

The Marshall Times

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MSU Office of Branding, Marketing, and Communication Receives Honors

By Kelsey Edwards
Marshall Times Editor

Murray State University's Office of Branding, Marketing and Communication earned two honors from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Bluegrass Chapter during this year's (2025) Chapter Landmarks of Excellence awards ceremony, held in Louisville. The office was recognized for

its marketing and communications work supporting Murray State's advocacy for a School of Veterinary Medicine, as well as for the creation of a print and design piece highlighting the university's economic impact. The Office of Branding, Marketing and Communication led an integrated strategy focused on advocating for the development of a School of Veterinary

Medicine at Murray State, an institutional and legislative priority aimed at addressing the shortage of veterinarians in the Commonwealth, particularly those serving large-animal and agricultural needs. The effort centered on presenting clear, factual information to help external audiences understand both the workforce demand and the broader

economic implications of the initiative. The office also developed an Economic Impact Report designed to communicate Murray State's role in supporting the regional and statewide economy. The report outlined the university's contributions through economic output, job creation, tax revenue generation and major construction projects, emphasizing

the institution's commitment to workforce development, campus modernization and long-term economic growth. A key objective of the piece was to deliver complex data in a format that was accessible, concise and visually engaging. The PRSA Bluegrass Chapter serves communications professionals throughout Louisville and surrounding

regions, including southern Indiana, and represents a broad range of experienced practitioners committed to advancing public relations. The Public Relations Society of America is the nation's largest professional organization dedicated to the communications field, bringing together public relations and marketing disciplines.

Marcella's Kitchen Delivers to 223 Individuals

By Kelsey Edwards
Marshall Times Editor

Marcella's Kitchen delivered Christmas meals and food boxes to 223 homebound individuals throughout the county ahead of its closure through the end of the year. The boxes provided enough food for one person to have at least two meals a day, plus some snacks, for each of the 16 days the kitchen is closed. The community kitchen has been providing hot meals to Marshall Countians in need since 2011, and began delivering to homebound

individuals in 2019. In recent years, the organization has provided Christmas boxes to ensure the homebound meal recipients will be fed through the kitchen's two week holiday closure. A number of local leaders gathered to learn more about the program before assisting the kitchen volunteers in loading the goods. It was noted that many of the items delivered in the boxes came from a number of food drives held in the community. While Marcella's Kitchen receives no federal funding,

the October 2025 government shutdown led to a number of organizations offering supplies to the kitchen, should it see an uptick in clients. In addition to the nonperishable items, each box also included an assortment of fruit and a loaf of bread. The kitchen also receives half of the canned goods donated at the Mike Miller Park Christmas in the Park lightshow each year, with the other half going to Marshall County Caring Needline. The kitchen has served just under 75,000 meals in 2025.

Despite the number of meals served this year, the kitchen still has a number of requests to begin servicing new routes for home delivery, and some existing routes have waitlists. On average, a driver will deliver meals one day each week, and a route takes approximately two hours to complete. While more drivers would allow the kitchen to take on more routes, it would also increase the need for kitchen volunteers. The kitchen is always in need of volunteers. Those interested in volunteering may contact the kitchen at 270-493-6236. The kitchen serves hot meals from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

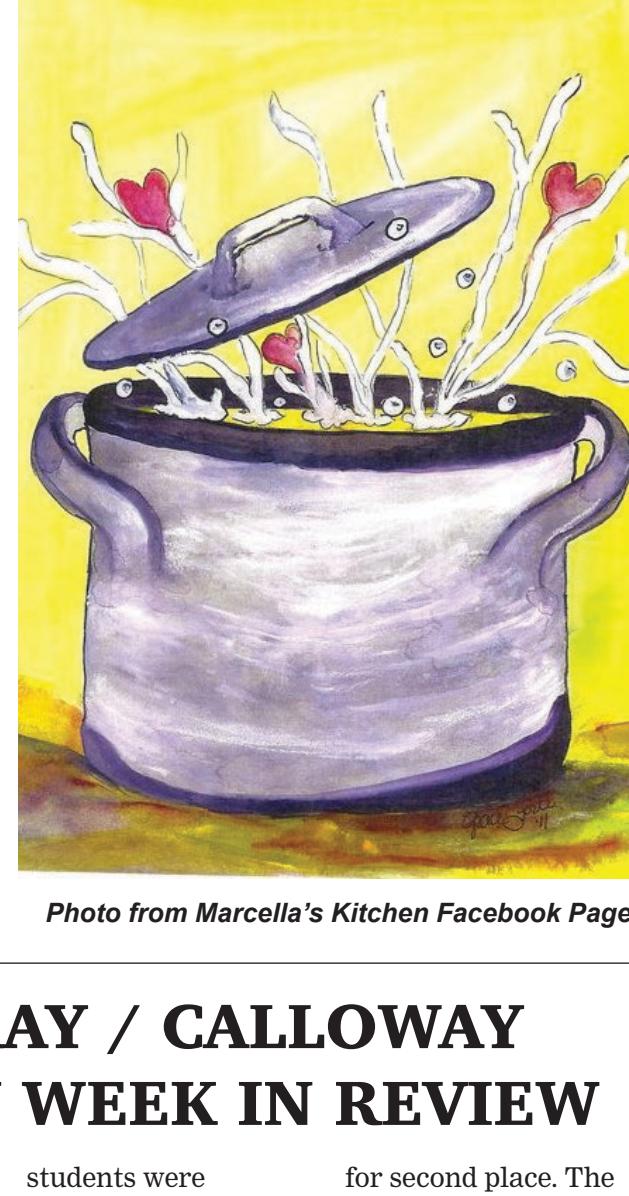


Photo from Marcella's Kitchen Facebook Page

MCHS Assistant Principal Named

By Kelsey Edwards
Marshall Times Editor

Marshall County High School has selected Kendra Glenn as its next assistant principal, with her transition into the role scheduled for January 1, 2026, according to an announcement from the school district. Glenn served as the principal of Calvert City Elementary School and will step into the assistant principal position of Evan Merrick. Merrick

is the incoming principal of Marshall County High School, and will assume his new role at the beginning of the year (2026). Merrick was the previous assistant principal. Glenn brings more than two decades of experience in education, including 17 years in the classroom before transitioning into school administration. She has spent the past six and a half years in leadership roles, totaling 24 years in the education field. Since fall 2020, Glenn has served as principal at the Calvert City Elementary School, where she focused on fostering academic progress and cultivating a positive school environment, according to the district. She also serves as a consultant for the Kentucky Center for Safe Schools and is a member of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators' State Safety Council.

MARSHALL COUNTY UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan 3, Luv 2 Crochet, Hardin Library, 10:15 am
- Jan 5, Scavenger Hunt, Benton Library, 10:15 am
- Jan 5, MC Homemaker Advisory Council Mtg, MC Extension Office, 10 am
- Jan 6, Yoga in the Park, Calvert City Civic Center, 6 pm
- Jan 7, Lunch Break Gardening Series-Zinnias Reinvented, MC Extension Office, 12:15 pm
- Jan 8, Sharpe Homemakers, MC Extension Office, 10 am
- Jan 8, Laugh & Learn, Calvert Library, 10 am

MURRAY/CALLOWAY COUNTY UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan 4, MSU Men's Basketball vs. Bradley, CFSB Center, 1 pm
- Jan 4, MSU Women's Basketball vs. Bradley, CFSB Center, 1 pm
- Jan 6, Cooking Through the Calendar Winter/Spring Series, CCPL, 10:30 am
- Jan 9, MSU Women's Basketball vs. Northern Iowa, CFSB Center, 6 pm

MURRAY / CALLOWAY COUNTY WEEK IN REVIEW

Calloway County Middle School Academic team finished as overall team champions in the midseason tournament that was hosted by the West Kentucky Academic Association in Paducah. The tournament included 16 middle school teams from all around Region One of Kentucky. Along with the overall championship,

students were awarded medals in all areas of written competition. In the area of science, the Lakers took the top two spots with Elijah Craft claiming first place and Grace Munoz finishing in second place. The Lakers took the top three spots in fine arts with Ellie Johnson finishing first, followed by Madison Purdy and Grace Munoz tying

for second place. The Lakers had three students medal in mathematics with Daniel Briedwell claiming third place and Andy Rogers and Dean Vernon both finishing in fifth place. In language arts, Madison Purdy came in third place, and in social studies, Jayden Burkeen took the runner-up trophy.

MARSHALL COUNTY WEEK IN REVIEW

Elijah Grigg made Christian Fellowship basketball history, and is the new all-time leading scorer in boys basketball at CFS. Grigg, a senior on the Eagles squad hit the 2,630 mark to claim the schools scoring title in the Eagles 79-41 win over Heritage High School after dropping

24 points on the night. The previous record was held by Chris Johnson back in 1996 with 2,621 points. Along with the school record, Grigg is also on track to break the First Region boys all-time scoring record set by Ballard Memorial's Jace Birney last season. He's just 93

points shy of that title. Along with his scoring leadership, he is also leading in three point shooting percentage at 38.6% for 27 made 3pointers and also leads the rebounding effort with 101 rebounds and broke the 1,000 career rebound mark.

Year in Review: Supreme Court amicus briefs, pro-life advocacy, events and resources highlight 2025

By TIMOTHY COCKES
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's 2025 was highlighted by impactful Supreme Court amicus briefs, a new emphasis of the Psalm 139 Project, and a variety of new church resources, events and advocacy work.

ERLC Interim President Gary Hollingsworth expressed his thankfulness for the work of the entity and called serving in his position "an honor."

"As I reflect on all the Lord has accomplished through this entity in 2025, I am both humbled and grateful to be part of a team so committed to engaging the culture with the hope of the Gospel," said Hollingsworth, who was unanimously elected as interim president in September.

Several notable ERLC highlights and updates took place throughout the year.

2025 Public Policy Agenda

To begin the year, the ERLC announced its policy priorities for 2025 by publishing the entity's annual federal public policy agenda, released on Jan. 16.

The 2025 Public Policy Agenda was divided into the ERLC's four main focus areas: Life, Religious Liberty, Marriage and Family, and Human Dignity.

The agenda features 42 policy items, framed in light of the transition from President Biden's administration to President Trump's administration, articulating that this transition provides great opportunity for significant policy change. The agenda cites the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and past SBC resolutions within each section of policy priorities, and guides the ERLC's policy work throughout the year.

Supreme Court advocacy

Among the ERLC's major policy priorities for the year were five U.S. Supreme Court cases which were decided this June. Each of the five rulings represented a victory for Southern Baptist

policy priorities.

The cases involved a variety of Southern Baptist areas of concern including upholding religious liberty, protecting minors from pornography, defunding Planned Parenthood and protecting minors from harmful gender transition treatments.

In each of the cases, the ERLC was actively involved by joining amicus briefs, including two they authored themselves alongside Baptist state conventions in Tennessee and Texas. The ERLC also released explainer articles in anticipation of each case and in response to each ruling.

2025 cases engaged by the ERLC can be found online.

Across State Lines initiative

This year, the ERLC announced their new "Across State Lines" pro-life initiative, which focuses on providing ultrasound equipment and subsequent training to pregnancy resource centers in states where abortion is legal and readily accessible.

The emphasis works in tandem with the ERLC's Psalm 139 Project, which funds these ultrasound placements and the necessary training. Across State Lines will focus on placing ultrasound machines in states where abortion is legal, often partnering with Baptist state conventions and other entities to make the placements.

Thus far, multiple ultrasound placements have been made through the Across State Lines initiative, including in Alaska and Vermont.

Church guides released

The ERLC released two practical guides for churches on the topic of artificial intelligence and gambling.

Both guides, produced by the ERLC's research team, offer a theological and ethical framework and practical scenarios about how Christians and churches can faithfully address issues that arise in their congregations and communities. Both of the guides are also available in

Spanish.

Advocacy for Nigeria

The ERLC continued its long-standing advocacy in support of Christians suffering for their faith in Nigeria, as they continue to experience intense and violent persecution. The ERLC has advocated for Nigeria to be designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for several years since the Biden administration removed it in 2021.

A CPC designation against another country doesn't require any United States action. It does, however, authorize the U.S. government to take further steps, such as sanctions and negotiations, to pressure the offending nation to protect religious freedoms.

