

# Laurel Oak Garden Club Cultivates Beauty & Community



By: **Laurna Pruett**  
KPI Writer

MAYFIELD — Laurel Oak Garden Club members recently gathered at Fancy Farm Winery for the club's annual August Welcome Back Potluck.

Winery owners Tom and Robbie hosted the gathering, while hostesses Mary Seay, Kristin King and Pam Smith organized and decorated for the event.

Club President Anita Granier welcomed

members and guests and provided a preview of activities planned for the coming year. During dinner, attendees viewed a slideshow highlighting club news, programs and activities from 2025-26.

Established in March 1963, the Laurel Oak Garden Club is a group of men and women united by their love of nature, gardening and community service. The club currently has 32 members, and no gardening experience

is necessary to join. "New members do not need any type of gardening experience, just a love of gardening and a desire to learn more about gardening," Granier said.

The club meets from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held in members' homes or at the Graves County Public Library and include light refreshments. Guests may be invited by active members, after which an application

for membership is presented to the club.

The Laurel Oak Garden Club helps beautify Mayfield by maintaining the Kess Creek Butterfly Garden, Anderson Park and the Highland Park entrance. Members also visit elementary schools each May to lead students in a planting project.

The club's annual plant sale is held in May, with proceeds supporting the upkeep of local parks. During its annual Christmas meeting, the club conducts an auction featuring crafts, gifts, food and other items. Money raised through the auction helps provide Christmas assistance to underprivileged students at Mayfield and Graves County high schools.

In addition to Granier, the club's current officers are Vice President Sally Curry, Treasurer Kristin King and Secretary Mariowen Reed.

Official Update from

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TRANSPORTATION CABINET

See BACK of A Section

Nutrien Ag Solutions sponsoring dinner to support Sedalia Elementary family resource center.



From: Graves Mayfield Community Education

SEDALIA, Ky. – On Sunday, September 13, Nutrien will offer a grilled chicken or grilled pork chop lunch from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The meal will also include mashed potatoes, baked beans and a roll, and can be picked up at Nutrien Ag Solutions, located at 1680 KY 339.

The cost is \$15. Anyone interested can call Nutrien at 270-328-8164 or the Sedalia Elementary School family resource center at 270-328-4854 to schedule an order or for more information.

School family resource centers, from elementary to high school, remove non-academic barriers to help students succeed at school. Family resource centers connect families with community resources, provide food, clothing and hygiene assistance, and can offer referrals to support good health.

For more information on family resource and youth service centers, contact your child's school.

# Mayfield Police Department welcomes its newest member

From: **Mayfield Police Department**

The Mayfield Police Department welcomes its newest member, Officer Stephan McClellan, badge number 572. McClellan graduated on August 27th, 2026 from the Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond, Kentucky. McClellan served as the Class Leader demonstrating a drive to lead and setting a high standard for

See **POLICE** back of A Section



# Roundtable Offers Managers Facts on WKCTC Job Training Programs

From: **Graves County Economic Development**

The latest Plant Manager's Roundtable, hosted by Graves County Economic Development (GCED), featured an overview of Camp Graves, a local non-profit that serves the community by providing temporary housing and supportive services for survivors of disasters and those who have been displaced by circumstances beyond their control.

"We are a resource for local employers," said Cassy Basham,

the Camp's Executive Director. "We have worked with companies to provide housing for employees who have lost homes to fires, floods, or other disasters, as well as those experiencing domestic violence, health emergencies, and other crises. By providing safe, secure housing, we make sure employees can continue to work and be productive."

Camp Graves also maintains a "Resource Bank," that employers can use to help connect employees with services. "We want to eliminate the barriers to finding

resources," said Basham. "Access to resources is the greatest barrier to needs fulfillment."

Founded in the wake of the 2021 tornado, Camp Graves has evolved and broadened its mission to meet critical, ongoing needs in the community.

This year alone, Camp Graves has housed 32 households, including 14 families with children. They are the only temporary housing provider in the area that can house families together utilizing a series of independent units. They are also the

only shelter housing organization with a facility devoted to housing and meeting the needs of military veterans, including veterans with families.

Camp Graves has a 95% success rate in moving residents to stability and into permanent housing. "Homelessness is not the problem, it's the symptom," explained Basham. "You've got to work on the why. We use an external resource support network. We provide housing. We provide supportive services. But to sustain themselves and break the cycles

of homelessness, our clients have to become self-sufficient and reach a level that allows them to break the behaviors that brought them here."

GCED President Jason Lemle said he appreciates Camp Graves leadership for being part of the Roundtable and sharing the role they play with our local business and industry leaders. "Every now and again people run up against challenges that seem impossible to overcome," said Lemle. "Camp Graves gives people an opportunity to get their feet back

underneath them. I would encourage people to look at what they offer and how it impacts the region and our community."

The bi-monthly Plant Manager's Roundtable meetings offer an easy way for industry leaders to network and learn more about local programs and projects that could impact their companies. Subjects vary and attendees are encouraged to provide programming suggestions. The next Roundtable will be held in October. For more information, contact GCED at 270.247.0626.



# Kentucky Baptists deliver meals, ministry in flood-ravaged Indiana

By MARK MAYNARD  
*Kentucky Today*

RAVENSWOOD, Ind. (KT) – Guess who’s coming to dinner? Nobody understands that question better than the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief feeding teams. This week, KYDR volunteers are feeding 300 hungry people – twice a day – in the flood-ravaged community of Ravenswood, Indiana.

And Karen Smith, who is leading the feeding team, said she expected even more mouths to feed. Smith said the team was initially asked to be ready to feed 1,000 people a day – 500 for lunch and 500 for dinner.

“We are down to 300 each meal, so we’re only doing 600 total. Three of us would be able to handle that.”

Smith and her team of 16 gold-shirted workers can routinely feed thousands of people a day and have done so on many occasions. And we’re not talking about peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches.

How about this mouth-watering menu?

For lunch, spaghetti with plenty of meat sauce, a roll and fresh orange.

For dinner, sliced ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, a roll and dessert.

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief is feeding anyone in the community of Ravenswood who was affected by the recent flooding, but



Meals are being packed and handed out to anyone in the community of Ravenswood, Ind. Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief workers will be there until Saturday. (KYDR/Amanda McGary)

the kitchen crew has been busy battling the sweltering heat wave. They get into air conditioning whenever possible, courtesy of Northside Baptist Church where the team is staying.

“But it’s been hot,” Smith said. “I told everybody weather like this makes it easier

to tell people about heaven and hell.”

The feeding team loves to cook and serve, but more than that, they love to witness to those who come for a meal. Giving them a good helping of spiritual “food” is what they do best.

A lot goes into

preparing 600 meals a day. Smith ordered only two days’ worth of meals from Gordon Food Service before coming to the Indianapolis area. When it appeared the community needed more help, the organization Feeding America put the team in touch with a food bank in

Indiana. Smith said she was able pick up food for the rest of the week.

“All I asked for was protein,” she said. “This place is incredible. It covers seven football fields. They said, ‘We could have gotten you everything.’ I told them I don’t want to be

greedy.”

Send Relief also pitched in, sending gumbo mix, rice, chicken tortilla soup mix, chips, corn and fruit. It also sent macaroni and cheese that Smith said will be used as a side.

Smith, who is a good steward of the Cooperative Program dollars that help fund Disaster Relief, said the meals will cost between \$1.25 and \$1.50 per meal.

Ravenswood was hit with two rounds of flooding, causing massive damage to nearly 300 homes.

The feeding team will likely be in Ravenswood through lunch on Saturday. But, as usual, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief is ready to supply hope and hot meals as long as needed.



Cooking materials coming out of the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief trailer on site in Ravenswood, Ind. (KYDR/Amanda McGary)

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# The rise of labor reform

By Rhonda Foster  
KPI Staff Writer

Labor reform grew out of the belief that workers deserved safety, fair pay, and dignity, not just employment. From the Industrial Revolution to the Progressive Era and the New Deal, unfair working conditions pushed the labor movement to demand stronger laws. Leaders such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Frances Perkins who was appointed Secretary of Labor helped show that government had a responsibility to protect workers when businesses failed to do so.

During the Industrial Revolution and the years that followed, many workers faced unfair working conditions. Factories, mines, and mills often demanded long hours, paid low wages, and offered little protection from injury. Workers had limited power, so they began organizing labor unions and calling for reforms that would make workplaces safer and fairer.

Unfair child labor was one of the most serious problems of this period. Children were forced into employment because they could be paid less than adults and were easier for employers to control. Many children worked in dangerous places instead of going to school, which kept families



Labor Day was forged by the labor movement of the late nineteenth century.

trapped in poverty and exposed young workers to injuries and long-term health problems.

President Roosevelt helped bring national attention to labor issues during the Progressive Era. As president, he supported the idea that government should help balance the power between big business and ordinary workers. He promoted fairness, and his administration showed that the federal government could play a role in protecting workers and addressing abuses in industry. He was instrumental in the passage of the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 that gave workers the right to form unions and collective bargain. The passage of NLRA is just important today as it was in 1935.

Frances Perkins continued the push for

labor reform under President Roosevelt. As the first female Secretary of Labor, she supported the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 which led to improved wages, 8-hour workdays, 40-

hour work week and restricted child labor.

Unions today are also active in their respected communities beyond the workplace. All trade unions support job training and apprenticeship programs

that help people learn skilled trades and find stable careers. They also take part in community service by volunteering, raising money, supporting disaster relief, donating to charities, and helping families in need. These efforts show that unions are not only focused on wages and benefits for their members, but also on strengthening the communities where their members live and work.

The rise of labor reform shows how public pressure, worker organization, and government action can change society. The struggles of skilled trades and factory workers in the

past led to laws that made workplaces safer and more humane. Roosevelt helped popularize the idea that government should stand between powerful businesses and vulnerable workers, while Perkins helped turn reform ideas into lasting national policy. Today, labor reform is still important because fairness at work is never guaranteed automatically.

On this Labor Day, may we all pause and take a moment to reflect on those that came before us and the sacrifices they made, many with their own life to make things better for us today.

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# Attorney General Coleman Unveils Statewide Peer Support Effort, to include Grants to Kentucky Law Enforcement Agencies

Press Release

COVINGTON, Ky. - Attorney General Russell Coleman announced today his continued efforts to support the men and women of Kentucky law enforcement. At a news conference in Covington, Attorney General Coleman detailed the Office’s newest program: ‘Stand by the Badge’ to support officer mental health.

The Office has launched a secure website for officers, deputies and troopers to access peers and resources to support them mentally, spiritually, and financially. A toolkit of best practices so agencies across Kentucky can stand up their own peer-support teams has also been created and made available to law enforcement.

The program awarded eight Kentucky law enforcement agencies funds to use for peer support services to strengthen officer mental health. The Office is continuing to seek additional funding opportunities to expand the ‘Stand by the Badge’ initiative.

Selected agencies will receive \$5,000 for expenses including overtime for peer sup-



Attorney General Russell Coleman stands with Kentucky law enforcement agencies who received grant funding.

port specialists, training and education for peer support and wellness, and equipment for the teams.

The awardees include:

Ashland Police Department will train officers to become peer support specialists and provide services to surrounding agencies.

Daviess County Detention Center will send selected deputy jailers to training and then establish a peer support team within the jail.

Elizabethtown Police Department will develop peer support and critical incident stress response resources, as well as

provide a therapy dog for officers.

Laurel County Sheriff’s Office will create a peer support team, beginning with sending six deputies to peer support specialist training.

Paducah Police Department will establish a peer support team and fund team members to attend training.

Scott County Sheriff’s Office will offer 24/7 peer support and wellness support to officers. Resources, including books about emotional survival following chronic stress, will be made available.

The Northern Kentucky Police Chiefs Association will use funds to support their

existing team, which provides services to over 50 agencies across eight counties.

Warren County Sheriff’s Office will establish a peer support team, including training specialists by a mental health professional.

“When we give our law enforcement officers the opportunity to support one another, we build stronger officers, stronger teams, and ultimately safer communities,” said Attorney General Coleman. “Kentucky has some of the finest law enforcement officers in the business. We are honored to stand with them and put peer support programs in place that can offer hope,

connection, and support when they need it most.”

The Attorney General’s grant program will expand existing peer support services already available in the Commonwealth. Some statewide resources currently exist to respond to critical incidents including officer-involved shootings, including the excellent work being done by the Department of Justice Criminal Training. The AG’s grants will provide funding for consistent peer support to address chronic day-to-day stressors and secondary trauma. Some large departments or regions already offer strong peer support

programs, but other agencies, especially in rural communities, may lack the resources needed to operate their own teams.

“I’m grateful to Attorney General Coleman for providing this grant opportunity for peer support programs. This critical mental health initiative will help strengthen efforts to keep our deputy jailers and other law enforcement officers whole,” said Daviess County Jailer Art Maglinger, whose team received grant funding.

“Peer support teams are crucial to officers in crisis, after a critical incident, or those just struggling with the stresses of being a first responder. Support for these teams help officers be mentally and emotionally well; in return providing high-quality service to their communities,” Alexandria Police Chief Lucas Cooper, who helped stand up a peer support group for the Northern Kentucky region and received grant funding.

The AG’s Peer Support Grant Program was made possible through a grant from the nonprofit, bipartisan Attorney General Alliance.

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# Enjoy a safe and fun Labor Day

Staff Report

Residents of the United States and Canada celebrate Labor Day or Labour Day each September on the first Monday of the month to acknowledge the contributions of each nation’s workers. The holiday can be traced to the late nineteenth century, when labor activists campaigned for a federal holiday to recognize hardworking employees and their accomplishments.

Although the holiday originally was crafted by the labor movement, not much labor occurs on Labor Day each year. Rather, Labor Day is a time when most workers enjoy a well-deserved day off, and various recreational events take place. Individuals can explore these tips to enjoy a memorable, fun and safe Labor Day.

Grilling time

Grilling is a centerpiece of many Labor Day celebrations. Although guests may look forward to familiar fare, such as burgers and hot dogs,



Labor Day tends to be summer’s curtain call. Make the most of it this year, but remember to always play it safe.

introducing some interesting menu items into the mix can elevate the event even further. Explore options with seafood and vegetables or even experiment with different flavor profiles. Replace chicken with shrimp on kabobs or swap beef for lamb in burgers for even more variety.

When grilling, always emphasize safety. Never leave the grill unattended, and ensure that the grill is located away from the main action and far enough from the house so that nothing will catch fire.

Factor in traffic

Traffic is a common complaint during the

summer, but especially during holiday weekends. AAA booking data showed overall domestic travel over Labor Day weekend 2024 was up 9 percent compared to the year prior. In many locations, Labor Day is the last hurrah before school begins, so roadways tend to be congested. The trans-

portation data experts at INRIX recommend car travelers avoid the afternoon and early evening hours of Thursday and Friday, as those times tend to be the busiest. Leaving early on Thursday or Friday or departing on Saturday afternoon will help travelers avoid most traffic and begin their weekends

less stressed. Plus, drivers are less likely to drive aggressively when they build in a time buffer.

Head to the water

Water sports, boating, swimming, and other water-based activities are entertaining ideas for Labor Day. Life jackets are essential on boats and other watercraft, and inexperienced swimmers may want to wear them as well. Everyone should avoid alcohol consumption while boating or swimming. Try to stick to areas that have lifeguards on duty.

Firework smarts

Fireworks can cap off a summer of fun. Instead of lighting fireworks at home, head to an event organized by pyrotechnics experts for the safest situation. Pets can become skittish during loud noises associated with fireworks, so keep them indoors in a quiet room where they can remain calm and are less likely to run away and get lost outdoors.

## Citizen foster care board to have virtual forums

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Kentuckians are invited to make their voices heard at the four Citizen Foster Care Review Boards’ virtual forums which will be taking place in September and October.

The forums will give participants an opportunity to share their perspectives, learn more about Kentucky’s foster

care system and help shape conversations about the needs of children and families. Advance registration is required. All forums will be held from 11 a.m.-noon CDT/noon-1 p.m. EDT.

Sept. 21, register at <https://kcoj.info/Sept21CFCRB>.

For residents of Allen, Ballard, Barren, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton,

Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, LaRue, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Meade, Metcalfe, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren and Webster counties.

Sept. 25, register at <https://kcoj.info/Sept25CFCRB>.

For residents of Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay,

Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Green, Greenup, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Marion, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe counties.

Sept. 29, register at <https://kcoj.info/Sept29CFCRB>.

