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State gas tax to dip by 4.3 cents a gallon

BY LAUREN P. DUNCAN
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Kentucky's gas tax is set to drop by 4.3 cents on Jan. 1 — good news for drivers but bad news for local and state road funds.

Under Kentucky law, a portion of the state's gas tax known as the excise tax is revised every quarter based on the average wholesale price of motor fuels. Because gasoline prices fell in October when a survey was taken to establish the gas tax rate for January through March, the tax on gasoline, diesel and ethanol fuels will be 4.3 cents a gallon lower on New Year's Day.

Chuck Wolfe, spokesman with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, said it will be the largest single decrease since the Legislature made the excise tax adjustable in 1980.

"It's never gone down this much," he said. "This is a big one."

The Transportation Cabinet estimates the decline will result in a \$129 million loss to the Kentucky Road Fund if fuel consumption does not change. Kentucky Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock called the loss of revenue "crippling."

With the other portions of the gas tax added to the excise tax, the current combined state rate for buyers this quarter is 31.9 cents. Beginning Jan. 1, the rate will be 27.6 cents.

Wolfe said the state won't know how seriously transportation projects, which are primarily funded by the gas tax, will be affected until revenues from the lower rate begin coming in.

"We'd like for the public to be aware that there is another side of the coin. Falling fuel prices are going to result in a corresponding loss in revenue that goes toward the construction and upkeep of the road system that they drive on," Wolfe said.

If wholesale gas prices continue to drop in January, the tax rate could decline again in April. The excise tax, which can increase to as much as 10 percent of the average wholesale price, has dropped four times in the past five quarters.

State Sen. Bob Leeper, co-chairman

Please see **GAS** | 10A



ELLEN O'NAN | The Sun

Ester Peters, a nursing student at West Kentucky Community and Technical College, plays with her dog, Gaston, on the school's campus on Wednesday afternoon. After being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, Peters trained Gaston to detect her glucose levels. Peters shared her training experiences during a free seminar in Waller Hall at WKCTC on Wednesday morning.

Woman trains her dog as personal glucose meter

BY GENEVIEVE POSTLETHWAIT

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Esther Peters' right-handman, Gaston the dog, is exceptionally well behaved.

Always at Peters' side, the 6-year-old standard poodle is calm, careful, gentle and obeys Peters' every command. The only aberration in Gaston's cool and collected demeanor is his most impressive trick of all, his "blood sugar dance."

"He's supposed to signal when my blood sugar drops by tapping me with his paw, but instead he does what I call the 'blood sugar dance,'" Peters told a packed lecture hall full of West Kentucky Community and Technical College students Wednesday.

day. "He gets really excited and antsy and runs all over the place. He won't leave me alone until I eat something and my blood sugar goes back up."

Peters, a long-time dog trainer, mother of five and nursing student at WKCTC with Type 2 diabetes, has trained Gaston to be her personal glucose meter. Wherever Peters goes — to class, to the grocery, to the mall — Gaston goes, too. As she spoke to WKCTC students Wednesday he laid at her feet, dressed in his blue vest and perfectly content.

Peters wasn't diagnosed with diabetes until later in life. She developed gestational diabetes while preg-

nant, a condition that usually dissipates once the child is born. Peters had her child, but the diabetes stayed. She was told she would likely have to take insulin shots three times a day and prick her fingers. She wasn't ready to accept a life full of needles, which she hates.

"I asked my doctor if there was anything I could do to change it," Peters said. "He told me I could go on a diet. He was really blunt about it. At the time, I was 80 pounds heavier than what I am now. I lost that 80 pounds. I changed my diet, completely changed my eating habits and was wondering if there was anything else I could do,

tion, he said. "I know that people (working at other locations) can do better because I see it here at this casino," he said. "It's like family here."

Brad Hirsch, senior vice president and general manager at Harrah's Metropolis, said Wednesday's turnout bodes well for the casino.

"Based on the volume we have seen on the floor, we're really pleased with the opening we've had tonight and expect even bigger crowds this weekend," he said.

The renovation, which did away with the riverboat and moved gaming operations to the shore, was intended in part to provide a better experience for people interested in more than a night of gambling, Hirsch said.

Please see **DOG** | 6A

Feds have \$360 million for 2015 plant cleanup

BY DAVID ZOELLER
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The U.S. Department of Energy will have about \$360 million in cleanup funds to spend in 2015 at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, members of the Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization were told Wednesday.

PACRO Director Charlie Martin updated the board on several issues relating to the site, which returned to the DOE's control Oct. 21. Fluor Federal Services, the contractor selected by DOE for deactivation and decommissioning of the facilities, has been managing the site since then. Fluor was awarded a three-year contract in July.

