**Synthetic marijuana crops up in county from**

By LINDA IRELAND

A

new visitor to Sportsman’s Lake outside Hodgenville were surprised early Wednesday by an incredible sight: Several hundred pelicans floating peaceably in the middle of the 40-acre lake about 8:30 a.m. He watched them through binoculars and thought a couple of them might be asleep.

“THERE WERE PELICANS WHERE PELICANS SHOULDN’T BE,” he said.

He said they appeared to have a 6-foot wingspan – maybe even larger.

“It wasn’t the first time birds, usually regarded as coastal birds, have been spotted in Kentucky. Kentucky Afield reported seeing “thousands” of the birds on Lake Barkley Feb. 21 at Lake Barkley. A clip can be viewed at www.YouTube.com. Type ‘American white pelican Kentucky’ in the search bar. John H. Brunjes, Ph.D, a biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, said the pelicans are migrating.

“American white pelicans are a common winter and spring visitor to Kentucky but may show up anywhere statewide during migration (now),” Brunjes wrote in an email. “LaRue County is a little further south than normal, but I would not consider it at all unusual. We get reports from Cave Run Lake in eastern Kentucky on a regular basis.”

Tom Barnes, University of Kentucky

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**EXCEL winner honored by peers, students, community**

By CANDIS CARPENTER

Students, teachers, community leaders and past ExCEL, award recipients gathered last Wednesday to honor the 2012 ExCEL Teacher of the Year, Heather Sutherland. Sutherland, a fourth grade teacher at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, was honored at an award ceremony held at ALES. ExCEL, which stands for Excellence in Classroom and Educational Leadership, is sponsored by WHRI11 and LG&E KU.

The award is presented to public school teachers to recognize, reward and renew the importance and contributions of the public school and teaching profession to the development and well-being of young people. The award is presented to public school teachers to recognize, reward and renew the importance and contributions of the public school and teaching profession to the development and well-being of young people.

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**Hamilton selected to lead Sunrise Manor**

By RON BENNINGFIELD

Crystal Hamilton, Sunrise Manor’s new administrator, knows long-term care because she has worked at so many nursing

‘I’ve done everything from the nurse, to the activities to social service, to administration, said the Elizabethtown resident who holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Western Kentucky University.

Hamilton began her duties at the Hodgenville nursing home Feb. 20 after spending the past seven years as an administrator with Extendicare in Hardinsburg and Elizabethtown.

Crystal Hamilton

“I resigned my position with that company because I wanted to try home health care, but before I began the new position, I received a call from Signature HealthCare (the company that operates Sunrise Manor) informing me of an administrator position opening.”

She accepted the position, explaining, “My heart is in long-term care and once that gets inside you, you can’t change.”

Responsible for more than 170 employees and a facility that can hold 137 residents, Hamilton said her goals are to make life as enjoyable as can be for the residents and also to ensure that the employees are respected and appreciated.

So that she can “get a feel for pressing issues,” she holds a short meeting each weekday where she touches base with nurses and other staff.

She said she has also

See SUNRISE, page 23A

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**Pelicans in Hodgenville?**

**There were pelicans where pelicans shouldn’t be.**

Charlie Hart, caretaker of Sportsman’s Lake

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**Storm victims urged to apply for SBA loan before deadline**

By LINDA IRELAND

LaRue County residents who suffered property damage in the Feb. 20 tornado should have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Another part of the recovery process to apply for a low-interest loan with the Small Business Administration.

Richard Daigle of the SBA said residents “shouldn’t be thrown off by FEMA’s role in the recovery process.”

Whenever FEMA is mobilized by a presidential decree, SBA is also there,” Daigle said. “We want to encourage people to apply for a loan (before the deadline).

In some cases, a resident may realize after the deadline – that they need additional funds for repairs, Daigle said.

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