

The Marshall Times

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Marshall County 4-H Sharp Shooters to Host New Member Informational Meeting

By **Laurna Todd**
KPI Writer

Marshall County youth interested in competitive shooting sports will have an opportunity to learn more about joining the Marshall County 4-H Sharp Shooters later this month. An informational meeting for potential new members and their families will be held Tuesday, March 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Marshall County Extension Office, 2081 Mayfield Highway in Benton. The Sharp Shooters program is open to Marshall County youth ages 9–18 as of Jan. 1, 2026, who reside in the county and/or attend school within the county. To be eligible for enrollment, both the prospective

member and a parent or guardian must attend the meeting. Enrollment forms will be distributed during the event. The club features certified coaches who provide instruction in several

disciplines, including air rifle, .22 rifle, pistol and air pistol. The program focuses on firearm safety, responsibility, sportsmanship and skill development in a structured and supervised environ-

ment. Annual dues are \$100 for the first child in a family and \$75 for each additional sibling. Payment is due upon enrollment. Cash and checks or money orders made payable to “Marshall County

4-H” will be accepted. Credit card payments are also accepted with a 3.5% convenience fee. Organizers encourage families interested in learning more about the program, practice schedules and

competition opportunities to attend the meeting. For additional information, contact the Marshall County Extension Office at (270) 527-3285.



Marshall County Extension Office

Murray State University’s College of Education and Human Services announces 41st annual Harry M. Sparks Distinguished Lecture Series

By **Jillian Smith**

MURRAY, Ky. — Murray State University’s College of Education and Human Services will host the 41st annual Harry M. Sparks Distinguished Lecture Series on Tuesday, April 28. This year’s keynote speaker is Dr. Kerry Magro, an autistic professional speaker, author and consultant for Netflix’s Love on the Spectrum U.S. Magro is an award-winning national speaker and

bestselling author. Nonverbal at age 2 and a half and diagnosed with autism at age 4, he has overcome significant challenges to become an internationally recognized advocate for autism awareness and inclusion. Dr. David Whaley, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, emphasized the significance of the long-standing lecture series and the impact of this year’s keynote speaker ahead of the event.

“The Harry M. Sparks Distinguished Lecture Series is one of our college’s most meaningful traditions, as it brings together education, advocacy and community,” Whaley said. “Dr. Magro’s journey and work as an advocate for autism awareness and inclusion reflect the values we strive to instill in our students. We are honored to welcome him to campus and to recognize outstanding educators whose daily work makes a lasting

impact.” During the lecture, recipients of the Outstanding Educator Awards will also be recognized. The Sparks Lecture will begin at 5 p.m. in Alexander Hall auditorium, Room 240. A complimentary dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Hall atrium. To RSVP, visit bit.ly/SparksLectureSeries or email msu.coehsdean@murraystate.edu by Friday, April 17.



Dr. Kerry Magro

NMMS Principal Introduces Program to Marshall County School board

By **Kelsey Edwards**
KPI Editor

New middle school programming and concerns about state legislation were highlighted at the February 19 meeting of the Marshall County Board of Education. North Marshall Middle School Principal Aimee Lepisto opened the meeting with an update on the school’s “Everyday Heroes” culture initiative and recent academic progress. She credited much of that growth to the school’s Professional Learning Community (PLC) framework, which earned

North Marshall recognition as a Model PLC at Work School. Lepisto stated that the collaborative teacher development model has directly contributed to improved student outcomes. She then went on to introduce the Paxton Patterson Career Labs program, which she and South Marshall Middle School Principal Laura James hope to implement at both schools. The hands-on career exploration labs allow students to experience modules aligned with pathways offered at Marshall County High School,

while still incorporating writing and traditional academic requirements. The modules range in cost from \$1,800 to \$7,900. Lepisto said several local businesses have made informal commitments to sponsor modules which would reduce the district’s financial burden primarily to annual maintenance costs, estimated at around \$3,000 per year. She noted that DC Electric has offered to purchase the electrician module for each school at \$5,000 apiece. Both principals believe the program

would be most effective if the district adds an additional teaching position at each middle school. Superintendent Bill Thorpe provided the board with updates on legislation under consideration in Frankfort, describing several proposals as “not educationally friendly.” Among his concerns were the absence of an increase in Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding and rising health insurance costs for teachers and staff. Thorpe also referenced a proposed bill that would require monthly publication

of all district receipts, significantly increasing workload for finance offices. Brooke Gibbs, the Director of Finance, explained that certain expenditures, such as conference travel or staff meals for professional development days, can appear questionable without context. Board member Will Coursey, a former state legislator, said he does not expect most of the controversial proposals to pass. Jackie Reid, the Supervisor of Instruction, presented winter STAR assessment data, which measures

student growth from fall to winter. While all grade levels showed improvement, growth varied. Thorpe noted that fifth- and sixth-grade students — who posted comparatively lower growth — were in kindergarten and first grade during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have contributed to learning gaps. The board then went on to approve the second reading of two policy updates related to graduation and academic honors. Secondary Supervisor of Instruction Kevin Jackson said the revisions align

West Kentucky Community and Technical College Announces 2026 Regional Educators Awards and Scholarship Program

PADUCAH, Ky. — West Kentucky Community and Technical College will host the ninth annual Regional Educators Awards and Scholarship Program (REASP), recognizing outstanding pre-kindergarten through high school educators, administrators and staff

members who work tirelessly each day on behalf of students, parents, and the community.

Established by WKCTC President Dr. Anton Reece, the program highlights the impact of educators across the region while awarding scholarships to students pursuing degrees in education.

The ceremony will take place at the Clemens Fine Arts Center in Paducah on March 26 and will feature a red-carpet celebration honoring this year's recipients.

Thanks to the incredible growth and popularity of this awards program, college officials reported a record number of nominations submitted for the 2026 awards. WKCTC officials made some exciting updates to ensure they continue to shine the spotlight on outstanding educators and leaders who make a difference every day.

REASP features a brand-new category for 2026, Distinguished Technical Faculty 9th – 12th grade, honoring the dedicated faculty at area technology centers and career and technical centers.

The Distinguished Faculty categories have been reorganized to Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade; 3rd-5th grade; 6th-8thgrade; and 9th-12th grade, to ensure these

categories align more naturally and educators teaching different grade levels are recognized within categories that best reflect their roles.

The top 20 finalists in each category have been invited to take center stage and be formally recognized at the March 26 ceremony. This means more room for nominees to bring guests, colleagues and school supporters to celebrate together. The Top 20 educators selected represent the very best in WKCTC's service region, which includes Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall, McCracken, Livingston, and Lyon counties in Kentucky, and Alexander, Hardin, Massac, Pope, and Pulaski counties in Illinois.

“The Regional Educators Awards and Scholarship Program continues to grow each year as more communities come together to celebrate the vital role educators play in shaping our future,” said Dr. Anton Reece. “We are proud to honor these exceptional individuals and support the next generation of teachers. We are excited to honor the top 20 finishers in each category as well as our finalists and winners on March 26.”

The public is invited to

attend this exciting evening, beginning with a celebratory opening reception at 4:00 pm in the WKCTC Student Center followed by the main event in Clemens Fine Arts Center at 5:30 pm.

All nominees will receive a certificate of achievement and be featured on the WKCTC website, westkentucky.kctcs.edu (search for Regional Educators).

2026 Nominees by School System
Ballard County Schools
Tricia Baumer; Monica Ingram; Rebecca Lambert; Amber Parker; Macy Vick
Caldwell County Schools
Mandy Hooks
Calloway County Schools
Mindy Rose; Steve Smith
Carlisle County Schools
Tosha Arnold; Christy Elder; Shanda Fite; Kara Goodman; TiErica McKinney; Lorelei Walters
Crittenden County Schools
Howard Suggs; Ben Thompson
Fulton County Schools
Jill Jackson; Lekesha Nash; Allie Pirtle; Chris Roberts
Fulton Independent
Candace Govern; Kristina Rangel; Melissa Trice-Martin; Michele Stephens; Destinee Walker; Victoria Zalucki
Graves County Schools
Haley Egerton; Mallery Fowler; Maddi Fowler; Allie Gonzalez; Marisa Gonzalez; Justin Hayden; Whitney Hayden; Erica Hays; Diane Jones; Jean Ann Kendall; Savannah Kirkpatrick; Dori Lane; Josh Lutz; Kelly Mathis; Shanna Mills; Stephanie Qualls; Alex Richards; Kim Roberts; Nyssa Shemwell; Taylor Sheridan; Sarah Sleadd; Bealinda Smith; Daniel Thomas; Joshua Truelove; Aaron West; Stephanie Wheeler; Natalie Winn
Hickman County Schools
Delaney Dowdy; Allison Kelly; Tiffany Ray; Melissa Sampson; Kelly Terry
Livingston County Schools
Leigh Ann Choat; Adam Duckwyler; Heather Felan; Ansley Joiner
Lyon County Schools
Heather Simmons; Stephanie Walker
Marshall County Schools
Janna Archer; Courtney Bishop; Kathy Colvett; Laura Cope; Macie Corbitt; Brad Darnall; Chad Darnall; Lyndsie Dempsey; Melissa Elrod; Aspen Gentry; Lee Ann Gibson; Ashli Gore; Jessica Haynes; Stephanie Ives; Macayla Jennings; Anissa Johnson; Kristin Kirby; Mandy Lane; Patricia Murphy; Shelby Oakley; Tiffany Palmer; Ronnie Payton; Kaitlin Penn; Jackie Reid; Becky Smith; Amanda Sparks; Kayla Thomas; Brianna Walls; Mariah Wilson
Mayfield Independent

Julia Barnett; Vanessa Carrillo; Brittney Clere; Ashley Collins; Heather Dublin; Sarah Dunn; Lorena Godinez; Roy Henley; Keri Hicks; Amanda Lampkin; Ally Machaen; Rachel Mateo; Nikki Pierceall; Clarissa Riley; Keri Smith; Lisa Wingfield
McCracken County Schools
Jordan Blankenship; Lori Boyles; Sarah Brooks; Terry Collins; Tara T.J. Davidson; Kaylee Dickens; Elizabeth Faughn; Amy Gloyd; Micah Greene; Carla Hagan; Megan Hall; Andrea Heisner; Amberly Houser; Brittany Lindberg; Romina Maldonado; Jaci Manning; Melanie Martin; Sara Martin; Belle McBride; Deanna Geittmann McClure; Nathan Metzger; Lauren Michaels; Ami Middleton; Holly Miller; Samantha Mitchell; Emily Morehead; Dr. Lakshmi O'Bryan; Christy Ortega; Johnna Puryear; Haley Rackley; Amanda Rivera; Sara Sanderson; Molly Smith; Jennifer Solomon; Erin Soltys; Lonna Starnes; Bre Sykes Podunajec; Heather Thornton; Wendy Turnage; Allie Wilson
Murray Independent
Haley Burchett; Rebekah M. Clark; Joseph Dublin; Brittany Forgey; Sarah Hultman; John Karanja; Jeremy Krug; Emily Parker; Julie Stone
Paducah Public Schools
Amy Bakehouse; Christal Crane; Rita Crouch; Mikey Davis; Natalie DeBernardi; Gracie Duncan; Mallory Dunnaway; Katrina Franklin; Jared Frazier; Amy Hardin; Hannah Hargrove; Deatrik Kinney; Elizabeth LeNeave; Tracey Lenox; Brittany Lopez; Tera Martin; Renee McDermott; Hanna McIntosh; Pati Milheiser; Jennifer Miller; Julie Mohs; Ginger Molina; Keshia Moore; Gretchen Morgan; Jackie Mundy; Courtney Nevatt; Laura Pratt; Katie Ramer; Jessica Ringstaff; Shawn Rowton; Keristen Sawyer; Erin Shively; Laura Snyder; Tami Snyder; Mike Spissinger; Susie Uhlik; Robyn West; Caroline Wheat; Lindsey Williams; Carol Withrow; Kelly Workman
St. Mary School System
Whitni Cobb; Jean Duran; Rodney Holt; Jenny Nunley
Top 20 Honorees
Cornelia Reece Unsung
Hero Support Staff Award
Whitni Cobb; Terry Collins; Macie Corbitt; Heather Felan; Katrina Franklin; Monica Ingram; Macayla Jennings; Tracey Lenox; Brittany Lindberg; Sara Martin; Tera Martin; Belle McBride; Pati Milheiser; Gretchen Morgan; Christy Ortega; Kaitlin Penn; Stephanie Qualls; Susie Uhlik; Caroline Wheat; Victoria Zalucki
Cornelia Reece Unsung

Hero Administrative Staff Award

Julia Barnett; Natalie DeBernardi; Melissa Elrod; Jared Frazier; Kara Goodman; Logan Holder; Anissa Johnson; Renee McDermott; Holly Miller; Keshia Moore; Bre Sykes Podunajec; Mindy Rose; Sara Sanderson; Kelly Terry; Lorelei Walters; Robyn West
Distinguished Administrator Award
Tosha Arnold; Amy Bakehouse; Leigh Ann Choat; Christal Crane; Brad Darnall; Lyndsie Dempsey; Heather Dublin; Deatrik Kinney; Romina Maldonado; Nathan Metzger; Amber Parker; Tiffany Ray; Jackie Reid; Alex Richards; Erin Shively; Steve Smith; Tami Snyder; Stephanie Wheeler; Natalie Winn; Kelly Workman
Distinguished Faculty Award (Grades 3-5)
Janna Archer; Rebekah M. Clark; Kathy Colvett; Mallory Dunnaway; Maddi Fowler; Aspen Gentry; Ashli Gore; Whitney Hayden; Diane Jones; Jaci Manning; Julie Mohs; Ginger Molina; Courtney Nevatt; Emily Parker; Allie Pirtle; Melissa Sampson; Erin Soltys; Heather Thornton; Wendy Turnage; Lindsey Williams
Distinguished Faculty Award (Grades 6-8)
Courtney Bishop; Brittney Clere; Ashley Collins; Deanna Geittmann-McClure; Allie Gonzalez; Micah Greene; Rodney Holt; Mandy Hooks; Allison Kelly; Kristin Kirby; Dori Lane; Ami Middleton; Samantha Mitchell; Patricia Murphy; Lekesha Nash; Jessica Ringstaff; Sarah Sleadd; Ben Thompson; Melissa Trice-Martin; Mariah Wilson
Distinguished Faculty Award (Grades 9-12)
Sarah Brooks; Lorena Godinez; Marisa Gonzalez; Amy Hardin; Roy Henley; Keri Hicks; Sarah Hultman; John Karanja; Jean Ann Kendall; Jeremy Krug; Rebecca Lambert; Amanda Lampkin; Dr. Lakshmi O'Bryan; Ronnie Payton; Bealinda Smith; Keri Smith; Laura Snyder; Mike Spissinger; Michele Stephens; Howard Suggs
Distinguished Faculty Award (Pre-K-Grade 2)
Lori Boyles; Kaylee Dickens; Jean Duran; Christy Elder; Lee Ann Gibson; Stephanie Ives; Jill Jackson; Elizabeth LeNeave; Ally Machaen; Melanie Martin; Kelly Mathis; Lauren Michaels; Emily Morehead; Jackie Mundy; Shelby Oakley; Tiffany Palmer; Laura Pratt; Haley Rackley; Keristen Sawyer; Nyssa Shemwell
Technical Faculty Award (Grades 9-12)
Haley Burchett; Chad Darnall; Brittany Forgey; Andrea Heisner; TiErica McKinney

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The Carlisle Weekly
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2026 Kentucky Junior Chef now open for competitors

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – The 2026 Kentucky Junior Chef competition is now open, Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell announced on Thursday.