Martin said local officials have asked Bill Murphy, the DOE site manager in Lexington, for a plan on how the government is going to spend its money in 2015 and how many jobs are going to be created using those funds.

"As you may remember, in 2014 we got a significant increase in funding," Martin said. "And, last week we found out that there is about \$89 million that wasn't spent in 2014 that's going to be rolled forward into 2015."

Right now the DOE is spending, just on the appropriation level, approximately \$270 million a year for Paducah, according to Martin.

"So, if you add the \$89 million and the \$270 million, you get real close to \$360 million that Fluor and the government

Please see **CLEANUP** | 10A

Obama to announce immigration action

BY JIM KUHNHENN AND ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a broad test of his executive powers, President Barack Obama declared Wednesday he will sidestep Congress and order his own federal action on immigration — in measures that could spare from deportation as many as 5 million people illegally in the U.S. and set up one of the most pitched partisan confrontations of his presidency.

Obama declared that Washington has allowed America's immigration problem "to fester for too long."

The president will use an 8 p.m. EST address Thursday to announce his measures and will sign the executive actions during a rally in Las Vegas on Friday. In doing so, Obama will be taking an aggressive stand that he had once insisted was beyond his presidential power.

As many as 5 million people in the country illegally are likely to be protected from deportation and made eligible for work permits under the plan. They would not have a path to citizenship, however, and the actions could be reversed by a new president in two years. Officials said the eligible immigrants would not be entitled to federal benefits — including health care tax credits — under Obama's plan.

The 5 million estimate includes extending deportation protections to parents and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the country for five years. The president also is likely to expand his 2-year-old program that protects young immigrants from deportation. The administration had con-

Please see **OBAMA** | 10A

Harrah's Metropolis renovations hit the jackpot

BY LAUREL BLACK

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The updated Harrah's Metropolis Casino & Hotel wowed even its most seasoned customers during its first night of operation Wednesday.

Live music flowed from the entertainment stage and across the gambling floor, where visitors took their pick from 800 slots and 23 gaming tables. The more than \$8 million project revamped former convention space to include three new bars, a poker room and a new restaurant — all of which were teeming just an hour after the casino opened its doors to the public at 7 p.m.

"The new facility's better than I expected it to be. It's outstanding. It's fresh. It's fun. It smells good," said Steve Raney, a longtime Harrah's customer. "I'm looking forward to some really good times here."



ELLEN O'NAN | The Sun

Brad Hirsch, senior vice president and general manager at Harrah's Metropolis, stands in front of the brand new casino at Harrah's Metropolis Casino & Hotel on Wednesday evening. Wednesday was the start of the grand opening that will continue on through the weekend.

Raney, 64, has been making the trek from Nashville, Tennessee, to Harrah's Metropolis Casino & Hotel about twice a

month for the past eight years. When he visits other Harrah's properties, he always compares them to the Metropolis loca-

Please see **HARRAH'S** | 5A

LOCAL FACE PAINTING

People get their faces painted at Murray State University's International Bazaar on Wednesday. The event is part of MSU's International Education Week.

2A



WORLD

FOUR TALIBAN MILITANTS KILLED

Four Taliban militants who attacked a compound housing foreign workers in the Afghan capital were killed Wednesday night in a failed assault there.

5A

Forecast

Today

41°

Mostly sunny

10A

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LAUREL BLACK | The Sun

Fiber artist Lily Liu arranges pieces ahead of Saturday's "50/50 Show," where she and husband John Hasegawa will sell 50 pieces of art for \$50 apiece. Available work includes jewelry, wraps and ceramics; the show will be held at Created For U Studio, 533 N. Fifth St.



LAUREL BLACK | The Sun

John Hasegawa, a ceramics artist and instructor at the Paducah School of Art & Design, adjusts a ceramic bowl on a shelf at Created For U Studio, which he and wife Lily Liu opened last year. The couple's "50/50" show, featuring 50 pieces of art for \$50 each, opens at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Busy couple 'steals moments' for art

BY LAUREL BLACK

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Yes, John Hasegawa and Lily Liu's "50/50 Show" does feature 50 pieces of work, and yes, each piece does cost \$50.

But there's a little more to it than that.

The date of the show — this Saturday, Nov. 22 — also marks the Paducah couple's eighth wedding anniversary.

"We were thinking, as a couple, to make your relationship work, it's ... a 50-50 responsibility," Liu said Monday at the pair's gallery and shop in Lower Town.

The more they talked about it, the catchier it sounded.

So the beginning of this week found the couple counting and arranging pieces of jewelry (hers) and ceramics (his) on the shelves of Created For U, a Lower Town gallery and shop they opened about a year ago.

Their two boys, Kenji and Kiyoshi, were also camped out in the shop, as their elementary school had given

Want to go?