State convention engagement

At their April meeting, ERLC trustees selected Christians in Nigeria as the recipients of their John Leland Religious Liberty Award, which is given to a person or a group that has been "a courageous champion of religious liberty both in the United States and around the world."

As targeted violence against followers of Christ in Nigeria mounted throughout the year, the ERLC continued to advocate for the designation.

On Oct. 31, President Trump designated Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern for tolerating religious freedom violations especially against Christians, citing the need to counter the devastation incited by radical insurgents in Nigeria and to discourage such persecution.

The ERLC commended President Trump for this long-awaited action.

Presidential search committee begins work/interim president named

Following the departure of ERLC President Brent Leatherwood in July, ERLC trustees named the members of their presidential search team and elected Gary Hollingsworth, retired South Carolina state convention leader and longtime pastor, as the entity's interim president.

Abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood are listed in



Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission trustees pray over Interim President Gary Hollingsworth and then-acting President Miles Mullin during their board meeting in Washington, D.C.

(BP file photo)

the bill as prohibited entities that cannot receive federal payments, including Medicaid reimbursements. The bill also included several other Southern Baptist policy priorities, such as an increase in the Child Tax Credit.

Hollingsworth was named to the post by ERLC trustees at their meeting on Sept. 16 and officially began his work on Oct. 1.

The search committee, chaired by Mitch Kimbrell, senior pastor of Christ Memorial Church in Williston, Vt., comprises six total members. The committee released a prayer guide for Southern Baptists to utilize as they continue their search for the entity's permanent leader.

State convention engagement

The ERLC continued to strengthen its relationship with state conventions across the country throughout the year.

The ERLC has long-advocated for the defunding of Planned Parenthood, including launching a campaign calling on Congress to defund the organization that gathered more than 30,000 signatures from pro-life advocates. The entity listed defunding Planned Parenthood as their highest legislative priority at the beginning of the year.

SBC Annual Meeting events

The ERLC hosted two events during the 2025 SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas.

The first event discussed the role of Southern Baptists in the public square with a group of public officials including U.S. Sen. James Lankford (R-OK), Ambassador-designate Mark Walker and Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX).

Defunding Planned Parenthood

Southern Baptists long-held desire for the government to defund Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest provider of abortions, finally came to fruition this July when a budget reconciliation bill known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill" was signed into law.

This is the first time in U.S. history that a piece of federal legislation will defund abortion providers.

The second event featured a conversation with Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti discussing the Supreme Court case in which he was the defendant just days before the monumental ruling was handed down.

Trips to Washington

This year, the ERLC hosted several pastor advocacy trips to Washington, D.C. The trips gathered groups of pastors from across the country for meetings with Congressional leaders, administration officials and

coalition partners.

Topics for the advocacy meetings included discussing Southern Baptist policy priorities for the upcoming budget reconciliation bill (specifically defunding Planned Parenthood) and hand-delivering signatures calling for the defunding of Planned Parenthood. Meetings also consisted of advocacy in support of pro-life priorities, like opposing increased access to mifepristone (a drug commonly used in medication abortions) and regulating the IVF industry, as well as discussing challenges facing our nation's current immigration system.

The ERLC hosted a meeting in D.C. with a group of SBC Ethnic Fellowship leaders and elected officials.

ERLC Podcast

The ERLC Podcast covered several different topics throughout the year including the importance of the entity's policy work in D.C., how Southern Baptists can make an impact on each branch of government, the importance of the ERLC's partnership with state conventions and more.

Hollingsworth reflected on the past year, stating, "2025 has been a year to celebrate, and we remain committed and steadfast in our mission: to diligently serve pastors and fellow Southern Baptists as they bring God's Word to bear on issues of moral importance in our culture. We ask for your prayers for our leadership and for God's continued guiding hand to be with us for many years to come."



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How to ring in the new year with Mother Nature

The arrival of a new year is a time of celebration for people across the globe. It's customary to mark the occasion with fireworks, countdowns and champagne. For those who indulge a little too much on New Year's Eve or stay up well past midnight, January 1 may be a day to recuperate. But spending New Year's Day with Mother Nature is a great way to enjoy the first few hours of a new year.

- Go hiking. Time spent in freshly fallen snow and crisp air can offer a great way to recharge and approach the new year in a novel way. First Day Hikes were created by America's State Parks to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. They are held across the United States, but people in Canada or elsewhere can orga-
- Host a firepit brunch. Spending time around the firepit may seem like an activity tailor-made for autumn evenings, but dusk need not have fallen to enjoy an outdoor fire. Dress warmly and gather friends around a firepit or outdoor fireplace. Swap s'mores for cheese cubes on sticks that can be made warm and slightly melted over the open flames.
- Float or paddle. Take in nature from the water. Although these types of events may be better in warmer climates, those who are courageous enough to brave the elements can spend some time kayaking or floating on waterways that have not frozen over.
- Head to the slopes or a skating rink. Win-

nize these January 1 hikes as well.

• Improve mental well-being. Getting in shape is not the only health-related goal this time of year. Mental health also comes into play when people make their resolutions. Taking opportunities to slow down and be more mindful can help. One way to do so is through journaling. Human behavior expert and author Natalie Friscia Pancetti, says journaling reduces stress, helps with anxiety, encourages confidence, and can improve perceptions. This is why she developed a journal with inspirational writing prompts as a companion to her "This Too" book and planner.

• Learn a new language. Learning a new skill or lan-



ter and skiing or ice skating are a perfect match. Spend the first day of the year testing out fresh powder, practicing double axels or sipping hot

cocoa in the ski lodge. • Visit a theme park. Some theme parks are still open after hosting holiday-centric special events. Crowds may be small on New Year's

Day, ensuring ride enthusiasts they can ride their favorite coasters multiple times.

New Year's Day needn't be all about headaches and sleep-

ing in. Spending time outdoors is a fresh way to enjoy the start of a new year.

Get a head start on New Year's resolutions

After the rush of the holiday season has largely ended, and the excess of the season starts to weigh on celebrants' minds, it is customary for many people to start thinking about the changes they want to implement in the new year. According to a Pew Research Center survey of United States adults conducted in January 2024, 30 percent of people reported making at least one resolution, with half of this group making more than one. The survey also found that young adults are the most likely to make New Year's resolutions, with 49 percent of those between the ages 18 and 29 saying they have made a resolution.

It's never too early to start thinking about what to improve upon in 2025,

or which goals to set. Here are some common resolutions and how to implement them.

- Exercise more. Getting in shape is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions every year. Gym memberships spike and people often invest in home exercise equipment around this time of year. According to the American College of Sports Medicine, wearable technology continues to be a top trend in fitness and has been a mainstay since 2016. While Fitbit and the Apple Watch series have remained strong contenders, one also may want to invest in the Garmin Vivoactive, which boasts wireless charging. Tracking fitness goals can keep those resolutions going strong.

• Improve mental well-being. Getting in shape is not the only health-related goal this time of year. Mental health also comes into play when people make their resolutions. Taking opportunities to slow down and be more mindful can help. One way to do so is through journaling. Human behavior expert and author Natalie Friscia Pancetti, says journaling reduces stress, helps with anxiety, encourages confidence, and can improve perceptions. This is why she developed a journal with inspirational writing prompts as a companion to her "This Too" book and planner.

- Quit smoking. Quitting smoking is a worthy goal. Health care experts know smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer and has been linked to more than 27 diseases. Many people want to quit smoking, but the Mayo Clinic says only about 5 percent of people who try to quit succeed without a smoking cessation product. Nicotine replacement items are some of the most popular smoking cessation tools. For those who want to go drug-free, Füm is a device that addresses the three major components of habit formation that occur with smoking. Employing flavored air,

the device replaces the fixation of the hand-to-mouth habit with non-addictive plant extracts that are inhaled, simulating smoking without the negative effects.

- Learn a new language. Learning a new skill or lan-

guage is another popular resolution. Today there are many apps available to help people learn one or more new languages. From Duolingo to Babbel to Memrise, there are programs available whether one is a visual learner or wants to jump right into specific phrases.

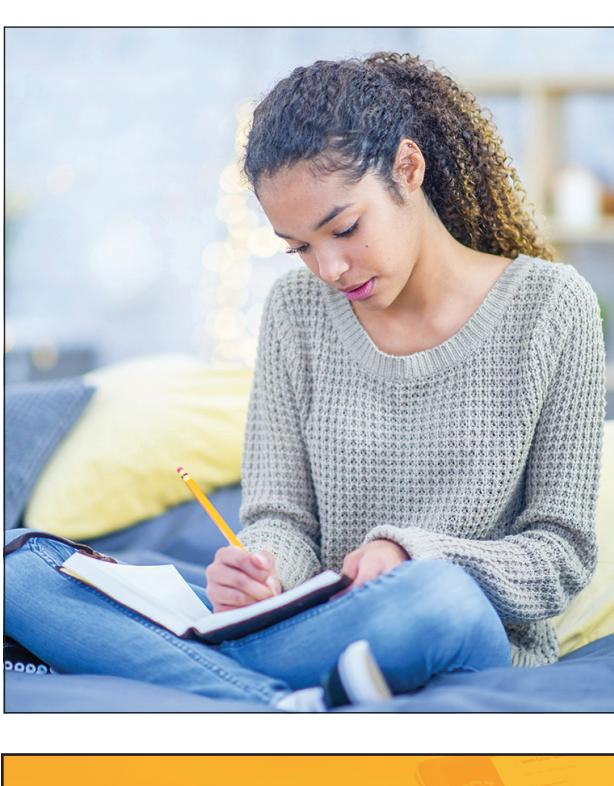
Many people get a jump-start on identifying their resolutions in early- to mid-December so they'll be ready to move forward come New Year's Day.

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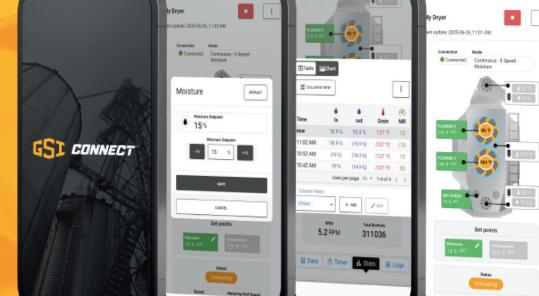
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The Mayfield girls' basketball team went on a boat tour in the Lost River Cave on Sunday, Dec. 28.

(Photo courtesy of Mayfield High School Girls' Basketball)



McCracken County softball team members shopped for two kids in the community during their annual Christmas party.



(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School Softball)



Carlisle County junior forward Wyatt Rickard earned a player of the game award during the Murray Bank Ken-Tenn Classic at Calloway County on Saturday, Dec. 13. Carlisle County defeated University School of Jackson (Tenn.) 84-49.



Graves County competed in the Central Bank Jim Rose Classic at Lexington Christian Academy Saturday, Dec. 20-Monday, Dec. 22.

(Photo courtesy of Graves County High School Girls' Basketball)



The Marshall County baseball team held its annual Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 22.

(Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Baseball)

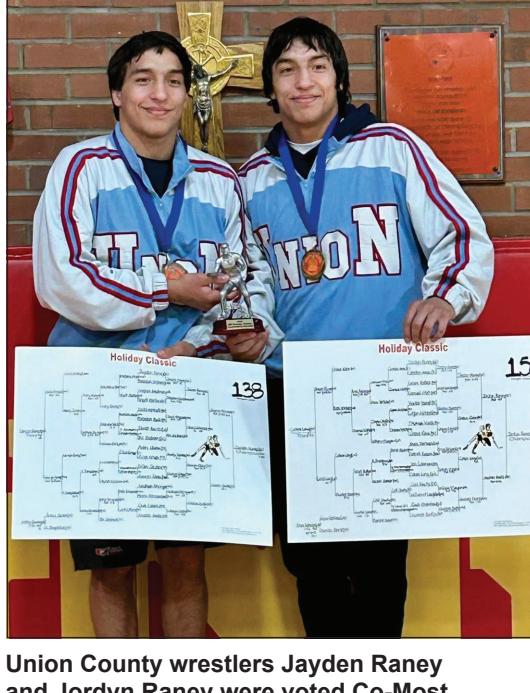


The McCracken County girls' bowling team placed second in the 2025 Mustang Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 20.