For residents of Bullitt, Fayette and Jefferson counties.

Oct. 1, register at required at <https://kcoj.info/Oct1CFCRB>.

For residents of Anderson, Boone, Bourbon, Boyle, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Clark, Estill, Fleming, Franklin, Gallatin, Garrard, Grant, Harrison, Henry, Jessamine, Kenton, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Mason, Mercer, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Owsley, Pendleton, Robertson,

Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble and Woodford counties.

The forums are part of the reforms outlined in House Bill 1, passed in 2018 to address challenges within the foster care and adoption systems. The CFCRBs held their first regional forums in October 2018 to gather public input on the state’s foster care system.

## Strategies to navigate the agriculture labor shortage

Staff Report

Labor shortages can make it hard for

any business owner to compete, and those working in the agri-

cultural sector are no exception to that reality. The U.S. Senate Committee on Aging notes that the median age of farmers in the United States is 58, and more farmers are older than 65 than under 44. That doesn’t bode well for the future, but the labor shortages confronting the agricultural sector pose an immediate problem as well.

A January 2025 report from the agricultural tech firm Sabanto noted there are currently 2.4 million unfilled jobs within the agricultural

sector. Labor shortages pose a unique challenge, but the following are some strategies agricultural operations can consider to overcome a lack of help.

• Look for ways to automate. Automation can be a lifeline that helps to meet the challenge of labor shortages within the agricultural sector. Modern technology enables completion of various tasks, such as water measurement and soil analysis, through the use of automated sensors or programs. Auto-

mation can allow farmers to direct their limited personnel resources toward tasks that require hands-on work.

• Join forces with fellow farmers. Another potential solution is to pool limited labor resources with other farmers in your area. Farmers can work together to identify workers who can be trained as specialists and then transported to various sites to perform vital tasks each farm needs to survive.

• Cut down on field operations when

possible. Reducing reliance on tasks that cannot be automated is another strategy to confront the labor shortage. For example, no-tillage farming methods require fewer personnel. Seasonal farming that limits operations during times of year when the available workforce is particularly scant also can help navigate the labor shortage.

• Encourage local politicians to promote legislative solutions. Policy reform that prioritizes access to labor within the agricultural sector can serve both short- and long-term needs. Farmers can contact local politicians and let them know about the challenges facing the agricultural sector, offering invaluable feedback that can be used to write and promote farmer-friendly legislation.

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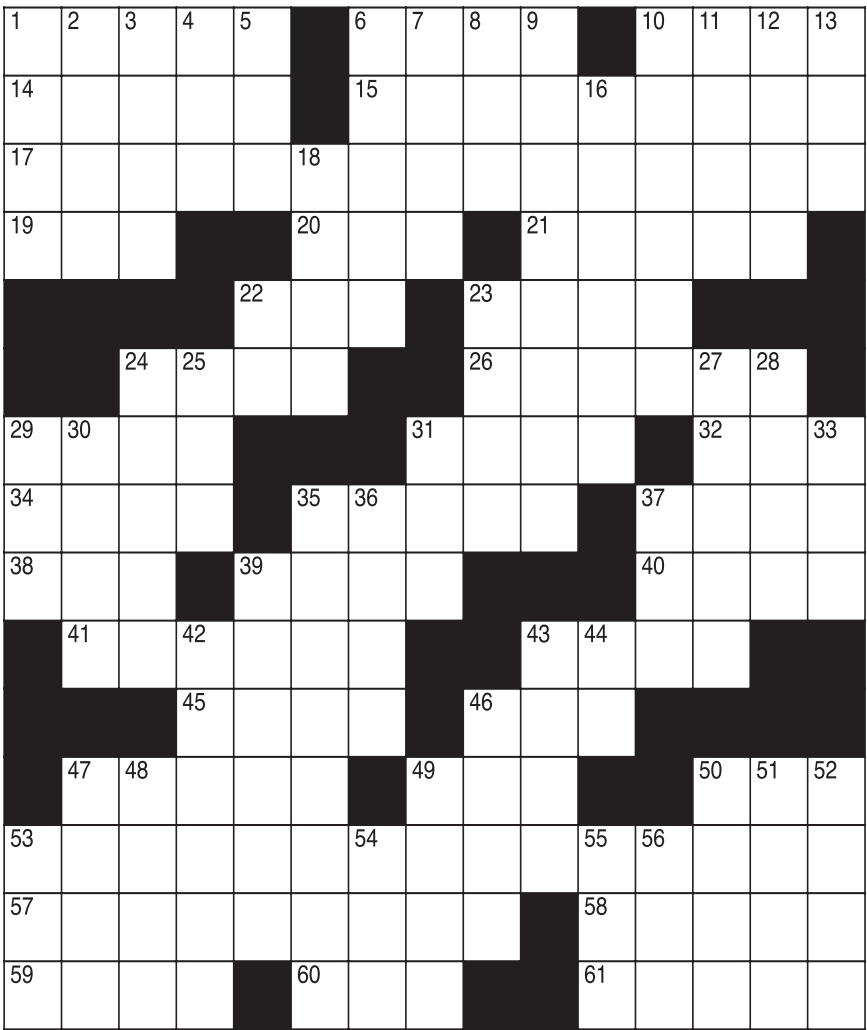
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Pembroke, KY 42266



Crossword Puzzle

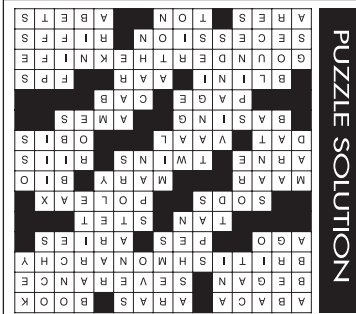


CLUES ACROSS

1. Manila hemp plant  
6. Turkish river  
10. Something to read  
14. In a way, initiated  
15. Popular Apple TV series  
17. King Charles is part of it  
19. Earlier  
20. Foot (Latin)  
21. Zodiac sign  
22. A browning of the skin  
23. Remain as is  
24. Turfs  
26. It’s used to slaughter animals  
29. Volcanic crater  
31. The mother of Jesus  
32. One’s life story  
34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot  
35. Counterparts
37. Jacob \_\_, American journalist  
38. Digital audiotape  
39. River in South Africa  
40. Kimono sashes  
41. Rooting somewhere  
43. American spy Aldrich  
45. A way to call for  
46. Taxi  
47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour  
49. Swiss river  
50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)  
53. Have surgery  
57. Formal withdrawal from a union  
58. Performs spoken improv  
59. Greek war god  
60. 2,000 lbs.  
61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

1. Swedish rock group  
2. “Friday Night Lights” director Peter  
3. Currency exchange fee  
4. Feline  
5. Folk singer DiFranco  
6. Ghastly pale from distress  
7. Rapid eye movements  
8. Monetary unit of Macao  
9. Lawmakers  
10. Colorless mineral  
11. At some prior time  
12. American protest singer  
13. Opener  
16. Seldom  
18. Relaxing places  
22. Touchdown  
23. From end to end  
24. Kids love him  
25. Metal-bearing solid  
27. Skin care product manufacturer  
28. Thirteen  
29. Angry  
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One-thousandth of an inch  
33. Former CIA  
35. Most lemony  
36. Engage in  
37. Mass of fish eggs  
39. Food supplies  
42. Backbones  
43. American real estate investment firm  
44. Megabyte  
46. “Three Coins in the Fountain” songwriter  
47. Dutch colonist  
48. Full-grown pike fish  
49. Emergency prep expert Edwards  
50. Flute  
51. Dismissive sound  
52. Slang term for marijuana  
53. Young women’s association  
54. Cosmopolitan city  
55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand  
56. Pointed end of a pen



Puzzle Solutions on B14

Word Search

FALL EVENINGS WORD SEARCH

M H R F D I V K K G N K L Z M R F K Z A  
K F H T N A R B I V T S K H E U W I D A S  
W K D N C I N N A M O N K T Z Y V R I Q S  
P T I H I K S Y G W C Q A R Z R L E Q G  
X S W E U K T E E Y Q E S O Q F K X W T  
T E D D N S P A M T S H W C C U Y W L S H  
S V Q I O I L M T S H G F L A N N E L L  
L R M R M W G E U T M G G N V W M Y L G  
E A F Y H G Q K N P Q R N O E D G F P A  
Z H S A M U F B I O S X N X G M F Z H B  
X P Y H I T A C O R N V W N A I S U A Q  
K A C N X L W Q X T Y V C H I L L Y U C  
O R O E E B Y I Q S A H B G L H K Z T A  
M X T A R A O K L L C P I N O Y Y U D  
R E V M L I Q C G I H A E N F N E V M E  
P E Z B Y A F F B F G D R S O N V K N K  
S Z R E P X A N Z G L H Z L M N Q X Z B  
I S A R E P E O O O U T T B E P Z Q K C  
R Q W U Z R Y M G B W W Y H U T Q Z T T  
C K Z M I Y B F R R A S L C I D E R W L

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

ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION

WORDS

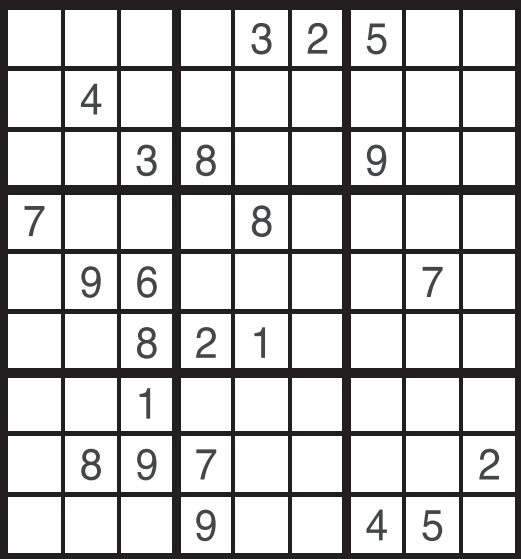
ACORN  
AMBER  
AUTUMN  
BONFIRE  
BREEZE  
CHILLY  
CIDER  
CINNAMON  
COZY  
CRISP  
EQUINOX  
FLANNEL  
FOLIAGE  
FROSTY  
GOLDEN  
HARVEST  
HAYRIDE  
LEAVES  
NUTMEG  
PUMPKIN  
SCARLET  
SWEATER  
TWILIGHT  
VIBRANT

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!

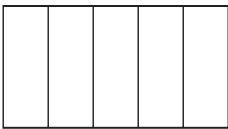
ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fall.

P S C I R



Answer: Crisp

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress and singer born in California on September 1, 1996. I began my career as a fashion model. I also performed a cover of a Katy Perry song for Kidz Bop. I'm known for my role on a Disney show and also for playing a love interest opposite Tom Holland's Spiderman.

Answer: Zendaya

Crypto Fun



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

A. 18 5 6 15 5 7

Clue: Tree foliage

B. 13 6 17 5

Clue: Gathers leaves

C. 22 26 20 22 17 1 23

Clue: Orange gourd

D. 11 24 13 23

Clue: Starchy crop

Answers: A: leaves B: rake C: pumpkin D: corn

Coloring Fun

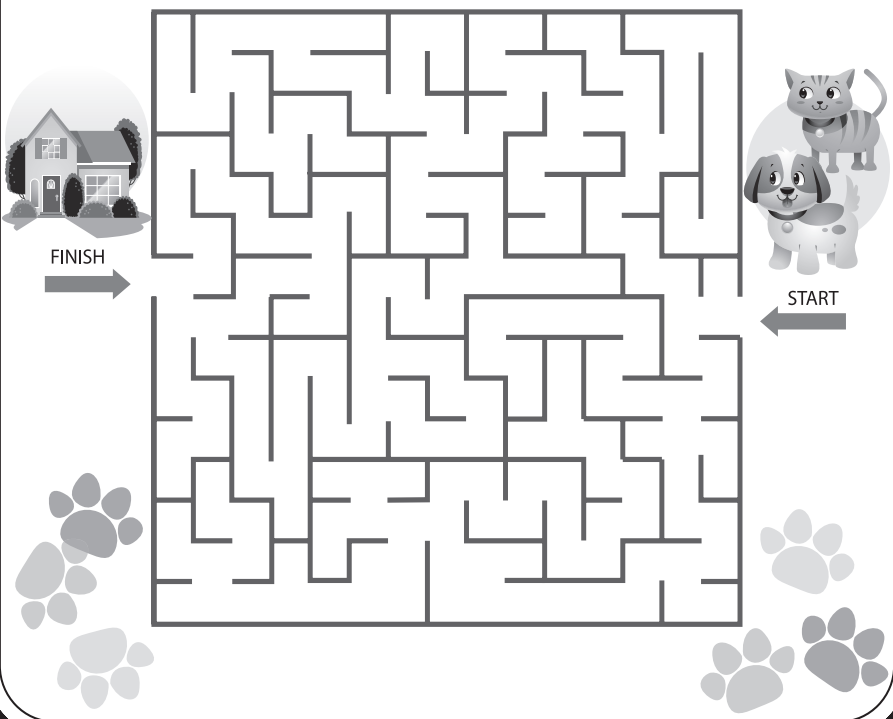


Labor Day

Monday, September 7th

Maze Craze

Help these pets find their way home!





# The Bill Gatton Foundation 2026 Grand Challenges announced to advance Kentucky

By Christopher Carney  
christopher.carney@uky.edu

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) has announced The Bill Gatton Foundation 2026 Grand Challenges—advancing ambitious, interdisciplinary work that addresses complex challenges facing Kentucky and beyond.

Through the generosity of The Bill Gatton Foundation’s historic \$100 million gift in 2023, \$5.6 million has been invested to steward innovative projects starting in 2026. These projects address artificial intelligence and emerging technology; agriculture and food systems; water and climate sustainability; forestry and natural resources; agricultural finance; education; and Extension and workforce development.

Bringing together expertise from across Martin-Gatton CAFE and UK, these selected projects are designed to develop innovative solutions, create opportunities for students, serve Kentucky communities and build capacity for future externally funded work.

“The 2026 Grand Challenges demonstrate the breadth of our land-grant mission at the University of Kentucky,” said Laura Stephenson, vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of Martin-Gatton CAFE. “Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of The Bill Gatton Foundation, interdisciplinary teams now have the resources to

pursue ambitious ideas, develop new capabilities and translate university expertise into meaningful impact across Kentucky.”

The following projects were selected as The Bill Gatton Foundation 2026 Grand Challenges:

AI-Enabled Epigenetic Biomarkers for Agriculture, Animal Health and Healthy Aging: Establishing C3EB. Led by Carlos Rodríguez López, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Horticulture, this Grand Challenge will establish the Cross-Campus Center on Epigenetic Biomarkers (C3EB), bringing together expertise in epigenetics, artificial intelligence and mathematical modeling to develop new approaches to challenges spanning agriculture, animal health, nutrition and healthy aging. C3EB aims to generate new diagnostic and decision-support tools while addressing issues important to Kentucky, including agricultural productivity, livestock health and welfare, food quality and population health.

AI-Enabled Self-Driving Laboratory for Transformative Chemical Discovery in Kentucky’s Agriculture and Food Systems. Led by Michael Montross, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, in collaboration with the UK Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering, the project will establish an AI-enabled self-driving laboratory designed to accelerate scientific discovery across agriculture, food and bioprocessing sys-



The Bill Gatton Foundation Grand Challenges program is designed to support collaborative work capable of producing meaningful impact in Kentucky, while positioning the University of Kentucky for leadership in areas of national and global importance. Photo collage created by Martin-Gatton CAFE.

tems. The interdisciplinary team will combine artificial intelligence, robotics, laboratory automation, controlled processing and rapid analysis into a system capable of designing and conducting experiments, analyzing the results and using what it learns to determine the most informative experiments to conduct next. By bringing research, education and outreach together around a shared technological platform, the project team intends to establish a new interdisciplinary capability at UK and provide a foundation for larger external research opportunities in AI-enabled agriculture, food systems and biomanufacturing.

KY-WAP: An AI-Powered Woodland Analysis Platform for Kentucky. Led by Jian Yang, Ph.D., associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, the

Kentucky Woodland Analysis Platform (KY-WAP) will use artificial intelligence, machine learning, remote sensing and advanced geospatial data to provide detailed information about the condition of Kentucky’s forests. KY-WAP will bring together information currently spread across complex datasets, including aerial imagery and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), satellite imagery, soil information, forest inventories and landscape disturbance data, and translate those resources into practical information at the parcel and forest-stand level. The long-term goal is to establish a statewide woodland intelligence resource that can ultimately serve as a model for AI-powered forest analysis beyond Kentucky.

