

Voice

unhappy with the substance of that bill which will place new teachers into hybrid cash balance retirement plans rather than defined benefit plans — something teachers say will make it difficult to recruit future teachers. They aren't happy either that they won't in the future be able to count unused sick days to calculate retirement eligibility. But they are also angry about the "process," the way Republicans, who control both legislative chambers, passed the measure by attaching it to a waste water bill at the last minute and with no prior notice.

"People are so fed up with how the process works in Frankfort," Winkler said. She said that applies as well to how Republicans waited until Monday morning to roll out a budget and a revenue bill which significantly alters the state's tax code and then scheduled votes on the bills for the same day.

"It would be nice if we could see details of these bills," Winkler said.

Clearly, lawmakers were watching as teachers descended for weeks on Frankfort, in even greater numbers Monday.

While lawmakers debated the two bills, teachers filled the area on the second floor of the capitol between the two chambers, shouting "Vote them out! And Shame on you!"

Republicans tried to put the best face they could on things, touting the revenue and budget bills for funding increases for SEEK — the basic funding formula for public schools — and said they heard teachers' concerns as they crafted the budget. Democrats, on the other hand, said the budget is still inadequate and criticized tax code changes as benefiting corporations and wealthy individuals at the expense of the working class and poor people.

Sen. Morgan McGarvey, D-Louisville, however said the Republican budget is "politically astute." He said "Republicans are hoping the money they put in the budget for education will prevent teacher and voter backlash when lawmakers face voters next November."

"But I don't think it will work," McGarvey said.

Diana Hutton, a retired teacher from Villa Hills, agrees.

"Absolutely, we'll remember that pension vote," she said Monday. "We're still angry, even after they put more in the budget for education. We know we can't trust them because of their lack of transparency."

Denise Vanover teaches math at Kingston Elementary in Madison County, but Monday she stood outside the state Senate chambers and said she and her colleagues won't forget this fall how lawmakers voted on the pension bill.

She doesn't think teachers will forget their anger when the November elections roll around, either.

With her was

Kaye Prather, a fourth-grade math teacher at the same school, who said she's a single parent, and while budget funds health insurance for retired teachers until they reach Medicare eligibility at age 65, the state will no longer help pay for dependent coverage.

"I'm a single mom and, when I retire, my children will be in college and they won't be covered," Prather said.

She said teachers are grateful the Republican budget puts money back in the budget for things like Family Resource Centers "but my children are also important to me and I want them covered."

Ronnie Ellis writes for CNHI News Service and is based in Frankfort; follow him on Twitter @cnhifrankfort.

Potter

arraignment Friday morning and is being held at the Fayette County Detention Center without bond.

In an updated report on Friday, March 30, police have made a second arrest in connection with a homicide and assault that claimed the life of former Jackson County, James Potter.

Austin J. Adams, 22, was arrested Friday by officers with the Ashland Police Department and charged with complicity to wit first-degree assault. He was taken to the Boyd County Detention Center, Lexington police said in a news release.

Also Friday, Helvey, pleaded not guilty to murder, first-degree assault, kidnapping and tampering with evidence. He is scheduled to appear in court again April 9.

Sheriff

me this week to let me know of a scam call she received on her cell phone. Someone called her over and over to try to persuade her to pay money to avoid some type of serious trouble with the law. She was wise enough not to pay, but many people fall into this trap and lose a lot of money. These people who portray government officials, FBI agents, local law enforcement or prize winner announcers can make a convincing story, but it is always a scam. The IRS, or any other government agency will never require you to pay them money by a telephone scam. Never give your personal information over the phone to anyone and never agree to send them any money. If it is too good to be true, don't believe it! It is practically impossible to investigate these phone crimes, so please don't fall prey to a scam artist. If you receive a call like this, look in your phone book for directions to block such calls.

We serve a bunch of domestic violence orders, eviction notices, subpoenas and warrants in the Sheriff's office. It is a necessary part of the job, but not one that we enjoy. If a SO unit comes to your home to serve a paper, please try not to take their action as a personal attack. It is never personal unless someone makes it personal. We try to treat everyone with respect even when

we arrest them for some type criminal charge. We have a difficult and, many times, thankless job. It always helps when stressful situations are reduced by basic manners and respect for one another.

Please don't drink or use illegal drugs and operate a motor vehicle. Last week I arrested a young lady who was blown away with several types of drugs. She ran her vehicle into a ditch, causing severe damage. I am thankful no one else was hurt due to the accident. If you choose to drink or use illegal drugs, stay home or get a designated sober driver. IT will save you thousands of dollars.

Last week the Jackson County Sheriff's Office answered sixty-eight calls for service. We opened three criminal cases, investigated four traffic accidents and arrested five individuals on various criminal charges. Our local fire, EMS and even our local wrecker services are always great help in a serious crime or accident scene. We appreciate their efforts to keep our county safe and secure. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Budget

and "Vote them out!"

The teachers loudly called for the repeal of Senate Bill 151, originally a bill about waste water management, which was amended to place newly hired teachers into hybrid cash balance plans rather than in a defined benefit plan.

Democrats in both chambers vigorously criticized the bill and the Republican majorities for crafting the legislation in secret then demanding lawmakers pass it on the same day it was released.