What: "50/50 Show."
When: 4-7 p.m. Saturday.

Where: Created For U Studio, 533 N. Fifth St.

The date of the show — this Saturday, Nov. 22 — also marks the Paducah couple's eighth wedding anniversary.

after classes at Paducah School of Art and Design, where he teaches.

Small, textured bowls have replaced some of his earlier hulking vessels, which are on display at the opposite side of the shop.

"I don't really have time to take on a big project," he said.

But the artists have found enough time for lots of smaller projects.

When they first came up with the idea for their sale, 50 pieces seemed like too many, but as they started gathering their work, they realized it wasn't too much. Next year, Liu said, they may do 100.

Like parenting, art has proven a round-the-clock job.

Even when she's not working, Liu said, she's always looking at art and thinking

constantly sharpen your knife. If you're not creating, your teaching suffers. ... Steal every moment you can," she said.

The show runs from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Created For U Studio, 533 N. Fifth St.

In addition to the \$50

pieces, other work — some with a higher price tag, some less expensive — will be on display.

Contact Laurel Black, a Paducah Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8641, or follow @LaurelBlack on Twitter.

CURRENT PUZZLER

ACROSS

1	Make the --	145	Work	23	Alleviation	96	Do a jig	127	Dead lang.
6	Not fern.	146	Garment part	31	Bakery item	98	Rounded handle	129	Liquefied, as rock
10	Crippled	148	Kind of wave	33	Caper	99	Stage direction	130	Subservient
14	Mimicking ones	150	Govern	36	Abbr. in a schedule	100	Stylishly	132	Nonsense
19	Kind of race	151	Goes after game	37	"Star --"	101	old-fashioned	134	Harsh noise
20	Player	153	Dressed to the --	38	Red dye	103	Showy actors	135	Set of beliefs
22	Make a sol promise	155	Take as a given	40	Hospital worker	105	Bodybreak	136	Mickey --
24	French revolutionist	157	Dromedary	42	Scatter	107	Mother-of --	137	Ship of 1492
25	Burning	158	Bone (Prefix)	44	Parts for actors	109	Storm	138	Tooth (Prefix)
26	Chicago's airport	159	Turnstile	46	Tasty topping	111	Body joint	140	Atelier item
27	Raison --	160	Tropical resin	48	Sculls	113	Object from antiquity	142	Earthing
28	Chatter	161	Swiftly	49	Fails utterly	116	Prove false	143	Put into office
29	Denomination	162	Penn and Connerly	50	On the left, on shipboard	119	Sing a certain way	144	Removes
30	Long-plumed bird	163	Brit's elevator	52	Used a paddle	119	Pleasant	147	Coral formation
32	Reese the singer	164	Wings	54	Bluenose	123	Alaska's -- Strait	149	City in Peru
34	Virginia willow genus	165	Lets	56	Dish	125	Body structure (Abbr.)	152	Distress call
35	Church official	DOWN		57	Privileged ones	126	Canal boat	154	Defunct plane
39	Car type	1	Take hold of	58	Sketched			156	Cravat
41	Cloudburst	2	Allude	60	Begin to move			157	Jalopy
43	Miscalculation	3	Juvenile heroine	63	Something inessential				
45	Miley or Billy Ray	4	Shoot through	65	Minus				
47	Trivial	5	Look at	67	Shore bird				
48	One -- kind	6	Chinese chairman	69	Uttered				
51	Vacation spot	7	Patient's complaint	70	Nerve impulse site				
53	Capture	8	Antlered animals	71	Brilliance				
55	Evergreen tree	9	Right	74	Folklore creature				
56	Advanced degree	10	Drug letters	76	God of war				
59	Mont Blanc's range	11	Filled with solemn fear	78	Meek				
61	Metric unit	12	Parting or pose age	81	Culpability				
62	Ride a wave	13	Cap part	83	Give off				
64	Wine storage area	14	Elec. unit	85	Wild fear				
66	Cheers	15	Equality	87	Talked wildly				
68	Tidings	16	A Muse	89	Start for space				
70	Make safe	17	One that appraises	91	Two-faced god				
72	Use a loom	18	Vapor	92	The cream				
73	Time of year	21	Tall and thin	93	Pinkish color				
75	Sordid			94	Shore or Washington				
77	Official order								
79	Cook a certain way								
80	Twine								
82	Keaton or Sawyer								
84	Ovals								
86	Rain cats and dogs								
88	Stage play								
90	Dalai --								
91	Long, sad cop lant								
95	Snooped								
97	Try to mend								
101	Nimbus								
102	Costello or Presley								
104	Sandal part								
106	Kind of jacket								
108	Cordial flavoring								
110	Time in office								
112	Nonpareil								
114	Terra --								
115	Without speaking								
117	Scandinavian								
118	City in Normandy								
120	Floating ice mass, for short								
121	Dir. letters								
122	Marley or Costas								
124	Expressive dance								
126	Burrowing rodent								
128	Deer								
129	Computer peripheral								
131	Spotted pony								
133	"Star Wars" filmmaker								
135	Authorized								
139	Chili con --								
141	A little loco								