Integrated Water, Climate and Sustainability Initiative. Led by Tiffany Messer, Ph.D., Amanda Gumbert,

Ph.D., John McMaine, Ph.D., and Jason Unrine, Ph.D. at Martin-Gatton CAFE and affiliates at the Kentucky Water Research Institute (KWRI), this initiative will address water, climate variability and sustainability through coordinated investment spanning research, Extension, education, workforce development and student recruitment. This project will investigate how Kentucky’s changing temperature and rainfall patterns influence the movement and transformation of organic matter, nutrients and contaminants in aquatic environments. This initiative will strengthen undergraduate education through new coursework and the development of a cross-college academic credential connecting climate-smart agriculture, water systems and data-enabled decision-making. In addition, a pilot residential summer experience for

high school students called STREAM—Summer Training in Resilient Environmental Management—will be launched.

Agricultural Finance Education Initiative — Feasibility and Planning Phase. Led by Jonathan Shepherd, agricultural Extension specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics, this project will support a feasibility study and planning phase to explore an integrated approach to strengthen agricultural finance education, farm transition and succession planning, applied research, Extension programming and industry engagement across Kentucky. The proposed initiative is intended to bring together expertise that currently exists across the university and among external partners to help agricultural operations — from small and mid-sized farms to larger enterprises — build financial resilience and prepare for successful transitions.

The Grand Challenges will be introduced at The Bill Gatton Foundation Annual Symposium at UK on Sept. 2. This inaugural showcase event will celebrate and highlight The Bill Gatton Foundation’s supported work in research, teaching, Extension, student success and collaborative initiatives at Martin-Gatton CAFE.

Visit The Bill Gatton Foundation or gatton-legacy.mgcafe.uky.edu to learn more about Mr. Gatton’s historic gift along with the Bill Gatton Foundation 2026 Grand Challenges.

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# Author Shares Story of Graves Co. Crime & Mob Justice

By: **Laurna Pruett**  
*KPI Writer*

MAYFIELD — A Graves County crime that ended in mob violence more than a century ago was the focus of the Mayfield Rotary Club’s Aug. 31 meeting.

Local author Eric Thomas discussed the history behind his book, *Tom Tinker and the Lawmen*, which follows the life of habitual criminal Tom Watson, better known as Tom Tinker.

Tinker was raised near Stubblefield in the Wingo area. Although he came from a loving family, poverty and limited opportunities were among the factors that influenced his path into crime. He was sent to the state penitentiary

in Eddyville at age 19 and served three separate prison terms, receiving parole each time.

Tinker did not maintain steady employment and frequently traveled between Paducah and Fulton. His criminal activity eventually led to a deadly encounter in Mayfield.

In 1915, when Tinker was about 40, he broke into Carter Hardware Store in Mayfield. Dick Tartt, a constable from Melber, responded and was shot and killed by Tinker.

Authorities arrested Tinker and placed him in the Graves County jail. A few days later, a mob of approximately 40 to 50 men entered the jail around 11:30 p.m., obtained the keys and removed him

from his cell. Tinker was lynched on the courthouse grounds, where his body remained until the following day.

Thomas spent between 20 and 30 years researching the case and the people connected to it. His presentation examined crime, punishment and mob justice in Graves County during the early 20th century.

Thomas grew up in Lone Oak, and his grandparents were from Mayfield. He previously worked as an accountant with Cornman, Bryan, Watts in Mayfield, spent several years working in Nashville and served as chief financial officer for Hannan Supply in Paducah. His book is available through



*Pictured from the left are Rotarians John Elliott and Chris Kemp, Club President Lindsay Shankle, Eric Thomas, and Rotarian Amanda England.*

Amazon. Mayfield Rotary also recognized August Students of the Month Libby Kendall, Brady Rozzell and Cole Woodward. Each

spoke about their high school involvement, accomplishments and future plans.

The club is accepting sponsorships for

its Oct. 17 bike ride. There will be no Rotary meeting Sept. 7.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**  
Item #1-120

**Rebuild Mayfield Project**  
**in Graves County**  
**Tuesday, September 15, 2026,**  
**5:30 - 7:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 - 8:30 p.m., EDT)**  
**Graves County Public Library, Large Community Room**  
**601 N. 17th Street, Mayfield, KY 42066**

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) will hold a public information meeting to provide an update on the planned improvements for the Rebuild Mayfield project. The meeting will follow an open house format, where attendees can view various exhibits, talk to KYTC staff and project team members, and ask questions about the project.

Written comment forms will be available at the meeting to help the public share feedback directly with the project team. Comments can also be submitted by mail before Wednesday, September 30, 2026, to Austin Hart, Project Manager, KYTC District 1 Office, 5501 Kentucky Dam Road, Paducah, KY 42003.

Following the public meeting, displays and materials will be available for review at the KYTC District 1 Office in Paducah. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., CDT (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., EDT). Information will also be available online after the meeting at [RebuildMayfield.com](https://RebuildMayfield.com).

All written comments will become part of the official meeting record. Once compiled, the meeting record and other supporting documentation will be available for review and copying only after an Open Records Request has been received and approved. All Open Records Requests must be submitted to the KYTC Office of Legal Services, Transportation Office Building, 200 Mero St., Frankfort, Kentucky 40622, or email [kytc.openrecords@ky.gov](mailto:kytc.openrecords@ky.gov).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if anyone has a disability and will require assistance, please notify Carrie Dillard, Public Information Officer, no later than Thursday, September 10, 2026. This request does not have to be in writing. Please call 270-898-2431 or mail request to KYTC District 1 Office, 5501 Kentucky Dam Road, Paducah, Kentucky 42003.

**POLICE** from  
**Front Page**

the Mayfield Police Department at the training academy.

The primary mission of the Basic Training Branch is providing the foundation for new law enforcement officers. The twenty-two-week academy is an intense learning experience for each student. Using adult-learning concepts, the DOCJT provides the foundation for success for an entry-level law enforcement officer.

Law Enforcement Basic Training involves many areas of training in a residential setting. The 809+ hour curriculum is a mentally and physically demanding challenge. Using a multi-faceted approach, recruits receive instruction in law enforcement in a disciplined environment stressing the Basic Training Creed.

Officer McClellan will be paired with a veteran Officer for an additional three months of field training before being permanently assigned to a patrol shift.

## Crum Receives Promotion



**Noah Crum has been promoted from deputy to sergeant at the Graves County Jail and Restricted Custody Center. Officials praised Crum for his leadership, attention to detail, communication skills and commitment to learning and mentoring others. Photo submitted**

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# Apple’s new CEO, John Ternus, takes over from Tim Cook after 15 years

By The Associated Press

Apple’s new CEO John Ternus takes the helm of the iconic tech giant on Tuesday, ending Tim Cook’s 15-year tenure during which the company’s value skyrocketed to \$4.6 trillion thanks to the iPhone’s enormous popularity.

The transition to a new CEO comes at a pivotal time for Apple. Artificial intelligence has unleashed the greatest upheaval within the industry since Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone in 2007. Apple has gotten off to a rough start in AI after stumbling in its efforts to deliver new features built

on the technology, as promised nearly two years ago.

Earlier this year, it unveiled new artificial intelligence advances, including upgrades to its Siri assistant, emphasizing a focus on privacy and day-to-day use as the iPhone maker tries to catch up with rivals.

Ternus faces challenges that will force him to step outside his comfort zone in hardware engineering. Beyond finding ways to keep Apple competitive in the artificial intelligence race, he will need to navigate supply chain questions and relationships with figures such as President



John Ternus, Apple’s V.P. of Hardware Engineering, discusses the latest development for the iPad Pro during an event to announce new products Oct. 30, 2018, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. **Bebeto Matthews - AP**

Donald Trump, who offered public praise for his predecessor on Tuesday.

Serving as Apple

CEO will also require soft skills, including developing relationships with important figures. Cook cultivat-

ed ties with Trump as he navigated the company through business challenges, including Trump’s

trade and tariff war targeting countries in Asia, where Apple has extensive manufacturing supply chains. Although he is handing over the CEO reins at Apple, Cook is widely expected to help the company maintain a good relationship with Trump after he shifts to his new role as executive chairman.

Ternus worked on some of Apple’s signature products under Cook, including the Apple Watch, AirPods and Apple Vision Pro. He will headline next week’s launch of the latest iPhone at Apple’s Cupertino, California, headquarters.



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SEP 15

HOPKINSVILLE

|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><div>FK2080</div><div><div>SEP 17</div></div></div> <div>2023 Chevrolet Silverado 5500 HD bucket truck</div> | <div><div>EF1347</div><div><div>SEP 24</div></div></div> <div>1996 Freightliner FLD vacuum truck</div> | <div><div>YA4311</div><div><div>SEP 16</div></div></div> <div>2023 Lakota Charger horse trailer</div> | <div><div>YA4485</div><div><div>SEP 17</div></div></div> <div>2027 Kenworth T680 semi truck</div>                      | <div><div>YA2011</div><div><div>SEP 17</div></div></div> <div>2019 Western Star 4700 crane truck</div>                  |
| <div><div>FG0617</div><div><div>SEP 24</div></div></div> <div>2013 John Deere 544K wheel loader</div>             | <div><div>YA4225</div><div><div>SEP 17</div></div></div> <div>2019 RAM 5500HD rollback truck</div>     | <div><div>DZ4561</div><div><div>SEP 15</div></div></div> <div>2006 John Deere 770D motor grader</div> | <div><div>E04497</div><div><div>SEP 24</div></div></div> <div>2016 Vermeer D24x40 Nav S3 directional boring unit</div> | <div><div>FT6159</div><div><div>SEP 24</div></div></div> <div>2007 International WorkStar 7400 sewer jetter truck</div> |

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SANDY





SANDY

Meet Sandy, this week's Pet of the Week. Sandy is a 3 year old Coonhound Mix. She is a really energetic dog that loves to run and play but also snuggle with her humans. Sandy is spayed, microchipped and up to date on her vaccinations. Sandy is also heartworm positive but it is treatable. Sandy would also need to go to a home that doesn't have any poultry. For more information please contact: McCracken County Humane Society 4000 Coleman Road, Paducah, KY 42001 (270)443-5923

# Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to hold online auction Sept. 1-11

**Press Release**

FRANKFORT, Ky. — An online auction to sell surplus equipment from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources opens Sept. 1, 2026.

Hosted by The Logsdon Group, the auction runs through 10 a.m. (ET) on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, and features nearly 40 surplus items, including trucks, tractors, mowers and other maintenance equipment. A complete list of items is provided at The Logsdon Group Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources webpage. Registration is required through The Logsdon Group website and is open throughout the auction window.

Items are located at three different department-owned wildlife management areas (WMAs) and another department office in western Kentucky. Winning bidders will need to pick up their items at the locations where they are housed, as listed on the auction page:

- Ballard WMA, 864 Wildlife Road, LaCenter, Ky., 270-577-6374
- Peabody WMA, 1 Goose Lake Road, Drakesboro, Ky., 270-499-2911
- Sloughs WMA, 9956 Highway 268, Corydon, Ky., 270-577-6922

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 30 Scenic Acres Drive, Murray, Ky., 270-226-4192

During the auction period, potential bidders may contact each WMA with questions or requests to view the auction items. At the conclusion of the auction, winning bidders will receive payment instructions from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Payment shall be submitted to the department by Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, at 4 p.m. (ET).

If payment is not received by that time, the sale will be forfeited and offered to the next highest bidder.

Once paid, winning bidders will receive a paid receipt to pick up their item(s) and will be responsible for contacting the location to schedule pick up. Items must be picked up on Thursday or Friday, Sept. 24-25, 2026, between 9 a.m. (ET) and 4 (p.m.) ET.

Titles and registrations will be available at completion of sale. Items are sold as-is and will not be available for hands-on inspection prior to the sale.

Accepted forms of payment will be credit card or debit card. Final pricing will include a 10% buyer's premium and 2.75% surcharge for credit or debit card use.

By law, proceeds from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife auctions are directed into the department's fish and game fund and subject to auditing by the state Auditor of Public Accounts. The fund is used for the department's normal operating expenses including fish and wildlife conservation and related recreation programs across the Commonwealth.

The next bi-annual auction held at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's headquarters campus in Frankfort is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 5, with registration opening at 7:30 a.m. (ET) and the auction starting at 9:30 a.m. (ET). Information is available on the department's Surplus and Confiscated Items Auction webpage.

For more information, visit the department's website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or call 1-800-858-1549, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET) weekdays, excluding holidays.

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# Fall quota hunt application period open through Sept. 30

Press Release

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Hunters can now apply to participate in Kentucky’s fall quota hunts. From Sept. 1-30, 2026, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is accepting applications from both resident and nonresident hunters for quota hunts for deer, waterfowl, pheasants and sandhill cranes.

Hunters can apply for these annual quota hunts through midnight (CT) on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026, via the MyProfile online portal at the department’s website (fw.ky.gov). Applications are not accepted over the phone, and the minimum fee is \$3 per application. Applicants will receive a confirmation number, and results will



be posted online by 5 p.m. ET/4 p.m. CT on Friday, Oct. 9, 2026, through MyProfile. Randomized drawings are conducted to determine recipients of the hunt opportunities that are each limited to a specific quota number.

Kentucky Fish and

Wildlife offers 38 deer quota hunts at various wildlife management areas (WMAs) and state parks; waterfowl quota hunts at five public land locations; pheasant hunts at three WMAs; and statewide permits to hunt sandhill cranes. Some hunts

are mentored hunts for youth and accompanying adults, and several hunts are open to mobility-impaired hunters only.

Quota hunts control the number of hunters in an area to provide quality hunting opportunities and regulate harvests at specific

areas. Residents and nonresidents are eligible, but a maximum of 10 percent nonresidents can be drawn in each deer quota hunt pool. Only the person successfully drawn for a quota hunt may hunt. Prior to hunts, drawn hunters must purchase applicable

licenses and permits to legally hunt during quota hunts.

Visit the Quota Hunts webpage or the Waterfowl Quota Hunts webpage on the department’s website (fw.ky.gov) to see lists of all quota hunts, dates and special regulations. This information is also available in the annual Kentucky Hunting and Trapping Guide (printed copies of the guide are available at license vendors throughout the state) and the online-only Kentucky Hunting Guide for Migratory Birds and Waterfowl.

Questions about fall quota hunts may be directed to the agency’s Information Center at 800-858-1549, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET) weekdays, excluding state holidays, or at info.center@ky.gov.

# Jason Looper to Serve as Transportation Cabinet Chief Engineer for Highway District 1

PADUCAH, Ky. – Recently, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman announced Mayfield native, Jason Looper, will serve as Chief District Engineer (CDE) for the Department of Highways District 1, headquartered in Paducah, effective Sept. 1, 2026. He will continue to improve the quality of life for Kentuckians

through good transportation, succeeding current Chief District Engineer Kyle Poat, who is retiring at the end of August.

“On behalf of Team Kentucky, we’re proud to have a seasoned expert like Jason step into the role,” said Sec. Goodman. “We’re confident Jason will help advance transportation in western Kentucky and build

upon the great foundation Kyle laid as chief engineer to maintain safe roads and bridges for travelers.”

A University of Kentucky Mechanical Engineering graduate, and 24-year KYTC employee, Looper most recently served as Branch Manager for Project Delivery & Preservation (PDP) Branch II for seven years overseeing six

counties. In that role, he advised the Chief District Engineer and assisted with the district’s day-to-day operations.

District 1’s workforce of roughly 225 employees oversees 2,800 state-maintained miles and inspects 1,800 bridges in its 12-county region: Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, and Trigg.

“I’m honored to serve our district in this role, and I look forward to strengthening communities and building upon the relationships we have established with local officials across our 12 counties,” said Looper.

Looper replaces Kyle Poat who is retiring after eight years as Chief District Engineer.

Poat, a Paducah native, began his career with the Cabinet in 2002 after graduating from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He started in District 1, rotating through mainte-



Jason Looper



Kyle Poat

nance, construction, design, permits and traffic before becoming Resident Engineer in Paducah in 2005. He later served as Section Engineer and Branch Manager for Project Delivery & Preservation, and in 2018, he was appointed Chief District Engineer. He was named Engineer of the Year by the Kentucky Association of Transportation Engineers (KATE) in 2022.