The Junior Chef program encourages participating students to learn how to cook by using local ingredients to prepare healthy meals while teaching students about agriculture, marketing, organization, teamwork and community involvement.

“Young chefs across the state can begin preparing for this year’s Junior Chef

challenge,” Shell said. “The culinary skills our young chefs have showcased throughout the years is just a fraction of their ability to create delicious recipes with wonderful Kentucky products.”

The competition is part of the Kentucky Proud Farm to School Program, which helps Kentucky schools purchase local foods. Children get fresh, nutritious local foods to help them grow up healthy and strong. Local farmers get another market for their farm products. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) administers the Farm to School Program and the Junior Chef competition.



With the 2026 season opening, students and coaches can begin organizing teams and developing recipes using Kentucky products. At the state level, winning teams can receive scholarships to culinary schools. The

state winner moves on to the Southeast Region Junior Chef Competition for more scholarship opportunities. Those interested in competing this year must submit their intent to complete,

along with a recipe concept by May 30, 2026. Specific guidelines can be found in the Kentucky Junior Chef Handbook on the Kentucky Junior Chef website at kyagr.com/junior-chef under the “What to Know”

button.

Between June and September, teams will finalize their recipes, participate in team workshops with KDA chefs, and submit their nutritional analysis for review and clearance. Finalized recipes must be submitted to KDA by Oct. 1, 2026, along with a completed packet that includes a shopping list, photos, taste test documentation, work plan and the entry fee.

This year the 2026 Kentucky Junior Chef State Competition is Nov. 12-13 at Sullivan University in Lexington.

For more information, go to kyagr.com/junior-chef.



The Love Family McDonald’s organization recently celebrated the opening of their second location in Murray back in February. The store, located at 1801 North Fourth Street, offers inside seating, drive thru, mobile ordering and

delivery service. It is open 24 hours. As part of the Grand Opening, the first 100 customers received cards giving them free Big Macs for a year. Along with entertainment and a visit by Grimace, the city declared the day Love Family McDon-

ald’s Day. In honor of the new store, the organization donated \$1000 to the Lakers Lighthouse Family Resource Center that serves North and East Calloway Elementary Schools.

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WEST KY SPORTS

Dance Team recognized as NDA National Champions



On Thursday, Feb. 26, the McCracken County dance team was recognized for winning the 2026 NDA National Championship.
(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

Paducah Tilghman finishes state runner-up



Paducah Tilghman wrestler Ben Hall won the 175-pound wrestling state title at Alltech Arena in Lexington on Friday, Feb. 27.
(Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School)



The Paducah Tilghman wrestling team finished as the state runner-up at Alltech Arena in Lexington on Friday, Feb. 27.
(Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School)



Christian Fellowship School senior Elijah Grigg scored his 3,000th career point during a game versus Trigg County on Tuesday, Feb. 17. He is pictured his parents, Brian and Krista Grigg, and brothers, Jed, Samuel and Luke.
(Photo courtesy of Christian Fellowship School)



Christian Fellowship School junior Kyndal Owen claimed her 500th career rebound during a game versus Fulton County on Friday, Feb. 13. She is pictured with her parents, Renee and Landon Owen, and Christian Fellowship School Coach Jaret Logsdon.
(Photo courtesy of Christian Fellowship School)



McCracken County defeated crosstown rival Paducah Tilghman 65-56 in the 2nd District Boys' Basketball Tournament title game on Thursday, Feb. 26.
(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)



LADY MUSTANGS CLAIM 11TH STRAIGHT 2ND DISTRICT TITLE: McCracken County won its 11th straight 2nd District girls' basketball title on Thursday, Feb. 26. The Lady Mustangs defeated St. Mary 59-31 in the 2nd District Girls' Basketball Tournament title game.
(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)



BACK-TO-BACK 3RD DISTRICT BOYS' BASKETBALL CHAMPION: Graves County captured its second straight 3rd District boys' basketball title on Thursday, Feb. 26. Determined Graves County outlasted crosstown rival Mayfield 40-38 in the 3rd District Boys' Basketball Tournament title game. (Photo courtesy of Graves County High School)

2026-2027 Kentucky fishing and hunting licenses available

Staff Report

FRANKFORT — The 2026-2027 Kentucky license year for fishing, hunting, boating and more started on Sunday, March 1. Outdoor enthusiasts are able to purchase all the licenses, tags and permits they need

to enjoy Ken-tucky's outdoors through the end of February 2027.

Licenses and permits are sold online through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's License Sales portal and the My Profile app, both searchable on the department's website at fw.ky.gov. Licenses and permits also are sold at agent locations across the state. A list of license agent locations by county is available on the department's website.

The 2026-2027 license and permit fees will remain the same as the current license year ending Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. License and permit fees for the 2025-2026 license year were increased slightly across the board in January 2026 following a new, inflation-based pricing system measured on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the national measure of inflation calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Federal Duck Stamp and application fees were exempt from CPI adjustments.

In Kentucky, a license covers basic hunting or fishing for many species, whereas additional state permits are required when pursuing specific species, such as fishing for trout or hunting for migratory birds, deer, wild turkey or black bear. Sportsmen's-type licenses include multiple species permits as well as basic hunting and fishing privileges.

For newcomers to all the great outdoor opportunities that Kentucky has to offer, a reduced-cost sportsman's license is now available for resident first-time buyers. Only individuals who have not purchased an annual Kentucky hunting or fishing license – or a combination license that includes an

annual license - since 1996 are eligible. The \$37 license includes a resident hunting and fishing license, spring turkey permit, fall turkey permit, trout permit, state migratory bird and waterfowl permit and statewide deer permit.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife provides a number of resources to assist avid outdoor enthusiasts and newcomers alike with information on waterbodies, public lands, fishing and hunting education and all the regulations to help anglers and hunters make the most of their time outdoors via its website and the hunting and fishing guides it produces annually. This includes the new Fishing and Boating Guide available online and in print.

Another great resource is the Fish Boat KY app. Available free from the Apple App Store and Google Play, the app helps anglers find waterbodies, boat ramps and other water access from the palm of their hand. Users can also search by species of fish, store copies of their licenses, and much more using the smartphone app.

The department receives its primary funding through revenue raised by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits, as well as federal excise taxes generated by the sale of recreational firearms and ammunition, archery gear and fishing equipment.

For questions, the public may refer to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Licenses webpage or type "Licenses" into the search bar on the agency website (fw.ky.gov) or contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1549 or at info.center@ky.gov, weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Eastern), except holidays.

Preseason 1st Region Softball Poll released

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The Kentucky Prep Softball Preseason 1st Region Poll has been released.

Perennial title contender McCracken County is ranked first in the Kentucky Prep Softball Preseason 1st Region Poll.

Following McCracken County in the Kentucky Prep Softball Preseason 1st Region Poll are crosstown rival Paducah Tilghman, Graves County, Hickman County, Marshall County, Ballard Memorial, Carlisle County, Calloway

County, Murray and Mayfield.

The 2026 high school softball season will open on Monday, March 16.

The Kentucky Prep Softball Preseason 1st Region Poll follows.

- Kentucky Prep Softball Preseason 1st Region Poll
1. McCracken County
 2. Paducah Tilghman
 3. Graves County
 - T4. Hickman County
 - T4. Marshall County
 6. Ballard Memorial
 7. Carlisle County
 8. Calloway County
 9. Murray
 10. Mayfield



ALLISON BALL AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Todd Cooper, Ballard County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Ronnie Giles, Ballard County Sheriff
Members of the Ballard County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Ballard County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Ballard County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2024, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Ballard County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2024, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Program for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Ballard County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Ballard County Sheriff on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky, to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Ballard County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ballard County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Ballard County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time. We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated October 2, 2025, on our consideration of the Ballard County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, in considering the Ballard County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, included herein, which discusses the following report finding:

2024-001 The Ballard County Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties
Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

October 2, 2025

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

(3-6-26_AY_1x)



Graves County team captain Maddox Stamper placed seventh in the Major League Fishing Phoenix Bass Fishing League tournament at Kentucky Lake on Saturday, Feb. 28. Nearly 90 other co-anglers competed in the tournament. (Photo courtesy of Graves County High School)



Junior forward Ally Creason was named player of the game after Mayfield defeated St. Mary 38-25 during the opening round of the 1st Region Girls' Basketball Tournament at Murray State University on Monday, March 2. (Photo courtesy of Mayfield High School)



McCracken County junior Mason Clements was recognized for scoring her 1,000th point. She reached the milestone during a game versus Calloway County on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Clements also broke the McCracken County girls' basketball program's three-point field goals made in a season record. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

Kentucky to host largest annual “Archery in the Schools” state tournaments

Staff Report

FRANKFORT — Kentucky will host the nation’s largest annual school archery tournaments March 13-14, as 9,241 student archers from 415 schools are expected to compete in the Kentucky National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Bullseye Tournament. More than 3,000 of those students are also competing in the NASP State 3D Tournament. Held at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville since 2016, the tournament has grown into one of the largest state-level sporting competitions held anywhere.

The in-school, co-ed program introduces students in grades 4–12 to international-style target archery. Students learn archery as part of their school curriculum and are then eligible to compete in school-hosted events for the opportunity to qualify for state and national tournaments. Each year, more than 160,000 Kentucky students learn archery during the school day as part of their physical education curriculum, and approximately 17,000 compete in Kentucky school-hosted NASP tournaments as part of after-school teams.

In 2002, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources debuted NASP in Kentucky with 21 pilot schools and it has since expanded to more than 900 schools statewide. Nationally, approximately 1.2 million students from more than 9,500 schools participate annually. Since its inception, NASP has put a bow and arrow in the hands of more than 18 million students and has awarded nearly \$5.4 million in cash scholarships to more than 2,000 students.

“Nationally, 50% of student archers say archery in the schools was their first archery experience and 90% of

kids learning archery as part of their curriculum said they love it,” said Lisa Johnson, state NASP coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “Schools embrace NASP programming because archery is a sport that fits within their curriculum at relatively inexpensive cost. Archery is naturally inclusive of all students irrespective of physical traits and has a near 50%-50% male to female ratio. It doesn’t surprise me to see how many kids love archery.”

The 2026 Kentucky NASP state championships will feature two competitions: a traditional bullseye tournament, where archers shoot at a multi-ringed target, and a 3D tournament, where archers shoot at six lifelike foam targets representing various North American game animals. Top-scoring teams and individual archers will advance to the NASP Eastern Nationals scheduled May 7-9, 2026, also at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

The state tournament will take place in the North Wing, South Wing A-C, and the East Hall, with competition flights starting daily at 9:30 a.m. (EDT) on both Friday and Saturday, March 13-14. Spectator admission is free. Parking is \$15 per vehicle and \$30 per bus.

Elementary, middle and high school archers will compete for individual and team honors. The top senior boys and girls from

the bullseye and 3D championship will be awarded scholarships from \$500 to \$1000 to the postsecondary school of their choice. Additionally, 10 senior academic archers will be randomly selected to receive \$500 scholarships.

All Kentucky NASP archers and teams are encouraged to participate in the 3rd Annual “Archers Aiming to Reduce Hunger” food drive to support Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry and Feeding America Kentucky’s Heartland to help relieve hunger in Kentucky communities. Participating archers are asked to bring one can or boxed food item. Donations will be collected in the South Wing lobby near the team registration desk.

Kentucky NASP coaches, alumni and friends of NASP will also have an opportunity to participate in a tournament of their very own. Centershot Ministries will be set up in South Wing A for these adults to have an opportunity to compete for fun. Proceeds will go to community archery outreach programs.

Complete tournament results will be available online at NASP Tournaments. For more information, visit the National Archery in the Schools Program webpage on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website (fw.ky.gov), or call the department’s Information Center at 1-800-858-1549, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (EDT) weekdays, excluding holidays.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky’s noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass (Sorghum halepense), Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense), Cutleaf Teasel (Dipsacus laciniatus) Nodding thistle (Carduus nutans), Common teasel (Dipsacus fullonum), Poison hemlock (Conium maculatum), Marestail (Conyza canadensis), Amur Honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii), Multiflora Rose (Rose multiflora) Japanese knotweed, (Polygonum cuspidatum), Spotted Knapweed (Centaurea stoebe) and Kudzu (Pueraria montana).

Persons who own property adjacent to state right of way and who are involved in eradication efforts on their property can submit a written application to the highway district office in their area. Contact information can be found at transportation.ky.gov/DistrictPages

Request for Public Comment

TVA

Proposed Recreation Easement to M & T Development on Kentucky Reservoir

TVA is considering a request for a 30-year commercial recreation easement over approximately 4.13 acres at Eagle Landing Development on Kentucky Reservoir. M & T Development has requested this easement to construct a marina and launching ramp fronting the 4.13 acres of requested easement area. Approximately 5.76 acres of harbor limits are also being requested. The new water use facility infrastructure will include a covered, 110-slip floating marina and 24’W x 66’L launching ramp. The project is located on Kentucky Reservoir at Tennessee River Mile 24.8 (right bank) (36.993468 -88.228736), in Livingston County, Kentucky.