Republicans countered that if lawmakers failed to pass the various bills on Monday they would not be able to pass a budget later in the session which could withstand line item vetoes by Gov. Matt Bevin.

And in fact, as the revenue and budget bills were being debated, Bevin posted a statement on his Twitter account, expressing concerns about the legislation.

"I am very concerned that the current proposals from the General Assembly may not meet the basic needs of fiscal responsibility," Bevin said in the statement.

House Minority Leader Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, and Senate Minority Leader Sen. Ray Jones, D-Pikeville, complained Democrats were locked out of the process, but McDaniel and Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, said this year's process was no different than in past years when Democrats controlled the House.

But in the past, Democrats controlled the House but Republicans controlled the Senate, so each party had to sign off on any budget agreement and minority members in one chamber could learn about the budget discussions from their own party's majority in the other chamber. The budget



and provides funding assistance for 31 school districts hit hard by declining valuation rates for un-mined minerals.

However, the same budget was much harder on higher education, retaining 6.25 percent cuts to base funding, removing equalization funding for Northern Kentucky and Western Kentucky universities, and appropriating \$31 million to a performance based funding pool.

The budget appropriates \$3.3 billion to the state's troubled pension systems and funds health insurance for retired teachers who haven't reached Medicare eligible age of 65 — without increasing the financial burden on local school districts.

The budget also finds money for new radios, rifles and cruisers for Kentucky State Police, pay raises for KSP lab technicians and social workers as well as money to hire new social workers.

The revenue bill, according to House budget chairman Rep. Steve Rudy, R-Paducah, offers "comprehensive tax reform" and makes Kentucky more competitive with surrounding states.

It lowers corporate and individual income taxes to a flat 5 percent while retaining the standard deduction of roughly \$2,400 and exempting those who make less than 133 percent of the federal poverty line. It also conforms to the U.S. tax code.

To offset some of the lost revenue from income taxes, the bill extends sales taxes to a number of services: landscaping, janitorial, pet care and small animal seminarian services; golf club and country club dues and green fees; dry cleaning; automobile repairs and labor on installing or replacing parts which are already taxed; tanning salons; and limousine services.

It increases cigarette taxes by 50 cents a pack and removes a standard \$10 deduction on income taxes but it does not tax opioid prescription doses as the House initially suggested. It reduces the exemption on pension income from \$41,100 to \$31,100 and retains deductions for charitable contributions and mortgage payments.

Democrats — and a few Republicans — contend those changes shift the tax burden from corporations and wealthier individuals to working and middle class taxpayers.

Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, said the new tax code still

restores cuts to public education contained in Bevin's budget proposal and the Senate budget version, increasing the basic funding formula — SEEK — by \$19 per pupil per year. The House budget originally would have increased that amount by \$65 while the Senate would've increased it by only \$5.

It also restores funding to aid local school districts with student transportation costs, for family resource centers exempts anyone making 133 percent or less of the federal poverty line from income taxes.

Asked if the revenue measure is a tax increase, Stivers said, "You can couch it however you want but it does expand the base and it is an increase in revenues."

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Service

strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. That sums up perfectly what this day of Recognition for National Service is all about.

Tompkins, Gabbard, Hays and Moore joined the over 4300 officials across the United States that are participating the National Service Day event. They are recognizing the current 20 volunteer members of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps serving in Jackson County.

Tyner, Sand Gap and McKee elementary schools have 12 Foster Grandparents (also known affectionately as Grannies and Grandpas), that help students learn to read and provide one on one tutoring for Save the Children. The Foster Grandparents at Tyner are Mary Collins, Janice Dalton, Marie Hensley, Jackie Jackson and Elsie Ward, at McKee

they are Brenda Brewer, Cleo Reed, and Patty Rice, at Sand Gap they are Burgess Durham, Gladys Hammond, Paul Johnson, and Vivian Payne

There is one AmeriCorps VISTA working with Save the Children that serves as Community Engagement liaison. Virgie Moore serves the community from the Board of Education. She helps create and promote events and Playgroups to increase Kindergarten Ready Awareness, Literacy and Reading on Grade Level and to give parents the tools and skills needed to help children to succeed in all things.

Six AmeriCorps Members serve Jackson County at Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) through a variety of programs. Samantha Rhodus visits local seniors and provides transportation to medical and other appointments, helping participants remain in their homes longer. Christian Bonfanti and Noah Fouch teach a practical living curriculum and provide one-on-one and small group tutoring at elementary and middle schools in Jackson County. This summer they will help to facilitate summer camp at CAP's Camp AJ. Allie Maas and Tim and Peggy Ridenour provide home repairs for families in need and the elderly throughout the county, helping to make homes safe, warm, dry, and accessible.

Jackson County high school is served by Sarah Swiezy. She is an AmeriCorps member with Teach for America. She is currently teaching Chemistry and Biology and all things Science in general.

National service and volunteerism shows the best of the American spirit — people turning toward problems instead of away, working together to find community solutions.

ELECT
LEON BINGHAM
Magistrate District #1

May 22, 2018

#1 On
The Ballot

"YOUR VOTE
AND SUPPORT
APPRECIATED"

Paid for by Leon Bingham