Poat and the District 1 team, in partnership with Kentucky Emergency Management, spearheaded the Commonwealth’s first-ever sheltering mission to provide safe travel trailer housing to survivors of the devastating December 2021 Western Kentucky tornadoes. Drawing from his experience to build travel trailer sites and install trailers, Poat

was instrumental in guiding a similar mission to help families recover from the 2022 flooding event in the far corners of eastern Kentucky. At the peak of the response to both disasters, the team managed more than 350 travel trailers deployed across the Commonwealth, providing temporary housing to families.

“District 1 is made up of dedicated men and women who show up every day with a commitment to public service and a willingness to step up when challenges arise,” Poat said. “I’ve been so blessed to be a part of such a great team, and I will always be an advocate for the important work being done to improve the lives of people across Western Kentucky.”

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BALLARD

**Kelly Wilkins**, age 72, passed away on August 26, 2026, at his residence in Bandana, Kentucky. Funeral services with Masonic Rites were held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 29, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Rev. Curtis Creason and Rev. Wesley Peeler officiating. Burial followed at Harmony Cemetery.

CRITTENDEN

**Ryan Wayne Barnett**, age 44, passed away August 28, 2026. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Thursday, September 3, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Burial followed in Piney Grove Cemetery in Caldwell County.

**Robert Wayne Peek**, 62, of Princeton, stuck the flag and finished his race in the early morning hours of August 26, 2026, with his loving family by his side. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 30th, 2026, with Bro. Jeff Boone officiating and Bro. Eric Faughn, Bro. Joe Farless, and Suzanne Boaz assisting. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

**James Henry Guill**, age 79, lovingly known as Jimmy, passed away on August 27, 2026, in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, surrounded by his family. Visitation was held Monday, August 31, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Goodman Funeral Home. Visitation resumed Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home, with Bro. Mike Franklin and Bro. Ira Guill officiating. Burial followed at Meeks Cemetery in Princeton, Kentucky.

**Anna Dean Hammond**, age 86, of Princeton, passed away on August 27, 2026, in Princeton. Private graveside services to be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cedar Bluff Baptist Church, PO Box 105, Princeton, KY 42445 or Gideon International, Lyon Caldwell Gideons, PO Box 254, Princeton, KY 42445.

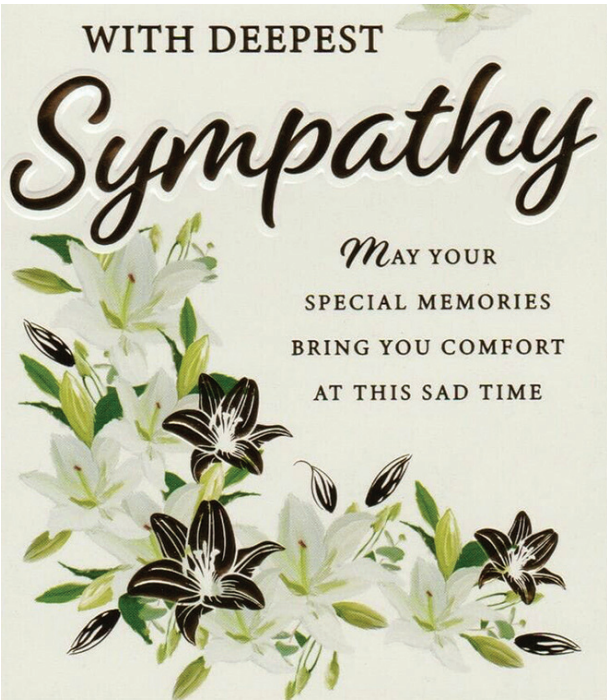
CALLOWAY

**Beauton Brandon**, age 93, of Murray, KY, passed away peacefully on August 29th at her home. A graveside service was held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at the Murray City Cemetery with Bro. Kerry Lambert officiating. Entombment followed.

**Mary Alice King**, age 73, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on August 29, 2026. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 4, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Bro. Kerry Lambert officiating. Burial will follow in the Murray City Cemetery.

**Joe Burgdolf**, 70, passed away on the morning of August 29, 2026, peacefully in his home. He was born on January 20, 1956, in Dearborn, Michigan. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services, with burial in the Murray City Cemetery. Bro. David Page will officiate. Visitation will be held from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026, at The J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

**Richard Allen Wiese**, 72, of Murray, KY, passed away Friday, August 28, 2026, at the Murray Calloway County Hospital. Honoring his wishes, no public visitation or services will be held. Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to be entrusted with the care of Mr. Wiese.



CHRISTIAN

**Diane Bailey**, age 72, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at her home of natural causes. There are no events scheduled at this time. You can still show your support by sending flowers directly to the family, or plant a tree in memory of Diane Bailey. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Miguel Montrell Finch “Throwback The Greatest”**, age 42, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Health. Homegoing Celebration of Life Services will be held at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home on Friday, September 4, 2026. Visitation time will be from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM on Friday, September 4, with a time of reflection at 6:00 PM. Concluding reflections, Miguel’s wishes were to be cremated, and the family will honor those wishes. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family with the arrangements.

**Antonio Micheal Brody Copeland** passed away on August 26, 2026, at the age of 43. Family and friends gathered for visitation on September 2, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Gamble Funeral Home, 1311 S Liberty St., Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42240. The funeral service followed at 1:00 p.m. at Gamble Funeral Home. Burial took place at Cave Springs Cemetery, 2120 Greenville Road, Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42240.

**Bobby Joe Norfleet, Jr.**, 61, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 8:19 p.m. Friday, August 28, 2026 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. Memorial service will be held at 12:00 p.m. Monday, September 14, 2026 at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville with Bro. Jim Gifford officiating. Visitation is from 10:00 a.m. until the service hour. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville is in charge of the arrangements.

CRITTENDEN

**Mary Helen Miles**, 69, of Herod, IL, passed away August 28, 2026 at Hardin County General Hospital after a long battle of multiple health issues. Funeral Service was held on Thursday, September 3 at 1 pm at the Hardin County Funeral Service - Cox Chapel - 6 Stone Church Rd., Rosiclare, IL. Burial was held at the Griffith Family Cemetery, 140 Spivey Road, Herod, IL 62947.

**Roy “Jeff” Jeffry Jacobs**, age 53, of Marion, KY, passed away on August 24, 2026, at his home. No services are scheduled at this time. Gilbert Funeal Home is in charge of arrangements.

GRAVES

**Phillip Cochrum**, age 69, of Mayfield passed away on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at Diversicare in Martin, TN. Graveside services for Mr. Phillip Cochrum will be 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026 at Farmington Cemetery. Stan Colley will officiate. Interment will follow.

**JoAnn Jackson**, age 86, of the Pryorsburg community, passed away at 9:00 PM Saturday, August 29, 2026 at her residence. Private family celebration of life services will be held at a later date. The Brown Funeral Home in Wingo is in charge of the arrangements.

LIVINGSTON

**Barbara “Sue” Cardin Alsobrook**, 90, of Paducah, KY, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, August 29, 2026 at Baptist Health Paducah. Graveside services were held at 12:15 on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at the Smithland Cemetery with the Rev. Michael Wooley officiating. Burial followed.

**Daniel Lee Cowen**, 74, of Salem, passed away Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services. Funeral services were held on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 2 PM in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Service with Bro. Howard Jones officiating.

LYON

**Cordie Mae Gray**, age 80 of Princeton Ky, passed away on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at Rivers Bend Retirement Community in Kuttawa, Ky. Visitation was held at 12:00 pm Saturday August 29, 2026 at Dunn’s Funeral Home in Eddyville. Graveside services followed at 3:00 pm Saturday at Lamasco Baptist Church Cemetery in Lamasco with Rev. Jonas Yoder officiating.

MARSHALL

**Linda Gail Lesley**, 76, of Calvert City, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, August 31, 2026. There are no services scheduled at this time. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling all arrangements.

**Billy Joe Belt** age 79 of Calvert City, KY passed away August 27, 2026 at the Calvert City Convalescent Nursing Home. Funeral services were held at 1 PM Saturday August 29, 2026 at Myers Funeral Home with burial in Lola Cemetery. Myers Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy Joe Belt.

**Belinda K. Knecht**, age 81 of Calvert City, KY passed away Sunday, August 30, 2026, Marshall County Hospital in Benton, KY. Arrangements are incomplete at this time at Collier Funeral Home in Benton, KY.

**Mary Helen Newcomb-Linn**, age 79, of Clarksville, Tennessee, passed away on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Mary would have turned 80 years old this December; she had expressed to her family that instead of gifts, she wished only to receive birthday cards. In honor of her wishes, the family of Mary Newcomb-Linn kindly request birthday cards be delivered to Collier Funeral Home- P.O. Box 492 Benton, KY 42025- before noon on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. Funeral Services for Mary Newcomb-Linn will be private, for family only.



FUNERAL NOTICES continued

**JT Allcock**, age 95, of Symsonia, passed away on the morning of Wednesday, August 26, 2026, surrounded by his family at his home. A funeral service was held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at Collier Funeral Home, Inc. with Bro. Jeff Collins and Bro. Scott Penick officiating. Masonic rites were at 1:00 PM with the service immediately to follow. Burial followed at Clarks River Cemetery in Symsonia.

McCRACKEN

**Mary Helen Hook** passed away on August 31, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky, at the age of 78, surrounded by family. A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, September 4, 2026, at 1:00 PM at Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Bro. Jason Medley officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM until the service hour of 1:00 PM on Friday, September 4, 2026, at Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

**Nancy K. Basham**, 90, of Paducah, Kentucky, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. There will be a private family service with Rev. Tim Davis officiating. There will be no public visitation. Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah are in charge of arrangements.

**Kent Bohanon**, age 46, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on August 29, 2026. Kent lived his life with an extraordinary love for his family, an unwavering loyalty to his friends, and a genuine desire to make life better for the people around him. To know Kent was to know someone who loved deeply, gave generously, laughed loudly, and showed up-again and again-for the people who mattered to him. He was the kind of person whose presence filled a room, whose friendship could always be count-

ed on, and whose absence will be felt more deeply than words can express. “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.’” - John 11:25-26. A memorial service was held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at Heartland Church with Dr. Scott Thomas officiating.

**Bill Riley**, age 78, of Paducah, passed away on Friday, August 28, 2026, at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital. The family will be holding a memorial service at a later date. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah is in charge of arrangements.

**Leonard William “Len” Harper**, 59, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, August 28, 2026, at his residence. Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Rev. Doug Stevens and Rev. Cornell Shackelford officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until the service hour of 1:00 pm on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

**Kay Frances McGowan**, 87, of Paducah, Kentucky, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Visitationwas held on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until the service time of 1:00 p.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

**Melissa Styers O’Bryant**, age 66, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on August 25, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services were held at 11:00 am on Monday, August 31, 2026 at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Homes with Rev. Richard Dobbs officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

**Dennis Edward Kerr**, 76, of Paducah passed away on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Memorial visitation will be

from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Friday, September 4, 2026, at Lindsey Funeral Home.

In Loving Memory of our Dad, **William Ray Humphrey**. On August 29th at 91 years old, our dad left this world. Memorial graveside services will be 10 a.m. Saturday September 12, 2026 at Spring Byoou Baptist Church Cemetery. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Humphrey Family.

**Nelda G. Timmons Polley**, age 67, passed away on August 27, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. There are no services scheduled at this time. Keeling & Goodman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Timmons-Polley family.

TRIGG

**Urla Arlet Lehmann** - August 31, 2026 - Funeral arrangements are incomplete for 80 year old Urla Arlet Lehmann of Cadiz. She passed away Monday, August 31, 2026 at her home. Please check back later for complete service details.

**William A. McCoy** - December 16, 1944 - August 31, 2026 - Funeral arrangements are incomplete for 81 year old William A. McCoy of Hopkinsville. He passed away Monday, August 31, 2026 at Christian Health Center in Hopkinsville. Please check back later for complete service details.

**Kathleen Cmela** - February 20, 1945 - August 29, 2026 - There will be no services for 81 year old Kathleen Cmela of Cadiz. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Donna Paulette Snyder** passed away peacefully at her beautiful home on Lake Barkley on Thursday, August 27, 2026. Funeral services were at 1:00 PM, Monday, August 31, 2026, at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, with Bro. Kenny Rogers officiating. Burial followed in Pugh Flat Cemetery.

# Stein, Cats eager to find out who is ‘accountable, capable’

By **KEITH TAYLOR**  
*Kentucky Today*

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Kentucky has braved the elements of preseason camp, and first-year coach Will Stein is anxious to see the finished product in the season opener against Youngstown State on Saturday.

“I thought our guys competed very well,” Stein said during his weekly press conference Tuesday. “They braved the heat. They braved practice, but that’s what you sign up for when you play football. That’s what it is. Our guys were really good over the last three to four weeks.”

During camp, Stein said the Wildcats “created toughness in our unit” and discovered themselves.

“I thought we found

out who we are in all three phases of the game,” he said. “We’ve got to continue to find out who is accountable and who is capable. That’s a difference. Who knows their job? Who can line up correctly and then who can actually perform at a high level? We’ve done it in practice. We’ve done it in scrimmage situations. Now it’s time in a real game.”

In order to enjoy a successful debut, Stein said the Wildcats “have to own the football in all three phases.”

“(We have to) protect the football on offense and on special teams recover the ball when they punt it back to us or kick it to us. We have to end with the ball in our hands and then we have to create

takeaways.”

In addition, Stein wants to see “relentless effort” in all three phases of the game.

“That’s what I want to see our guys playing whistle to whistle, all four quarters, however long it takes and again, playing to our standard,” he said.

WEATHER FACTOR

Temperatures are expected to be in the 90s, with the heat index higher at kickoff and Stein said the Wildcats are prepared for the soaring heat.

“We’re expecting it to be hot, but that’s why we also get heat acclimatization throughout fall camp and practice in the afternoons three days a week,” Stein said. “I feel like our guys are in shape.”

Stein added that “getting into playing shape” in full gear also helped prepare Kentucky for the season opener.

“You can run all you want in the summer (buy) until you put the pads on, actually, go and practice,” he said. “It takes seven to 10 days to really get into football shape. Where we are now is completely different from where we were then (to open camp), and these guys are ready to go compete.”

DRY RUN

To help ease the gameday unknowns as coaches and players, Stein said a recent dry run “was great” and served a meaningful purpose.

“We did a fake Catwalk,” Stein said.

“We actually had fans out there, which was awesome. We had our cheerleaders, our dance team, our band ... we did everything. We went to the hotel. We saw our meeting rooms. We did a walkthrough at the hotel. We bussed over (to Kroger Field). We put the game clock on exactly how it was going to be and guys are waiting in the locker room just like they would pregame. It was critical because now on Saturday it’s not going to be the first time.”

Stein added the Wildcats have practiced the routine three times since he was hired as coach last December.

“(Gameday) should be smooth, and it will take all the focus off that and (put it) just

on the playing,” he said.

HONORING SMITH

The Wildcats will honor former player Nic “Happy” Smith, who passed away over the summer by wearing a sticker on their helmets.

“We’re playing for him,” Stein said. “He’s on my mind a lot, and we’ve left his seat open in our team room, and it’s just a reminder that life is precious and nothing’s guaranteed.”

Stein said Smith’s death was a “tragic thing.”

“I think everybody realizes that mental health is real, and people need you and us to say, ‘Hey, we love you and we’re here for you.’ We will always remember Nick.”