TVA is interested in receiving comments regarding the action’s potential to affect the environment or historic properties and to identify any other issues associated with this request prior to making a permit decision. Any comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available for public inspection. All written comments on this proposed action must be received on or before April 6, 2026. Written comments may be mailed to the address below or emailed to vwalters@tva.gov.

Veronica Walters
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11A-K
Phone: (800) 882-5263
Email: vwalters@tva.gov

School communication bill advances through House committee

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Legislation seeking to clarify a law designed to provide oversight on communications between students and public school faculty and staff took a step forward on Wednesday.

House Bill 67, sponsored by Rep. J.T. Payne, R-Henderson, received unanimous approval from the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Payne said the legislation builds on Senate Bill 181 from the 2025 legislative session.

“Senate Bill 181 is a very well-intentioned piece of legislation that maybe had some unintended consequences,” Payne testified. “Our goal in this bill, House Bill 67, is to clean up the best we can to still protect our students, but also

not to make it more difficult for teachers to do their job and be the professionals that they are.”

SB 181 required public school districts to establish a traceable electronic communications system between students and teachers and other school authority figures to provide oversight and establish boundaries.

The current law does provide a few exceptions as to who is required to communicate with a student via traceable communications. A parent teaching at the same school as their child, for example, is exempted from exclusively using traceable communications with their own child under current law.

HB 67 would expand the list of individuals exempted from using



Rep. J.T. Payne's bill on school communication received unanimous support in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.
(LRC photo) Andrew West

traceable communications and provide other clarifications, Payne said.

Under the legislation, cousins would be added to the list of exempted family members as well as any adult who lives in the same household as the student.

A group text in-

volving two or more school employees or qualified volunteers and one or more students for an academic, athletic or extra-curricular purpose is also among the new exemptions listed in the legislation.

Payne said HB 67 would also better define a qualified school volunteer.

Additionally, Payne told the committee that teachers who may encounter students via other jobs outside the school system, like a youth pastor, delivery driver or a photographer, may disclose that job and be exempt from using a traceable communication system for those purposes under the bill.

In case of an emergency, HB 67 would allow a teacher to respond to a student outside of the traceable communications system.

The bill now heads to the House floor.

GRAND OPENING • GRAND OPENING • GRAND OPENING • GRAND OPENING

Grand Opening

Hockers INC

Hello friends. we are inviting you to shop and see our newest accomplishment. Our mattress store is located just a few doors down. (Front Street) Please join us as we celebrate with complimentary coffee & donuts. We will have different prizes and giveaways that will be done throughout the day. We hope to see yall there!

-Owners
Robert & Cynthia Hocker
Luke & Callie Rohrer

Date: March 7, 2026

Time: 8:00-1:00

215 Walnut Street | Arlington, KY

215 Walnut St
Arlington, KY

GET LUCKY ON OUR LOT!

NEW CHEVY INVENTORY!

2026 Chevrolet Corvette Z06 - 2LZ \$145,415 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Suburban High Country \$99,869 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Tahoe PREMIER \$81,597 ROCK SALE PRICE
2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD- LT \$77,095 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD- LTZ \$75,946 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Suburban Luxury Touring \$70,263 ROCK SALE PRICE

GREAT DEALS on NEW & USED VEHICLES

2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 \$55,500 14,764 miles	2024 Ford Super Duty F-250 SRW \$52,000 21,793 miles	2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 High Country \$55,500 14,764 miles	2025 Chevrolet Traverse \$38,000 13,409 miles	2021 GMC Yukon \$39,500 Leather • 91,706 miles	2024 Chevrolet Suburban \$77,000 22,000 miles
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GREG TERRY

General Manager

HOURS - SALES
Monday - Friday 9-7
Saturday 9-6

HOURS - SERVICE
Monday - Friday 7:30-6:00
Saturday 8-3 pm

3417 Park Ave, Paducah, KY 42001 • 270-908-4153 • royaloakschevy.us

Food company expands recall of chicken products

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Ajinomoto Foods North America, Inc., a Portland, Ore., establishment, is expanding its Feb. 19, 2026, recall of frozen not ready to eat (NRTE) chicken products, that may be contaminated with foreign material, specifically glass.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) says the company is recalling approximately 33,617,045 additional pounds of various ready-to-eat (RTE) and NRTE chicken and pork fried rice, ramen, and shu mai dumpling products, for a combined total of 36,987,575 pounds subject to recall.

Sixteen products are included in the recall expansion, all of which were produced between Oct. 21, 2024, and Feb. 26, 2026, under brand names Ajinomoto, Kroger, Ling Ling, Tai Pei, and Trader Joe's. These products have best-by dates ranging from Feb. 28, 2026, through Aug. 19, 2027.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number P-18356, P-18356B, or P-47971 inside the USDA mark of inspection and were shipped to retail locations



nationwide.

The problem was discovered when the establishment notified FSIS that it received multiple consumer complaints involving glass found in product. Upon further investigation, the establishment determined that a vegetable source ingredient, specifically carrots, was the likely source of the glass contamination, which also impacted the additional products subject to this expanded recall. There have been no confirmed reports of injury due to consumption of this product. Anyone concerned about an injury should contact a healthcare provider.

FSIS is concerned that some products

may be in retailers' or consumers' freezers. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify that firms recalling products notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers.

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Consumer Affairs, Ajinomoto Foods North America, at (855) 742-5011 or email at customercare@ajinomotofoods.com

ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 | 4:00 PM

1016 West Broadway, Mayfield, Kentucky 42066

3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath Home - w/Unfinished Basement



PREVIEW DATE
Monday, March 9th
from 5-6 pm

Harris Real Estate & Auction is pleased to offer this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home selling at Absolute Auction right in the heart of Mayfield. This property features a spacious layout with a large living area that flows seamlessly into the kitchen and dining room, creating an inviting open feel ideal for everyday living and entertaining, with an additional space perfectly suited for a home office. Home is also equipped with a Generac generator.

The home includes an unfinished basement, providing excellent potential for storage or future expansion, along with a two-car garage for added convenience.

Conveniently located just minutes from the Mayfield Graves County Country Club and only a short drive to shopping, dining, and local amenities, this property offers both accessibility and comfort. Whether you are looking for a primary residence, rental property, or a renovation project, this is a great investment opportunity in a desirable location.



PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 3 Bedrooms
- ✓ 2.5 Baths
- ✓ Spacious Living Area
- ✓ Open Kitchen & Dining
- ✓ Unfinished Basement
- ✓ Workshop Area
- ✓ In-Town Location
- ✓ Close to Mayfield-Graves Country Club



REAL ESTATE TERMS: A 10% buyer's premium will be added to the final bid price & included in contract price. A 15% deposit is due day of auction, balance due in 30 days. The property is being sold on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, and no warranty or representation, either express or implied, concerning the property is made by the Seller or Auction Company. Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting his or her own independent inspections investigations, inquires, and due diligence concerning the property. The property will be sold by a new survey. Buyer will be responsible for 50%. Buyer Will Be Required To Sign A Lead Based Paint Disclosure Waiving The Opportunity To A 10 Day Post Sale Inspection. Make Inspections Prior To Date Of Sale.

HARRIS
Real Estate & Auction
Phone: 270-247-3253 Toll Free: 800-380-4318

**HOMES - FARMLAND
ESTATES - WATERFRONT**

MICHAEL HARRIS
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KY# 252972 | KY Broker# 198374
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PREMIER LAND AUCTION

Angelo Towhead Island • Tuesday, March 24, 2026 • 12:00 pm (CST)

MISSISSIPPI RIVER • CAIRO, ILLINOIS

Auction Held At: Shawnee Community College - Cairo Campus - 2035 Washington Ave, Cairo, IL 62914



Located in Alexander County and approximately one mile from the Cairo city limits, the island provides convenient access to town while maintaining a private, river-oriented environment. Angelo Towhead lies on the final stretch of the Middle Mississippi River and is recognized as the last island before the river transitions into the Lower Mississippi at the Ohio River confluence.



TIMBER INVENTORY OVERVIEW

- **Total Timberland:** Approximately 522 acres
- **Sawtimber Volume:** Estimated 9.9-10 million board feet (Doyle 78 log rule)
- **Average Volume:** Approx. 19,070 board feet per acre Projected Species Composition (Gross Mill Volume)
- **Cottonwood:** ~8.95 million board feet (~90%)
- **Maple:** ~554,000 board feet (~6%)
- **Miscellaneous Hardwoods:** ~168,000 board feet (~2%)
- **Green Ash:** ~132,000 board feet (~1%)
- **Swamp White Oak:** ~76,000 board feet (~1%)
- **Elm:** ~76,000 board feet (~1%)

In addition to sawtimber, the property includes an estimated 37,000 tons of pulpwood, providing additional harvest value.

REAL ESTATE TERMS & CONDITIONS: The property will be offered in 2 tracts and combinations. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 30 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. All 2026 ad valorem taxes will be prorated at closing. The property will be sold by the deed. Timber Rights: All timber information, including volumes and estimated values, is provided for informational purposes only and shall not constitute a warranty, representation, or guarantee of value or harvest results. Buyers assume all risk related to timber valuation and harvest.

HARRIS
Real Estate & Auction
Phone: 270-247-3253 Toll Free: 800-380-4318

**HOMES - FARMLAND
ESTATES - WATERFRONT**

MICHAEL HARRIS
PRINCIPAL BROKER
PRINCIPAL AUCTIONEER
IL# 441.001142 | IL Broker# 475.204410
harrisauctions.com

ABSOLUTE FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

INGRAM FARMS RETIREMENT

Saturday, March 28th 2026 | 10:00 AM

Auction Held - 7696 Bandana Road • Kevil, KY 42053



- TRACTORS & POWER UNITS**
John Deere 8320R - 2016
PIN: 1RW8230RLGP109402 - 2,439 engine hrs - diesel - fr & rear duals - 420/85 R34 front tires - 480/80 R50 rear tires - 5 rear hydraulic remotes - PTO - 3-point - quick hitch
John Deere 6105E - 2016
PIN: 1P06105ETG0001629 - 558 engine hrs - 4WD - diesel - 380/85 R24 front tires - 460/85 R26 rear tires - DEF - rear hydraulics - PTO - 3-point hitch - H260 front-end loader with quick attach
John Deere 5065E - 2013
PIN: 1PY0655EDH08012740 - 703 engine hrs - 4WD - 9.5-24 front tires - 16.9-28 rear tires - 553 front end loader - SN: IP005535AEX040813 - with bucket - SN: BW15543-13828-130114 - 1 rear remote - PTO - 3-point
John Deere 8285R - 2013
PIN: 1RW8285RLDP079361 - approx. 2026 engine hrs - 4WD - diesel - fr & rear duals - fr & rear axle weights - 380/80 R38 front tires - 480/80 R50 rear tires - 4 rear hydraulic remotes - PTO - 3-point - quick hitch
COMBINES
Claas Lexion 740 - 2018
SN: C7800400 - 1,472.36 engine hrs - 977.55 separator hours - auto steer - tracts front tires - 750/65 R26 rear tires - enclosed cab w/buddy seat - Sunny Brook impeller & Dakota kit - precision planting monitor
Lexion 580R - 2010
SN: 57800977 - 1,875 engine hrs - 1,085 separator hours - front duals - CAT powered - 578 Series - enclosed cab w/buddy seat - John Deere auto steer stays with combine - Ag Leader monitor
Lexion - corn, wheat, & soybean concaves
HEADERS
MacDon FD140 Flex Draper - 40 Ft - 2018
SN: 333603-18 - Flex Float Technology (FFT) - set up for Lexion Combines
MacDon FD75 Draper Header - 35 Ft - 2017
SN: 304693 - Flex Float Technology (FFT) - set up for Lexion Combines
CLAAS 918 12-30 Series Corn Header - 2013-14
SN: 91802181 - 12-row - estimated 10K acres or less - set up for Lexion Combines
J&M H18 Header Wagon - 30' - SN: 7080
JA-MAR MFG Co. Trailer - 36' - ST205/75 R15 tires
JA-MAR Header Trailer - 41 Ft - 2019
VIN: 4AJHE4136LJ046618 - ST235/80 R16 tires
JOHN DEERE PRECISIONS
John Deere StarFire 3000 Antenna
with SFI Activation
- John Deere StarFire 3000 Antenna**
with RTK Activation
(3) John Deere 2630 GreenStar Monitors
John Deere StarFire 6000 Watt Receiver
operates with WAAS
MACK SEMI DAY CABS
Mack Pinnacle Day Cab - 2025
VIN: 1M1PNA4GV95M01613 - 4,659 miles - 11R22.5 front and rear - tires - MP8 engine / DEF - Air Ride
Mack Day Cab - CXN613 - 2007
VIN: 1M1AK06YX7N015923 - 583,429 miles (80,000 rebuilt engine in 2016) - 11R22.5 front tires - 29S/75 R22S rear tires (tires on trucks 2 yrs or less) - Air Ride
Mack Day Cab - CXN613 - 2005
VIN: 1M1AK06Y25N005917 - 698,892 miles - Super 10 speed - Firestone 11R 22.5 front tires - 29S/75 R22.5 rear tires - 29S/75 R22.5 w/Wet Kit - Air Ride
TRUCKS
Dodge Ram 2500 - 6.4 Liter HEMI - 2018
VIN: 3C6UR5CJ6JG360257 - 112,933 miles - Heavy Duty - White - 4WD - leather interior - auto windows - factory Gooseneck - running boards - backup camera
1970 Chevrolet 350 Truck
56,887 Miles; V8 engine VIN: CE14DU136778
GRAIN TRAILERS & SEMI TRAILERS
Timpte Super Hopper Trailer 40 Ft - 2023
VIN: 1TDH40026PB176476 - 11R 24.5 Double Coin rear tires - Thunder tarp system - Air Ride
Timpte Super Hopper Trailer 40 Ft - 2018
VIN: 1TDH40022JB158077 - Bridgestone 29S/75R 22.5 rear tires - Air Ride
Brenner Tank Semi Trailer 40 Ft - 2005
VIN: 10BG8421X5F0B6164 - 4,000 gallon - 40 Ft - 11R 24.5 new rear tires
East Dump Trailer - 39 Ft - 1988
VIN: 1E1F9V288JR807911 - 11R 22.5 rear tires - with roll tarp - bed liner
Dorsey Drop Deck Trailer - 40 Ft - DLB7-50 - 1978
VIN: TL134854 - H-M435 - Self Contained Hydraulic Ramps - 3 axles - 10.00-15 rear tires
Wilson Sprayer Trailer - 26 Ft - 1973
VIN: 4X3397 - 11.22.5 rear tires - 3,200 gallon tank with 40 gallon mix tank w/Honda GX390 motor w/pump
16' Trailer
L1235/B0RT16 - like new tires - wooden deck - 2.5/16" ball
PLANTING & SEEDING EQUIPMENT
Kinze 3600 Planter - 2015
No till - corn & bean meters, hydraulic or chain drive, can be run w/John Deere 2630 or Case IH Pro 700 - individual row swath control (one owner)
- Friesen 220 Bulk Seed Tender**
SN: 39248 - 220 bushel capacity - 2 hoppers - trailer SN: 39944 - w/Honda GX160 motor
TILLAGE & FIELD EQUIPMENT
Case IH 330 Turbo Tiller - 34'
SN: JFH0047891 - 12.5L-5F1 tires
Case IH 340 Disk - 2014
SN: YED077704 - 32" disk, 9" spacing, approx. 21" blades
Sunflower 5034-35 Field Cultivator - 35'
VIN: 05034L2001010161 - 11L-15 tires - hydraulic wing fold - 5 bar spike tooth harrow
Sunflower 7252-37 Single Rolling Basket
SN: 0725210030016 - 9.5L-15 tires - hydraulics - 37 ft - 5 sections
DMI 3200 II Row Anhydrous Applicator
3-PT Glencoe PD10 Hitch
Sunflower - 22' Disc - 9" Spacing, 21" Blades
(2) 3-Point Hitch 14-Shank Chisel
TYE 3-Point Hitch Six-Shank Ripper
5' Rotary Cutter - 3 PTH, PTO
Rhino F4-15 Phantom Rotary Cutter -
SN: 10025 - 540 PTO
Rhino 1540 10' Blade -
SN: 19925 - hydraulic hookups, 6 way swivel blade
GRAIN HANDLING & SUPPORT EQUIPMENT
Brandt 1320XL Grain Cart - With Scales - 2024
SN: 5524 (22A) - IFT 250/50R32, CPO tires - PTO, hydraulic hookups - w/lamp (used for crop 24 & 25) - 1,300 bushel - backup camera - one owner
Westfield WR 100-31 Grain Auger
SN: 263538 - 185 lbs R15 tires - PTO - hydraulic lift
Hutchinson / Mayrath / Terra Tract - Grain Auger
62 Ft - SN: 918164, 72 Ft - SN: 958301 - PTO - hydraulic lift - swing away - low profile
3,200 Gallon Black Water Tank
27,500-Watt PTO Generator
John Deere Forks: SN: 1XFP126LC0003668
ATVs & RECREATIONAL
Honda Rubicon Four Wheeler - 2007
- 4,305 miles - 720.2 hours - auto - electric shifter - red
Honda Rubicon Four Wheeler -
Forest Green - needs battery - needs new starter
Honda Recon Four Wheeler - Forest Green
CONSTRUCTION & ATTACHMENTS
John Deere 850C Series 1 Crawler Dozer - 1994
PIN: 10850CX813517 - Straight Blade w/Tilt
Reynolds 14C Dirt Pan - 36'
SN: 263-3 - 10-foot wide
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AG UPDATE