(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School Girls' Bowling)

Kentucky Sports Radio Boys' High School Basketball Rankings

1. Male
2. St. Xavier
3. Madison Central
4. Covington Catholic
5. Daviess County
6. Frederick Douglass
7. Warren Central
8. Butler
9. George Rogers Clark
10. Boyd County
11. Lexington Catholic
12. McCracken County
13. North Laurel
14. North Oldham
15. Highlands
16. Seneca
17. Covington Holy Cross
18. Eastern
19. Ballard
20. Bell County
21. Christian Academy-Louisville
22. Marshall County
23. Danville Christian
24. Grayson County
25. Pikeville



Union County wrestlers Jayden Raney and Jordyn Raney were voted Co-Most Outstanding Wrestlers of the Mater Dei Holiday Classic. Each Union County wrestler finished undefeated and won a championship in their respective weight class.

(Photo courtesy of Union County Schools)



Union County finished runner-up in the highly competitive Mater Dei Holiday Classic on Tuesday, Dec. 30. The high school wrestling tournament featured 20 standout teams from five states - Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Tennessee.

(Photo courtesy of Union County Schools)

B Marshall County 74, Paintsville 60

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — Perennial title contender Marshall County pulled away to defeat Paintsville 74-60 during the second round of the White, Greer & Maggard Holiday Classic at Lexington Catholic on Sunday, Dec. 28.

The Marshals improved to 9-2 after registering the win.

Marshall County shot 50.0 percent (24-of-48) from the field. The Marshals shot 38.1 percent (eight-of-21) from three-point range.

Marshall County shot 78.3 percent (18-of-23) from the free throw line.

Matthew Langhi led Marshall County to the win, pouring in a game-high 33 points for the

Marshals. Langhi connected on each of his 11 free throw attempts.

Neyland Jezik followed Langhi in Marshall County's scoring column and recorded a double-double. Jezik scored 16 points and claimed 11 rebounds for the Marshals.

Narrowly missing double figures for Marshall County, Braxton Burnham netted nine points.

Marshall County received scoring from seven different players. The additional scorers for Marshall County were Ryan Stokes (seven points), Carson Lovett (four points), Kaden Mohler (three points) and Maddox Konrad (two points).

B McCracken County 71, Woodford County 62

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — McCracken County defeated Woodford County 71-62 during the final round of the White, Greer & Maggard Holiday Classic at Lexington Catholic on Monday, Dec. 29.

The Mustangs thrived offensively throughout the game.

McCracken County shot 61.4 percent (27-of-44) from the field. The Mustangs shot 42.9 percent (three-of-seven) from three-point range.

McCracken County shot 82.4 per-

cent (14-of-17) from the free throw line.

Miles Woodford led McCracken County to the win, scoring 26 points for the Mustangs.

Accompanying Woodfork in double figures for McCracken County, Aaron Adams scored 16 points, and Garrett Miller netted 10 points.

Seven players entered McCracken County's scoring column. Owen Grogan (eight points), Maxx Tanner (four points), Jackson Diaz (four points) and Jackson Klope (three points) accounted for the rest of McCracken County's scoring in the tournament game.



With help from the community, the Calloway County bass fishing team filled up the boats for Towing for Toys, Inc. at Wal-Mart in Murray on Friday, Dec. 12.

(Photo courtesy of Calloway County High School Bass Fishing)

COMMENTARY: Without some ground rules, college athletics will stay broken

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

It's time. The NCAA needs to establish rules and regulations when it comes to its student-athletes - or should it be employed-student-athletes - instead of a no boundaries approach that is quickly becoming the norm in college athletics.

The college governing body seemingly thinks it has lost authority when it comes to recruiting and released a statement to Jeff Goodman of The Field of 68 concerning Baylor's addition of former NBA Draft pick James Nnaji to the roster at mid-season.

The NCAA said in the statement to Goodman that "Schools are recruiting and seeking eligibility for more individuals with more international, semi-pro and professional experience than ever before, and while the NCAA members have updated many rules

following the House injunction, more rules must likely be updated to reflect the choices member schools are making."

On the other side of the quote, the NCAA appears intimidated after the House settlement changed the landscape of college athletics to uncharted waters.

Instead of smooth sailing, it's been choppy navigating through rough seas searching for a bridge over troubled waters.

"At the same time, NCAA eligibility rules have been invalidated by judges across the country wreaking havoc on the system and leading to fewer opportunities for high school students, which is why the Association is asking Congress to intervene in these challenges."

I'm not sure how much Congress can intervene in the matter, considering the U.S. Government can't figure

out a way to solve the healthcare crisis in this country.

Kentucky coach Mark Pope and his staff were wrongfully linked to the Baylor method of mid-season recruiting and said what "you see on social media about Kentucky recruiting that is just so wrong."

"It is just so off, but it's beautiful. I mean, it's beautiful. We're shocked and surprised a lot of times to hear different variations and directions and stories," Pope said Monday on his weekly radio show. "I think a lot of times people put information out just because they're trying to raise their own profile, whether it's agents or players or they're trying to increase their negotiating leverage, with us in some cases or with some other school in some cases. There's so much out there publicly, and we just kind of shake our heads

and be like, 'Man, it's just — we're living in a uniquely interesting world in terms of how creative reporting in general on social media and as a body is right now.'

"We're always going to do our recruiting work, and we'll search every avenue there is to search, but it's one of the beautiful things about being at Kentucky, man. Everybody's talking a lot about it — very little of it is accurate, but it's fun."

Pope said the move by Baylor is a "place that none of us imagined we would be three months ago."

"I think that it was beyond assumed that if you had played in NBA games, or if you'd been drafted, that there was going to be no space for you in the college game," he said. "Clearly, that's all changing so fast — which is exciting. I mean it. I don't know that we're in a space

to have much opinion on whether it's right or wrong, because you can debate those ideas from now until forever, and they're actually really complicated solutions, probably, that would have to take place."

"It's a really dynamic space right now. It is. It is problematic in a lot of complicated ways for college basketball, and we're gonna have to find some answers."

Pope's predecessor, John Calipari, already has an answer and spent more than five minutes giving his opinion following a win over James Madison on Monday night.

"I don't blame coaches because I've got friends who are playing with 27-year-olds and they feel bad," Calipari said. "Don't feel bad. We don't have any rules. Why should you feel bad? But, let me give you this. Real simple. The rules be the

rules. If you put your name in the (NBA) Draft, I don't care if you're from Russia. If you stay in the draft, you can't play college basketball. Well that's only for American kids. What? If your name is in that draft and you got drafted, you can't play college basketball.

"If he puts his name in the draft, you can't go to college. He left his name in."

The former Kentucky coach, in my opinion is correct. The NCAA needs to do its job and establish the ground rules instead of letting member schools just do their own thing without providing clarity and boundaries.

It's unfair on the schools, players and coaches. It's time for the NCAA to set rules and regulations and not wait on Congress to do its job.

Next phase: Pope, Cats can't wait to face 'gauntlet' of SEC play

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Kentucky coach Mark Pope is looking forward to the next phase of the season as the Wildcats open Southeastern Conference play at No. 14 Alabama on Saturday.

The Wildcats (9-4) carry a four-game winning streak into the conference opener and Pope has been pleased with the way his team rebounded in the last three weeks of December after beginning the month with losses to No. 12 North Carolina and seventh-ranked

Go "I think our response has been good and it gives you confidence as a coach when things don't go right and guys respond the way you want them to in the long run," Pope said. "I think that's pretty powerful. I think it gives us high hopes moving forward and as we move into this gauntlet SEC league play, which I can't wait to get there."

Kentucky hasn't played since a 99-85 win over Bellarmine in its final non-conference game of the season on Dec. 23. The break, Pope said, comes at the right time for his squad and his family.

"I think the break is important for us and

is really good for us right now (and) I'm really grateful for it," Pope said. "Mostly, you know, not so much for the guys, but mostly for Lee Anne (his wife). Lee Anne is so fed up with me right now and I just need to be a better, I need to do a better job as a husband for a couple of days. I'm going to crush it. It's going to be amazing."

Pope emphasized the importance of his team's mental well-being going into the second half of the season.

"They've been through a lot emotionally, for sure," Pope said. "They've taken some hits and they've

responded really, really well. I'm really proud of this group in the sense of how they responded over the last three weeks.

"We got better and we reoriented some things and kinda found some new mentality and I think we have enough of a base that's going to filter through our guys over the course of the (break) where we get to really, really get some work done on the practice floor and try to find and embrace what we have and we have a little vision of what we can be in the short time, and I think we are excited about it."

Pope likes the way his

team has found a "way to have our presence really felt on the glass in big-time games."

Kentucky struggled in the rebounding department, especially in losses to North Carolina and Gonzaga.

"Those are areas where we've made some growth," he said. "I think guys are defining their own roles, which is really fun. It's great to watch guys realize how they can be a contributor to a team. ... We are excited about what we have a chance to become."

The addition of Jayden Quaintance has given the Wildcats a boost in the post. In two

games, he has scored 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, including 10 on the defensive end.

"He brings monster energy on both the offensive and defensive end," Kentucky guard Denzel Aberdean said. "It's great to see his journey and what he did to get back to the point where he's at right now. Very happy and blessed that he's back."

Gametracker: Kentucky at Alabama, noon, Saturday. TV/Radio: ESPN, UK Radio Network

Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) in College Basketball: Redefining the Game

The landscape of college basketball has undergone one of its most dramatic shifts in history with the advent of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) rights. For decades, college athletes generated enormous revenue for universities, conferences, and media partners, while receiving little beyond scholarships and limited stipends. With NIL reform, that balance is changing. Players can now earn income through endorsements, social media sponsorships, appearances, camps, merchandise, and more—legally and openly. One of the most immediate impacts of

NIL has been athlete empowerment. For the first time, college players can capitalize on their personal brands while still competing at the collegiate level. This is especially significant in basketball, where star players build national recognition quickly. Social media has amplified this phenomenon: players with strong online followings can monetize their influence even before logging major minutes on the court. NIL has also helped athletes support their families, fund their education, and prepare for life after basketball. For many, it provides a financial cushion and professional experience

that the prior system denied.

However, NIL has also introduced complexity. One concern is competitive imbalance. Wealthier programs or those backed by strong donor collectives may have a recruiting advantage, drawing top talent with attractive NIL opportunities. While the NCAA prohibits NIL deals from being directly tied to recruiting, the reality is more nuanced. Players gravitate toward environments where established systems, brands, and boosters can facilitate lucrative opportunities. This can deepen the divide between powerhouse programs and mid-ma-

jor schools, potentially reshaping competitive parity across the sport.

Another challenge involves structure and oversight. NIL exists in a rapidly evolving regulatory environment, with differing state laws and institutional policies. Without standardized national rules, confusion persists around what is permissible. Athletes must navigate contracts, taxes, representation, and long-term financial planning—areas many teenagers have little experience with. This has fueled debate about whether universities and governing bodies should provide more comprehensive education and legal protec-

tions to help athletes avoid exploitation or bad deals.

On the court, NIL has influenced player retention. Before, many athletes felt pressure to leave early for professional opportunities purely for financial reasons. Now, some players are opting to stay in school longer because they can earn meaningful income while continuing to develop. This benefits both players and programs, potentially improving team cohesion and the quality of college basketball overall. At the same time, NIL may also contribute to increased player movement through the transfer portal, as

athletes seek programs that better support their brand potential.

Ultimately, NIL represents both opportunity and adjustment. It acknowledges the true economic value of college athletes and aligns college sports more closely with modern realities of branding and entrepreneurship. While challenges remain—especially around fairness, governance, and sustainability—NIL has undeniably transformed college basketball into a more athlete-centered system. As policies evolve and schools adapt, the sport will continue redefining what it means to succeed both on and off the court.

