

From Page 1A

Williams calls Beshear's move 'vindictive'

The Senate had refused to pass the transportation budget until after Beshear signed the road construction plan. Neither side was willing to budge before time ran out in the regular session.

Williams contends that Beshear doesn't have line-item veto power on the road construction plan. But Williams said he has no plans to mount a court challenge to try to restore the projects in his district.

"It's an extremely partisan and vindictive move by the governor," Williams said. "I've learned to expect that. And it challenges my capacity to be able to forgive, and I do forgive the governor for what he's done to the people of my district. And I hope they can forgive him. And I hope that this is the final act of political vengeance that he tries to extract against me."

As leaders in their respective parties, Williams and Beshear have been at odds for years. Beshear has pushed unsuccessfully to oust Williams as Senate president by trying to elect enough Democrats to overturn the GOP majority. Beshear has even appointed Republican senators to lucrative positions outside the Legislature to create potential openings for Democrats.

Williams has survived despite Beshear's efforts. Williams' supporters see the governor's latest action as another attempt to weaken the Burkesville lawyer, who has been Senate president for more than a decade.

Beshear insisted in his statement that his vetoes of Williams' projects were done in the interest of fairness.

"Senator Williams has essentially moved all his district's road projects to the front of the line, forcing other projects that the Transportation Cabinet and other legislators considered high-priori-

ty to wait until additional funding becomes available," Beshear said. "It's unfair to the citizens, and it's unfair to the rest of the lawmakers whose districts will suffer."

Earlier Wednesday, the House passed a transportation budget that would fund the road construction plan, which includes widening to six lanes a dangerous stretch of Interstate 65 near Muncifordville where 11 people died in a crash two years ago.

That massive spending plan also includes money for expanding airports, dredging river ports and building bridges, including the state's single largest project: \$2.6 billion for two bridges across the Ohio River in Louisville.

Stan Lampe, president of Kentuckians for Better Transportation, heralded the highway appropriations bill as a measure that will improve all modes of travel in the state.

Lampe said the bill includes \$1 million to dredge silt that is clogging up Kentucky's river ports, \$3.2 million to upgrade railroad crossings around the state, and \$10 million to improve more than 50 of the state's smaller airports.

Budgeting has been one of the more time-consuming chores this year for Kentucky lawmakers, who passed the \$19 billion state government operating budget in late March. That budget includes sharp cuts to most government agencies, leaves employees without pay raises and erases a planned cost-of-living increase from the monthly pension checks of retirees.

The measure also includes 8.4 percent cuts to most government agencies and programs because of lingering financial woes brought on by the recession. Those cuts will account for nearly \$300 million in savings.



Jefferson Award winner Ray Buckberry (right) gets a hug today from Abraham Williams after Buckberry received his award. Both are of Bowling Green. Four local volunteers — Buckberry, Martha Jenkins, Felicia Bland and Caroline Ford — were honored as 2012 Jefferson Award recipients during a breakfast at Mariah's.

From Page 1A

SKYPAC executive director speaks about importance of volunteers

62.8 million people in the nation volunteered — their time was worth a total of \$173 billion, according to Independent Sector, a coalition of nonprofits, foundations and corporate giving programs.

Tom Tomlinson, executive director of the nonprofit Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center — where hundreds of people volunteer their time — spoke about the importance of volunteers within the community and the country.

"It takes thousands and thousands of volunteers to power these nonprofits," he said, listing a few nonprofits that make a difference in the local community. "To ignore the role nonprofits play in the economy ... is to place it at risk."

In addition to Bland, Ray Buckberry, Caroline Ford and Martha Jenkins were recognized for their roles in nonprofits and other organizations throughout the region.

Buckberry is busy preparing for the Aviation Heritage Park's Hangar Party, an event that takes a year to plan and that Buckberry is a major part of. He's also constantly preparing for a personal event that means a lot to him — he places about 30 flags on the graves of area veterans.

But this morning, he took time to receive an award for his efforts.

"It's a distinct honor," he said. "There are hundreds of people who do what I do. I'm just one of them."

It's also a busy week for Caroline, as she prepares for this weekend's talent show that



will benefit the Center for Courageous Kids. Caroline, 15, founded the Artist Alliance Talent Showcase in 2010 to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

"I didn't know what I could do because I was so young," Caroline said, adding that the

show raised more than \$12,000 last year for the Center for Courageous Kids. Now, Caroline is calculating the funds that have been raised this year through sponsorships.

"It's just a really special week," she said. "It's very humbling."

Like the other recipients, Jenkins has been busy over the past few months volunteering her time. She has spent "hours and hours" arranging an exhibit at the Kentucky Museum celebrating 100 years of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, in which she taught for 40 years.

"In fact, I'm still putting up things," Jenkins said.

She's also been spending a lot of time with the Dream Factory. One of the children the organization helped asked Jenkins to assist him with his own volunteer work, she said.