# West KY Sports

## TOP 10 RANKINGS BY CLASS

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Class 1A                        | Class 4A                      |
| 1. Raceland                     | 1. Boyle County               |
| 2. Pikeville                    | 2. Corbin                     |
| 3. Sayre                        | 3. Highlands                  |
| 4. Middlesboro                  | 4. Covington Catholic         |
| 5. Bethlehem                    | 5. Paducah Tilghman           |
| 6. Hazard                       | 6. Ashland                    |
| 7. Louisville Holy Cross        | 7. Johnson Central            |
| 8. Kentucky Country Day         | 8. Logan County               |
| 9. Paintsville                  | 9. Franklin County            |
| 10. Covington Holy Cross        | 10. Spencer County            |
| Class 2A                        | Class 5A                      |
| 1. Lexington Christian Academy  | 1. Owensboro                  |
| 2. Owensboro Catholic           | 2. Scott County               |
| 3. Beechwood                    | 3. Woodford County            |
| 4. Mayfield                     | 4. Pulaski County             |
| 5. Belfry                       | 5. Atherton                   |
| 6. Somerset                     | 6. Bowling Green              |
| 7. Danville                     | 7. Apollo                     |
| 8. Caldwell County              | 8. Madisonville-North Hopkins |
| 9. Monroe County                | 9. North Laurel               |
| 10. W.E.B DuBois                | 10. Collins                   |
| Class 3A                        | Class 6A                      |
| 1. Christian Academy-Louisville | 1. Trinity                    |
| 2. Lexington Catholic           | 2. Manual                     |
| 3. Murray                       | 3. Frederick Douglass         |
| 4. Lloyd Memorial               | 4. Saint Xavier               |
| 5. Lawrence County              | 5. Madison Central            |
| 6. Glasgow                      | 6. South Warren               |
| 7. Rockcastle County            | 7. Male                       |
| 8. Bardstown                    | 8. Simon Kenton               |
| 9. Central                      | 9. George Rogers Clark        |
| 10. Russell                     | 10. Ballard                   |



The 2025-26 McCracken County High School coed cheer team was recognized and honored for claiming the program’s seventh KHSAA State Championship. *(McCracken County High School)*



Graves County placed second in the Lady Eagle Classic at Drake Creek Golf Club on Saturday, Aug. 29. *(Graves County High School)*



McCracken County competed in the Lady Eagles Classic at Drake Creek Golf Club on Saturday, Aug. 29. Harper Hunt led the Lady Mustangs. Hunt shut a 79 and tied for sixth individually. As a team, McCracken County placed fourth. *(McCracken County High School)*



Graves County placed second in the girls’ team standings at the Madisonville Classic on Saturday, Aug. 29. *(Graves County High School)*



Graves County placed first in the boys’ team standings at the Madisonville Classic on Saturday, Aug. 29. *(Graves County High School)*

### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## Mayfield turns back Christian County

### Staff Report

MAYFIELD — Mayfield defeated Christian County 49-32 in an early-season high school football game at War Memorial Stadium on Friday, Aug. 28. With the win, Mayfield moved to 2-0. Following the loss, Christian County fell to 0-2. Quaretrback Gray Robbins led Mayfield to the win. Robbins

completed 18 passes for 314 yards and four touchdowns. Anderson Smith, Ashton Flint, Karsen Neely and Josiah England each hauled in one touchdown pass reception for the Cardinals. England paced Mayfield on the ground, rushing 15 times for 104 yards and two touchdowns. Kicker Jason Melendez delivered

via special teams for Mayfield, connecting on each of his seven PAT attempts. Defensively for Mayfield, Smith recorded 11 tackles. Providing a lift for Mayfield in the secondary, Drew Milliken returned an interception for a touchdown. Mayfield is scheduled to visit Paducah Tilghman for its next game on Friday, Sept. 4.



# Murray State Athletics breaks ground on phase three of Johnny Reagan Field at Taylor Family Park

## Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray State Athletics has officially broken ground on Phase 3 of the continued transformation of Johnny Reagan Field at Taylor Family Park, bringing a new collection of premium seating and fan-focused amenities to the home of Racer Baseball.

The next phase of development will feature two new buildings, new premium suites, a new club space, new concessions stand activation and on-site restroom facilities, further modernizing the venue while creating an elevated experience for student-athletes, coaches, fans, investors, corporate partners and visitors.

“We are excited about the continued evolution of Johnny Reagan Field at Taylor Family Park and what these enhancements will mean for the entire Murray State community,” President Dr. Ron Patterson said. “This project creates new opportunities for our students and their families, alumni, and fans to gather and experience the pride and energy that make our University so special. We are deeply appreciative of the Taylor Family and their continued investment in Murray State.”

“Our family has been incredibly proud to watch the continued growth of Murray State Athletics, and these new enhancements represent another exciting step in that journey for our community,” David Taylor said. “We are grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting the Racers and remain fully committed to the vision being advanced by President Dr. Ron Patterson, Vice President and Director of Athletics Nico Yantko and the entire Murray

State community.”

A centerpiece of the project will be the addition of premium suites, introducing a new hospitality experience for Racer Baseball supporters and creating additional opportunities for donor engagement and corporate entertainment.

“We have been intentional about developing Johnny Reagan Field at Taylor Family Park into a premier destination that reflects the tremendous momentum and championship aspirations surrounding Murray State Baseball,” Vice President & Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. “These significant enhancements introduce crucial revenue-generating opportunities that will provide sustainable resources to reinvest directly into our student-athletes and the future of Racer Athletics. We are incredibly grateful to the Taylor Family for their continued generosity, leadership and belief in our vision, as their transformational support has been instrumental in helping us build a first-class home for Racer Baseball.”

New concessions and restroom facilities will complement the premium additions and address key game-day amenities as Murray State continues to accommodate increased interest and attendance surrounding the baseball program after breaking numerous attendance records last year.

The project will also transform the arrival experience at Johnny Reagan Field at Taylor Family Park with new entrances featuring signature archways and enhanced Racer branding throughout the facility. Additional branded activations will celebrate the identity and tradition of Murray State Baseball while creating a dis-

tinctive sense of place from the moment fans enter the ballpark.

“Our student-athletes see the commitment being made to this program every day, and these enhancements will create another tremendous recruiting tool while giving our fans an even better environment to support the Racers,” head baseball coach Dan Skirka said. “We are incredibly excited to see this next phase come to life and deeply appreciative for the Taylor Family, our University and Athletics administration, and everyone who continues to invest in the future of Racer Baseball.”

The enhanced entrances will serve as another defining feature. Architectural archways, signage and additional branded elements will establish a stronger visual identity for Taylor Family Park and create memorable arrival points for fans, recruits and visitors.

Earlier this year, the department completed Phase 1 of the Johnny Reagan Field at Taylor Family Park renovation that included the installation of new turf, a new scoreboard, The Murray Bank videoboard in right field and more.

Murray State Athletics also announced plans on Phase 2 of the facility overhaul to begin construction of the Jim & Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse, a more than 3,000-square foot baseball facility that features a new locker room, player lounge, team meeting room, and training room right behind the right field wall at Johnny Reagan Field.

Additional details regarding the project, including construction timelines, premium seating opportunities and completion dates, will be announced at a later date.

# High school sports participation increases for fifth consecutive year

## Staff Report

LEXINGTON — Led by the continual growth of girls’ flag football and girls’ wrestling, participation in high school sports increased for the fifth consecutive year in 2025-26 and set another all-time record.

The annual NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey indicated that 8,415,684 participants were involved in high school sports in 2025-26 – up 149,440 from the previous year. The total includes 4,761,095 boys and 3,654,589 girls – both record highs – according to figures obtained from the 51 NFHS member state associations, which includes the District of Columbia.

The continual spike in the number of girls participating in flag football and wrestling since the pandemic has been nothing short of phenomenal. In the first post-pandemic survey in 2021-22, there were 15,716 girls participating in flag football nationally. That number has now ballooned to 102,360 – an increase of 87,000 participants in just four years.

Amazingly, participation in girls flag football increased 48.7 percent last year – 68,847 to 102,360 – and the sport cracked the Top 10 list for most popular girls’ sports. The number of schools reporting girls flag football participation increased from 2,736 to 3,990 in the past year, and a total of 37 states will be either sanctioning the sport or conducting independent/pilot programs by next year.

The popularity of wrestling for girls is not far behind flag football. Participation in girls wrestling increased 19.9 percent from the previous year – from 74,064 to 88,771 – and the number of schools sponsoring the sport for girls now rests at 8,853.

Since the return to activities from the pandemic, the number of schools offering the sport has jumped from 4,802 to 8,853, and the number of participants has increased from 31,654 to 88,771. In addition, all states are now reporting some participation in girls wrestling, and 40 state associations are now conducting state championships.

There was also good news on the girls’ basketball front. Participation in girls’ basketball was up 6,142 from the previous year to halt a downward trend that has seen numbers decline 100,000 during the past 20 years. A total of 362,382 were reported in girls’ basketball in 2025-26, up from 356,240 the previous year.

Overall, girls’ participation in high school sports increased by 114,993 – a 3.2 percent jump. Girls’ volleyball continued its annual climb with another 9,257 participants and topped 500,000 for the first time. At 502,056 participants, volleyball is No. 2 in popularity for girls, trailing track and field now by only 7,014 participants. In addition, girls’ golf participation increased 6.3 percent to 90,176.

“We are pleased to see the number of students involved in high school sports continuing to rise every year,” said Davis Whitfield, NFHS executive director. “Education-based sports within our nation’s schools is a privilege not available in most other countries, and we are thankful these opportunities continue to expand.

“We salute the coaches, athletic directors and school administrators for making these experiences happen, especially with some of the recent growth in several emerging sports. It is great to see new sport opportunities created to involve as many students as possible in

high school sports.”

Five of the top 10 boys’ sports registered increases in 2025-26, including 11-player football, outdoor track and field, soccer, golf and tennis. Eleven-player football registered a 1.4 percent increase with another 14,128 participants and now stands at 1,043,716 – by far the most popular sport for boys or girls. The sport is continuing to rebound from the pandemic and posted its highest mark since the 2016-17 season.

In addition to 11-player football, a total of 33,191 boys were involved with 6-, 8- and 9-player football, and 4,334 girls were involved in all four versions of the sport, bringing the overall participation in high school football to 1,081,241 – up 11,597 from the previous year.

Golf had the largest percentage increase among boys’ sports with an 8.3 percent rise to 175,757 participants, while outdoor track and field was up about 4,000 participants, and tennis and soccer each gained about 3,000 participants.

Texas (911,405) and California (859,022) remained atop the list of state participation – by a wide margin. Ohio (347,994) ranked third, followed by Illinois (326,756), Pennsylvania (315,647), New York (312,563), Florida (311,233), Michigan (295,634), New Jersey (273,711) and Minnesota (241,536).

The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey was started in 1971 and provides the most comprehensive national view of participation in high school sports. The first survey in 1971 indicated 3.6 million boys and 294,015 girls involved in high school sports. Thanks to the passage of Title IX in 1972, the number of girls in high school sports jumped to two million by the end of the decade and now has exceeded 3.6 million.







HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

# First KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll released

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association released the first KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll of the 2026 season on Wednesday, Aug. 26. Reigning champion McCracken County is ranked first in the

KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll. Following McCracken County (1) in the KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll are Graves County (2), Ballard Memorial (3), Carlisle County (T-4) and Marshall County (T-4). The 2026 high school volleyball season

opened on Monday, Aug. 17. The KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll follows. KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll  
1. McCracken County  
2. Graves County  
3. Ballard Memorial  
T-4. Carlisle County  
T-4 Marshall County

GIRL’S HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

# Marshals outlast Mustangs

Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County outlasted McCracken County 1-0 in a 1st District boys’ soccer match on Thursday, Aug. 27. The Marshals and Mustangs, longtime rivals, battled back and forth throughout the district boys’ soccer match. Maddox Konrad scored the lone goal in the game, finding the net for Marshall County on one of his two shots. Defensively for

Marshall County, goalkeeper Carson Lovett recorded a shutout. Lovett logged seven saves. Marshall County is scheduled to visit McCracken County for another district boys’ soccer match on Thursday, Sept. 10. Girls - Marshall County 2, McCracken County 1: Marshall County edged McCracken County 2-1 in a 1st District girls’ soccer match on Thursday, Aug. 27.

The Lady Marshals won following penalty kicks. In regulation for Marshall County, Maeci Moryl scored off an assist from Briley Cathey. Offensively for McCracken County, Emma Hudson scored off an assist from Maddy Ledgerwood. Marshall County is scheduled to visit McCracken County for another district girls’ soccer match on Thursday, Sept. 10.

# BMX Derby City Nationals coming up this weekend

By TOM LATEK  
*Kentucky Today*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) – EP “Tom” Sawyer State Park in Louisville will host the 2026 USA BMX Derby City Nationals on Sept. 4-6, bringing the nation’s top BMX professional racers, amateur competitors and families from across the country to the state. “Team Kentucky is excited to welcome athletes, their families and fans to our commonwealth this Labor Day weekend,” Gov. Andy Beshear stated. “We appreciate the longstanding partnership with USA BMX and are proud they continue to choose Louisville as a host city. We encourage everyone visiting the Derby City Nationals to enjoy the competition and explore our local businesses and unique attractions to see what

makes Kentucky so special.” The Derby City Nationals have been a signature Labor Day weekend event in Louisville for more than 40 years. Racing for the free three-day event begins at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. on Sunday. Parking is \$10 per day. “This year has been one of the most exciting at Derby City BMX,” said Joel Pena, track operator of Derby City BMX. “We’ve spent the summer introducing many new riders and families to the sport, helping them build confidence and learn the fundamentals of BMX racing. Seeing those kids line up on the gate for their first National race and realizing they belong there alongside riders from all over the country is incredibly rewarding.” Friday’s professional

racing will feature a high-stakes UCI C1 event, an international-level competition that awards points toward Olympic qualification for the upcoming Olympic Games, marking the first event in the United States within the 2028 Olympic Ranking and Qualifying window. Professional athletes will compete for USA BMX Pro Series points, prize money and international ranking points as they begin the road toward the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The USA BMX Pro Series continues Saturday and Sunday, with the season entering a critical stretch with just three Pro Series stops remaining. Riders will be competing for valuable championship points as they work toward the 2026 series titles.

# Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission to hold quarterly meeting Sept. 4

Staff Report

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission has scheduled a quarterly meeting at 8:30 a.m. (EDT) on Friday, Sept. 4. The meeting will take place in the Schaaf Room at the Salato Wildlife Education Center on the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources campus in Frankfort, Kentucky, and it is open to the public. The meeting will be livestreamed and archived on the department’s YouTube channel at Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources - YouTube. A link to the livestream will be posted to the top of the department’s homepage at fw.ky.gov before the start of the meeting. The complete Sept. 4 meeting agenda can be found on the department’s Commission Meeting Dates webpage online at fw.ky.gov or search “Commission meeting dates” on the homepage. A summary of the “Action Items” the commission will consider include:  
- Approval of the minutes from the June 12, 2026, quarterly commission meeting.  
- Vote on qualifying nonprofit organizations’ applications for 2027 Special Commission Permits for black bear, deer, turkey, elk and waterfowl for fundraising to support projects in Kentucky.  
- Amend 301 KAR 1:146 – Commercial Fishing Gear to modify regulations to allow hoop net and seine for the harvest of invasive carp.  
- Amend 301 KAR 1:152 – Harvest and Sale of Invasive Carp to modify regulations

pertaining to the harvest of invasive carp.  
- Amend 301 KAR 1:150 – Waters Open to Commercial Fishing to expand the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program to include any Kentucky waterbody open to commercial fishing.  
- Amend 301 KAR 1:155 – Commercial Fishing Requirements to modify regulations pertaining to commercial fishing harvest reporting and overharvest protections.  
- Amend 301 KAR 1:201 – Taking of Fish by Traditional Fishing Methods to add Burley Mathis Memorial Lake in Carlisle County to the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) Program.  
- Amend 301 KAR 3:160 – Reciprocal Agreements Regarding Fishing and Hunting to establish a fishing reciprocal agreement with the state of Virginia for the Russell Fork River.  
- Establish Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission committee meeting structure, including committee purpose, oversight and responsibilities.  
- Amend 301 KAR 3:010 – Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), amend 301 KAR 5:022 – License, Tag, Registration, and Permit Fees, and amend 301 KAR 2:049 – Small Game and Furbearer Hunting and Trapping on Public Areas to establish an annual, weekly and one-day dog training permit issued by the department and evaluate and designate tract(s) as Dog Training Area(s) at West Kentucky WMA.  
- Amend 301 KAR 2:221 – Waterfowl Seasons and Limits

to change the special youth waterfowl season and the special veterans and active military personnel waterfowl season dates to the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in February. Several Discussion Items and New Business Items will also be presented. Action on those items could come at future meetings of the commission. The public may provide in-person comments for up to 3 minutes about New Business Items and Discussion Items on the meeting agenda during the Public Comments portion of the meeting, time permitting and at the discretion of the commission chair. The commission is a nine-member board, comprised of volunteers who serve four-year terms. Commission members are nominated by active hunters and anglers at public meetings, appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the Kentucky Senate. The commission recommends hunting, fishing and boating regulations to conserve fish and wildlife and support related outdoor recreation opportunities in the commonwealth. The next quarterly meeting date following the September meeting is to be determined. The Salato Wildlife Education Center is located on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife main campus at 1 Sportsman’s Lane in Frankfort, and the center is a one-story building located at the end of the drive. The main entrance is located off U.S. 60, approximately 1 ½ miles west of U.S. 127.



# VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

## If you don't like the harvest, change the seed

*Scripture teaches that what we cultivate in our hearts can shape the course of our lives.*

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

Scripture is clear about the source of blessing: It comes from the Lord. I love a verse in 3rd John where he expressed a heartfelt desire for the well-being of his readers: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2).

Who among us would not want to prosper, enjoy good health and experience a life marked by God’s blessings? This does not mean we don’t suffer and go through hard times, but in those times we “have a friend that sticks closer than a brother”. That’s a blessing beyond measure.

Scripture points

to something even more important than outward prosperity; it talks about the health and prosperity of the soul.

The Bible leaves little doubt about the source of every good thing. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

Theologians have sometimes described the message of 3 John 2 as “nothing missing, nothing broken.” John’s prayer is that we experience wholeness, not simply in material circumstances, but in our health, our relationships, our spiritual lives and, ultimately,

our souls.

As the soul prospers, our lives can begin to reflect that prosperity. The question, then, is how does the soul prosper?

Solomon offers an important answer in Proverbs 4:23: “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life” (NLT). What we allow into our hearts and minds matters.

What we see, what we hear and what we continually think about can influence our emotions, attitudes and decisions. It is worth asking ourselves: What causes us to become angry? What produces fear? What leaves us confused, discouraged or troubled? What causes us to make bad decisions?

Once we recognize those influences, we can begin making wiser choices about what we allow to occupy our thoughts and emotions. That’s called “guarding the heart”.

What we plant in our hearts can eventually become the harvest we experience in our lives.

So, if we don’t like the harvest, perhaps it is time to examine the seed. What are we planting through our thoughts, words, habits and influences? If we want a different harvest, Scripture suggests that we begin by changing what we cultivate within our heart.

Guard the heart. Feed the soul. Seek God. And plant good seed.



By Gary Miller  
Outdoortruths.org



Jacksboro Texas is a special place to me. Of all places, this little town of fewer than 5,000 people changed the direction of my ministry 13 years ago. It was there that a few men gathered at the Davis Ranch, on the back deck, and talked about life and ministry. A little while later, I was invited back for a weekend of hog hunting and teaching. This was the first of what later became our Circle Events. Today, we hold them in several states. In the beginning, most of these events were held at the Davis Ranch. We invited 12 men to hog hunt, or turkey hunt, or to just do an extended Bible ses-

sion. Other ranches in Jack County became a part of what we were doing. The Blue Mountain Ranch was a beautiful place full of turkeys and deer, with countless fishing ponds loaded with big bass. Yes, this place, just an hour northwest of Fort Worth, will forever hold a special place in my heart.

But today, the people there need our help. The Ross Fire started on August 24th. Since that time, Jacks County has only received 0.03 inches of rain. At the time of this writing, the fire has consumed more than 89,000 acres. The firefighters have spent countless hours trying

to contain it. They are spent. They are tired. But they are relentless, and right now, they are our heroes. They need help. They need resources. The people of Jacksboro were there for me. I want to be there for them.

On September 11th Outdoor Truths Ministry will make a donation to the Jacksboro Fire Department with the money we raise between now and then. I am simply using this platform because I know some of you will want to help as well. If you would like to donate, you can mail a check directly to the Jacksboro Fire Department, or you can donate through

Outdoor Truths specifically for this effort. There will be a special place on our website to give. These men and women are working nonstop to protect their homes and the homes, land, and property of people throughout North Texas. We can stand with them. Pray for rain in North Texas and help me give back to a place that has given so much to me and Outdoor Truths. Any amount is meaningful.

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



### Salvation is as easy as ABC

**A - Admit to God That You Are A Sinner**  
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. - Romans 3:23 Repent, turn away from your sin. - Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9

**B - Believe Jesus Died for Your Sins**  
For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that WHOEVER believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

**C - Confess Jesus is Lord**  
If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved. - Romans 10:9



# Beware of the Pied Piper of technology

By William F Holland Jr.  
billyhollandministries.com

Envy is a feeling of discontent, resentment, and begrudging, aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck. It's simply desiring the resources and opportunities someone else has so that we can purchase and create the life we fantasize about. We may not want a person's specific home, their exact vehicles, talents, or spouse, but we would love to have their finances and charisma so we can have a similar life. James chapter 3 and verses 14-16 allow us to see how this is a very serious spiritual problem. "But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."

When I was young, envy was associated with being a materialistic, and nosy busybody, trying to keep up with the Joneses. When we are walking or driving in a neighborhood, we check out every house to judge their landscaping and the color coordination of their paint, roof, and brick. When we are at a stoplight, we look around and



notice what people are driving, and when we are in church or a restaurant, we notice what people are wearing. The Internet, as a Pied Piper, provides the bait for the curious. Let's face it, the real reason why social media is so addictive is because the average person is easily influenced and controlled.

Though it seems that envy would be included within the definition of jealousy, they are actually distinct emotions; envy involves wanting what someone else has, while jealousy typically arises from the fear of losing something you already possess. Beyond sayings like, "Envy is the personal agony over the good fortune of others", "Whoever envies someone, confesses

their superiority", and "Comparison is the thief of joy", we can realize that self-discipline is a critical factor when it comes to guarding and discerning our thoughts. Since our thoughts are shaping who we are, it does not take a Christian counselor to explain how important this is to our spiritual well-being.

It's disturbing how much time and energy people spend fantasizing about trying to be like others, but we seldom hear someone say, "I wish I could live as close to God as that person." Take Mother Teresa, for example. She was not rich, did not live in a mansion, and did not have all the luxuries of life, but we can agree she was a

wonderful and caring person who was determined to spend her life helping others and serving God. If this is not a success, what is? Is she a role model of what all of us should be? According to Jesus – yes! However, do we dream, pray, and beg God to help us live like that? Would we really give everything we have to become totally detached from the luxuries of this world, and do what Jesus told the rich young ruler to do? Evidently not.

There is no doubt we are living in a time when it is more difficult than ever to live a holy lifestyle. Our grandson is only seven, and he wants to be like all the superheroes he watches. I've been a Christian for over 50 years, and

much of this time I've studied the subject of spiritual warfare. I can say technology can help in some ways, but the overall advancement and progression of our computerized society should be a concern. We can look around and see how the minds of the masses, including children, are being pulled into the vortex of artificial intelligence. Even the name itself is a red flag. Could the World Wide Web have something to do with why so many people are entangled with anxiety and depression? Is AI a dangerous wolf disguised in sheep's clothing? Where will the Christian draw the line and say I cannot continue to advance into this system?

We've been saturated with the message of God loving us, but He also knows what we are thinking about, including how much we love Him. He also knows that for many, technology has become an idol. Like an undisciplined child who only eats candy, we have free will to obey God and be saved, or to live in rebellion and destroy ourselves. Only a reverential fear of God will prevent that. Let's try reducing social media and entertainment, and replace it with seeking Him with all of our hearts.

*Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and Christian author. Read more about LIVING ON PURPOSE at billyhollandministries.com*

# DON'T FIGHT EVERY SCORPION

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett  
Bandana Baptist Church

The baby slept soundly in his swing while a scorpion stealthily skulked down the suspension cord above him. His father, Kino, stared like a snake ready to strike, carefully calculating how to kill the eight-legged intruder. But the predator didn't give him time to play chess, and injected the infant with his toxic tail. The boy was engulfed in agony and Kino was consumed with anger, prompting him to seize the fiend,

smash him into a paste within his hand, and hurl the scorpion's remains into the dirt. The newborn's mother frantically attempted to extract the venom with her lips, and they hurried him to the town physician in hopes of saving his life—a debacle that could have been averted entirely had Kino simply grabbed the baby instead of facing down a foe he was powerless to conquer.

Kino, why didn't you snatch your son from the scorpion? Why did you fight when you should have fled with

the boy? That is what you will shout from the reader's chair while reading John Steinbeck's short novella, *The Pearl*. The book commences with the aforementioned fictional story of baby Coyotito being struck by a scorpion because Kino ran headlong into a fight he should have ran away from while cradling his son. Sometimes, the surest strategy for subduing certain foes is retreating rather than trying to prove how strong you are only to demonstrate that you aren't.

Likewise, the Author

of Scripture repeatedly shouts to believers, "Don't fight when you should flee." The Lord certainly commands Christians to stand firm against Satan and valiantly fight the good fight (Eph. 6:11; 1 Tim. 6:12), but there are some spiritual skirmishes that believers need to run away from rather than run toward with guns ablazing. Paul exhorted the Corinthians with desperate urgency in his voice, "Flee from sexual immorality" (1 Cor. 6:18), and later on, "Therefore, my beloved, flee from

idolatry" (1 Cor. 10:14). When intense temptations for sexual sin and idol-worship come crawling down the rope, that is not the time to show off how spiritually mature you are—that is time to get out of Dodge and make a run for it. Retreat doesn't mean defeat—sometimes the best strategy for survival is to run as far away and as fast as you can.

Joseph of old employed this tactic when Potiphar's spouse sought to seduce him. He didn't negotiate with temptation or

stick around to prove his competence—he ran for the hills (Gen. 39:12). Samson, on the other hand, lingered with Delilah foolishly thinking that he could conquer the allure of sin with his great might—and he lost (Judges 16:4-22). Don't fight every spiritual scorpion that slithers your way—know when to run like your soul depends on it, because it does. "The prudent sees danger and hides himself," wrote Solomon, "but the simple go on and suffer for it" (Prov. 22:3).



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

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

2 burial plots in Woodlawn Memorial or Murray Memorial gardens. Regular price \$3900.00 each, will sell for

\$900.00 each, Call Dan Edwards at 270-873-9182

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

For Sale 1 Vault in Brookhaven Memorial Park, last one in the chapel. Holds 2 caskets. \$7,000.00. Call 270-556-0524

3 possibly 4 Grave Plots Woodlawn Memorial Gardens Paducah Ky. Trinity Garden section. Normally

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\$3700.00 each. Will sell for \$2500.00 each Call 270-970-0678

2 side by side vaults in Woodland Memorial Cemetery in Lone Oak, front view, 2nd row from bottom by chapel. \$10,000 total. 561-351-9174 (tfn)

STORAGE UNIT SALE

Storage Unit Sale. 3919 Cairo Rd., Paducah. May 8th 9-3:00 pm. Closed Noon-1:00. Tools, TV, Kewpie Dolls, Prom dresses, Karaoke Items. Rain Cancels. (5/8/26)

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PIES, "working Parents" Best farm dogs, great pets, excellent service dogs. Negotiable price & deliverable. Shots, De wormed. Also Mlnis and 2 Chichuauha's. Call 573-414-4601 or 573-979-5373

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

Two CKC Schnauzer (part pups). Vet checked and had their shots. Paper trained. for more information call 270-853-5387

NOW HIRING

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FOR HIRE

Housekeeper, 9-3 on Thursday. \$110.00 Jennifer Gay 270-994-7939

MEDICAL

Are you looking for a private sitter, home health care, hospice, and elderly care services. Please contact Tina at 270-559-9181 nights, days and weekends available.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Fully electric hospital bed \$1300, Hoyer patient lift \$350, older wheelchair \$50, rollator walker \$30, oxygen tank holder for wheelchair \$20. Call 270-836-1002.

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

20 by 40 3 room office with bath. 13th and Jefferson st. Paducah Ky. \$1200.00 per month call 270-210-4666

Remodeled building for lease for business. Great location, excellent condition. 2607 Jackson St. Paducah. Two offices. \$1,100 monthly. Jim Lewis Remax Realty Group 270-519-0309

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

4 White Pine Place, Paducah, KY 42003. MLS #: 26018542 \$420,000 Let's talk special. This home has spacious rooms. very functional floor plan. Garage has additional space for storage or lawn mowers. Upstairs has a fairly large, floored room for storage as well as a full guest suite. Split bedroom floorplan. Deep backyard. This home is a must see home. Call Ron Hughes at RE/MAX Realty Group 270-519-7898. (TFN)

5825 Oaks Road, Paducah, KY 42003. MLS#: 26021078 \$550,000, Unique property - Approximately 75 acres with about 30 to 40 acres tillable and the rest wooded. Great combination of home, 3 out-buildings, tool shed, barn and land for variety of uses. Use house as home or hunting lodge. Great property for living, hunting, farming and or horses. Call Ron Hughes at RE/MAX Realty Group 270-519-7898. (TFN)

Awesome beautiful 2 Large lots! Brand New Home built just across the street. Great area on Barkley Lake. Over 1 acre, year round view of Barkley Lake! 1 mile to BRR Marina ! \$64,000.00 MLS # 121914. CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty at 270-519-9000. (tfn)

135 Allegheny Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky • \$1,399,900 - MLS # 130868. This Incredible Customer Built 2015 property is amazing! Across the road 1,000 yards from KY Dam Village State Park, Dam, Marina, Restaurant/ Lodge. 2,000 yards from



the Golf course! Less than 2 miles to Aviation Airfield, & I-24/69. 5 total bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 laundry areas & 3 gas log fireplaces! Vaulted & Cathedral ceilings. Detailed woodwork & moldings, polished marble, w/unique characteristics! Expansive Living room open to kitchen/breakfast area. Primary suite offers a custom tiled bath, heated floor & walk-in closet! Covered patio w/ wood burning FP. In-ground pool, privacy fence & gated concrete drive w/ ample parking, 2 1/2 car garage has apartment, extra lot & huge **PRIVACY FENCE!** CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty at 270-519-9000

27 Paradise Point Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky • \$369,000 – MLS # 122709. 3 beautiful lots, over 1/2 acre sitting up HIGH on a hill with a **SPECTACULAR BREATHTAKING VIEW OF KY LAKE** in Cambridge Shores Subdivision! Build your Dream Home! Magnificent Stunning view of KY Lake! Enjoy all the amenities that Cambridge Shores has to offer. This quiet KY Lake neighborhood is the perfect place to call home! CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty at 270-519-9000

718 Marina Village Dr., Grand Rivers, Kentucky • \$610,000 – MLS # 130701. Beautiful Custom Built 3 bed 3 & 1/2 bath 2006, looks like a new Home sitting on 2 private lots in Prestigious Gated Marina Village Subdivision! Hardwood Floors,9 ft ceilings , many updates, large family room open to Kitchen! 2 Bedrooms on main level & one HUGE bedroom up. All bedrooms have a full bath. Kitchen has custom cabinetry! NEW HEAT/AIR UNITS IN 2023. Upstairs-2019. NEW DECK, 4 car garage heated & cooled, Storm Shelter, ALL FURNITURE, DECOR, TABLEWARE, BEDDING, LIGHTHOUSE PICTURES, Towels **STAY PLUS** NEW flooring that has not been installed. Take a golf cart ride to Grand Rivers, World Famous Patties Restaurant, antique shops & more! CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty at 270-519-9000

643 Whitney Dr., Paducah,

Kentucky • \$425,000.00 - MLS # 137569. Unique 3 bedroom 3 full bath West End home located in the desirable Pines Subdivision loaded with captivating character! Impressive living room features gas log fireplace , very tall valuted ceiling & large stylish windows for plenty of light. Kitchen has plenty of cabinets, island, breakfast area, and pantry. Excellent primary bedroom with spacious bath, jacuzzi tub, double vanity, walk-in closet, surround sound, balcony overlooking deck & backyard. Ample storage space throughout the home. New refrigerator & microwave in 2026. Massive deck perfect for entertaining! Beautiful yard, trees and landscaping. Well insulated home so utility bills are low. Convenient to the mall area, I-24 and downtown Paducah. Underground Dog fence. CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty 270-519-9000

1875 St Rt 384 Mayfield, Ky \$312,000.00. MLS#: 26019260. Beautiful Absolutely Private home on 2.5 impressive acres with 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths! Extremely well built ! Only 5 miles to I-69 and Mayfield. Large updated kitchen with gorgeous tile, corian countertops and abundant cabinetry. Quality bar stools stay plus all appliances. All 3 full baths are updated with extra nice tile and countertops. There are 2 large living areas. Kitchen open to Living room. Utility room. Primary bedroom and bath separate from other bedrooms ! NEW paint , blinds and appliances since 2019. NEW roof in 2020. 2 car attached carport and 2 car detached garage. Large metal barn 80 x 32 great for any animals, hay, equipment storage, RV and more! It does have a few stalls in it. Door is 11 FT 7 in tall. Land is rolling and lays pretty. Plenty of road frontage. Paved driveway. Geothermal HVAC. Appraisal done in March of 2026 available upon request. Seller is providing a one year home warranty at closing ~~ APHW.com Utility room or Guest bath would make great storm shelter! CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty 270-519-9000