Flu season intensifies in Tri-State; Kenton child among victims

By Courtney Green
WEVV: Special to West KY News

The Mayfield-Graves County Airport has recently achieved regional status, marking an expansion of its capabilities as the area continues to recover and grow following the December 2021 tornado. The airport operates as a quasi-government municipal entity, meaning it is not a traditional commercial airline hub, but a hybrid organization that performs public functions under board oversight. The facility serves chartered aircraft for businesses and individuals and oversees privately owned aircraft, including those with fractional ownership. Todd McBee, board chair, said the regional designation reflects increased industrial

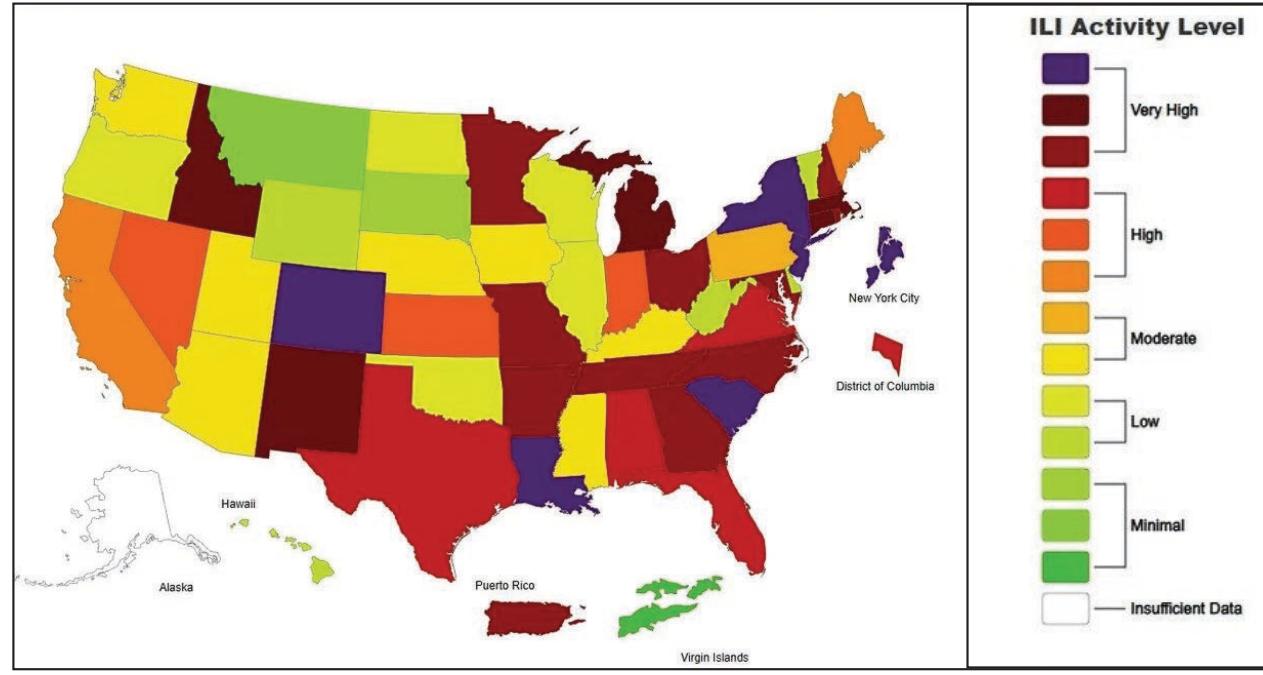
activity and long-term growth potential for Mayfield and Graves County. He said the distinction encom-

and aircraft maintenance. McBee noted that on one recent Monday alone, the airport recorded more

to rebuild stronger than before. After sustaining significant damage, the airport worked with the

and invested its own funds into recovery efforts. The facility also experienced what McBee described as

serving as a connection point that brings businesses into the community. He added that regional hospitals rely on the facility for emergency medical transport, making it a vital public safety asset. As the airport continues to grow, McBee said maintaining infrastructure remains a priority, including runways, taxiways, lighting systems and instrument approaches. The airport also frequently serves as the first point of contact for visiting business and political leaders, including Andy Beshear, governor of Kentucky, and Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, U.S. senators. McBee said leaving a strong first impression is essential.



passes not only turbine jet traffic, but also expanded services such as instrument approaches, nighttime operations, fuel sales

than 18 turbine jet operations. The airport was directly impacted by the tornado, but McBee said the facility used the opportunity

Federal Emergency Management Agency for reimbursement, secured grants through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet,

unprecedented private investment following the disaster. McBee described the airport as a key economic engine for the region,

2025 marked Kentucky's second-best year in private sector investments

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear says 2025 was Kentucky's second-best year ever for new investments within the private sector, with \$10.5 billion in projects being announced. The new investments resulted from 185 new-location and expansion announcements that are projected to create nearly 9,600 full-time jobs. Wages are rising across the state as well, with the average incentivized hourly

wage hitting \$29.58 in 2025, the highest on record. Since 2022, the average incentivized hourly wage has now topped \$26 in four consecutive years for the first time. "Our state's continued success is a testament to Team Kentucky and our partners across the state who have worked incredibly hard to keep bringing great companies and job opportunities to our communities," Beshear said.

"Kentucky continues to be a national leader in economic growth, and that will continue

to be the case in the years ahead as we continue to create new opportunities for our people." Major announcements spurred another year of economic success, including Apple's plan to invest more than \$2 billion in the Corning Inc. facility in Harrodsburg, a nearly \$2 billion investment by Ford Motor Co. for production of an all-new electric mid-size pickup truck at the Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP), and General Matter's major milestone toward a \$1.5 billion

uranium enrichment facility in Paducah. The manufacturing projects led to nearly \$9.5 billion in announcements contributing to nearly 7,600 announced jobs. Other notable manufacturing projects include Tate Inc., which will invest \$61.2 million and create 400 jobs in Glasgow, representing the largest job-creation announcement in Barren County in 18 years, and GE Appliances investing \$490 million and creating 800 jobs at

its global corporate headquarters in Louisville to re-shore laundry production from China. Kentucky's nation-leading automotive industry was an integral part of this year's growth as well, with 35 announcements leading to \$2.7 billion in new investments and more than 1,400 announced jobs. That includes Ford's LAP project, as well as Toyota's announcement of a \$204.4 million investment creating 82 jobs to boost hybrid

production at the company's largest manufacturing operation in the world in Georgetown. The good news is tempered somewhat by the announcement that the BlueOval SK Battery Park in Hardin County will close in February, with 1,512 workers being laid off. According to FordAuthority.com, when it retools and reopens in 2027 for a different battery product, the plant will employ around 2,100 people.

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Town Food Service recalling saucepans

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Town Food Service Equipment Co., Inc. of Brooklyn, NY is recalling aluminum saucepans sold in Kentucky and more than 30 other states, because it has the potential to be contaminated with lead which may leach into food.

Lead is toxic to humans and can affect people of any age or health status, and there is no known safe level of exposure to lead. Even low levels of lead exposure can cause serious health problems, particularly in children and fetuses. Consuming food with

elevated lead levels can contribute to elevated levels of lead in the blood.

Children and babies are more susceptible to lead toxicity due to their smaller body size, metabolism, and rapid growth. At low levels, children may not have obvious symptoms but can still experience trouble learning, low IQ, and behavior changes. At higher levels of lead exposure, people may experience fatigue, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, or neurologic changes.

The saucepans being recalled were distributed in Kentucky, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO,



MS, NC, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, Puerto Rico and Quebec City, Canada through its network of authorized food service equipment dealers, which include retailers, be-

tween January 1, 2023 and Nov. 30, 2025.

The four sizes of aluminum saucepans being recalled have capacities ranging from 1 quart to 3 quarts, have indented graduations on the interior, and a plated

steel handle riveted to the body.

No illnesses have been reported to date.

The recall was the result of a sampling program by the FDA which revealed that the finished products contained leachable

lead. Town Food has ceased production and distribution of the product as the FDA and Town Food continue their investigation.

Consumers who have purchased and are in possession of any of the items are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact Town Food at 718-388-5650 Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM EST or email their recall coordinators at recall@town-food.com. Updates on the recall will be posted on their recall webpage: <https://townfood.com/recall-alum/External Link Disclaimer>

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ET6810 '11 Etnyre Quad chip spreader



ET6811 '03 International 7400 oil distributor truck



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Beloved bluegrass bash raises nearly \$75,000 for western Ky. pregnancy resource centers

By TESSA REDMOND
Kentucky Today

DAWSON SPRINGS, Ky. (KT) – Bluegrass

on (Lake) Beshear, an annual fundraiser benefiting four pregnancy resource centers in western

Kentucky, broke the previous year's record total, amassing \$74,752 to support pro-life ministry.

Jeff and Laura Smith, who organize the fundraiser and host it on their property, said they were "gratified" to surpass their \$60,000 goal.

"We were so blessed to have the ultimate combination of great weather, a big crowd, wonderful entertainment, delicious food and generous people," said the Smiths in an email. "It will be hard to top 2025's edition of 'Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear' but we will try."

The October event generated an initial \$62,532—yielding four checks worth \$15,588 for Alpha Pregnancy Care Center in Hopkinsville, Door of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Madisonville, Pathway of Hope in Greenville and H.O.P.E. Clinic, which has locations in Benton and Eddyville.

The Smiths said the best part of Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear is vising the pregnancy centers to deliver those funds.

"We cannot over-emphasize—they are doing God's work!"

Because of generous engagement from attendees that has grown over the years, Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear has been able to increase the support provided to their partner pregnancy centers.

"The support from [Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear] has become large enough to be a budget item that the centers can count on. It is particularly important this year because overall donations from the public in 2025 are down a

little. At the same time, demands are up on the centers and they're facing a new challenge—increased use of the abortion pill. For example, Alpha [Pregnancy Care Center] this year provided successful abortion reversal treatments to 3 ladies who had taken abortion pills but immediately regretted their decisions, resulting in the births of 4 healthy babies—including one set of twins!"

Angie Crawford, executive director of Alpha, said the funds provided by the bluegrass bash will help her pregnancy center meet budget this year.

"We are SO THANKFUL for Jeff and Laura Smith and Bluegrass on Beshear! They are one of our larger donors," Crawford said via email. "It is because of support like this that we can continue [to] support the moms and babies in our community."

Diana Anderson, executive director of Pathway of Hope, said her center was "so honored to be a part of this financial blessing."

The donation they received will aid in the implementation of a new educational curriculum and contribute toward building the pregnancy center's men's ministry.

"Having funds like this offers us the opportunity to purchase things that have been the desire of our hearts in order to strengthen and grow our already booming

ministry to the benefit of our clients," said Anderson in an email. "To offer more and better educational opportunities. To provide support in areas we may not have been able to before. We believe that anything we can do to be a 'hand up' for our parents to equip them to be the best they can be is wonderful."

The four pregnancy centers received Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear's donation in November, but more funds related to the event will be disseminated in the new year thanks to the partnership of a Catholic fraternal organization.

"The Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) Program offered by the Knights of Columbus nationally is in its 4th year and is based on the amount of funds raised and donated to pregnancy resource centers and the number of local Knights of Columbus councils involved," the Smiths said. "In 2025, 12 Kentucky Knights of Columbus Councils helped us raise a record amount, so we also set a new ASAP record with \$12,400."

The Knights of Columbus will send the funds directly to the pregnancy centers in early 2026.

In the 12 years since its inception, Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear has raised and donated \$307,557 to western Kentucky pregnancy resource centers.

Next year's event will happen on Saturday, October 10, 2026.

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BALLARD

Chinh Thi Hamilton, age 75 passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025, at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, KY. Funeral Service will be held on Monday, December 29, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY with Rev. Brian Overstreet officiating. Interment will follow at New Hope Cemetery.

Mary Ellen Lamb - Jesus met her at the heavenly gates on Thursday, December 28, 2025. Funeral services for Mary will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2025 at Spring Bayou Baptist Church in Kevil, KY with Rev. Wes Morehead officiating. Grandsons will serve as pallbearers. Interment will follow in the Spring Bayou Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1:00 P.M. until 3:00 P.M. at the church. Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

Don Charles Bramlett, 81, on December 21st, 2025, left his earthly home to be with the Lord and Savior surrounded by his loving family. Funeral service will be held on Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 2:30 with his grandson, Brother Brandon Bramlett and Brother Neil Eidson officiating. Interment will follow at Providence Baptist Church Cemetery at Monkey's Eyebrow.