Solutions

GRADE	MASC	LAME	APERS
RELAY	ACTOR	SWEAR	MARAT
AFIRE	OHARE	DETRE	PRATE
SECT	EGRET	DELLA	ITEA
PRELATE	SEDAN	RAINSTORM	
ERROR	CYRUS	PETTY	
OFA	RESORT	TRAP	FIR
ALPS	KILO	SURF	CELLAR
ROOTS	NEWS	SECURE	WEAVE
SPRING	SEAMY	EDICT	STEW
STRING	DIANE	ELLIPSES	
MEEK	FOUR	DRAMA	LAMA
JEREMIAH	SPIED	TINKER	
HALO	ELVIS	STRAP	DINNER
ANISE	TENURE	ONER	COTTA
MUTELY	DANE	CAEN	BERG
SSE	BOB	HULA	GERBIL
ROE	MODERN	PINTO	LUCAS
EMPOWERED	CARNE	TETCHED	
TOIL	LINER	TIDAL	RULE
HUNTS	NINES	POSIT	CAMEL
OSTEO	GATES	ELEMI	APACE
SEANS	LIFT	ALAE	RENTS

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Today

Stretching Your Holiday Dollar: 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., McCracken County Cooperative Extension, 2705 Olivet Church Road.

Ladies Night: 5 p.m., Casa Mexicana, 4793 Village Square Drive.

Night Moves Dance Club Line Dancing and Couple Classes: 6-9 p.m., American Legion, 425 Legion Drive. \$4. 270-442-3186.

"Sanders Family Christmas": 7 p.m., Badgett Playhouse/Grand Rivers Variety, 1838 J.H. O'Bryan Ave., Grand Rivers.

Friday

"Down Home Country Christmas": 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Badgett Playhouse/Grand Rivers Variety, 1838 J.H. O'Bryan Ave., Grand Rivers.

Science Fun Night: 5-7 p.m., Emerging Technology Center at WKCTC, 4810 Alben Barkley Drive. \$25 per class. 270-534-3335.

Ms. Dahn Piano and Vocals: 6 p.m., Ristorante di Fratelli, 211 Broadway.

"The Tempest": 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Clemens Fine Arts Center at WKCTC, 4810 Alben Barkley Drive. Gail Robinson Butler, 270-534-

3212. Paducah Writers Group: 8 p.m., Etcetera Coffeehouse, 320 N. Sixth St.



Saturday

McCracken County Half Marathon: 7 11 a.m., McCracken County High School, 6530 New U.S. 60 West; tim.stewart@mc-cracken.kyschools.us.

Project Hope Holiday Bazaar and Photos with Santa: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Robert Cherry Civic Center, 2701 Park Ave.; 618-524-8939.

"Curious George": 3 p.m., The Carson Center, 100 Kentucky Ave. 270-450-4444.

Wine Tasting: 3-5 p.m., Global Wine and Spirits, 4125 Clark's River Road. Beer and Wine Tasting: 4-6 p.m., Wagner Wine and Spirits, 2700-B New Holt Road.

50/50 Show: John Hasegawa and Lily Liu: 4-7 p.m., Created for U, 533 N. Fifth St.

Yeiser Annual Members' Show Opening Reception: 5-7 p.m., Yeiser Art Center, 200 Broadway.

Milner and Orr Funeral Home's Annual Holiday Service of Remembrance: The Promise of Peace: 6-7 p.m., First Christian Church, 415 Audubon Drive. Mary Beth Orr, 270-442-5100.

Reggie Lafaye: 6 p.m., Ristorante di Fratelli, 211 Broadway.

Sunday

"The Big Band Christmas Show": 2 p.m., Badgett Playhouse/Grand Rivers Variety, 1838 J.H. O'Bryan Ave.

Ongoing

Motion from Contemporary QuiltArt Association: Friday to Feb. 23, National Quilt Museum, 215 Jefferson St. \$11 adults, \$10 seniors, \$5 students.

Exhibition by Vance Farrow: Saturday to Dec. 20, BiLan Liao Studio & Gallery, 524 N. Seventh St.

Yeiser Annual Member's Show: Saturday to Nov. 27, Yeiser Art Center, 200 Broadway.

Split Nine Patch Quilts from the Pilgrim Roy Collection: Through Tuesday, Dec. 9, The National Quilt Museum.