2836 James Sanders Blvd., Paducah, KY. MLS #134672. High traffic location, Approximately 3+ acres off exit #4 I-24 on James Sander's BLVD between Texas Road House and Academy Sports. Great location for commercial development. Approximately 450 feet of road frontage, level, with all utilities. \$2,450,000, Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

6330 Burchell, Paducah, KY. MLS #136950. Premier custom home in one of Paducah's most prestigious neighborhoods, The Grove, privately set on a cul-de-sac. Grand entry, open kitchen with butler's pantry, spacious living room with fireplace, office, craft room, and luxurious primary suite with his and hers baths and sitting area. Enjoy a large, covered porch with outdoor kitchen, screened porch and 3 car garage. Upstairs offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, playroom/bedroom and bonus room. The walkout basement includes 2 bedrooms, full kitchen, family room, patio, storage, mechanical room and concrete safe room. Elevator serves all floors. French country exterior, stone/brick/extensive landscaping and circle drive. \$1,595,000. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

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

1114 Broadway, Paducah, KY. MLS #132732. Excellent opportunity for a client in need of a nice office building in midtown Paducah, centrally located in the heart of Paducah's business district with high traffic location. Dual access from Broadway

and Kentucky Avenue. Current tenants are expected to move by late fall. \$459,900. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.75 Acres, Paradise Haven. I-77 & Hwy 52. Bland County VA. Hunting and surveyed, septic tank and well permits. Wooded and cleared building sites with roads. Taxes under \$200.00 per year. \$69,000.00 Ph. 270-226-2908 (tfn)

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2021 JAYCO JayFlight SLX, 195 RB Travel Trailer (21-foot) Never been lived in. Bath tub - Shower com-

bo. Closet, Queen size bed, Refrigerator, Microwave, 2-Burner Stove, Electric Awning, Radio & TV Hook-up, Fold-Out stairs, Storage, 2-Water Tanks. KEVIL AREA. Asking \$18,000 Call 270-349-4962

For sale Pop camper 2001 Coleman Grand Tour Utah; \$3,000. 270-519-7849 TFN

BOATS FOR SALE

REDUCED 2008 20 ft. Crestliner 1950 SF series, easy load trailer, 175 HP Mercury motor, canopy, travel cover, 2 fish finders, radio FM/AM, much more, garage stored, valued at \$15K, sell for \$12,000. 270-665-0010 / leave a message.

14' Polar Craft Boat,Like new motor, electric start, trailer 1 fuel can, Minkota trolling motor, canopy, fish finder, battery. Benton Ky \$5,500.00. OBO 815-236-9455 (TFN)

AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

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

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

GMC Yukon, 2 Wheel drive, 2010 ,has third row seating, 120,xxx miles, perfect condition, good tire tread. \$9,800. TEXT with serious inquiries only 270-519-3962 Text ONLY

1991 Chevyrolet Silverado 350 V8, 4 speed transmission, long wheel base, 2 door, garage kept, excel-

lent shape, 206,000 miles. \$11,000.00 OBO call Margaret A. Moore 270-875-3126

AUTO MISC.

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

For Sale: 2025 Diamond Trailer - 7' x 14', Enclosed, Fold Down Back Door, Side Walk-In Door, Tandem Axle, Electric Brakes, \$4,500. Call Don: 386-559-7004

Adult Trike W/ Electric Battery for sale \$450.00. 1 Year Old. Call 270-331-2527.

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

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

1953 Farmall Cub Woods Belly Mower. to ad for 1950 8n Ford Tractor \$1250.00. 270-832-1281

1950 8N Ford tractor \$1,250.00, Call 270-832-1281. W0.5x32

King Kutter Bushhog 48" w/ PTO Connector, Like New. \$900 OBO. Benton, KY. 815-236-9455 (TFN)

MISC. FOR SALE

For Sale: New and Used Christmas Toys and Tools. Rosanna's Place Salem Ky. Thurs -Fri. 8-4. Sat. 8-1

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

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Hunting equipment, trophy deer heads, tools, household horse and Indian items, thousands of like new items priced to sell. Traders Mall Flee Market June 13th

Glass Top Coffee Table, 2 matching end tables, and sofa table, great condition. Trimmed with brass. \$150 Call 270 519-7604

Sudoku Answers

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 8 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 |

Word Search Answers

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| L | L | Z | O | L | N | H | A | M | M | B | G | W | A | R | Z | N | M | O | R |
| C | X | O | Z | A | B | L | I | N | O | O | O | E | A | R | V | S | I |   |   |
| B | Z | X | O | N | H | T | Z | H | J | Q | Z | N | V | X | A | B | R | Z | S |
| K | N | X | A | N | O | S | R | O | Q | A | B | J | V | A | B | Z | E | R |   |
| E | M | A | E | N | E | N | E | V | H | I | Q | C | O | I | T | W | A | E | R |
| O | N | N | A | A | O | N | I | A | C | T | X | O | V | R | V | I | X | W |   |
| V | I | Z | X | H | T | Q | B | H | V | S | O | T | A | B | E | E | O | R | O |
| C | N | A | T | T | I | H | C | A | I | X | O | M | T | X | N | C | V | K |   |
| Q | B | N | S | I | V | N | M | A | N | R | O | C | V | I | H | A | A | d | X |
| Q | H | Z | J | W | Q | X | N | X | S | O | I | B | J | N | H | V | S | H | Z |
| V | d | J | Q | O | E | O | N | R | O | d | N | X | Q | Q | H | A | J | V | E |
| Q | T | A | W | M | A | N | Q | Q | W | L | N | Q | Q | M | W | R | W | T |   |
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# Blueprint Kentucky to host Pathways to Prosperity: *A Rural Kentucky Virtual Summit*

By Christopher Carney  
*Christopher.Carney@uky.edu*

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment’s Blueprint Kentucky is hosting Pathways to Prosperity: A Rural Kentucky Virtual Summit on Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (ET).

Kentucky’s rural leaders, practitioners, policymakers, non-profit partners, educators and community stakeholders are invited to participate in an online summit focused on emerging priorities affecting rural communities. The day is designed to highlight practical strategies, shared challenges and opportunities for cross-sector collaboration.

“With so much rapid change in the world, community leadership often feels reactionary,” said Daniel Kahl, Blueprint Kentucky associate director and one of the session moderators. “Having a summit like this one allows us to touch base, learn from each other and stay current on information and research that can help us be more confident and competent in addressing challenges.”

The agenda will showcase professional speakers and interactive session discussions, giving participants opportunities to learn best practices in strengthening their communities, growing local economies and building a more resilient future.

The keynote speaker is Christine Sorensen, lead community development specialist, state operations at USDA Rural Development. Sorensen’s keynote will address forces that are shaping rural Kentucky, including demographic shifts, infrastruc-

ture needs, economic transition, health and housing pressures, and the importance of local leadership.

Sorensen has over 30 years of experience in the rural economic development field with roles as economic development director, regional fund-chief loan officer, state and regional USDA community development coordinator, and national program coordinator for three USDA rural development (RD) initiatives. She was the first customer experience team lead within the USDA RD Innovation Center and has facilitated and supported state-based events for USDA in over 28 states.

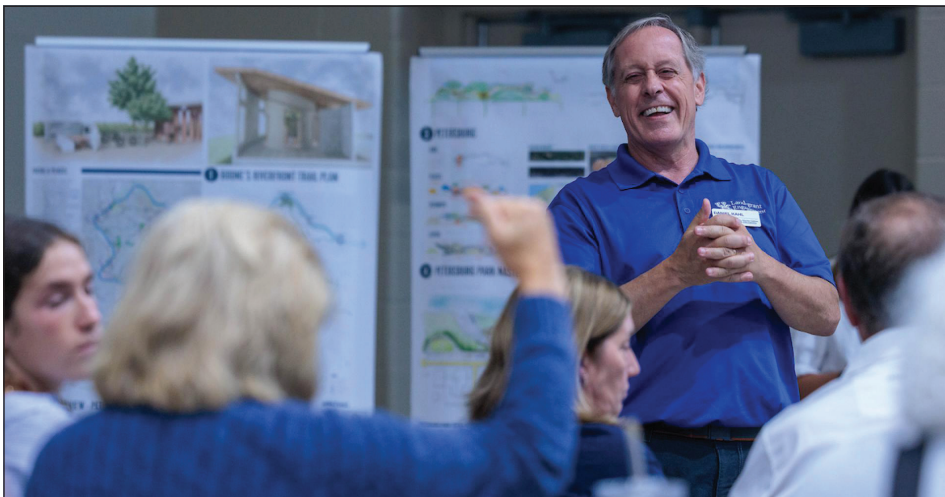
Additional session topics include:

**Rural Health:** Local health needs being addressed through the Kentucky Rural Health Transformation Program, as well as curriculum and programs hosted by UK Cooperative Extension to address community health.

**Land Use and Housing:** Housing development and industrial pressures on farmland use, as well as innovative partnerships among local governments, developers, lenders, nonprofits and residents.

**Civic Engagement and Leadership:** Examining opportunities and concerns related to public participation and civic engagement for sustainable policy and action to support rural communities and community readiness.

**Tourism and Place-making:** Highlighting tourism as an economic development strategy, with attention to destination development, local assets,



Blueprint Kentucky associate director Dan Kahl is one of the session moderators at this year’s Pathway to Prosperity summit. Photo by Matt Barton.

small business support, downtown revitalization and regional collaboration.

At the conclusion of the summit, the goal is for participants to better identify rural priorities across health, housing, economic development and tourism; provide practical examples, questions to take back to their communities and potential partners for follow-up;

and inform future programming, policy conversations and technical assistance opportunities.

In addition, Blueprint Kentucky will be providing attendees additional toolkits to take with them and use. One of those toolkits is Understanding Community Benefits Agreements for Data Centers: A Toolkit for Kentucky Commu-

nities and Extension Professionals, which will serve as a discussion point for communities interested in being informed and prepared for data center location decisions.

“This summit is more than a conversation about rural challenges,” said Alison Davis, assistant vice president of land-grant engagement and executive director of

Blueprint Kentucky. “It is an opportunity to highlight what is working, elevate local leadership and equip communities with ideas, partnerships and tools that can be put into action across Kentucky.”

Registration is \$35 and online registration will remain open until 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 16.

Registered attendees are encouraged to use the Whova platform to connect, discuss and share ideas and resources. Whova will be used to share relevant resources and provide discussion questions for attendees to connect before, during and after the event.

Learn more about Blueprint Kentucky at [blueprintkentucky.mgcafe.uky.edu](http://blueprintkentucky.mgcafe.uky.edu).

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# Unemployment rates shift in Kentucky counties in July 2026

**By Tom Latek**  
*kentucky Today*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Unemployment rates fell in 87 Kentucky counties between July 2025 and July 2026, rose in 18 and were constant in 15 others, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

Cumberland and Woodford counties recorded the lowest jobless rates at 4.1 percent each. They were followed by Campbell

County, 4.2 percent; Boone, Fayette, Kenton and Scott counties, 4.3 percent each; and Franklin, Harrison and Trimble counties, 4.4 percent each.

On the other hand, Martin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 10.1 percent, followed by Wolfe County, 9.5 percent; Lewis County, 9 percent; Elliott County, 8.9 percent; Magoffin County, 8.4 percent; Jackson County, 8.3 percent; Carter County, 7.9 percent; Lawrence County, 7.8 percent; Pike County, 7.4 percent;



and Knott County, 7.3 percent.

Looking at the statewide figures, Kentucky's seasonally adjusted preliminary July 2026 unemployment rate was

4.7percent, which was unchanged from June and up 0.1 percentage points from one year ago. That data was released earlier this month.

The education and

Labor Cabinet says Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted, because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends.

Unemployment statistics are based on estimates and are compiled to measure

trends rather than actually to count people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The data should only be compared to the same month in previous years.

You can see individual rates for all 120 counties, by going to: [July 2026 County Rates](#).

## ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

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From the moment you arrive, the home's wood exterior, covered front porch, and upper-level balcony create an inviting cabin-style appearance. The mature shade trees and winding paved drive complement the home's natural setting. Also on the property is a storage shed and detached 1-car garage. On the backside of the home is an additional covered deck and balcony.

Inside, you'll find an abundance of natural wood character, including wood-plank walls and wood flooring visible throughout several rooms. The rustic finishes give the home a distinctive look that would lend itself well to a country, cabin, or lodge-style renovation.

The kitchen features abundant cabinetry, countertop workspace, and a peninsula overlooking the adjoining living area. With approximately 2,400 square feet, the home provides generous space and an excellent opportunity for a buyer ready to update and personalize the property.

**A PROPERTY WITH POSSIBILITIES** - The photos show a home with plenty of rustic charm and original wood character, but also one that presents an opportunity for updating and improvement. That's exactly what can make an absolute auction exciting – buyers can evaluate the property, see the potential, and bid according to their own plans and vision. Whether you're searching for a primary residence, country getaway, investment property, renovation project, or distinctive rustic home, this property deserves a look.

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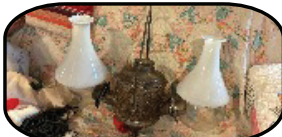
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Wickliffe Boat Ramp

# Ballard County builds on river, energy and infrastructure opportunities

**By Laurna Pruett**  
KPI Writer

Ballard County’s location at the meeting point of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers has long influenced its economy. Now, county leaders are looking to build on that advantage while preparing for new opportunities connected to maritime business, energy development and a proposed regional data center.

Ballard County Judge-Executive Todd Cooper said Traylor Bros., James Marine, ADM/ARTCO and Economy Boat Store, also known as PTL Marine, are among the businesses operating along the river in Wickliffe. Some have maintained a presence there since the 1980s.

Together with supporting businesses, Cooper estimates they provide more than 200 jobs. He said their impact reaches beyond employment because they also support schools, students, festivals and other community events.

“It is local government and economic development’s responsibility to help them

sustain and grow,” Cooper said.

The county is working with the City of Wickliffe, Ballard County Industrial Development Authority and West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority to support those companies and encourage additional investment.

Recent improvements include the expansion of the Wickliffe boat ramp in 2023 and upgrades to the Court Street railroad crossing in 2026. The crossing project created a safer route for semitrailers making deliveries to riverfront businesses.

The city also secured \$140,000 in grants to begin environmental and other required studies on a 30-acre site extending north from Court Street to Willow Creek. Completing that work is an important step toward making the property ready for future development.

Cooper said Ballard County’s riverfront offers room for additional maritime businesses. Local officials have been told that approximately 80% of the

raw materials and goods traveling the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland rivers pass Wickliffe each year.

“We believe we can add to the current businesses operating on the river in Wickliffe by tapping this tremendous opportunity,” Cooper said.

*Preparing for Regional Investment*

Economic-development efforts are also taking place in Kevil, where the county is partnering with the owner of a privately held 14-acre property. The site will be marketed to nuclear- and U.S. Department of Energy-related support businesses seeking locations near the Paducah DOE site.

Cooper said Ballard County already has three or four businesses that support work at the DOE facility. County leaders hope future investment at the site will help those companies grow while attracting additional

see **BUILDS**,  
page C5

## HCRA continues using new energy efficient Machinery from \$2.2 million infrastructure improvement project

**By Ciro Astarita**  
KPI Writer

(HENDERSON, KY)—At the beginning of this year, The Henderson County Riverport Authority (HCRA) purchased a \$2.3 million dollar ‘electrical handler’. This state of the art piece of machinery is intended to assist operations by easing the pressure on the dock’s 40 year old 125-ton cable crane. More recently, the HCRA hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the official opening of the port on April 30th. Notable attendees include Rocky Adkins(D)—who is currently running for governor next year and recently left the Beshear Administration on July 10th— and Ben

Weithman, the HCRA Executive Director. The dock(originally for scrap/coal and later grain) was built in 2004 and was used primarily for exports. Weithman stated they have seen an increase in imports over the years including metals, fertilizers, and other bulk materials. The function of this machinery [as a tool for building infrastructure] serves to increase the turnover of maritime vehicles, reducing seasonal bottlenecks and demurrage costs for customers paying for the port’s services. Weithman explained this at the ribbon cutting event stating “it allows us to drive over to the railroad tracks and to

see **HCRA**,  
page C4



“A big milestone at the Henderson County Riverport Authority today. For the first time, we unloaded two barges at the same time. Our new Sennebogen material handler unloaded fertilizer while our 125-ton American crane handled a barge of aluminum.”-Henderson County Riverport Authority. Photo sourced from HCRA LinkedIn post.