Dale Eugene Tatum peacefully crossed over to God's green pastures at his home in Wickliffe on December 27, 2025. A memorial service will be held on the family farm at a later date.

CALDWELL

Kerry Puckett age 78 of Palmersville, TN passed away at 9:34 PM Saturday December 27, 2025 at the Princeton Health & Rehab in Princeton, Ky. Graveside services will be held at 1:30 PM Saturday January 3, 2026 at the Old Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Palmersville, TN, friends are asked the meet at the cemetery. Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield incharge of the arrangements.

Joseph Z. "Joe" Martin, age 52, of Fredonia, passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025, at Baptist Health of Paducah. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 1:30 pm Saturday, January 3, 2026 at Blue Spring Church Cemetery.

Emily Jane Harmon, born on October 27, 1946, in Princeton, Kentucky, passed away on December 26, 2025, at the Caldwell County Medical Center. Family and friends are invited to honor Emily's memory at Goodman Funeral Home, located at 1032 West Main St, Princeton, Kentucky. A visitation will take place on January 3, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Graveside service to follow at Blue Springs Church Cemetery.

CALLOWAY

Joyce Jeanette Rushing, 82, of Murray, passed away on Monday, December 29, 2025 at her home. Funeral arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

John Yates, 83 of Murray died at his home on Christmas Day 2025. He was the son of the late Frank and Dixie Yates of Mayfield. A memorial service will be held at 12 pm on Monday, December 29, 2025 at the Heritage Chapel of Imes Funeral Home, 1804 Highway 121 Bypass North, Murray. Jeff Rudy and Jim Stahler will officiate.

David Allen Sullivan, Sr., 75, of Sedalia, Kentucky, passed away on Christmas Eve of 2025. A funeral service will be held at 12 PM on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at Imes Funeral Home, 311 North 4th Street, Murray, Kentucky 42071. Bryant Kerns and Ricky Bell will officiate.

Fannie Belle Mohler, age 90, of Almo, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at her home. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 12:00 PM

at the Heritage Chapel of Imes Funeral Home and Crematory, 1804 Highway 121 Bypass North, Murray, Kentucky 42071, with Mark Mohler officiating. Burial will follow at Brewers Cemetery.

David Sanford White, 80, passed away peacefully at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice, Murray, KY, on December 23, 2025, of complications from an extended illness. A private service will take place in the spring when all family members can be present. No memorial service is planned at this time. Imes Funeral Home of Murray, KY, is in charge of arrangements and are incomplete at this time.

Johnny Glenn Miller, age 73, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2025, at Baptist Health in Paducah, Kentucky. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services with Bro. Clint Hester officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the funeral service on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Rose (Jeffcoat) Wyatt, age 74, of Almo, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025, at the Passion and Purpose HomeCare Assisted Living in Murray, Kentucky. A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, January 3, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Mike Ernstberger officiating. Burial will follow in the Murray Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. , Saturday, January 3, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Tatum Elizabeth Dale, age 35, of Lexington, Kentucky, formerly of Murray, Kentucky passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 28, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Bro. Brett Miles officiating. Burial will follow in the Hicks Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 28, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., January 3, 2026, at the Calvary Baptist Church, 150 East High Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church, 150 East High Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507.

CARLISLE

Brenda D. Wade, age 73, of Bardwell, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah. Per Brenda's wishes, no services are scheduled at this time.

CHRISTIAN

Michiko Nishimura Ganster, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed peacefully in her home on Tuesday, December 22, 2026, at the age of 93. Funeral Services will be on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Home at 6:00 PM with Austyn Roberts officiating. Visitation will be at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM on Saturday, January 17, 2026.

Judy Hargrove Poindexter, 87, of Herndon, KY passed away peacefully with her family by her side on December 26, 2025 at Hermitage Care and Rehabilitation Center in Owensboro, Kentucky. Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 3, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. Nick Ashley officiating. Burial will follow in Powell Cemetery in LaFayette, KY. Visitation will be Saturday from 12:00 p.m. until the funeral hour.

Vivian Stewart Kem passed away peacefully on December 26, 2025, leaving behind a legacy defined by love, grace, and quiet strength. Funeral services will be 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at First Christian Church with Dr. Ron Buck officiating. Burial will follow in Riverside Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until

the funeral hour. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Lonnie Patton, 80, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 8:23 p.m. Monday, December 22, 2025 at his residence. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 26, 2025 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Dr. Kevin Lee officiating. Burial will follow in Johnsons Chapel Cemetery.

Betsy Walton, 88, Keachland Drive, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Monday, December 29, 2025 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center of natural causes. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 2, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home with Dr. Joe Bufford officiating. Burial will follow in Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. until the service hour on Friday, January 2, 2025 at the funeral home.

John Wayne "Jake" Welch, 72, Pembroke, passed away Monday, December 22, 2025, in Pembroke, KY. Services were held Monday, Dec. 29th, 2025 at 12:00 pm at Gamble Funeral Home in Hopkinsville, KY. Burial was at KVCW.

James Thomas Martin of Logan County, KY passed away on December 23, 2025. The son of the late Charles Henry Martin Sr and Mamie Mimms Martin. Visitation: Taylor's Funeral Home Hopkinsville, Ky, Saturday January 3, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Funeral service: Taylor's Funeral Home Hopkinsville, Ky, Saturday January 3, 2025 at 1:00 PM. Burial will be at Spillman Cemetery Allensville, Ky.

CRITTENDEN

Lonso Barton "L. B. " Gaston, 92, of Marion, Kentucky, passed away Friday, December 26, 2025, at Livingston County Hospital. Visitation for L.B. Gaston will be held Thursday, January 1, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday, January 2, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at Gilbert Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held Friday, January 2, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., with Hugh Highfil officiating. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery in Central City, Kentucky.

Jerry Lee Bearden, age 91, of Marion, KY, passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025, at Crittenden Heath and Rehabilitation in Marion. Visitation for Jerry Bearden will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, from 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion. Funeral services will follow at 1:00 PM with Bro. John Robertson officiating. Burial with full military honors will follow at Maplevue Cemetery in Marion.

Beatrice Collins Tomlin passed away December 29, 2025 at Salem Springlake Health and Rehab Center. She was cremated per her wishes and there are no services scheduled at this time. Donations can be made in her honor to: Pennyrite Allied Community Services, 210 North Walker St., Marion, KY 42064.

GRAVES

James "Jim" Miller, 67, of Mayfield passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at his residence. Celebration of Life will be at 3:00pm on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at Trace Creek Baptist Church. Friends may visit the family from 12:00pm to service hour on Saturday at the church.

Linda Monroe age 103 of Hickory passed away on Saturday, December 27, 2025 at her residence. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at Byrn Funeral Home.

Ray Glen Doran, age 86, of Mayfield passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025 at his residence. A memorial service for Mr. Ray Glen Doran will be 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Bro. Joey Green will officiate. Military rites will be conducted by American Legion Post #26.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Lanny James Hays, age 75, of Mayfield passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025 at Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield, KY. Funeral services for Mr. Lanny James Hays will be 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2026 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Keith Allred and Kyle McKinney will officiate. Interment will follow at Hays Family Farm, 475 Holland Rd., Hickory, KY. Military graveside rites will be conducted by American Legion Post #26.

Serena Spann, age 79, of Water Valley passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025 at Baptist Health in Paducah, KY. A private memorial service for Ms. Serena Spann will be held at a later date.

Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

Linda Monroe age 103 of Hickory passed away on Saturday, December 27, 2025 at her residence.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at Byrn Funeral Home.

Bobbie D. Sanderson, age 90, of Mayfield passed away on Monday, December 22, 2025 at her residence. Graveside services for Mrs. Bobbie D. Sanderson will be 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 26, 2025 at North Mt. Zion Cemetery. Rev. Barry Summerville will officiate. Interment will follow.

Ronald R. "Spike" Stevens, age 83 of Mayfield, KY passed away at 6:40 A.M. on Friday, December 26, 2025 at Spring Creek Health and Rehab. Facility in Murray, KY. Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at the Highland Park Cemetery with Rev. Ronnie Stinson officiating. Friends may call at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield after 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

Karen Antoinette Freeze, age 60, of Fancy Farm, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Jackson Purchase Medical Center. Funeral services for Karen Antoinette Freeze will be held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield. Pastors John and Cathy Sheppard will officiate.

Steven Robert Grubbs age 75 of Mayfield, KY, passed away on Tuesday December 23, 2025 at The Clinton Hickman County Nursing Facility in Clinton, KY. Graveside Services for Mr. Steven Robert Grubbs will be held at the Mound City Veterans Cemetery in Mounds City IL. with full Military Honors.

HENDERSON

Virginia "Sue" Moore, age 87, of Henderson, KY, passed away at 10:00 am, Saturday, December 27, 2025, at Redbanks Nursing Home in Henderson, KY. The funeral service will be held at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at Benton-Clunt & Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY with Reverend Tim Shockley officiating. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY.

Joy Parsley, a spirited and vibrant soul, left this world on December 23, 2025, at Deaconess Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana, after a brave battle with cancer. Relatives and friends are invited to Joy's Life Celebration from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 28, 2025, and from 9:00 a.m. until service time on Monday at Benton-Clunt & Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY. The funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson.

Elmore "Elmo" Jewell, of Henderson, Kentucky, was born on September 28, 1925, and passed away peacefully on December 27, 2025, at the Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson, Kentucky, at the remarkable age of 100. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, January 2, 2026 at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson with Bro. David Mabrey officiating. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens with military rites conducted by American Legion Worsham Post #40 Military Funeral Detail and Honor Guard.

Visitation will be at the funeral home Friday, January 2 from 10 a.m. until service time.

Susan Yvonne Morgan, 57, passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Tomblinson Funeral Home, Henderson Chapel, with visitation beginning at 11:00 AM.

Carl Leon McLevain, 88, of Henderson, passed away Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at home, after a long battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family, under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson with Chaplain Jody Hughes officiating.

HICKMAN

Mary Jane McDaniel, age 72 of Clinton, passed away Friday, December 26, 2025 at her residence. There will be no services at this time. Brown Funeral Home in Clinton is in charge of arrangements.

HOPKINS

James Offutt, 77, of Madisonville, KY, passed away Saturday, December 27, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Funeral services will be 11:00 A.M. Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Bro. Roy Ellis officiating. Burial will follow in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville.

Infant Juniper Ruby Gregory of Evansville, Indiana, was born and went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel with Bro. John Mitchell Bro. Wesley Curtis officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Earlington, KY.

Carol Sue Newsome, 81, of Henderson, KY, formerly of Providence, passed away, Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at her residence in Henderson. Graveside services will be 11:00 A.M. Monday, December 29, 2025, at Lakeview Cemetery in Providence with Bro. Barry Cullen officiating. Burial will follow in the cemetery.

Janice Faye Lee, 78, of Morton's Gap, KY, passed away on Monday, December 22, 2025, at NHC Health Care in Madisonville. Funeral services will be 1:00 P.M. Monday, December 29, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Mr. Russell Kline officiating. Burial will follow in Concord Cemetery in White Plains, KY.

Ida Mitchell, 61, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2025, at her home. Arrangements are currently pending. Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

James Darrell Crabtree, 79, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Arrangements are currently pending at Harris Funeral Home.

Charles Benjamin "Ben" Stark, 47, of Manitou, KY, passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at the Jewish Hospital in Louisville, KY. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 29, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Brian Richardson and Pastor Joseph E. Knight officiating. Burial to follow at Oakley Home Cemetery in Manitou.

Barbara Gwendolyn Durham Middleton, 81, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

LIVINGSTON

Peggy Sue Edmonds, 89, of Ledbetter passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at her residence.

Funeral services will be at 2:00pm on Saturday, December, 27, 2025, at Lindsey Funeral Home with the Rev. Rodney Cude and Rev. Chad Lamb officiating. Burial will follow at Edmonds Cemetery.

Jacqueline Myrick, of Livingston County, Lola Community, passed away Thursday, December 25, 2025 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services. Graveside funeral services will be Sunday, December 28, 2025, at 2 PM, at Lola Cemetery. Burial will follow the services. There will be no visitation. Arrangements under the direction of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services in Salem.

