk. He has been in a wheelchair since

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# IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

*FHS students follow the clues in mock CSI exercise*

By **MIKE JAMES**  
*The Independent*

**WESTWOOD** Students in a new forensic science class at Fairview High School spent an hour on their hands and knees in the tall weeds last week, searching for clues at a mock crime scene.

They assured themselves they'd done a thorough job.

It only took a few questions from an expert to demonstrate just how meticulous a real investigator has to be to build a case that stands up in court.

Back in class Thursday, Kentucky State Police crime lab director Larry Boggs Jr. grilled each of the students on what he or she had found.

Even with the help of notes to refresh their memories, they were sometimes surprised at what



MIKE JAMES / THE INDEPENDENT

**Annastacia Cannoy examines evidence bagged at a mock crime scene.**

they'd forgotten.

"We should have paid more attention. I wish we'd taken more notes," said senior Shelby Renfro, one of the students Boggs questioned. "I was frantically trying to remember what we'd done."

The point of the exercise was to show the painstaking work required in forensic investigation and the importance of scrupulously recording each detail, Bog-

gs said. "The more detail the better. You might not go to court for two years and you might work 100 other cases in between."

The two-day exercise started on the grounds of the crime lab in Cannonsburg. Boggs created a hypothetical crime scene that included a body, bullets, shell casings, footprints, tire tracks and

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# Sharing a lifetime of memories

*88-year-old WWII vet leaves a written account for family*

By **TIM PRESTON**  
*The Independent*

**FLATWOODS** When it came time to tell his life story, Morgan Lee Stevens knew he was the only man who could get the job done right.

"I know it's all true because I was there when it happened," he said with a chuckle.

Stevens, 88, of Flatwoods said he began

writing his autobiography about five years ago at the urging of fellow members at Worthington Nazarene Church.

"I really done it for my family. I wanted leave something for them," he said. "A soldier hardly ever tells the things he went through. My whole life's in that book."

In addition to telling about his experiences during wartime, Stevens



**Morgan Lee Stevens leaves through the autobiography he recently completed chronicling his life, including days as an Army soldier during World War II.**

TIM PRESTON / THE INDEPENDENT

said he wanted to let today's youth know what life was like when he was a boy.

"I wanted to illustrate how hard life was when I was a kid. I mean it was really rough," he said.

The autobiography, simply titled "My Life," begins with Stevens' earliest memory.

"I was about 4 or 5 years old. I don't quite re-

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