for Ag and Natural Resources



Tom Miller,
Ballard County Ext. Agent

Winning the war on weeds: Why Spring preemergence herbicides are beneficial

Source: Kenneth Clayton, plant and soil sciences extension associate

Spring is here, and you might be itching to give your lawn a little TLC. While many people think “it’s spring, better grab the fertilizer,” the truth is that the very best time to boost lawn health is actually in the fall. That’s when conditions are prime for the grass to build strong roots. However, one of the most important (and often overlooked) spring lawn care practices is applying a preemergence herbicide.

If you want a thick, healthy lawn this summer, stop weeds before they even get started. If you wait until you can see them sprouting up, you’re already fighting an uphill battle. Postemergence herbicides, which you spray onto actively growing weeds later, can be more expensive and less effective. By applying a preemergence herbicide now, you’ll knock out those weed seeds before they even sprout, saving you time, energy and money down the road.

The best time to apply is when the soil temperature at a two-inch depth

averages between 50-55°F for about five consecutive days. You can check soil temperatures online through resources like Kentucky Mesonet, or use a simple soil thermometer. If you’re not into checking soil temps, another trick is to watch for forsythia blooms. When those bright yellow flowers are in full bloom, it’s usually a good sign that it’s time to apply. In Kentucky, this typically happens in March to early April.

For the best results, many lawn care professionals recommend a two-application approach. The first should be made when soil temperatures indicate it’s time, and the second about six to eight weeks later to extend protection throughout the season. Always follow the instructions on the herbicide label to ensure you don’t exceed the recommended annual use rate.

While a preemergence herbicide is an excellent tool for preventing weeds, it’s not a magic fix. Another great way to keep weeds at bay is by maintaining a thick, healthy lawn that naturally shades

out any potential invaders. Raising your mower height can be one of the most effective ways to do this, as taller grass helps block sunlight from reaching weed seeds.

Not every lawn will need a preemergence herbicide every year. If your lawn is already thick and weed-free, you may not need to apply one at all. However, if you’ve had issues with grassy weeds in the past or notice bare patches where weeds might take hold, it’s a good investment. If you skipped fertilizing in the fall, you can apply a moderate amount of fertilizer in the spring along with your herbicide. Just be careful not to overdo it, or you might end up feeding the weeds instead.

Taking a preventative approach now will save you time, money, and frustration later in the season. By applying a preemergence herbicide at the right time and focusing on overall lawn health, you’ll be setting yourself up for a lush, weed-free lawn all summer long.





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Location: 2040 Main St. (Hwy 68), Cadiz, KY

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TRACT 2

TRACT 3: 5.52 +/- Acres of Open Land with Easement from Tract 2 if sold separately.

TRACT 4: 1.13 +/- Acres. Road frontage on Bella Drive. Real Estate will be offered in Tracts & Combinations.

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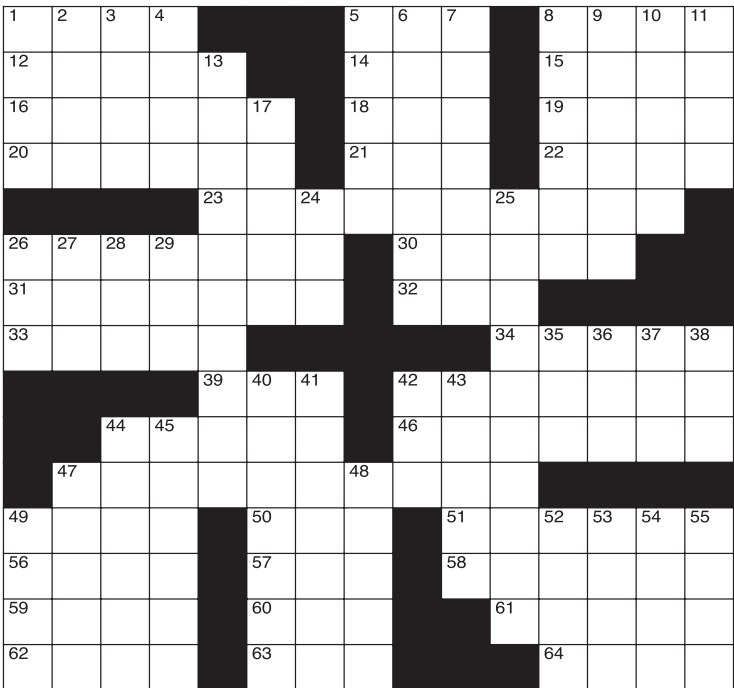
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Unit of dry measure
5. One who defies authority
8. Social media giant
12. Render holy
14. “Much __ about nothing”
15. Computer manufacturer
16. Creed
18. Immoral act
19. Mountain pass
20. Winged nut
21. Don't know when yet
22. Elected officials
23. Corrupt tendencies
26. Popular adult beverage
30. Made a mistake
31. Morally correct
32. Type of whale
33. Portable conical tent
34. Native people of the Congo

39. More (Spanish)
42. Classroom implements
44. Cognizant of
46. One who tells
47. Free from bondage
49. Thick piece of something
50. Containing two adjacent nitrogen atoms
51. Removed from the record
56. Legendary singer Turner
57. Broke up the earth
58. Hunting expedition
59. Contributes
60. Unit of work or energy
61. Wreckage on the sea bed
62. Affirmative! (slang)
63. Witness
64. Scrape (Archaic)

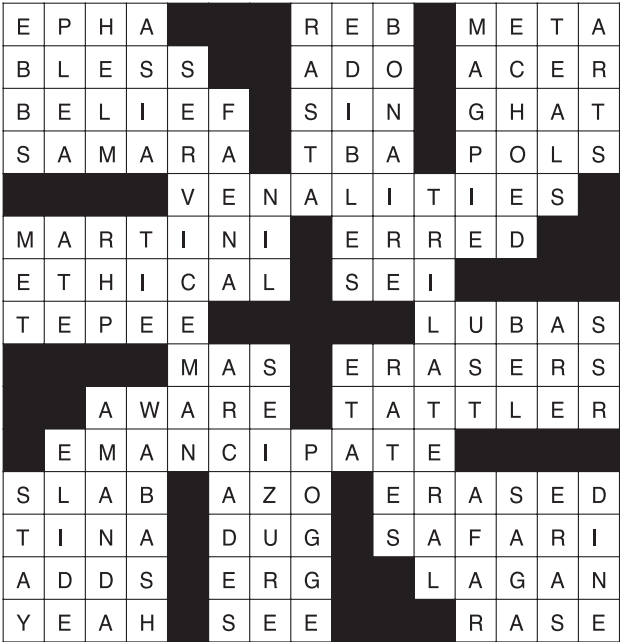
CLUES DOWN

1. “__ and flows”
2. Humble request for help
3. A position of leadership
4. Continent
5. Adherent of a particular religion
6. Things that can be eaten
7. Self-governing Netherlands territory
8. Long-tailed crow
9. Repeated
10. Bluish greens
11. Humanities
13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
17. Labor (Spanish)
24. Zero
25. Shared by involving three parties
26. Queens ballplayer
27. Consumed
28. Rest here please

29. Men’s fashion accessory
35. American time
36. Sound unit
37. They __
38. Soviet Socialist Republic
40. Places to play video games
41. A sudden attack of illness
42. When you hope to arrive
43. Charges
44. Actress Seyfried
45. A tributary of the Ohio River
47. Omit when speaking
48. Armored fish
49. Remain
52. From a distance
53. Adventure story
54. Geological times
55. Eat dinner

Puzzle Solutions on B9

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to nutrition.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 5 = E)

A. 14 5 11 5 7 3 8 5
Clue: Drink

B. 11 21 12 3 19 21 16
Clue: Organic molecule for health

C. 19 21 16 5 7 3 22
Clue: Solid inorganic substance

D. 24 17 17 20
Clue: Sustenance

Answers: A. beverage B. vitamin C. mineral D. food

Word Search

NUTRITION WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION

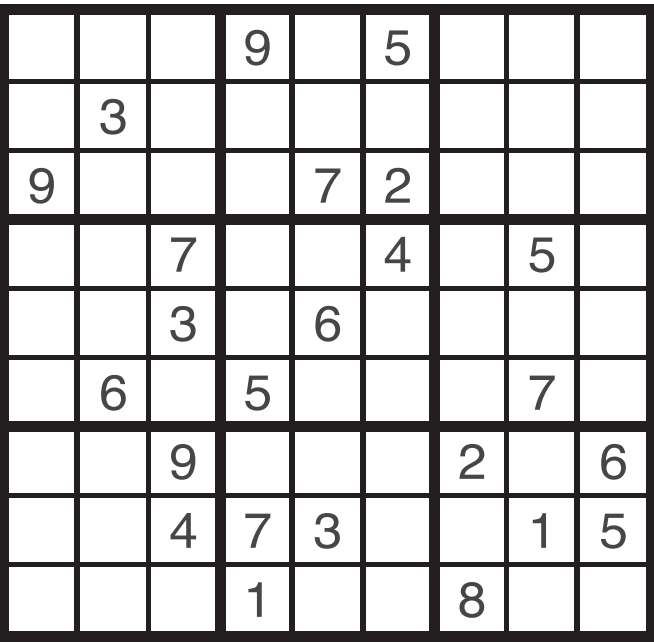
WORDS

- AMINO ACIDS
- ANTIOXIDANTS
- BASAL
- BIOAVAILABILITY
- CALORIES
- CARBOHYDRATES
- CELLS
- DIETARY
- ELECTROLYTES
- ENERGY
- ENRICHMENT
- FATTY ACIDS
- FIBER
- FORTIFICATION
- GLYCEMIC INDEX
- IRON
- LIPIDS
- MACRONUTRIENTS
- METABOLISM
- MICRONUTRIENTS
- PROBIOTICS
- PROTEIN
- SATIETY
- VITAMINS

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

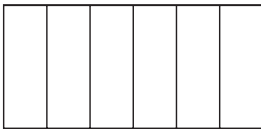
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck! **ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION**



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to nutrition.

GDSEIT



Answer: Digest

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in Ohio on March 4, 1958. I studied drama at Ohio State University and made my TV debut in the series “Alien Nation.” I am best known as the wife of a sports columnist trying to navigate living across the street from her in-laws.

Answer: Patricia Heaton

MARCH WORD SCRAMBLE

1. ppegiba
2. cvlero
3. eenldg
4. srllytbe
5. eutraser
6. bbecaga
7. rulehcnape
8. paikctr
9. almb
10. lreedam
11. apotot
12. tlegimn
13. netteevhsen
14. lino
15. anbiorw
16. hcmrsoak
17. glciea
18. maalgic
19. haeerwt
20. eanlrby
21. ansske
21. dnlraei

ANSWERS: 1. bagpipe 2. clover 3. legend 4. blusbery 5. treasure 6. cabbage 7. leprechaun 8. Patrick 9. lamb 10. emerald 11. potato 12. melting 13. seventeenh 14. lion 15. rainbow 16. shamrock 17. Gaelic 18. magick 19. weather 20. blarney 21. snakes 22. Ireland

COLORING FUN



Color Key:

- 1 = Yellow
- 2 = Orange
- 3 = Pink
- 4 = Red

5 = Brown

- 6 = Dark Green
- 7 = Light Green
- 8 = Lime Green
- 9 = Purple

10 = Dark Blue or Turquoise

- 11 = Blue
- 12 = Light Blue

March Jokes

What’s the difference in an alligator and a crocodile?