"I'm sort of overwhelmed," she said about the award. "I never really expected it."

As Bland waited to receive her award, she also spoke about her upcoming duties as a volunteer. She's looking forward to a faith-based youth leadership conference. Bland helps organize the statewide conference, which will be in Hopkinsville this year, and will draw about 6,000 young people from across the state.

And she's preparing for another trip. Bland will represent the area at the Jefferson Awards National Ceremony in Washington, D.C., in June.

"It's really an honor," she said. "I stand among an elite group."

From Page 1A

Three public hearings scheduled tonight

Three public hearings are scheduled for the planning commission meeting at 7 p.m. tonight in the Bowling Green City Commission chambers.

One hearing involves the rezoning of about six acres of land at 1791 Old Louisville Road from agriculture to planned-unit development for the purpose of starting

a men's recovery center.

Two other hearings involve the requested rezoning of property from agriculture to residential estate use.

One of the properties up for rezoning is on Plano Road and the other is on the north side of Porter Pike between Car Jordan and Iron Bridge roads.

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Whistlers pucker up and blow into N. Carolina town

By ALLEN G. BREED
The Associated Press

LOUISBURG, N.C. — John Ruggieri didn't make it to the finals of last year's International Whistling Convention. So this year, he's going to spice his act up a bit.

"There's going to be some jokes," the lawyer and professional poker player from Bronx, N.Y., said after signing up. "Maybe even a magic trick. And a trivia game. A whistling trivia game."

It's all fair game as the little town of Louisburg, N.C., welcomes whistlers for the 39th annual parade of puckerers. This year, more than five dozen contestants are coming from 20 states and nine countries as far away as Japan and Australia.

"It was there before we had language," convention founder Allen DeHart, 85, said of the musical art form, the skill of which he does not

possess.

The convention grew out of a folk festival at Louisburg College, organized by retired history and psychology professor DeHart. China and Japan each hosted, but this year the convention has officially declared Louisburg its permanent home.

Contestants began arriving Wednesday at the convention headquarters — temporarily in the basement of a county judicial building downtown. Each received a packet with an itinerary, map and a tube of ChapStick.

Competitors from elementary school age to their 90s will vie in categories ranging from classical to popular to "allied arts" — which can include bird calls, musical accompaniment and, yes, even magic tricks. People are scored on such things as resonance, intonation, articulation and "stage presence."

French native Luc Vitry flew in from

Boston for his first-ever convention. He began whistling as boy to while away the lonely hours at military boarding school.

"I was missing music, really missing having music with me on a daily basis," said the engineer, who plans to perform several operatic pieces, including an aria from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." "And I just found out that making music yourself is the best way to have it always with you."

Ruggieri grew up whistling the flute parts of Jethro Tull tunes. He said he's been practicing like a demon for this year's competition, but he knows he's at the mercy of the elements — especially the South's heavy pollen.

"It's a very delicate instrument," he said of the human mouth. "There are times when you can be the best whistler in the world, and then there are times when you say, 'I was absolutely terrible.' And I just try to stay moist."

From Page 1A

Rummerfield has competed in marathons and triathlons

Rummerfield has made a habit of meeting goals that seem unattainable.

He was a passenger in the car — a Corvette, coincidentally — that crashed 38 years ago in a drunk driving accident in which the car had been traveling as fast as 135 mph.

Hospitalized with a neck fractured in four places, a shattered collar bone, fractures to all his ribs and massive head injuries, Rummerfield's prognosis was grim.

After surviving the initial three days that he was given to live, Rummerfield decided against doctors' suggestions that he be placed in a long-term nursing care facility, opting instead for physical rehab.

Rummerfield was operating a wheelchair with his mouth when he had his first breakthrough.

Visualizing his athletic childhood, in which he ran and played basketball, and envisioning a future in which he could drive a race car, Rummerfield was able to move his left big toe while lying in bed, he said.

The intensive therapy continued as he learned to walk and use his hands again. Daily exercise helped accelerate his recovery.

"It took me 17 years to get to this level of function," Rummerfield said.



Patrick Rummerfield, who recovered from being paralyzed from the neck down in a 1974 car accident, works Wednesday on a Corvette at the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant.

Now, with more than 85 percent of his spinal cord destroyed in his neck at the C-4 spinal nerve, Rummerfield has competed in marathons and triathlons, running the Antarctica Marathon in 1997 in subzero temperatures.

He has also completed the 155-mile Gobi Desert March foot race and was a torch-bearer for the 2004 Summer Olympics.

Several months ago, Rummerfield contacted the Corvette plant about visiting the facility where

his favorite car is made.

Plant officials arranged with Rummerfield to have him visit Wednesday, where he was a guest speaker for the plant's monthly all-employee meeting. "One of his unrealized dreams was to build Corvettes," Tatman said.

Today, Rummerfield will be involved in the plant's annual employee health fair, where he will sign copies of his book "Green Bananas," which chronicles his life.

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