LYON

Denver L. Gibbs, age 71 of Lake City, KY, died early Wednesday morning at Baptist Health hospital in Paducah. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 pm Sunday December 28, 2025 at Dixon Cemetery in Grand Rivers. Dunn's Funeral Home in Eddyville is in charge of the arrangements.

MARSHALL

Alice Baxter, 71, of Kuttawa, Kentucky, and a former Benton, Kentucky resident of 24 years, passed away on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at River Bend Retirement Community in Kuttawa. A funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, December 26, 2025, at Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr with Bro. Gary Cruse officiating. Burial will follow at Marshall County Memory Gardens.

Dianne Redden, 75, of Benton, KY passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025 at her residence. A graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 28, 2025 at Brooks Chapel Cemetery. Bro. Ricky Cunningham will be officiating.

Christine Ann Kain, 90 of Benton, KY passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House in Murray, KY. There will be no services. Collier Funeral Home and Cremation Services are handling all arrangements.

Virgil E. Enochs, 92 of Gilbertsville, Kentucky passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Marshall Co. Hospital E. R. in Benton, Kentucky. A visitation will be on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm at Collier Funeral Home located at 211 West 5th Street Benton, KY 42025. 270-527-3141. A graveside service will be held at Fairview Memorial Gardens, Linton, IN at a later date.

McCRACKEN

Pamela Kay Rogers Whittemore, age 74, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2025. A memorial visitation will be held from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Shirley Louise Poat, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on December 24, 2025, at the age of 81. A funeral mass will take place at 12 P.M. on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 6705 Old US HWY 45 South in Paducah, Kentucky, with Rev. Gary Simpson officiating.

Danny Gaines passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky. There will be no services at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Joyce Gossett, 87, passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, in Du Quoin, Illinois. A private family service will be held on Sunday, December 28, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Tim Gossett officiating.

Laura Hayden, 62, passed away on Monday, December 22, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah. A funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services with Bro. Rob Ison officiating.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Rose Marie Ramsay Otey, 86 of Melber, KY left this world as a gracious lady leaves a room on Monday, December 22, 2025 at Mercy Health Lourdes. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home from 5:00pm until 8:00pm. Services will be held Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the New Concord Baptist Church in Melber with Revs. Jeff Cruse and Gary Cruse officiating. Burial will follow at the Allcock Cemetery.

Pamela S. Hardwick, 71 of Paducah passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Baptist Health of Paducah.

There are no events scheduled at this time. Online condolences may be left at www.lindseyfuneral.com.

Gary R. Lindsey, age 68, of Paducah, Kentucky passed away on Monday, 22nd, 2025 at his home. Funeral service will be held on Monday Dec. 29th, 2025 at 1:00 pm here at Lindsey Funeral Home with Bro. Bobby Lindsey officiating the service burial will follow at Maple Lawn Cemetery in Paducah.

Clyde Sylvester Carrethers passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025, at his residence in Brookport, Illinois. Services are scheduled for Saturday, January 3, 2026, 12:00 noon, at Pettus-Rowland Funeral Home, with Reverend Michael Wade officiating. Burial will follow in Bethel Cemetery in Brookport, Illinois.

Beth Warfield, 67, of Paducah passed away on Monday, December 22, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah. A memorial service will be held at 5:00 PM on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Bro. Monte Hodges and Pastor Trueman Hurley officiating.

Clyde Sylvester Carrethers passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025, at his residence in Brookport, Illinois. Services are scheduled for Saturday, January 3, 2026, 12:00 noon, at Pettus-Rowland Funeral Home, with Reverend Michael Wade officiating. Burial will follow in Bethel Cemetery in Brookport, Illinois. Family will receive

friends at the funeral home on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until the funeral hour.

TRIGG

Daniel James "Moe" Moser - June 24, 1957 - December 24, 2025. A Private Celebration of Life for 68 year old Daniel James "Moe" Moser of Cadiz will be held at a later date. King's Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

David "Ike" Love, Jr., age 78, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz.

Michael Dwayne "Mike" Kellum, age 63, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025, at his home. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz.

Lucille Wadlington Labonte, age 99, passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at her home in Cadiz, Kentucky. Funeral services will be held at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, at 2:00 PM, Sunday, December 28, 2025, with Bro. Russ Stallons officiating. Burial will follow in Wadlington Cemetery. Visitation will precede the service from 12:00 PM until the service hour of 2:00 PM.

UNION

Dianna Presley, 70 passed away on Sunday December 28th, 2025 at Madisonville Baptist Hospital. Diane was a part of The Well of Sturgis Church in Sturgis, KY and also enjoyed motorcycle riding. The funeral will be held at 3 PM on Friday, January 2nd 2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Visitation will be held from 10 AM until service time at 3 PM on Friday at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY.

Donald Buckman, 93, has left his earthly home on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025. Funeral

arrangements are under the care of Whitsell Funeral Home. Visitation will be at Sacred Heart Church in Waverly on Monday December 29, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. (CST), followed by a service and Mass at 11:00 A.M. by Fr. Dave Johnson. Burial will be at St. Peter's Cemetery. Following the service, friends and family are invited to a Bereavement meal at Sacred Heart Parish Hall to celebrate Donald's life and the lasting impact of his faith and generosity.

Helmut Bauer, age 86 of Morganfield, KY passed away Tuesday, Dec 23, 2025. Memorial service will be Saturday, January 3, 2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Visitation will be 10 AM until service time at the funeral home. Burial will be in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield, KY.

Bonnie Hunter, age 84, of Morganfield, KY, passed away on Monday, December 22, 2025, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, IN. Funeral service will be 1:00 PM Friday December 26, 2025 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Preacher Jim Lane and Bro Terry Hargrove will officiate. Burial will be in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield, KY.

WEBSTER

Evelyn Lou Hoffman, 85 of Merriville, IN passed away on December 25, 2025 at her home in Merriville, IN. Cremation was chosen and a memorial service will be held at a later date. Vanover Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Bro. Jeffrey Shane Graham - In the early morning of December 26, 2025 Brother Jeff Graham won his final battle and joined our Lord in eternity. Services will be handled by Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY and visitation will be at the Providence United Methodist Church in Providence, Kentucky on January 17th, 2026 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Afterward, there will be a memorial service, a chance for friends and family to say goodbye and for all of us to celebrate a race well run. In lieu of flowers, please donate to "Venezuela Now" or local Hispanic ministry at www.venezuelanow.org or Venezuela Now Inc., PO Box 2855, Acworth, GA 30102.

To place a full obituary, including a photo, call 270-442-7389 for details and pricing. Obituaries and funeral notices should be received by 9 a.m. Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper.

Kentucky among top states for physician pay

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – New data has surprisingly revealed that Kentucky is one of the best states to practice medicine as a physician. The research, conducted by university ranking site Research.com, examined statewide data on the mean salary of physicians from the U.S. Bureau

of Labor Statistics. The states with the highest annual mean salary have been named the best places for kickstarting a career in medicine as a physician.

North Dakota finished in the top spot, with an average salary of \$351,270, which is 31.3 percent above the national average of \$267,371.

Next are Wyoming, South Carolina,

Indiana and Colorado, to round out the top five.

However, Kentucky is number six, according to the research. Physicians in the Bluegrass State have a mean salary of \$316,730, which is 18.4 percent above the national average. Kentucky's best-paid medical profession, with a mean salary of \$376,940, is a physician who specializes in

pathology.

The remainder of the top ten states are New Hampshire, Connecticut, Nebraska and Louisiana, with a mean salary of \$306,030.

On the other end of the scale, the least lucrative state to kickstart a career as a physician is Pennsylvania. With a mean salary of \$187,330, the state's physicians earn 29.9 percent below

the national average. However, the best-paid job in the state of Pennsylvania belongs to cardiologists, with a mean salary of \$408,950.

The rest of the states that appear in the bottom ten are New Jersey, Rhode Island, Michigan, Arizona, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, North Carolina and Arkansas.

The study examined mean salaries of

medical professionals as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The final rankings consider the mean salary of physicians, as this is a more generalized term for a doctor who has earned a medical degree, with the highest-earning states being named in the top ten. The study also included mean salaries for other medical professionals.



Thanks for spending your time with us in 2025. We hope the new year brings all the happiness and good fortune you deserve!

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Seek the light

By Teresa LeNeave
Leneave2@comcast.net

One thing about light is that it doesn't just dispels darkness in one spot. Light transcends an entire area. Light has tremendous power. Look at all the laser surgeries that are performed by surgeons. Laser surgery is used for everything from our eyes to our heart. The power of light is remarkable. Light can open up and illuminate everything in its path or it can be harnessed and molded to pinpoint its power and be so sharply defined that it's beam performs the most detailed surgery on something so important as the cornea of the eye or the beat of the heart.

Light can be defined so precise that it can even cut through metal. Light has unlimited power and I believe; it gets its power from the Father of Light.

Just imagine the Light of God and the potential it has to transform our lives, giving us light enough to walk in victory no matter what the circumstances around us appear to be.

In these turbulent times with a shaky economy, empty shelves in grocery stores, a split society on nearly everything, and natural disasters increasingly taking a toll on people and our economy, it's good to know, we still have a constant.

That constant is that every good gift

and every perfect gift is from God in whom there is no variance nor shadow of turning. He is always going to be the same good God. He is always going to be the constant that we can depend on. He is never going to change. He is love and He always will be. He is Light and He always will be. He is our comfort and He always will be. The question is, "Do we believe it or not?"

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). He is our light and our hope for now and all eternity.

A verse that will encourage you in any situation is, "Do not err, my beloved



brethren. Every good and every perfect gift is from above (from God) and comes down from the Father of lights with whom (there) is NO variability neither shadow of turning" (James 1:16,17 KJV). The Light is available to us, but do we let His Light to spill over into our everyday life and activity? Progress is realizing He (God) is the FATHER of Light. If He is the Father of Light and He has placed His

light in us, why on earth are we fearful? He has promised to lead and guide us through the raging storms that try to attack us. One place He said, "I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens; they do not sow or reap; they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them.

And how much more valuable you are than birds!" (Luke 12: 22-24 NIV).

According to the Bible, we are the children of light, and the children of the day: We are not of the night, nor of darkness. (I Thes. 5:5). We are very valuable to God. He created us to love us; to fill us with His Light. Good news is that it's available to everyone if we believe on the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.



By Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org

I was back in my barn during rifle season. And just before daylight several does began feeding just in front of my window. The late rut was still happening so I was hoping a buck would show up to check out the ladies. As more sun began to illuminate the area, I noticed a buck up the hill at the edge of my field. It was a respectable 8 pointer. He just stood there looking down the hill at the females in front of me. This

gave me plenty of time to size him up for a shot. He was only about 125 yards away. I grabbed my old Remington, laid it on my shooting pillow, and steadied my aim. I pulled the trigger and nothing happened. The shot went off, but somehow I completely missed. I mean completely. I still don't know how I missed so badly. I mean I missed so terribly, the buck never moved. He just stood there staring down the hill at the does

that had remained immovable as well. I thought to myself, "Well, let's try this again." So, I proceeded to chamber another shell, only to realize I only had one bullet in my gun, and I just shot it. I looked around to find my box of shells and realized they were in my SUV just below my perch at the back of the barn. Once again I thought, "Surely there's no way I can walk to the back of the barn, go down the ladder,

Expected Obstacles

open the door to my vehicle, grab my bullets, climb back up the ladder, walk back to my shooting chair, load my gun, and that deer still be there for a shot." I can remember grinning as I proceeded to give it a try. When I got back to my shooting window, the buck was still there. I loaded my gun, concentrated on one spot on the deer, and made a perfect shot. What I remember most about this hunt and the story itself was my grin. My grin gave away how I had matured over the years when it came to hunting. It revealed that I had learned that what used to be unexpected obstacles were not really unexpected and we're not actually obstacles. They were just how hunting really is. When I considered them unexpected obstacles, my response was anxiety and anger. When they became a real part of the hunt, they became a reason to grin and enjoy the challenge.

You and I are about to begin a new year. If we take a deep dive into our past years, we see that things never went as we had hoped or how we imagined. So, why do we think the coming year will be any different. It won't. So, my advice is to expect the unexpected and to see obstacles as opportunities. The results will be more grins – and maybe even more successes.