You’ll see one later and one in a while.

What kind of garden does a baker have?

A flour garden.

What does a pig put on dry skin?

Oinkment.

What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

Spring-time.

How do you open a banana?

With a mon-key.

What do you call a pony with a sore throat?

A little horse.

Senate resolution on waterway access, post-flood debris removal clears committee

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Legislation sponsored by Sen. Scott Madon, R-Pineville, aimed at helping communities clean debris from streams and waterways following flooding has advanced following approval by the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

Senate Joint Resolution 62 directs the Energy and Environment Cabinet’s Division of Water to provide clear guidance to state and local governments on how to access waterways and remove debris after flood events. The resolution also calls for recommendations to streamline the permitting process and improve coordi-

nation during cleanup efforts.

Madon said the measure stems directly from conversations with local leaders and residents across his district who continue to deal with clogged creeks, sediment buildup and flooding concerns following recent disasters.

“I seldom go anywhere in my district without someone asking about the creeks, the streams, and the drainage issues we’re seeing,” Madon said. “People are worried because waterways that have never flooded before are now filling up quickly after heavy rain. Communities want to address the problem, but they need clear guidance on what they can and cannot do.”

Kentucky has



Representative Scott Madon, R-Pineville. (LRC photo)

experienced multiple major flooding events in recent years, including devastating disasters across Eastern Kentucky. Debris such as fallen trees, sediment, construction materials and other waste often remains in waterways long after floodwaters

recede, increasing the risk of future flooding and damage to roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

Madon said the goal of the resolution is to help communities better understand the rules and work more efficiently with state and federal agencies

during cleanup efforts.

“We’re simply asking the Division of Water to lay out the process clearly so local governments know how to move forward,” Madon said. “Our communities are ready to do the work. This resolu-

tion is about making sure they have the guidance they need to clean out creeks and protect their communities.”

Under SJR 62, the Division of Water would prepare a report for the General Assembly outlining the permits required for debris removal, activities that are prohibited in waterways, and proper procedures for handling hazardous materials. The report would also include recommendations for potential legislative or administrative changes, such as creating a one-stop permitting portal or dedicated staff to assist local governments after natural disasters.

The measure now heads to the Senate floor.

Post-Flood Debris Removal: A Key Step in Recovery

After floodwaters recede, communities often face large amounts of debris that must be cleared before recovery can begin. Post-flood debris may include damaged furniture, building

materials, fallen trees, mud, household waste, and sometimes hazardous substances. If not removed quickly, this debris can block roads, delay emergency services, and create health risks such as

mold growth, pests, and contaminated waste.

Effective debris removal starts with assessing the affected area. Local authorities and waste management teams identify the types and volume of debris to

determine the resources and equipment needed for cleanup. Materials are typically sorted into categories such as vegetation, construction waste, household items, and hazardous waste to ensure proper

disposal and recycling where possible.

Community members and volunteers often assist in cleanup efforts, but safety is essential. Wearing protective gear and following official guidelines helps

prevent injuries. Organized debris removal helps restore access, improve safety, and support community recovery after flooding.

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22K miles '25 TOYOTA CAMRY LE HYBRID #U016270, FWD \$27,000	'22 CADILLAC CT4 PREMIUM LUXURY #0115363, RWD \$27,000	'17 TOYOTA 4-RUNNER #55437100, LIMITED \$27,000	4x4 '20 GMC CANYON DENALI #LT13759, CREW CAB \$28,000	36K miles '24 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE #U189471 \$28,500
25K miles '24 TOYOTA B74X LIMITED #PA052620 \$30,000	2900 miles '26 TOYOTA CAMRY SE HYBRID #AU690964 \$32,000	20K miles '24 MAZDA CX-50 TURBO PREMIUM #PNI62515 \$33,000	'22 DODGE DURANGO R/T AWD #C156446 \$37,000	'24 FORD F150 STX SUPER CREW #KE17107, 2WD \$39,000

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written policy with recent changes to the district’s graduation track program and use broader language to reduce the need for frequent updates due to state-level changes. Allan Smith, the Director of Transportation and Facilities

presented payment requests and a change order for the Marshall County Technical Center renovation and expansion project. The payments for the tech center that the board approved included \$4,547 to CMS Architects and \$314,173.94 to

Pinnacle Inc. with total payments amounting to \$318,720.94. The approved change order includes sewer repairs in the agriculture shop restroom, structural adjustments to a wall found to be load-bearing, and replacement of a kitchen exhaust

hood with a micro-wave/hood unit. Smith noted the payment to Pinnacle was less than originally requested but reflected a negotiated agreement. Thorpe asked that a grand opening for the renovated facility be scheduled for late

March, to which Smith said would be feasible. In other board related business, a student disciplinary hearing was held in executive session prior to the regular meeting with no action reported afterward. The board recently shifted to

a two-meeting-per-month schedule, convening at 5 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays, with exceptions during certain school break months. The next regular meeting took place on March 5, 2026 with updates to come.

Marshall County: Restoring Purple Heart County Designation

The “Focus on Community” theme has enabled the Marshall County Republican Women to embark on a new project. We are recognizing the Purple Heart recipients honoring them by reestablishing Marshall County as a Purple Heart County. Bill Fletcher and Jerry Thompson, former State Commanders for the Military Order

of the Purple Heart presented signs to the Club at a recent meeting. Fletcher was in the Army for 24 years. Thompson was a Marine for 3 years and is a Vietnam

Veteran. Six signs will be placed around the County in the near future on major roads or highways designating Marshall County as a Purple Heart County.



Murray Police Department K9 Receives Protective Vest

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

The Murray Police Department announced that K9 Bonnie has received a bullet- and stab- protective vest through a charitable donation. The vest was provided by Vested Interest in K9s Inc., which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supplying protective vests

and other assistance including healthcare support, training seminars and even vehicles to K9 units and related agencies nationwide. Each vest is custom-fitted, valued at approximately \$1,800, and comes with a five-year warranty. Bonnie’s vest is embroidered with the message, “Honoring those who served and sacrificed.” Since its

founding, Vested Interest in K9s has donated more than 6,348 vests valued at \$6.9 million to K9s across the United States. For more information about the organization, call

508824-6978. Those interested in sponsoring a vest can visit [vik9s.org/become-a-sponsor](https://www.vestedinterestin9s.org/become-a-sponsor).

New Nonprofit Organization in Marshall County

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

A new nonprofit organization has launched in Marshall County, Kentucky with a mission to support veterans, active-duty military members and first responders facing unexpected hardships. Jackson Yates, who is a 2017 graduate of Marshall County High School and an active-duty member of the United States Air Force, founded the Hometown Heroes Foundation after witnessing the financial strain placed on service members and

emergency personnel. It was stated that the idea took shape during the October 2025 government shutdown, when active-duty families faced pay interruptions. While the community quickly rallied to support them, he realized that veterans and first responders often face similar crises year-round without the same level of visibility. The organization’s first major fundraiser will be a gala that is scheduled for April 11, 2026 at the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. Tickets are expected to go on sale in March. Ultimately,

ly, the foundation’s mission is simple: care for those who dedicate their lives to caring for others. The Hometown Heroes foundation will focus on six primary areas of assistance which include; car rentals, hotel accommodations, groceries, career transition support, financial counseling, and family support groups. The goal is to provide short-term relief when unexpected events occur, such as vehicle accidents, house fires, natural disasters or other emergencies. As part of a three-year plan, the foundation is partnering with the local school district to install a flagpole and one of the largest American flags in western Kentucky at the Marshall County High School cross country field. The first-year

project will focus on the flag installation. In the second year, the foundation hopes to enhance the cross country finish line area. Both projects will be dedicated to Marshall County High

School graduates — including those from predecessor schools before consolidation — who entered military or first responder careers.

MARSHALL COUNTY WEEK IN REVIEW

A total of four boys from the Marshals basketball team and three girls from the Lady Marshals basketball team made the All-4th District Team. They include Kaden Mohler, Ryan Stokes, Matthew Langhi, Neyland Jezik, Kenzlee Terry, Rylan Darnall, and lastly Addi Wall.

Kim Hagan received the Extra Mile Award at the Tennessee RiverLine Summit in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Kim’s dedication to outdoor recreation continues to make a lasting impact across our region. As a driving force at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, she has led the way in

planning kayaking events, stewardship initiatives and hands-on experiences that connect people to the Tennessee River. Her leadership helps create meaningful and inclusive opportunities for residents and visitors to get outside and enjoy all that our waterways have to offer.

MURRAY / CALLOWAY COUNTY WEEK IN REVIEW

CCMS Science Bowl Team is headed to Washington D.C.! They were the regional champions after competing against 17 teams from two states at the regional competition on February 13th, sponsored by the United States Department of Energy. The regional win qualifies the Lakers to represent Kentucky to compete in the National

Science Bowl, held in Washington D.C. beginning on April 30th against winning regional teams from around the country. This is the tenth time the Lakers have qualified for the national tournament.

The Marshall Yards Racing & Gaming in Calvert City held its grand opening! The facility is a brand new 23,000-square-foot racing and gaming

entertainment venue and was a \$40–45 million investment by Churchill Downs Incorporated. The business brings 225 state-of-the-art historical racing machines, a retail sportsbook, simulcast wagering, and exciting food and beverage options to Marshall County along with 100 new jobs to the area.

MARSHALL COUNTY UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mar 7, Western Ky Polar Plunge & 5K, Ky Dam Village State Park, 8 am

Mar 7-8, Purchase Area Coffee & Chocolate Festival, Calvert Civic Center, 9 am - 2 pm

Mar 7, Luv to Crochet, Hardin Library, 10 am

Mar 7, Chocolate Painting, Calvert Library, 10 am - 3 pm

Mar 9, Jr. Master Gardener, MC Extension Office, 5:30 pm

Mar 10, Lively Book Bunch, Benton Library, 10 am

Mar 10, 4-H Livestock Club, MC Extension Office, 5:30 pm

Mar 10, Clarks River Beekeepers, MC Extension Office, 6 pm

Mar 11, Master Gardener Library Lessons—Pruning 101, Calvert Library, 10 am

Mar 12, Laugh & Learn, Calvert Library, 10 am

Mar 12, UK Beef Management Series, 7 pm

MURRAY/CALLOWAY COUNTY UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mar 7, Leadership Murray’s Golden Gala, CCPL, 6 pm

Mar 7, 26th Annual Murray Shakespeare Festival: Romeo & Juliet, Lovett Auditorium, 2 pm

Mar 7, MSU Racer Round Up College Rodeo, Cherry Expo Center, 5 pm

Mar 7, Cinema International Presents: Fight Like Hell: The Testimony of Mother Jones, MSU Faculty Hall, 7 pm

Mar 10, Afterschool Flat to 3D, Murray Art Guild, 4 pm

Mar 10, Tuesday Night Dart Tournament, The Big Apple, 8:30 pm

Mar 11, Toddler Storytime, CCPL, 9:30 am

Mar 11, Multi-age Storytime, CCPL, 10:30 am

Mar 11, Wednesday Night Trivia, The Big Apple, 7 pm

Mar 12, Nutrition Education Program, CCPL, 9:30 am

Bill would strengthen oversight of state’s energy regulators

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Sen. Brandon Smith, R-Hazard, has filed legislation aimed at strengthening oversight of Kentucky’s energy regulators and improving how utility decisions are made for the families and businesses who pay the bills.

Senate Bill 8, given the low number to indicate it’s a priority of the Republican supermajority in the chamber, will modernize the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) by updating its

structure, expanding professional expertise and reinforcing accountability in utility regulation.

Supporters say SB 8 focuses on long-term affordability and responsible energy policy by ensuring the state’s utility regulator is equipped to handle increasingly complex rate cases, infrastructure investments and transmission projects that directly affect household budgets and economic growth.

“Utility regulation affects every household and employer in Kentucky,” Smith

said. “SB 8 strengthens the commission’s ability to make informed, transparent decisions that balance affordability, reliability and fairness for ratepayers. These are all challenges my constituents in eastern Kentucky are facing, and I’m committed to doing everything I can to fight for them.”

SB 8 expands the Public Service Commission from three to five members to increase capacity and strengthen oversight of more than 1,100 regulated utilities statewide. Under the bill, three com-

missioners would be appointed by the governor and two would be appointed by the Auditor of Public Accounts, with all appointments subject to Senate confirmation. Supporters say the expanded structure will help reduce bottlenecks as the commission reviews rate cases, infrastructure proposals and consumer complaints.

It also defines professional qualifications for commissioners. At least one must be a licensed Kentucky attorney with at least seven years of active legal practice.

The remaining commissioners must have education or training and at least five years of experience in areas such as economics, engineering, accounting, finance, utility regulation, infrastructure safety, business management or environmental management. This is intended to ensure that regulatory decisions are grounded in technical expertise.

SB 8 would require political balance, limit commissioners to three terms and prohibit more than two members from the same profession.

Commissioners would elect their own chair every four years, promoting shared leadership and accountability within the body.

Oversight of the PSC would be moved to the State Auditor’s Office under the bill.

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, which is chaired by Smuth. It is scheduled to be heard Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Capitol Annex, Room 129.



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2 SELLING
MARCH 17

DW7487 '25 Mack LR refuse truck
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4 SELLING
MAR 17

DW7481 '25 Kenworth T600 grapple truck



MAR 12

DW7460 '15 Powerscreen Trackpactor 320 crusher



MAR 12

DW7459 '16 Power Screen Chieftain 1700 screening plant



MAR 18

EF2322 '18 Trebro Autostack II sod harvester



MAR 12

FB3498 '20 Mack Granite GR104F dump truck



MAR 18

EF2325 Bucyrus Magnum 420SR sod roll harvester



MAR 12

DU0380 '12 Freightliner Biz Class M2 sewer jetter truck



3 SELLING
MAR 19

YA2446 '22 Gallegos pneumatic dry bulk trailer



MAR 18

FC5037 '12 John Deere 8310R MFW tractor



MAR 12

YA2130 '17 Freightliner 114SD crane truck



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2026-2027 Kentucky fishing and hunting licenses available

Press Release

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The 2026-2027 Kentucky license year for fishing, hunting, boating and more begins on Sunday, March 1, 2026. Outdoor enthusiasts are able to purchase all the licenses, tags and permits they need to enjoy Kentucky’s outdoors through the end of February 2027.

