

OCT. 30-31: BREEDERS' CUP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LEXINGTON

INNOVATIONS SET THE TONE FOR KEENELAND

JOHN CLAY, C1



BLUEGRASS, KY.

COMING FRIDAY IN THE HERALD-LEADER: SPECIAL SECTION

YOUR GUIDE TO CENTRAL KENTUCKY FOR THE BREEDERS' CUP AND BEYOND

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015



Trooper death prompts call for bulletproof windows

OFFICER'S FATHER, STUMBO PUSH FOR SAFETY

By Jack Brammer
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FRANKFORT — If his son had been in a Kentucky State Police cruiser with stronger bullet-resistant windows, he might still be alive, Joseph Ponder said Tuesday.

Trooper Joseph Cameron Ponder's father, from Elizabethtown, appeared with

Kentucky House Speaker Greg Stumbo and other lawmakers at a news conference in the Capitol Annex to ask Kentucky State Police Commissioner Rodney Brewer to recommend ways to increase trooper safety in the field.

Trooper Ponder was gunned down in his cruiser Sept. 13 after a traffic stop in

Western Kentucky on Interstate 24 near Eddyville. He was 31.

In addition to upgrades of the windows of police cruisers, Brewer said, he wants to review the armored vests troopers wear.

He said the bullet that killed Ponder entered from the side, where his bulletproof vest offered no protection. Brewer called it "a one-

in-10,000 shot."

Ponder was shot by Joseph Johnson-Shanks, who was later killed by another state trooper after allegedly ignoring orders to lower his weapon.

Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg, acknowledged that he is not an expert in police safety and said he got the idea for improved safety from his cousin, Jeff Stumbo, a former

police officer.

He said he asked Brewer to develop options to improve safety that might require funding by the legislature when it convenes next year in January.

Stumbo said he wasn't endorsing any specific products, but he suggested considering bullet-resistant laminates for cruiser windows "to better protect our front-line offi-

cers."

A preliminary check, Stumbo said, showed that it would cost about \$5,000 to put laminates on a cruiser. With about 600 front-line cruisers in Kentucky, that would cost about \$3 million.

"No matter what the cost is, we can't turn our back on this," Stumbo said.

See TROOPER, A2

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VISIT FROM THE VATICAN



ANDREW HARNIK | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Francis, accompanied by President Barack Obama and others, was greeted upon his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., on Tuesday.

Pope Francis arrives in the U.S.

RECORD-SETTING CROWDS EXPECTED DURING SIX-DAY, THREE-CITY TOUR

By Christi Parsons, Michael A. Memoli and Noah Bierman
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis arrived from Cuba on Tuesday to start a six-day, three-city tour of America, his first official visit to a nation bitterly divided on global warming, income inequality and other contentious issues that the popular pontiff is likely to champion.

President Barack Obama and his

family, as well as Vice President Joe Biden and his grandchildren, welcomed Francis with handshakes and an honor guard at the military's Joint Base Andrews, just outside the capital. A crowd of well-wishers chanted, "Ho ho! Hey hey! Welcome to the USA!"

The 78-year-old pope clutched his white skullcap, called a zucchetto, in his hand as a stiff wind whipped his white hair and cassock.

He and Obama conversed but did not speak to the crowd before Francis climbed into a modest Fiat sedan and, waving from the window, was driven off to spend the night at the Vatican's diplomatic mission, leaving Obama on the runway.

The brief red carpet ceremony was a heady departure from staid White House protocol, one that reflects the global celebrity and unusual appeal of the first Latin American pope.

Officials are bracing for record-sized crowds, traffic nightmares and bustling vendors when the pontiff rides in his open "popemobile" near the White House, when he celebrates Mass at cavernous Madison Square Garden in New York City, and when he presides over an open air Festival of the Families on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia, among other stops on a packed itin-

See POPE, A2

Lexington, sanitation workers reach tentative agreement

POINTS OF CONTENTION INVOLVED OVERTIME, SICK LEAVE, VACATIONS AND SAFETY

By Beth Musgrave
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Sanitation workers and Lexington city officials reached a tentative agreement Tuesday on issues involving overtime, vacation time and some worker-safety problems, union officials said.

Bo Johnson, a representative for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said the two sides met Tuesday morning and orally agreed to some key changes. The 150-member bargaining unit is waiting for the city to prepare the changes in writing and

sign them.

The sanitation union has scheduled a rally at the government center at 5:30 p.m. Thursday before the Urban County Council meeting.

Johnson and Dion Henry, president of the sanitation workers union, said other unions are expected to

attend the rally. Henry said several workers are scheduled to speak before the council.

"This is not about pay," Henry said. "This is about dignity and respect and worker safety."

Johnson said Thursday's rally will go on even though the outstanding issues have been resolved. Johnson

See SANITATION, A2

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