Gary Miller
gary@outdoortruths.org

Gary Miller has written *Outdoor Truths* articles for 23 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. Stay updated on *Outdoor Truths* each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org

A New Year filled with faith and determination

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

A brand-new year is here, and I'm excited to see what the Lord has for us! Keeping Christ at the center of our thoughts takes a great deal of discipline and determination, but so does everything else we really care about. We often hear people discussing their resolutions, which are serious intentions, desires, and promises they believe they can achieve. What are your goals and visions for the coming year? Would you like to draw closer to God and experience His peace and joy? I can tell you, according to His word, He loves you and waits for you to be more involved with Him. James 4:8, and Jeremiah 29:12-14 talk about this, but it will take more than just a whim. It will take a drastic life-style change.

To become more holy and governed by God, instead of our emotions, let us understand that life-style transformation involves personal sacrifice. It is said that the only limit to our

goals for tomorrow will be our doubts of today. So, here's the big question: Just how willing are we to give Him total control of our lives? Isn't this why we are here? If we abide under the shadow of His wings, we will walk in the peace and joy of His Spirit, but if we allow ourselves to be tempted and drawn away by sin, we will remain distant and miserable. Matthew chapter 22 gives us the true meaning of life, "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

Most of the time, we are so busy making our own decisions that we hardly consider the distractions that cause us to ignore Him. In the book of Revelation, chapter two, God is disappointed with how the Ephesians had left their "first love," but what does this mean? It's time to examine our hearts and choose once and for all who we are going



to serve. Actually, the Bible contains many passages where God says He loves us and how much He wants to fellowship with us. The incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection are all about Jesus inviting everyone to have a personal relationship with Him, but it's our decision since He will never force us to love Him.

This has been a challenging year for my health, along with other various disappointments, as I'm sure many of you also have your own issues. I actually spent Christmas Day in the hospital. We

need our strength as there is much to do for God's kingdom. My family lost some dear members this year, and this holiday has not been very jolly, but we are comforted in knowing they loved God and are with Him now. I ask that you pray for the inmates that we serve at our local detention center. We bring the good news of the gospel, along with baptizing those who give their lives to Christ, and serving communion. I also have some exciting news, as I became a certified substitute teacher this year for Jessamine County. I've really enjoyed

the challenge, love the kids, and look forward to this coming school year. With a doctorate in Christian education, I have a passion to teach and coach, especially knowing how the enemy is attacking the young ones in today's world. I want to pray and help children in any way I can.

Philippians 3:14 declares, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus," which reveals a vital condition to personal transformation: no one else can do it for us. We must see our need to change and be willing to do

whatever it takes to be victorious. It's commendable to have long-term goals, and we should release our faith into accomplishing our destiny, but it's critical to realize just how desperate we must become. It's not automatic, but a day-by-day process. It would be much better to go slow with permanent results than to go through the motions and become overwhelmed with frustration and eventually give up. Let us pray. "Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask that you truly become our Lord. No more games, no more lukewarmness, depression, or excuses. Please give us the courage to discipline our flesh and the faith and strength to say no to all that is wrong, and yes to your perfect will for us. We give you all praise and glory, amen."

Dr. Holland is a Christian minister, author, and community outreach chaplain. Ask for a free download of his song, "Intentions of the Heart" at psalmz103@gmail.com

Training Together

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

"It's hard to be by yourself," said Kyra Christmas, a 23-year-old athlete who plays on Canada's national water polo team. Like most professional sports players, she was devastated by the emergency lockdowns during the pandemic which upended team sports and stifled training for competitions. Water polo is a game that requires team effort and cooperation, just like baseball, football, or any other mainstream sport. She shared her griefs

in a New York Times article titled, "How to Train for Team Sports Alone," and made the case that there is no substitute for being together. When it comes to team sports, you simply have to train as a collective body.

Individual training is crucial but it is no replacement for conditioning together as a group. She recalled training alone and watching videos of past games—imagining competing in the water alongside her teammates—but it wasn't sufficient. Finally, her

team was able to resume training. "It felt so good to be together again," she remarked.

Likewise, you must train together with other believers in order to win in the Christian life. To be sure, Christian living is not a game—it is warfare—but it is meant to be lived in the community of faith. In order to live a life of godliness, you must be surrounded by other godly people in the local church. There is no substitute for church membership and participation. When it comes to walk-

ing on the straight and narrow, you cannot train yourself or train by yourself—it's a team effort. As you run the Christian race with endurance, nothing is more beneficial than running that race with other believers.

It is within the local body of assembled believers that you discover and use your spiritual gifts—the abilities God gave you to be an efficient teammate (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11). It is only by cooperation with other Christians that

you may fulfill your chief goal of making disciples—remember, it is called the Great Co-Mission for a reason (Matt. 28:16-20). You need a faithful congregation to lift you up when you fall and support you when your burdens are too heavy to bear (Gal. 6:1-2).

True Christian love is expressed exclusively within the gathered body of Christ—loving "one another" requires that you know and interact with "another" to love (1 John 3:11-24). It is solely within the family of God that gratitude and praise

reach their highest levels of expression (Col. 3:16). The Bible even says that you are prevented from being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin through the encouragement and reproof of the church (Hebrews 3:13).

Friend, it's hard to be by yourself. Find and join a faithful church where you can train for the Christian life with other "teammates" who are aiming at the goal of God's glory.

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If you do anything with classifieds next week, there were changes after you made those. I put the latest files on the server. also copy the text over.

GRAVE PLOTS

FOR SALE One Grave Lot at Maplelawn Cemetery. \$800.00 Or Best Offer Call 270-558-3414 (tfn)

2 GRAVE SITES at

For Sale 1 Vault in Brookhaven Memorial

Woodlawn Memorial Garden. In the Christus area. \$3,800. 270-559-8781

2 Cemetery Lots (side by side) Located at Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery (in The Garden of the Good Shepard). 6965 Old Hwy 45, Paducah, KY. \$5,000 for both lots 2702-519-5449 or 270-841-5001.

Park, last one in the chapel. Holds 2 caskets. \$8,000.00. Call 270-556-0524

3 possibly 4 Grave Plots Woodlawn Memorial Gardens Paducah Ky Trinity Garden section Normally \$3700.00 each. will sell for \$2500.00 each Call 270-970-0678

PETS FOR SALE

Goodman 4 ton central heat & air split unit, hardly used. Call thomas 270-247-7589. (tfn)

For Sale, Sleep Number Plus, Twin Long ILE 360 smart bed frame flex fit, 360 remote, Call 270-556-0524 TFN mattress pad, 2 fitted sheet sets \$5,000.00

Free 1 year old Cane Corso Dog Male needs a good home Call 270-334-3009

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wheelchair \$20. Call 270-836-1002.

Disability Mobility Scooter - 4 wheeler - \$950.00 - Metropolis -270-559-0345 (tfn)

AUTO MISCELLANEOUS

27 ft Car Hauler Cargo Trailer. Used once, 2-7,000 lb axels, 4,000 lb rear door ramp, Call for extras 303-775-0310, \$11,300 (tfn)

2024 Homesteader Cargo Trailer, black aluminum 8 x 16 in Salem, Ky area. \$7,200.00. Call 812-483-1116. (tfn)

HOUSES FOR RENT

\$1,299 per month SINGLE FAMILY 3 BR, 1 Bath, Living Room, Kitchen, Utility Room. Central Heat & Air. Storage Shed. Located in CALVERT CITY. 1 month security deposit. 1 year lease. 270-709-0955

REAL ESTATE

This Incredible Customer Built 2015 property is amazing! Across the road 1,000 yards from KY Dam Village State Park, Dam, Marina, Restaurant/Lodge. 2,000 yards from the Golf course! Less than 2 miles to Aviation Air-

field, & I-24/69. 5 total bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 laundry areas & 3 gas log fireplaces! Vaulted & Cathedral ceilings. Detailed wood-work & moldings, polished marble, w/unique characteristics!

Expansive Living room open to kitchen/breakfast area. Primary suite offers a custom tiled bath, heated floor & walk-in closet! Covered patio w/ wood burning FP. In-ground pool, privacy fence & gated concrete drive w/ ample parking, 2 1/2 car garage has apartment, extra lot & huge PRIVACY FENCE!

135 Allegheny Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky • \$1,399,900

4 bedroom/4 bath, 3,682 sq ft custom built, exterior southern living plan, energy efficient. 2 very private lots. Pella quadruple insulated windows & doors, auto-full service generator, sprinkler system, sunroom, deck, patio & private back yard! New roof/shingles-2023. Maintenance free siding-2024, new Cambria Clovelly Quartz countertop in kitchen. Finished apartment w/full bath, kitchenette & NEW

HEAT PUMP-2022. 706 Marina Village Drive • Grand Rivers, Kentucky • \$740,000

3 beautiful lots, over 1/2 acre sitting up HIGH on a hill with a SPECTACULAR BREATHTAKING VIEW OF KY LAKE in Cambridge Shores Subdivision! Build your Dream Home! Magnificent Stunning view of KY Lake! Enjoy all the amenities that Cambridge Shores has to offer. This quiet KY Lake neighborhood is the perfect place to call home!

27 Paradise Point Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky \$369,000

135 Allighany ----Unique Custom Built 2015 property. Stunningly Luxurious with Captivating Elegance across the road 1000 yards from Ky Dam Village State Park, Dam, Marina, Restaurant/Lodge. 2000 yards to Golf course! Less than 2 miles to Aviation Airfield, & I-24/69. 5 total bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 laundry areas & 3 gas log fireplaces! Vaulted & Cathedral ceilings, detailed wood-work, polished marble, with unique characteris-

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Sudoku Answers

4	7	5	1	8	9	3	2	6
3	8	9	6	2	4	1	5	7
2	1	5	3	7	4	9	8	
6	2	8	4	9	6	2	7	1
5	3	8	2	7	1	3	8	4
9	6	2	7	5	8	6	3	9
1	4	7	2	5	8	6	5	7
2	9	4	8	6	5	7	1	3
7	5	6	3	4	1	9	8	2
8	1	3	9	7	2	5	6	4

Word Search Answers

G	D	N	U	F	E	R	D	E	N	Y	S	A	B
O	U	S	S	I	I	E	D	C	R	A	B	C	R
B	B	O	L	G	V	S	I	B	O	T	I	C	P
H	R	O	M	D	U	I	P	B	D	B	I	C	S
F	N	M	E	G	T	N	O	R	F	E	R	T	O
P	H	V	M	E	T	N	O	I	G	U	V	S	G
M	Y	I	S	N	L	O	I	G	U	V	S	G	O
T	C	V	A	C	T	L	K	D	H	O	N	E	K
M	E	A	E	0	0	A	K	N	V	R	C	U	L
D	I	F	U	H	G	E	R	Y	R	C	D	N	O
B	L	I	S	R	O	I	C	U	N	S	V	R	B
A	O	C	T	D	P	O	H	S	A	L	M	H	O
U	T	E	G	D	U	B	E	N	L	C	P	T	S
A	N	G	H	B	8	K	E	V	C	P	E	T	F
L	B	G	H	Y	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1

Puzzle Page in A Section

tics! Primary suite offers custom tiled bath, heated floor & walk-n closet! Kitchen island & beautiful cabinetry! Music room, sun room & office! Basement has family room, kitchen, bedroom, storage room & bath. Covered patio with wood burning FP. In-ground pool, privacy fence, & gated concrete drive, 2 & 1/2 car Gar., apartment, additional lot & massive stately privacy wall. Can be a VRBO!

718 Marina Village Dr. ---- Beautiful Custom Built 3 bedr 3 & 1/2 bath 2006, looks like a new Home sitting on 2 private lots in Prestigious Gated Marina Village Subdivision! Hardwood Floors, 9 ft ceilings, many updates, large family room open to Kitchen! 2 Bed-rooms on main level & one HUGE bedroom up. All bedrooms have a full bath. Kitchen has custom cabinetry! NEW HEAT/AIR UNITS IN 2023. Upstairs-2019. NEW DECK, 4 car garage heated & cooled, Storm Shelter, ALL FURNITURE, DECOR, TABLEWARE, BEDDING, LIGHTHOUSE PICTURES, Towels STAY PLUS NEW flooring that has not been installed. Take a golf cart ride to Grand Rivers, world famous Patties Restaurant, antique shops & more!