Licenses and permits are sold online through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource’s License Sales portal and the My Profile app, both searchable on the department’s website at fw.ky.gov. Licenses and permits also are sold at agent locations across the state. A list of license agent locations by county is available on the department’s website.

The 2026-2027 license and permit fees will remain the same as the current license year ending Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. License and permit fees for the 2025-2026 license year were increased slightly across the board in January 2026 following a new, inflation-based pric-

ing system measured on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the national measure of inflation calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Federal Duck Stamp and application fees were exempt from CPI adjustments.

In Kentucky, a license covers basic hunting or fishing for many species, whereas additional state permits are required when pursuing specific species, such as fishing for trout or hunting for migratory birds, deer, wild turkey or black bear. Sportsmen’s-type licenses include multiple species permits as well as basic hunting and fishing privileges.

For newcomers to all the great outdoor opportunities that Kentucky has to offer, a reduced-cost sportsman’s license is now available for resident first-time buyers. Only individuals who have not purchased an annual Kentucky hunting or fishing license – or a combination license that includes an annual license - since 1996 are eligible. The \$37 license includes



a resident hunting and fishing license, spring turkey permit, fall turkey permit, trout permit, state migratory bird and waterfowl permit and statewide deer permit.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife provides a number of resources to assist avid outdoor enthusiasts and newcomers alike with information on waterbodies, public lands, fishing and hunting education and all the regulations to help anglers and hunters make the most of their time outdoors via its website and the hunting and fishing guides it produces annually. This includes the new Fishing and

Boating Guide available online and in print.

Another great resource is the Fish Boat KY app. Available free from the Apple App Store and Google Play, the app

helps anglers find waterbodies, boat ramps and other water access from the palm of their hand. Users can also search by species of fish, store copies of their licenses, and much more using the smartphone app.

The department receives its primary funding through revenue raised by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits, as well as federal excise taxes generated by the sale of recreational firearms and ammunition, archery gear and fishing equipment.

For questions, the public may refer to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Licenses webpage or type “Licenses” into the search bar on the agency website (fw.ky.gov), or contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1549 or at info.center@ky.gov, weekdays 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Eastern), except holidays.

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Bluegrass Outdoors: Hunting and Fishing Traditions in Kentucky

Kentucky offers some of the finest hunting and fishing opportunities in the United States, thanks to its diverse landscapes, abundant wildlife, and well-managed conservation programs. From the rolling hills of the Bluegrass Region to the dense forests of the Daniel Boone National Forest, the state provides ideal habitats for a wide variety of game species.

Deer hunting is especially popular in Kentucky, with the state known for producing trophy-sized white-tailed bucks. Turkey hunting also draws thousands of hunters each year, particularly during the spring season when gobblers are active across wooded

ridges and open fields. Small game such as squirrel and rabbit provide additional opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts.

Fishing in Kentucky is equally rewarding. The state is home to renowned fisheries like Lake Cumberland, Kentucky Lake, and Lake Barkley. Anglers can target largemouth bass, crappie, catfish, and bluegill in these waters. Trout fishing is also available in cold-water streams and in the Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam.

With strong conservation efforts and accessible public lands, Kentucky continues to be a premier destination for hunters and anglers seeking both adventure and tradition in the outdoors.

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BALLARD

Dorris Edward Dalton Sr., age 85, Wickliffe, KY (Ballard County) the family Patriarch passed away on March 1, 2026, at Baptist Health Hospital in Paducah, KY, surrounded by devoted family members and friends. In accordance with his wish’s cremation has been chosen. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service, emphasizing salvation, joyful remembrance, storytelling and music rather than mourning, will take place at Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Wickliffe, 1079 Court Street, Wickliffe, KY 42087, at 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM until the service hour of 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Wickliffe.

Cecilia Margaret Frances Starr, age 77, passed away peacefully on February 25, 2026, at Sherbrooke Nursing Home in St. Louis, Missouri. A funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Wickliffe, with Lance Aldridge officiating. Burial followed at Bethlehem Cemetery, in Wickliffe, Kentucky.

Cecilia “Faye” Smith, 81 of Kevil KY walked into the arms of Jesus on March 1, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday March 4, 2026, at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY. with Rev. James Ouderkirk officiating. Interment followed at LaCenter Cemetery.

Robert Todd Dillow, age 56, of Kevil, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday morning, February 28, 2026. No services are scheduled at this time. Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY is handling arrangements.

Jean Meadors, age 80 passed away on Friday, February 27, 2026 at Mercy Health Lourdes in Paducah, KY surrounded by her loving family. Funeral services was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. John Meadors and Rev. Neil Eidson officiating. Interment followed at Providence Baptist Church Cemetery.

Billy “Dean” Smith passed away on Thursday February 26, 2026, at Baptist Health in Paducah, KY. Visitation was held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel in La Center, KY. Funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel with Rev. Larry Davidson and Rev. Tim Smith officiating. Interment followed at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery.

CALDWELL

Richard “Eddy” Cummins, 79, of Princeton, passed away on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at his home. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Dean Ray officiating. Burial will follow in Scarberry Cemetery in Caldwell County.

Judy Ann Talbert Long, 80, of Dawson Springs, passed away on Friday, February 27, 2026, at her home. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, in Dearing Cemetery in Caldwell County with Bro. Bobby Noel officiating.

Gregory McRae Bullock, 57, of Princeton, passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at his home. uneral services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville with military honors. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until service time on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home.

Iris M. Proctor, 82, of Princeton, Kentucky, formerly of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, passed away Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Baptist Health Hospital in Paducah. Burial will be held in Rosehill Cemetery in Cleburn, Texas at a later date. Morgan’s Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Francis Allen Rucker, age 62, fondly known as “Buddy,” was born on February 6, 1964, in Caldwell County. He passed away on February 26, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville, leaving behind a legacy rich with the passion for life and an enduring love for his family. A visitation was held on March 3, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by a funeral service at Goodman Funeral Home, located at 1032 West Main St in Princeton, Kentucky with Pastor Kathy Redden officiating. Graveside Services at Jane Nichols Cemetery will be held at a later date.

CALLOWAY

Phyllis J. Dority, 84, of Murray, KY, passed away on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at Parkview Nursing and Rehab in Paducah, KY. The funeral service for Mrs. Dority is set for 11 AM on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at Imes Funeral Home, 311 North 4th Street, Murray. Matthew Napp will officiate and burial will follow at Hardin Baptist Church Cemetery. Her family welcomes visitors from 4 PM – 6 PM on Monday, March 9, 2026 and from 9 AM – 11 AM on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the funeral home.

Christopher Scott Grandstaff, 41, passed away on February 28, 2026. No services are planned at this time. Imes Funeral Home & Crematory of Murray is entrusted with caring for his family.

Larry Doyle, 87, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on February 26, 2026, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House. There are no events scheduled at this time.

Mattie Bea Calvert, age 86, of Murray, Kentucky passed away on Monday, March 2, 2026, at the Marshall County Hospital in Benton, Kentucky. A funeral service will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Bro. Dale Taylor, Bro. Mike Littrell, and Bro. Calvin Bryant will officiate, and burial will follow in the Murray Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

CHRISTIAN

Barbara Nell Alexander Nash, age 93, of Clarksville, TN, formerly of Hopkinsville, passed away Friday, February 27, 2026, of natural causes. Funeral Services were held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home and burial followed in Riverside Cemetery.

Martin Ray Smith, age 63, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at his home of natural causes. The family chose cremation with a Celebration of Life Visitation that was held at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

Martin Ray Smith, age 63, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at his home of natural causes. The family chose cremation with a Celebration of Life Visitation that was held at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has

been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

Mark Alan Bradley, 54, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 3:34 p.m. Saturday, February 28, 2026 at University of Louisville Health Jewish Hospital in Louisville, KY. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. David Harrison officiating. Burial followed in Riverside Cemetery.

Jack Vonderhaar, 98, Lafayette Road, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Sunday, March 1, 2026 at his home in Hopkinsville, KY of natural causes. A family graveside service will be held Saturday, March 7, 2026 at Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Judith “Judy” Moreno, 87, Ebenezer Road, Gracey, KY, passed away Friday, February 27, 2026 at Christian Health Center, Hopkinsville, KY of natural causes. A private family graveside will be held at a later date. Burial will be held at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Margaret Heltsley, 94, Petsch Lane, Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center, Hopkinsville, KY of natural causes. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at Lamb Funeral Home with Kevin Cavanah officiating. Burial followed in Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

Mary Elizabeth Oldham, 89, passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2026, in Franklin, KY. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 10 from 10-12 pm. Funeral service will begin at 12:00 pm at Phillips Chapel CME,, 305 Allen Street, Elkton, KY 42220. Burial at Elkton Cemetery.

CRITTENDEN

Willard L. Guill, 79, of Marion, KY, passed away Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Baptist Deaconess Health Madisonville. Funeral services were held at Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 1 PM, in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services, with Bro. Gary Hardesty officiating. Burial followed in White’s Chapel Cemetery.

FULTON

Robert William “Tony” Slayden, age 83, passed away Thursday, February 19th, surrounded by family at the home of his daughter in Athens, AL. A memorial graveside service will be held at 3PM, Saturday, March 14, 2026, in the Obion County Memorial Gardens. There will be no visitation held at the funeral home and friends are asked to meet at the cemetery at the hour of service.

Don Robertson of South Fulton passed away Monday, March 2, 2026, at Baptist Health of Paducah. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Rotha Williamson, age 85, of Fulton, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at Fulton Nursing and Rehabilitation in Fulton, Kentucky. There will be no services. Hornbeak Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tammy Austin, 66, of Union City, Tennessee, and formerly of Fulton, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at her residence. There will be no services held at the funeral home.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Debra Workman, age 69, of Milan, TN and lifelong resident of South Fulton, TN. passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at her residence. Funeral services for Ms. Debra Workman were held at 3 PM on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at the Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Fulton. Burial followed in the Greenlea Cemetery in Fulton, with Bro. Melvin Poe and Dro. David Hagan officiating.

GRAVES

Lana McFadden Rodgers, age 72, of Wingo, KY passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at the TriStar Skyline Medical Center in Nashville, TN. Funeral arrangements for Lana McFadden Rodgers are incomplete at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY.

Robert T. Ivy, age 85, of Mayfield passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at his residence. Funeral services for Mr. Robert T. Ivy were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Mark Stephens will officiate. Interment followed at Highland Park Cemetery.

Voris E. Buck Jr. age 78 of Mayfield passed away at 10:45 AM Sunday March 1, 2026 at the VanAyer Senior Living & Rehab in Martin, TN. Private family services will be held at a later date. Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield is in charge of arrangements.

HENDERSON

Dorothy Butler, age 97, of Henderson, KY, passed away on Monday, March 2, 2026, at Redbanks Nursing Home in Henderson under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice. Life Celebrations were held on MAR 5. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT) and on March 6th from 12-2 pm at the Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, 629 S. Green St., Henderson, KY 42420

Linda Marie Garrett, 74 passed away on March 3, 2026 surrounded by the love of her family. Services will be 1:00 PM Saturday March 7, 2026 at Tomblinson Funeral Home Sebree Chapel with burial to follow in Springdale Cemetery. Visitation will bring Saturday 11:00 AM until service time at the funeral home.

Carolyn Goben Williams, 83, passed away March 3 in her sleep at home with her devoted and loving husband of 69 years, Gerald Thomas Williams, at her side. At her request, services will be private.

Betty Sue Lancaster Glassco, 86, of Smith Mills, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at her home on March 3, 2026, under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice. Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 12:00 pm, at Tomblinson Funeral Home, Henderson Chapel, with visitation on Thursday, March 5, 4:00-7:00 pm, and on Friday, March 6, 10:00 am until service time. Dr. Steve Custer will officiate.

Etta Gibson Nesbitt (Mary) 93, of Henderson, and formerly of Bat Cave, North Carolina passed peacefully into her eternal rest on Sunday March 1, 2026 under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice and Redbanks. Services were held at 2:00 PM Wednesday March 4, 2026 at Tomblinson Funeral Home. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery Henderson, Kentucky.

Carol Lynn Craig - January 13, 1950 — February 28, 2026. On Saturday, February 28, 2026 in the early morning Carol Lynn Craig pf Sebree, KY peacefully left her earthly home. Services will be private at a later date.

Rhonda Katherine Bumpus - April 9, 1962 — February 27, 2026. With great sadness and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of, Rhonda Katherine Bumpus, who took her

last breath with her loving family by her side, on February 27, 2026, at Deaconess Henderson Hospital. Services will be at 2 PM on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Tomlinson Funeral Home in Henderson, KY. Visitation will be from 11 am until service time at the funeral home. Family and friends are invited to gather and pay their respects at these times.

William James Rzepka, of Saint Charles, MO, passed away Thursday, February 26, 2026, at the age of 87. Graveside services were held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the Oddfellows Cemetery in Madisonville, KY. Reverend Kara Foster will officiate.

Rose Lee McGuire - June 25, 1939 — February 25, 2026. With heavy hearts and joyous memories, we announce the passing of our beloved Rose Lee McGuire, who transitioned to a peaceful rest on February 25, 2026, at the age of 86. A private graveside service will held at Fernwood Cemetery at a later date.

Patricia Marie Kloke, age 79, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away at 5:20 AM Sunday, March 1, 2026, at Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana. A celebration of life was held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Henderson General Baptist Church, 2880 Zion Road, Henderson, Kentucky 42420. Pastor Pete Hise will officiate.

Frances Delores Summers, 97, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at 4:10 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2026, at Redbanks Nursing Home. Services were held at noon Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church. Father Shibu Cheriyankunnel will officiate. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery.

HOPKINS

Thomas Owen Morgan passed away peacefully on February 28, 2026, at the age of 80. A Service of Remembrance was held at 12:00 P.M. Thursday, March 5th, 2026 at First Christian Church with Rev. Kara Foster officiated.

Reginald Owen “R.O.” Cabbage, age 85, of Madisonville, Kentucky, passed away at his home on February 28, 2026. Funeral Services were held at 11:00 A.M. Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Christ the King Catholic Church with Father Steve Hohman officiating. Burial followed at 2:00 P.M. at Sacramento Presbyterian Cemetery in Sacramento, KY.

Larry Gene Oglesby, 78, of Madisonville, passed away on Thursday, February 27, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Memorial services were held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Pastor Kris Goodman officiating. Burial will take place at Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Judith Mary Harmon, 83, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at Ridgewood Terrace Health-Rehab in Madisonville. Funeral services were held at 12:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel with Pastor David Eddmenson officiating. Burial will be private for the family.

James Morgan Eaves, 64, of Dawson Springs, KY, passed away on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Arrangements are currently pending.

Harold Gibbs Peach Sr., 95, passed away at Tradewater Health & Rehab Center in Dawson Springs, KY, on Saturday, February 28, 2026. In accordance with his wishes, Harold requested no services. Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville was entrusted with care.

LIVINGSTON

Melvin “Butchie” Ray Woodford, Jr., age 60, of Smithland, Kentucky, passed away on March 2, 2026. A funeral service will take place at 1 P.M. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Danny Sherrill officiating. Visitation will be held from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the funeral home. Burial will take place at 12 P.M. on Monday, March 9, 2026, at the Maplelawn Cemetery in Paducah, Kentucky.

Odetta Hughes Long, 92, of Paducah passed away on Monday, March 2, 2026, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation in Paducah. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Pastor Jonathan Goodman officiating. Burial followed at Edmonds Cemetery in Smithland.

Linda Day 77, of Smithland, KY passed away on Sunday March 3, 2026, at her residence. Graveside services were held Wednesday March 4th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Birdsville Cemetery in Livingston County.

Lois Ann Watson, of Smithland, KY passed away February 25, 2026, at her home in Smithland, KY, born in Hartford, CT. Services for Lois will be held at a later date. Smith Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the Watson family.

LYON

Dennis E. Porter, 66, of Eddyville, passed away on Friday, February 27, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. Graveside services were held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Pool Cemetery with Bro. Mark Faughn officiating.

Anthony Young of Kuttawa, KY passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his children on Friday, February 27, 2026. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Lakeland Funeral Home in Eddyville. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at Lakeland Funeral Home with Bro. Jed Ramey officiating. Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Lakeland Funeral Home in Eddyville.

MARSHALL

Edward Walter Teodozow Jr., 81, of Calvert City, KY, passed peacefully from this life into the arms of Jesus at 5:26 PM, February 26, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services were held at 3:00 PM Sunday, March 1, 2026, at Grace Point Church in Reidland with Rev. John Teodozow officiating. Burial followed at New Hope Church Cemetery in Marshall County, KY.

Randy Clark, 67, of Gilbertsville passed away on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Oakview Nursing Home. He will be cremated per his wishes. Online condolences may be left at www.lindseyfuneral.com.

Brigadier General Billy Brandon Morgan, USAF Ret., passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Providence Pointe Healthcare in Paducah, Kentucky, surrounded by his family. He was 96 years old. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Benton Church of Christ with Mark Ray, Milton Sewell, and John Dale officiating. Burial will follow at the Thompson Cemetery with Marlen Wood directing the service. Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the Benton Church of Christ. Visitation will also be held from 9:30 AM until the 11:00 AM service time on Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Benton Church of Christ.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Pat Irvan Johnston, 87, of Hardin, KY, passed away Friday, February 27, 2026, at the Stilley House Senior Living in Benton, KY. Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel of the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, with Rev. Jack Kee and Rev. Jordan Roach officiating. Burial followed the service in the Wadesboro Cemetery in Hardin, KY.

Stan Bohannon, Surrounded by his loving family and grounded in his faith, Stan Bohannon, 77, of Benton, Kentucky, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, March 2, 2026. The funeral service will be held at Collier Funeral Chapel at 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 6, 2026, with the Reverends Brian Sims and Brad Walker officiating. Burial will follow at Birmingham Cemetery in Briensburg, Kentucky.

Malcolm Lynn Lane, 57 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Friday, February 27, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family. Funeral Services were held Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5 PM at Collier Funeral Hime Chapel with Rev. Tom Hiter officiating. Masonic Rites will be held at 5 PM prior to the funeral service.

Anita Clay Darnall completed her earthly journey on February 28, 2026. Visitation in honor of Anita’s life was held at Collier Funeral Home, 211 West 5th Street, Benton, Kentucky, 42025, on Thursday, March 5, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A graveside service followed on Friday at 10:00 a.m. at Pace Cemetery in Hardin, Kentucky.

Richard Danny Reynolds, age 76, of Brewers, KY, died Friday, February 27, 2026, at his residence in Brewers, KY. Funeral service was held at Collier Funeral Chapel at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, March 3, 2026, with Rev. Richard Dowdy officiating. Interment will be at Brewers Cemetery, Benton, KY.

Larry Scott Treas, 88 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Friday, February 27, 2026, at Lake Way Nursing & Rehabilitation in Benton, Kentucky. A graveside service was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 2:30 PM at Brewers Cemetery with Stacey Smith and Bradley Smith officiating.

Martha Sue Hopper, 90 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at her home. There was a private family graveside at Wade Cemetery on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

McCRACKEN

J.P. “Fuzz” Crenshaw Jr., 81 of West Paducah, KY passed away Monday, March 2, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with J.R. Rohrer officiating. Burial followed at Palestine Cemetery in West Paducah, KY.

Dorothy Shaffer passed away on March 1, 2026, at the age of 77. A funeral service was held at 1 P.M. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Bob Martin officiating. Burial followed at the Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

Marvin John King passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2026, in Lexington, Kentucky, at the UK Bluegrass Hospice Care Center. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

Doris Buntin McClintock, age 92, passed away peacefully on February 28, 2026, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Funeral services were held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at Milner & Orr

Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Kathy Redden officiating. Entombment will follow at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

Gerrie Sue Sexton, 83, of Reidland, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Center in Paducah, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Joel Harper officiating. Burial followed at Fooks Cemetery.

Eddie (Gene) Adams, 93, of Paducah passed away on Monday, March 2, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services will be at 1:00pm on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Lindsey Funeral Home with the Rev. Zack Strong and Rev. Tim Turner officiating. Burial will follow at Maplelawn Park Cemetery. Friends may visit the family from 11:00am to service hour on Saturday at the funeral home.

Dorothy Vanway, 83 of Paducah passed away Sunday March 1, 2025 at her home. Friends may visit with the family at 11 a.m. Friday March 6. 2026 at Lindsey Funeral Home. With funeral services to follow at 12 noon. The Rev. Joel Harper officiating. Interment to be at Concrete Cemetery in Symsonia.

Thomas Lee Hammonds, 65, of Kevil passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at Mercy-Health Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. Memorial services will be at 12:00pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at New Geneva Community Church located at 4600 Buckner Lane in Paducah with the Rev. Don Watkins officiating.

Kimberly Purefoy Anderson, a beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, was born on April 16, 1956, in Akron, Ohio, to loving parents, James Purefoy and Lucille Richardson Purefoy. She departed this world at her residence in Paducah, Kentucky, on February 24, 2026, at 4:24 p.m. A private family gathering will be conducted at a later time and date.

Julia Dianne Neblett, age 79, of Paducah, Kentucky, went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, March 1, 2026, while surrounded by her children, in her home on Madison Street. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Bro Keith Tilford officiating. Burial will follow at Provine Cemetery in Marshall County. Visitation will be held from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the funeral home.

Everette Boyd Qualls, a man of remarkable life and faith, departed this world on February 27, 2026, to join his Lord and Savior. He was 93 years old. Celebration of life was held at 1:00 pm on Monday, March 2, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Jacob Hayden and Bro. Jim Wright officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

Larry Edward Adams, 85, of Paducah passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. Funeral Services were held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Southland Baptist Temple in Paducah with Pastor Jonathan Goodman and Pastor Richard Beck officiating.

TRIGG

Memorial Services for 69 year old **Daniel Wayne Doench** of Cadiz will be held Monday, March 9, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at Linton Methodist Church with Rev. Steve Spitzer officiating. Visitation will be on Monday, March 9, 2026 from 11:00-1:00 at the Linton Methodist Church. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Brenda Littrell Birch, age 84, of Rosiclare, Illinois, passed away on Thursday, February 26,

2026, at Axiom Healthcare of Rosiclare. There will be no services at this time.

UNION

Judy Collins age 77 of Sturgis passed away on Saturday 2/28/2026 at the Linda E. White Hospice House in Evansville, IN. Funeral was held at 2 PM on Tuesday, March 3rd 2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Reverend Jeff McMann will officiate. Burial at Caseyville Cemetery in Sturgis, KY.

WEBSTER

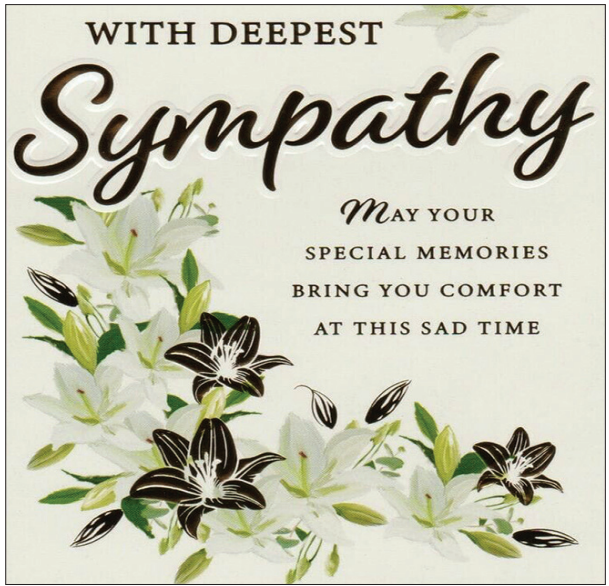
Barbara Jean Wilcox, 79, of Providence, KY passed away peacefully on Monday March 2, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. Funeral services will be held at 2:00PM on Saturday March 7, 2026, at Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church with Bro. Jim Lantrip, Bro. Ron Melton, and Bro. Johnnie Davis officiating. Burial will follow in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday March 6, 2026, from 2:00PM until 7:00PM at Lewis Funeral Home LLC and from 11:00AM until the service hour on Saturday at Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church.

Ella Frances Shoulders 89, of Providence, KY passed at her residence on Saturday February 28th, 2026. Funeral services will be held at 1pm on Saturday March 7th, 2026 at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Bro. Jimmie Riley and Rev. Kerry Smith will officiate. Burial will be in Townsend Cemetery in Dixon, KY. Visitation will be from 11am until service time on Saturday at the funeral home.

Robert L. May 65, of Clay, KY passed away on Saturday February 28th, 2026 at his home. Funeral services will be held on Friday March 6th, 2026 at 1pm at Townsend Funeral Home. Bro. Ronnie Roberts will officiate. Burial will be in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Sebree, KY. Visitation will be from 11am until service time on Friday at the funeral home.

Janie Overby 62, of Sebree, KY passed away on Friday February 27th, 2026 surrounded by her family at the Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson, KY. Funeral services were held on Thursday March 5th, 2026 at 1pm at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Pastor Dylan Zahn will officiate. Burial will be in Shady Grove Cemetery in Poole, KY.

Ronald F. Bigers Sr. passed away on Friday February 27th, 2026 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. Funeral services were held on Tuesday March 3rd, 2026 at 1pm at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Rev. John Brumfiel will officiate. Burial will be in Slaughters Cemetery in Slaughters, KY.



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.

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Why God loves us

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

I'm sure you, or someone you know, has struggled with believing God really loves everyone on this earth. It may be hard to believe that a righteous God loves everyone, when clearly, everyone has problems and we're not righteous unless our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus. War. What better example is there for struggling with the question of who God loves? If we believe the Bible, we can quickly see from its opening pages to its closing promises, the Bible presents creation as intentional and deeply valued by God. Scripture portrays our Creator (God) as the one who designed the world with purpose and declared His



work good. In Genesis, the Psalms, and the teachings of Jesus, the Bible reveals a consistent message: creation is special because it reflects the character, care, and glory of the Creator. After forming the heavens and the earth, we read in Genesis,

God created humans. He said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness" (Genesis 1:26-27). This sets human beings apart from all the rest of creation. All human life, carries intrinsic worth not because of achievements or status, but because of

divine design. It's not how good we are, but how good God is. King David often questioned why God loved mankind so much. The Psalms talks about the grandeur of creation and the dignity given to humanity, but in Psalm 8, David is

in awe at the heavens—the work of God's fingers—and then asks, "What is mankind that you are mindful of them?" Despite the vastness of the universe, God pays attention to human beings. The Psalms declares humanity is "crowned with glory and honor", entrusted with stewardship over the earth. In Psalm 139 David proclaims, "You knit me together in my mother's womb ... I am fearfully and wonderfully made." David believed human value begins before birth and is rooted in God's personal involvement. In the New Testament, Jesus echoes the worth of humanity. Matthew 6:26, reminds us to consider the birds of the air, noting that God feeds them, and then asks, "Are

you not much more valuable than they?" If God cares for even the smallest details of creation, how much more does He care for human beings? I understand the Bible's portrayal of creation challenges views of some people and cultures who see life as meaningless or purely material. But Scripture presents a world with purpose and a humanity crowned with dignity. Every person, regardless of where they are born, or who they are, carries inherent worth because they reflect the image of God. God loves us all. In light of the current bombing, and loss of life around the world, let's pray for people everywhere, that God's grace and mercy reigns over us all.

Upcoming Youth Xplosion 26

Equip Church in Paducah, KY., will be hosting Youth Xplosion 26 on Friday, March 27th, from 6 pm to 8 pm, and Saturday, March 28th, from 9 am to 9 pm. It is a church youth conference that will be hosted by Rev.

Joshua & Christy Sullivan from Be Real Ministries. Friday will consist of in-person registration and an evening service/ worship service. Saturday events include workshops, prayer time, and morning

and evening worship services. Lunch and dinner will also be served on Saturday. Advance Registration cost is \$30.00 until Friday, March 13th. After that date, the registration cost is \$40.00. On-site regis-

tration is also available for \$40.00. Registration, except for on-site registration, will be online. For additional registration information, contact Rev. Joshua Sullivan at berealministries.com or Pastor Scott

Wade at (217) 899-8639. We are proud and excited to bring this youth conference to the Paducah area. The youth are the future leaders of the church, and we look forward to helping to lead them to obtain

a closer relationship with our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. For more information you can contact Equip Church at 270-441-7900.