27 Paradise Point ---- Wow! 3 beautiful lots, over 1/2 acre sitting up HIGH on a hill with a SPECTACULAR WATERVIEW OF KY LAKE in Cambridge Shores Subdivision! Build your Dream Home on these

lots. Wow! what a Magnificent Stunning view of Ky Lake! Enjoy the amenities that Cambridge Shores including 2 boat ramps, a covered picnic pavilion, a swim area with sandy beach, courtesy docks, tennis court, basketball court and Private Club House. HOA fee only \$175.00 annually.

2909 James Sanders Blvd Paducah, KY 42001 • Commercial/Industrial MLS Number 124836 • 7,560 sq. ft. The price is \$25.74 psf annually. Located in Western Kentucky's largest business districts this location is prime for retail, restaurant, or service company. With 4060 net leasable square feet. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

500 S 17th • Paducah, KY 42003 Commercial/Industrial - \$1,399,000 MLS Number • 125918 • 18,900 sq. ft. Outstanding professional office building in the heart of Paducah featuring approximately 15,600 sq. ft. of office space with 26 private offices, 4 bullpens, 2 conference rooms, kitchen/breakroom, 2 IT rooms, 3 laboratory rooms, multiple work areas, and storage closets along with 2300 sq. ft. warehouse area. Also has an approximately 1000 sq. ft. detached storage building. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

7151 US HWY 4 • PADUCAH MLS #123564 19+ acres with much po-

tential. Could be used as commercial site, subdivision, or residential estate. Consists of 2 tracts of land. 12+ acres on Hwy 25 and 6+ on Engert for a total of 19.18. Entrance to both on US Hwy 45. Sold as one parcel. A well was installed about 10 yrs ago but has never run on a continuous basis. Has electricity on property. \$189,900 Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

House For Sale Ranch style, 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, Cedar siding. Sits on 6 acres. 116 Darnell Rd. Benton 42025. Call 270-404-6972 for appointment.

100 Acres sold all together. Livingston County, near Elementary school, store, fire department. Can be used for residential or commercial. 10 miles from Ky Lake 270-210-6697 (tfn)

37 Acres, Beautiful Building Site. 5050 Metropolis Lake Rd, W. Paducah. \$10,000 per acre. Call 270-210-4666 tfn

4 Adjacent 1 acres lots in Peninsula Subdivision on Lake of Egypt. Great year round fishing with no carp, barges, or big boats. 50 minutes from Paducah. \$29,995 for all four. Might divide into 2 parcels. Call owner 314-239-6676.

Large Ky Lake lot Mature trees, utilities, restricted to new construction or double wide. \$24,900. 270-970-8000 (tfn)

Beautifully and totally renovated condo in exciting Lower Town, Paducah, KY. Stainless steel and granite kitchen, original wood floors, two master suites with attached baths. Carport with storage. 2/3 -2,140 sq. ft. \$247,500. (972) 816-8766 (tfn)

401 E 12th St., Benton Charming and spacious 2,240 sq. ft. home. Immaculate property centrally located in Benton on a well landscaped corner lot. 3 Bedroom / 2 Bath. Expansive basement includes interior and exterior entrances. Workshop with additional outbuilding with concrete flooring for mower etc. \$269,900 Call Carla Bridges REMAX Realty Group at 270-559-8425

1.6 acres with hookups septic and well. 2357 State Rt 384 Mayfield Ky. \$20k FIRM 270-564-6774(TFN)

CAMPERS FOR SALE
2019 Shasta Oasis 30ft Camper One slide out. Good Condition. \$13,000.00. 270-827-9482. Or 270-827-8139

Camper For Sale. 2019 Heritage Glen 26.5 ft

BOATS FOR SALE
REDUCED 2008 20 ft. Crestliner 1950 SF series, easy load trailer, 175 HP Mercury motor, canopy, travel cover, 2 fish finders, radio FM/

AM, much more, garage stored, valued at \$15K, sell for \$12,000. 270-665-0010 / leave a message.

AUTOS FOR SALE

For Sale. 2009 Mercury Milan 82000 miles. Bought August 2024 for commuting to work. No longer needed. Last Service June 2025 78,500 miles New Tires June 2025 78,800 miles. Price \$7500.00. Call 615-430-7544.

2015 Mercedes E-350 104,000 miles, Light grey Real nice vehicle, drives real nice. \$13,000 OBO call 270-493-2176

2007 Red Chevy Avalanche Truck, needs transmission and frame rusted. Selling truck for parts. \$3000. Please call 270-217-4980

2017 GMC Sierra Denali Crew Cab pickup, 99,000 miles, loaded, Beautiful truck, \$23,500. Please call... 270-519-3674 or 270-519-1254

1986 Chevrolet 4 x 4 Pickup, wrecked but a/c works \$2,000 cash or OBO. 327 Motor and 3 speed transmission out of 1980 Impala \$1,000 cash or OBO. Call 270-804-5399.

REDUCED 2010 Black Honda Fit Sport 4 door hatchback. Excellent mechanical condition minor cosmetic damage clear title \$4,500.00 OBO Call 812-631-3921

GOLF CART FOR SALE

REDUCED 2019 EZGO Golfcart 48V. Flame Red with Black seating. very good condition in Salem, Ky area 5,600.00. Call 812-483-1116 (tfn)

FARM EQUIPMENT

1996 8570 MF Combine Big motor, 30' GH, SCH Knife & drive, Maurer bin ext, flotation rears, second owner. C-Tech maintained. Approx. 3,000 hrs \$50,000 OBO. 419-615-0950

REDUCED 1987 John Deere Combine 7720 Titan 2, 4 wd, long auger, 30.5 x 32 tires, always kept inside shed. \$11,000 OBO 270-254-0318 3.2 Prong Hay Fork \$150; B275 Diesel International project tractor \$1,250. Call 731-487-7062.

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Crossings Year in Review: 25 years of God's faithfulness, 25K+ students served annually

By Jason Ellerbrook
Kentucky Today

This year, Crossings Ministries celebrated 25 summers of God's faithfulness, and we could never have imagined how He would grow this ministry to serve churches and reach young people with the Gospel.

From humble beginnings in 2000 with 1,280 campers at Jonathan Creek, we've grown to serve more than 25,000 students annually across Kentucky, Tennessee and Maryland. Through the years, over 13,000 campers professed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and have given over \$2.52 million to global missions.

In 2025, we hired a record number of summer missionary staff (college-aged students between the ages of 18-22). These summer missionaries are trained, discipled and deployed to serve and share the gospel with thousands of children and students throughout the summer. We are praying God would once again send us 200 college students who will help create experiences to proclaim the gospel in 2026.

At Jonathan Creek, renovations to the A.M. Johnson Worship Center and Price Dining Hall, along with the addition of a new lodge at Jonathan Creek, allowed us to welcome up to an additional 185 campers each session — which resulted in over 1,000 more participants



Kids love every aspect of Crossings camps.

throughout the summer. The new Lodge at Cedarmore is scheduled for completion in May 2026 and will allow for additional growth.

This year we continued our partnership with the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware to bring camp on the road. The Student Camp Travel Team served students and churches at Carson Springs, Linden Valley and Skycroft Conference Centers. In addition, the Day Camp Travel Team returned to eastern Kentucky, joining with local

churches to bring camp to under resourced communities.

After eight years of faithful service as President and CEO of Crossings, Lance Howerton retired in August. Under his leadership, attendance at camp more than doubled, over \$1 million was given to missions, and Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek experienced \$10 million in capital improvements.

Our team prayed diligently for God to provide the right leader for this next season, and He led the Crossings board of directors to promote Dan Talcott from

director of business management to president and CEO. This transition has allowed Crossings to continue moving forward with faithful stewardship, healthy growth and lasting ministry impact.

From the very beginning, our confidence in this ministry has been rooted in a verse our founder, Rusty Ellison, frequently quoted:

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” — Ephesians 3:20-21

God continues to use Crossings to transform lives through the power of the gospel.

We are committed to our mission of creating experiences to proclaim the gospel as we currently have 29,500 people registered for camp in 2026 and more than 3,000 on a

waiting list. When we look back on 2025 and reflect on how God moved, it's hard not to get excited for what God has in store for 2026 and beyond.

As God continues to do more than we could ask or imagine, we invite you to be a part of what He is doing at Crossings Ministries. We need churches to pray, summer missionaries to serve and people to give. If God is leading you to serve Crossings in one or more of these ways, we would love to hear from you! An investment in Crossings is an investment in our students and churches!

We praise God for His continued faithfulness as this year ends and look forward to what He will do in 2026.

Jason Ellerbrook is director of development for Crossings. If you are interested in supporting the ministry of Crossings or have questions, you can email him at jellerbrook@gocrossings.org or call or text 615-513-5043.



Jason Ellerbrook is director of development for Crossings Ministries.



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New look for spay or neuter special license plate

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – More than 20 years after it was first introduced, Kentucky's Spay or Neuter special license plate has a new look, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell announced on Wednesday.

"Practicing responsible pet ownership and the need to reduce the stray and homeless pet population are the messages surrounding this new eye-catching plate design," said Shell. "Kentucky has 411 animal shelters and animal welfare organizations making it obvious we, as a society, need to do more to control the pet population. This plate reminds us of that in a beautiful new way."

The new design, which was crafted by Lexington graphic artist Hayli Strickland, features peek-a-boo images of a kitten and dog on a green background. The bottom features the words "Spay or neuter your pets" with a red pawprint in the shape of a heart overlapping the words.

"I wanted to create something playful that would make people smile while they were waiting in traffic," Strickland stated. "I loved the idea of 'breaking the third wall' by having the cat and dog interact with the driver behind them, peeking from the top and bottom of the plate in a fun, lighthearted way. My hope was simply to spread a bit of joy."

The new license



plate raises awareness of the need to reduce the population of stray and homeless animals in Kentucky. During its lifetime, sales have equated to more than \$600,000 in grants being awarded to organizations, resulting in more than 17,200 cats and dogs being spayed or neutered.

Proceeds from the sales of the license plates go to the Animal Control and Care Fund, which is administered by the Animal Control Advisory Board. The Board was established in 1998 by an act of

the Kentucky General Assembly. The duties of the Board include making recommendations to the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture relating to animal control issues and evaluating applications for spay and neuter grants to Kentucky counties and municipalities.

The new plate, which can be personalized, is available for purchase at County Clerk offices across the state or on the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's website.

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Kentucky State Parks launches new mobile app to improve visitor experience

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Building on the New Kentucky Home initiative, the Kentucky Department of Parks has implemented a new mobile app designed to enhance state parks' outdoor recreation experiences. For the first time, guests will have access to accurate digital maps that are also available offline. The free mobile app, powered by OuterSpatial, provides up-to-date information and resources on outdoor recreational opportunities and events, curated experiences and hiking trail maps.

"From hiking, activities, golf and more, our Kentucky State Parks are a great place to visit, and this free app will help make it easier for families to enjoy," said Gov. Andy

Beshear. "If you haven't visited one of our 44 Kentucky State Parks in a while, this new app and passport challenge is a great reason to plan a stay."

"We're excited to finally have a mobile app that will give Kentuckians and visitors a better way to explore the incredible range of parks across our state," said Kentucky State Parks Commissioner Russ Meyer.

Key features for the mobile app include:

- Detailed Park Maps – View boundaries, trail networks, restrooms, parking areas and more.

- Over 1,000 Outdoor Points of Interest
- Discover scenic overlooks, boat launches, playgrounds, climbing areas, historical sites and

other amenities.

Outings – Follow curated experiences created by park staff to help you explore something new.

Challenges – Complete outdoor goals and earn digital badges for achievements.

Real-Time Updates – Stay informed about trail closures, facility changes and event schedules.

To celebrate the launch, Kentucky State Parks is introducing the KY Passport Challenge, a statewide invitation to explore all 44 state parks. Participants can check in at any state park to get started. Each check-in earns a unique digital badge tied to that park, with the goal of collecting all 44 badges to complete your passport.

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