WASH YOUR HANDS

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

"For God's sake, wash your hands!" Dr. Ignaz Philip Semmelweis thundered this desperate plea in the middle of a meeting of doctors in the mid-19th century. In his day, there was an alarmingly high death toll among new mothers, post-surgery patients, and even medical professionals—and Semmelweis suspected that unwashed hands were the culprit. After inventing a chlorine solution that effectively eliminated bacteria from surgical instruments and hands, his

suspicions proved true. Unfortunately, his advice was ignored (as he was believed to be insane), and doctors continued to unknowingly kill patients by neglecting sanitation. Those entrusted with saving lives were unknowingly ending them because of their contaminated hands. Likewise, the Great Physician's admonition to believers is, "For My sake, wash your hands!" As James said, "Cleanse your hands" (James 4:8b). The Lord calls His gospel-entrusted people to keep themselves clean and holy as they minister to a world sick with

sin (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Gal. 6:14; 1 John 2:15-17). Wickedness is the most contagious spiritual bacteria known to man, and believers must exercise extreme caution when preaching Christ to an idolatry-infected world, lest they become ill and kill their testimony. Christians must remain "unstained from the world" (James 1:27), or they will cause more harm than good by transferring the stain of sin to those who need cleansing from Christ's blood (1 John 1:7b). Do you remember the unnamed prophet from Judah? His story is

told in 1 Kings 13, and his sole responsibility was to preach the word of the Lord without becoming tainted by idolatry. He was sent to preach the cleansing word of God to the sin-polluted king, Jeroboam. But he was admonished to do so at a distance—he wasn't even permitted to eat with him (1 Kings 13:8-9). But, despite resisting Jeroboam's cunning offer of dinner, he ironically accepts an identical invitation from a false prophet in Bethel (1 Kings 13:18-19). He was subsequently slaughtered by a lion, and the prophet's testi-

mony died with him (1 Kings 13:24-25). Unlike the unidentified prophet from Judah, believers are called to speak God's word and the gospel without becoming infected by idolatry. The Lord Jesus exemplified this by befriending sinners, but not their sin (Matt. 11:19; Luke 7:34). Unlike the Judean prophet, the Prophet from Galilee ate with tax collectors and sinners, and He made it home pure (Mark 2:15-22). Christ reached the world without becoming worldly. Christ is our example. The prophet from Judah and doctors from old are our warn-

ings. The hymn-writer Harper G. Smyth (1873-1945) reminds us in Make Me a Channel of Blessing:

"We cannot be channels of blessing

If our lives are not free from known sin;

We will barriers be and a hindrance

To those we are trying to win."

Will you administer the soul-saving remedy of the gospel with hands washed through sanctification?



I’ve noticed lately how the fishermen are getting amped up for the spring tournaments. A recent trip to my local bait shop confirmed my suspicions. There were brochures everywhere promoting those upcoming events. But another thing I’ve noticed is how bad the weather has been lately. I guess it’s normal for this time of year, but there are usually some good weekends when the fishermen can get on the lake, find where the fish are, and experiment with what they might be hitting. If everything stays the way it

is now there will be no early preparation. It will be practice as you go. There are, however, a few things that most anglers already have in their bag of tricks; namely that they have done this before. They will begin their pursuit at the places that have produced in times past. That doesn’t mean that success will be certain, only that they will be able to begin with a certain amount of confidence, which is crucial. In fact, one of phrases I’ve heard all my life when it comes to fishing, is “Fish with what you’re confident

in.” That is, if you are casting some bait without the expectation of a fish biting it, you need to switch; no matter what someone else might tell you. Confidence is undoubtedly important because it affects so many other things. It affects the speed to which you fish, your concentration, and your overall attention you must have to set the hook. Really you can’t say too much about confidence. On the other hand, while confidence might win the moment, it might just lose the day and the tournament. If one has to choose be-

tween confidence and certainty, he better choose the latter and adjust his confidence. And this especially goes for things that hold more weight than a fishing tournament. It amazes me sometimes how individuals can be so set in their ways without any real confirmation that what they are settled on is valid. Many times their confidence comes from another individual who also has no foundation for his or her beliefs. They simply believe something because so and so said so – be it a friend or family member. Or this un-

warranted confidence has come from a moment of success. For a fisherman it means that just because you had a good day with that bait before, it doesn’t mean it will work every time. Again, it is better to be certain than have confidence. Now, what about things of eternal consequence? If you have confidence and cannot adequately defend why you have such confidence, then you may be fooling yourself. Certainty will always come from a statement of fact based upon testable evidence. If this is not true in fishing,

you may be casting in a bathtub. If this is not true in matters of your faith, you may wake up one day to find that what you put confidence in, left you holding an empty bag at God’s weigh-in.

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

Who said retirement is the end of our calling?

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

As days pass, we can complain about time flying or rejoice in our blessings. I never thought much about retirement when I was younger, but as the saying goes, it’s never too late to be what you might have been. Had anyone told me I’d be a school teacher later in life, I would have been surprised. Now, as a teacher, I can honestly say it’s the most exciting and satisfying profession I could have imagined. Teaching is a labor of love, and helping children with their education is among our highest priorities. Yes, occasionally they test my patience, but most are respectful and just filled with excitement and curiosity. Jesus loves the little children, and I sense the

seriousness of guiding tomorrow’s leaders, who will face difficult challenges, as they are being targeted by the dark side. It’s critical for all of us to lead by example, as we help them understand right from wrong, to know God, and His truth.

I believe it’s important, as we grow older, to stay active instead of just lying around. I realize that some older individuals have health issues and cannot do what they would like to do, but many are in decent shape, but just choose to do nothing. It seems the more a person gives in to their excuses of how they are tired from paying their dues, the worse they feel. Inactivity is alright when we are resting, but the more we get up and get going, the better we feel. I encourage everyone to find some-

thing really important to you and see how you can get involved. We’ve heard it said that we must not live to work, but work to live. Your goals are achieved the moment you commit yourself to them, so no matter how old you feel, or how many times you’ve officially retired, it’s never too late to give the world a little more of what God has given to you. We should pray and ask for God’s inspiration, strength, and wisdom, but hopefully, a person will eventually discover that he or she is the master-gardener of their soul and the decision-maker of their destiny.

I was talking to an older teacher the other day during our planning period, and we chatted about how different the world is now from what it was when we were growing up. We

touched on everything from the high cost of living and how much the education system has changed, to how a godless society has rearranged the culture, mostly for the worse. I agreed when she said we need good role models for these children, and how teachers are on the front line with the opportunity and responsibility to demonstrate a Christ-like character while planting positive seeds of hope and truth. It’s said that a teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, inspires a heart, and shapes the future, and I firmly agree that the influence of a good teacher can never be erased. Teachers do not just need employment; they know it’s their life’s calling. I’ve been a minister for over 40 years, and wanted to continue trying to make

a difference, as it’s true, teachers change the world – one child at a time. She concluded that we needed more Christian leaders involved with public education and thanked me for my efforts.

We went on with our day, going through the switch classes, and finally, at the end of my last class, there was a young man who stayed behind a few minutes to pick up pencils and papers from the floor, and connect some of the Chromebooks in the charging cabinet. I was turning out the lights, and told him how much I appreciated him, and out of the quiet, he calmly asked if I knew Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. It was as if the lights had been turned on again. I was pleasantly humbled and impressed. I wondered how many 13-year-olds

are being driven by their love for God and have the awareness and faith to share the gospel with their substitute teacher? I told him I was a Christian, and was proud and inspired by his spiritual enthusiasm and commitment to the Lord. As I was walking out to my car, I thought about the teacher who earlier had shared her burden for the young ones, and I knew she would be encouraged to know there are still good people and wonderful kids in the midst of these trying times.

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

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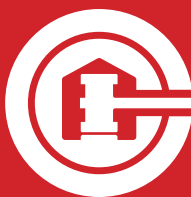
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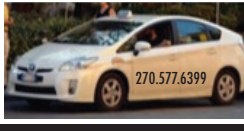
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9	9	4	3	6	7	8	2	1
3	2	6	9	1	8	7	5	4
6	3	5	1	8	2	4	7	9
4	7	2	6	9	3	1	8	5
9	8	1	4	7	5	2	3	6
1	5	7	8	3	9	6	4	2
8	6	3	2	4	1	5	9	7
2	4	9	7	5	6	3	1	8

Word Search Answers

A	I	A	B	X	I	W	V	C	R	O	N	I	R	I	E	N	I	
B	V	E	I	T	I	R	V	L	I	A	V	C	I	O	S	E	B	V
Q	N	X	J	I	S	N	I	W	V	I	I	A	N	I	X	N	V	O
F	L	O	J	I	T	O	N	V	I	T	R	C	N	G	O	S	I	W
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UK AD Mitch Barnhart announces retirement after 24 years

By KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Mitch Barnhart’s tenure as athletics director at the University of Kentucky will end in June.

Barnhart announced his retirement Tuesday afternoon after Pete Thamel of ESPN first announced Barnhart’s departure Tuesday morning.

“I’m not sure there’s ever a finish line for leaders,” Barnhart said of his thought process. “You get to a spot where you finish one job and the next one starts and then the next task and the next task and the next task. At some point you have to say the baton is someone else’s to carry.

“I’m so thankful that (UK President) Dr. (Eli) Capilouto is providing a ‘what’s next’ after leaving this position and we can have an impact another way. It will matter to the University, it will matter



Mitch Barnhart announced his retirement as UK athletics director on Tuesday during his 24th year on the job. (Kentucky Today/Keith Taylor)

to our department, it will matter to Kentucky. I’m super appreciative of this opportunity. My love for this place is overflowing,” Barnhart said.

Now in his 24th year at Kentucky, Barnhart is the lon-

gest-serving athletics director in the nation and has been at the helm since 2002. Under his guidance, the school has claimed six national titles in various sports, along with 63 conference titles, including first-time championships

in baseball, women’s tennis, men’s golf, women’s swimming and diving and stunt. “When you combine the passion of the Big Blue Nation and the education and the competition into the young people we put on that stage

(of competition), it embodies what is the best of sport, what is best of this University,” Barnhart said. “Creating the next set of leaders for our enterprise and our society is at a critical juncture. And we want to make sure we do that.”

Capilouto said the goal of receiving a diploma and winning championships will remain the top priority for Barnhart’s successor.

“Mitch often speaks of the idea that our goal at UK is for student-athletes to place championship rings on their fingers and diplomas in their hands. Those aren’t mere words. They are aspirations that he continually has helped our program, our people and our students meet.”

Barnhart will continue to serve in a new role as the executive-in-residence of the UK Sport and Workforce Initiative.

“This initiative will be part of a workforce effort that I mentioned in my remarks

recently to the Board of Trustees and that I will be announcing more details about in the coming weeks,” Capilouto said.

“Mitch is distinctly equipped to help us think about the future of intercollegiate sports. I am excited he accepted my offer to take on this new role.”

Barnhart has overseen an athletics program that has achieved success on and off the field. During his tenure, Barnhart has watched numerous sports programs succeed, raising the program’s overall athletic profile.

There are several names to watch as Barnhart’s successor including current deputy athletics director Marc Hill and Rachel Baker in the compliance department at the school. Other are Rob Mullens (Oregon), Scott Stricklin (Florida), DeWayne Peevy (DePaul) and Martin Newton (Samford) among other Barnhart proteges.

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Legislation would address physician shortage

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – The state Senate is considering legislation directing the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and Eastern Kentucky University to coordinate a comprehensive search for actionable solutions to physician and health care shortages and expand health care access in medically underserved areas.

Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, is the sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 116, which he presented to the Senate Health Services Committee on Wednesday. The measure passed

without dissent.

“Access to a doctor should not depend on your ZIP code,” Stivers told the panel. “By bringing our leading universities and partners together, we are taking a focused, data-driven approach to ensure more Kentuckians, especially those in unserved and underserved areas, have access to quality care. Strengthening our physician workforce and other healthcare providers strengthens families, communities, and the Commonwealth as a whole.”

Under the resolution, the three universities will need to collaborate with community partners, state agencies, professional asso-

ciations, and other stakeholders, to identify strategies that address workforce shortages, improve physician retention in underserved areas, and expand access through technology and community-based care models.

More than 75 percent of Kentucky physicians practice in urban areas, leaving many rural counties without adequate access to primary and specialty care. As a result, residents in medically underserved communities must often travel long distances for treatment. This creates financial and transportation barriers that can lead to delayed or foregone care.



Senate President Robert Stivers is sponsoring legislation that prompts UK, Louisville and ECU to coordinate solutions to the physician shortage in Kentucky. (LRC photo) Hargis David Michael

“Who is better equipped than our leading universities to solve this healthcare problem?” said Stivers.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, 57 percent

of medical residents continue practicing in the state where they complete their training. Lawmakers say they believe expanding graduate medical education opportunities in underserved regions could significantly

improve long-term physician retention.

SJR 116, if passed by both chambers, is just like bills and carries the weight of law. It now heads to the Senate floor.

Bill requires jails to collect DNA after booking person on felony charge

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Those facing felony charges in Kentucky may soon have to provide more than just their fingerprints upon arrest, under legislation that would require jails to collect a DNA sample when a person is booked into jail on a felony charge.

Rep. Patrick Flannery, R-Olive Hill, is the primary sponsor of House Bill. Sen. Julie Raque Adams, R-Lou-

isville, testified alongside Flannery during the House Local Government Committee’s meeting on Tuesday.

Flannery testified that 31 other states have already enacted similar legislation, which has aided law enforcement in solving cold cases. “This is very helpful for different reasons. One is hopefully we can solve crimes that have been remaining out there.

Hopefully for folks that are innocent, this can be used to exonerate them.”

U.S. Supreme Court case *Maryland v. King* opened the door for states to pass legislation like HB 414, Flannery said.

Adams told the committee she first filed similar legislation years ago. Then, Kentucky would’ve been a pioneer, she said. Today, Kentucky is

considered an outlier compared to its surrounding states. “I’ve always been deeply committed to this, and I’ve always thought it was the right direction.”

Under HB 414, collected DNA would be sent to the Kentucky State Police’s forensic laboratory. The DNA samples could only be used for criminal justice purposes.

The legislation limits

DNA collection upon felony arrest to adults. The bill would require the samples and the DNA profile to be expunged upon acquittal, a dismissal or a conviction for a nonfelony offense. Individuals who successfully complete a pretrial diversion program could also qualify for expungement.

A five dollar fee for collecting DNA evidence was removed

from the bill. Flannery said the state does not collect a fee for fingerprinting or other aspects of the booking process, so the change would make the DNA collection no different. He also said HB 414 would have a “minimal, if any” fiscal impact.

The bill won unanimous approval from the committee and now heads to the House floor.



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