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# Eagle Fabrication: Building on tradition, looking to the future

By Greg LeNeave  
KPI Newspaper Group

Eagle Fabrication has a strong history—one built on hard work, experience and a commitment to doing things the right way. Much of that foundation can be traced back to co-founder Tim Thomas, whose vision helped establish the company as a respected name in the marine fabrication industry.

Eagle Fabrication launched its first barge in 1999. Nearly two decades later, the company reached a significant milestone when it completed its 100th barge in 2019. The 180-foot vessel weighed approximately 700 tons, marking an impressive achievement for a company that had grown steadily through years of dedication and craftsmanship.

Following Tim Thomas' passing in 2018, his son, Matt Thomas, stepped into a leadership role and continued the family tradition. Today, Matt and his crew are taking fabrication beyond the standard, combining generations of knowledge with a willingness to find practical solutions for today's marine industry.

**Taking Fabrication Beyond the Standard**

The marine industry is constantly changing, and today's barge operators often need equipment designed around the specific demands of their work. Custom fabrication gives companies the flexibility to make their equipment work harder and more efficiently for the jobs they perform every day.

Eagle Fabrication understands that not every project can be solved with an off-the-shelf design.

One example of the company's capabilities took Eagle's work far beyond the inland waterways of Illinois—all the way to Alaska's North Slope.

A 180-foot steel deck barge originated at Eagle Fabrication's Illinois facility before being shipped thousands of miles to Alaska. Once the components arrived, the barge was assembled and welded on-site in the harsh Alaskan environment. After construction was completed, the vessel was launched into the Beaufort Sea, ready to go to work.

It is a great example of what specialized fabrication can accomplish. The job required more than simply building a barge. It required planning, precision, transportation logistics and the ability to adapt to an entirely different environment.

**The Advantage of Specialized Building Skills**

There is a tremendous advantage to working with a builder that understands the realities of the marine industry.

Eagle Fabrication builds its barges with the customer's needs in mind. The company takes the time to understand how a vessel will be used and what the customer expects it to accomplish.

For those in the barge and river industry, that approach can make a significant difference.

Some customers require a highly specialized design built around a particular project or application. Others need a dependable inland river-going barge capable of handling the everyday demands of transporting equipment and materials.

Eagle Fabrication provides both.

Matt Thomas and his crew offer flat deck barges, spud barges and specialty vessels, giving customers the opportunity to choose a proven platform or develop a solution tailored to their specific needs.

**Experience That Carries Forward**

Perhaps one of the most valuable assets Eagle Fabrication brings to each new project is its ac-

cumulated knowledge.

Shipbuilding is an industry where experience matters. Lessons learned on one project become part of the next. Over the years, that knowledge becomes ingrained in the way a company approaches design, fabrication, welding and construction.

At Eagle Fabrication, that experience is also part of a family legacy.

The passing of knowledge from one generation to the next is one of the most rewarding aspects of a family-owned business. Tim Thomas helped build the foundation. Today, Matt Thomas and his crew are continuing that work while looking for ways to make things better; and that may be what sets Eagle Fabrication apart.

**Building What the Customer Needs**

In an industry where reliability matters, having a fabrication partner who understands the job can be a tremendous advantage.

Whether the need is a traditional inland river barge, a spud barge for a specialized project, or a custom vessel designed for a unique environment, Eagle Fabrication approaches each project with the same goal: build it right and build it for the work it needs to do.

That philosophy has carried the company from its first barge in 1999 to its 100th barge and beyond.

Today, Matt Thomas and the Eagle Fabrication crew continue to build on the foundation established by Tim Thomas. They are carrying forward the knowledge of one generation while embracing the challenges of the next.

What's good to see from the family business side of things is that knowledge passed from one generation to the next. Matt Thomas and the crew at Eagle Fabrication are making changes to make things better and that is always needed in today's economy.

# Freeman Automation coming to Hickory Industrial Park, bringing investment and new jobs

Graves County Economic Development (GCED) is proud to welcome its newest tenant, Freeman Automation, LLC, to the

Hickory Industrial Park. Freeman Automation is purchasing 5 acres in the Hickory Industrial Park near Mayfield, with plans to build a 4,000

square-foot facility to house their expanding operation. They expect to add 10 new positions, bringing their total number of jobs to 20

over the life of the project. “Kentucky’s advanced manufacturing sector is paving the way for investment and quality

job opportunities for communities across the entire state,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “When a company chooses to expand its

operation here in the commonwealth, it

see **FREEMAN**, page C5



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# Paducah’s Riverfront taking a whole new look

By Scott Waggoner  
KPI Writer

PADUCAH, Ky. — A major addition to Paducah’s riverfront is nearing completion as construction continues on the city’s new \$10.4 million excursion pier at Riverfront Park. Funded through a BUILD grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation and a \$3.5 million allocation from Kentucky lawmakers, the project is designed to enhance river tourism and create a welcoming gateway for visitors arriving by water. Subcontractor C.J. Mahan Construction

is completing the massive structure, which measures approximately 200 feet wide and 500 feet long. City leaders have already met with several cruise line representatives to discuss future docking agreements once the facility is operational. The new pier may attract additional cruise ships to Paducah and encourage more visitors to explore the city’s downtown attractions, restaurants, and businesses. The excursion pier is part of a broader effort to improve the city’s riverfront experience. Schultz

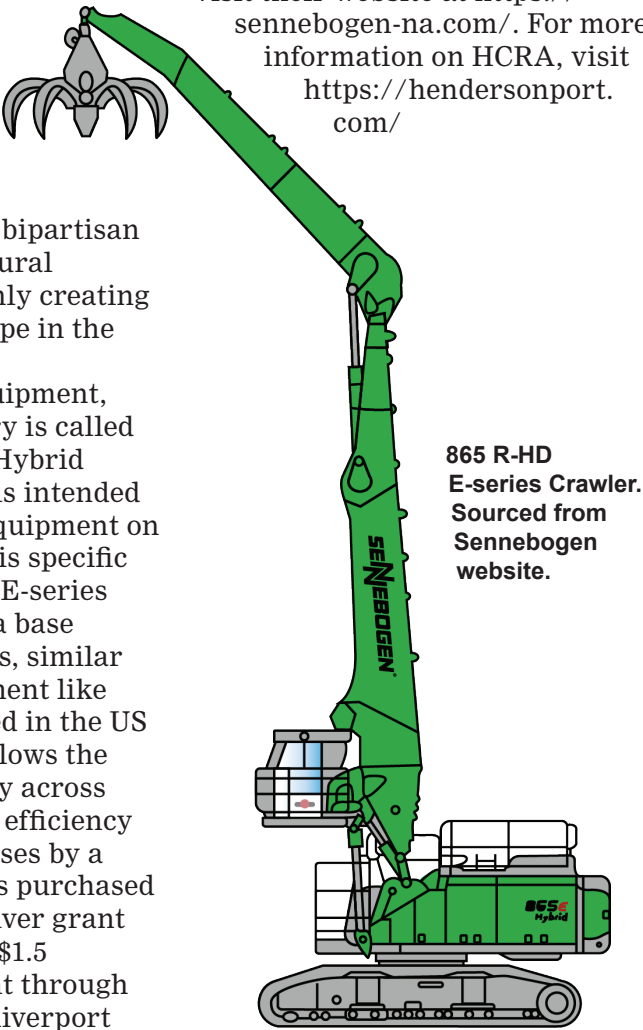
Park already features a transient boat dock, and additional improvements are underway, including new bus shelters near the National Quilt Museum, Walker Hall, and the Paducah Convention Center. City officials are considering additional enhancements to further improve the riverfront area. Local leaders believe the new excursion pier will strengthen Paducah’s position as a destination along the Ohio and Tennessee river systems while creating new opportunities for tourism and economic growth.

## HCRA, from page C1

load and unload railcars, so we can make multiple uses of this.” Adkins [relating to infrastructure] said “I think the season that you’re seeing in Kentucky with record-breaking economic development announcements is because of the investment that’s been made in transportation modes, whether it’s on air, rail, road or here at riverports up and down this river.” This is following a string of rural infrastructure announcements from KY Republicans over the past months. KY’s bipartisan support of infrastructural development is certainly creating an interesting landscape in the State...given its past.

In regards to the equipment, this piece of machinery is called the Sennebogen 865E Hybrid material handler and is intended to supplement older equipment on industrial jobsites. This specific model is the 865 R-HD E-series Crawler and features a base with continuous tracks, similar to agricultural equipment like tractors and tanks used in the US Armed Forces. This allows the machine to move freely across the jobsite, increasing efficiency and operational expenses by a massive margin. It was purchased with help from state river grant programs including a \$1.5 million no-match grant through the Kentucky Public Riverport

Construction and Maintenance (KPRCM). On the Sennebogen website it states “The SENNEBOGEN 865 Hybrid impresses with state-of-the-art machine technology, comfort and the best reliability. Benefit from the most modern recuperation technology on the market! With the SENNEBOGEN Green Hybrid System, you can reduce your energy consumption by up to 50%.” For more information on Sennebogen and their various models of industrial machinery, visit their website at <https://sennebogen-na.com/>. For more information on HCRA, visit <https://hendersonport.com/>



865 R-HD E-series Crawler. Sourced from Sennebogen website.

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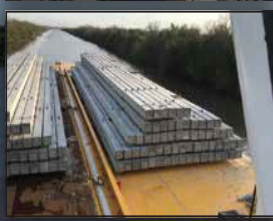
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**BUILDS,**  
from page C1

employers.

The region could also benefit from a proposed data center expected to be developed on DOE and privately owned property in McCracken County. Cooper said county leaders have been told the potential investment could reach \$100 billion.

“Being infused into a region, that is life-changing for future generations,” Cooper said.

He said Ballard County has spent about a decade working to create more local employment opportunities so young people will not have to leave the region after high school to find work.

Ballard County plans to compete for supporting businesses



by promoting its lower utility and operating costs, low local tax rates and lack of zoning and planning requirements.

Workforce preparation will be another important part of that effort.

Ballard County Schools has developed student pathways in health care, industrial maintenance, welding and agribusiness. West Kentucky Community and Technical College and Murray State

University are also developing programs to prepare adults and recent graduates for positions connected to the DOE site.

*Infrastructure Remains a Challenge*

While opportunities are growing, Cooper said maintaining the roads and bridges needed by residents, farmers and businesses remains a major challenge.

Ballard County’s Fiscal Year 2027 County Road Aid allocation is \$815,552—nearly \$200,000 less than the previous budget year. Meanwhile, construction and material costs continue to rise.

A recently completed 70-foot county bridge cost approximately \$375,000. Cooper said the county has about four additional bridges that could cost a

combined \$1 million to replace if they are closed.

“The road funding continually decreases, but our costs increase daily,” Cooper said.

Ballard County partnered with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the seven other Purchase Area counties to apply for a \$39 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant. If awarded, the funding would help replace four Ballard County bridges.

Until more funding becomes available, the county may have to pursue additional grants, borrow money or install cross drains as temporary replacements to reopen roads.

Cooper said infrastructure investments are necessary for more than daily travel. They

also help preserve existing jobs and allow local businesses to grow. Farmers sometimes assist the county by mowing roadways or grading gravel roads they regularly use.

“Any community wanting to help sustain business and grow existing business must take care of existing infrastructure and look for ways to improve it,” Cooper said.

From the riverfront in Wickliffe to emerging opportunities near the DOE site, Ballard County is working to position itself for growth. The goal is not only to recruit new companies, but also to strengthen existing employers, improve transportation and create opportunities that allow future generations to build their lives close to home.

**FREEMAN,**  
from page C2

is a reflection of the resources, workforce and business-friendly environment they have access to. The 20 good-paying jobs created from this project represent 20 Kentuckians who can continue providing for themselves and their families. I want to thank Freeman Automation for their belief in Kentucky and look forward to their future success.”

Freeman Automation manufactures electrical control panels for industrial machinery. They combine engineering, fabrication, and field expertise to deliver projects for a range of customers including municipal utilities, advanced manufacturing, public infrastructure, and commercial and

industrial projects.

“We’re excited to make this investment in Graves County and establish Freeman Automation’s new home in the Hickory Industrial Park,” said Josh Freeman, president, Freeman Automation, LLC. “Our new facility will give us the room to expand our capabilities while providing a better environment for our employees and customers.”

“We would like to express our deep appreciation to the governor’s office and to the Kentucky Cabinet of Economic Development for their support, along with Jason Lemle with Graves County Economic Development, Mayor Kathy O’Nan, and Judge-Executive Jesse Perry for their support and assistance throughout this process,” Freeman

added. “Their commitment to helping local businesses grow and invest in Graves County made a real difference in bringing this project together. We’re proud to make this investment here and look forward to being a part of the continued growth and success of the community.”

Local leaders are excited to welcome Freeman Automation as the newest member of the growing family of highly specialized, advanced manufacturing companies to make their home in Graves County.

“Announcements like this are proof that our central location, highly trained workforce, and business-friendly policies are bringing investments and good jobs to Graves County,” said Judge-Executive Jesse Perry. “We welcome Freeman

Automation and look forward to working closely with them in the future.”

Mayfield Mayor Kathy O’Nan echoed that welcome. “Every time a company elects to locate or expand in our community, they become an important part of our economic future. We appreciate Freeman’s commitment and will honor it by continuing to work hard to make our community a great place to live and work,” said O’Nan.

GCED President Jason Lemle said he is excited about this opportunity and grateful to the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development for their support of the project. “Freeman Automation is an ideal fit for Graves County,” said Lemle. “They already have several local customers here and I’m confident this move

will help them achieve their business objectives. Working with the owner has been a tremendously positive experience, and I’m excited to be part of that journey.”

The Hickory Industrial Park, managed by GCED, is home to five businesses, staffed by more than 600 employees.

Graves County Economic Development works to support local industry and create economic growth through the development of business and industry in Mayfield, Graves County and the surrounding area.

About Graves County Economic Development

Founded in 1981, Graves County Economic Development has become the driving force behind business expansion and development

opportunities in the community. GCED continues to foster strong relationships with existing businesses and attracts new industry to Graves County. We strive to make our community a better place to work, live and raise a family.

About Freeman Automation, LLC

Freeman Automation is a manufacturer of electrical control panels for industrial machinery. We deliver integrated automation and electrical solutions that keep critical systems running efficiently and safely. We offer deep technical knowledge, field-tested craftsmanship, and a commitment to doing the job right. Learn more about Freeman Automation at [www.freemanautomation.com](http://www.freemanautomation.com).

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# Paducah's Four Rivers Legacy:

## How History Shaped a Modern Barge Industry

By **Laurna Pruett**  
KPI Writer

Paducah, Kentucky, is more than just a river town—it is a strategic crossroads where four major waterways converge: the Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers. This geographic advantage has shaped the region's identity for nearly two centuries, transforming it into a hub of commerce and industry that remains vital to the U.S. economy today.

*The Origins: A River Town on the Rise*  
Founded in the early 19th century, Paducah quickly became a transportation and trade center thanks to its location at the confluence of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. In the era before railroads dominated the landscape, rivers were the primary highways for goods and people. Steamboats



see **LEGACY**, page C7

Mississippi and Ohio River Confluence

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**LEGACY,**  
from page C6

became a common sight along the riverfront, carrying cotton, timber, livestock, and other goods to markets across the South and Midwest.

By the mid-1800s, Paducah’s river access made it an essential link in the nation’s expanding trade network. During the Civil War, its location was considered so strategic that Union forces occupied the city to control river traffic. The rivers were not just a means of transportation—they were lifelines for military logistics, commerce, and regional development.

*Industrial Growth and the Barge Era*

The 20th century ushered in a new era for river transport with the rise of the barge industry. Unlike the steamboats, barges offered the capacity to carry massive quantities of cargo—grain, coal, petroleum, and construction materials—more efficiently and at a lower cost than rail or truck transport.

Paducah emerged as a central hub for these operations. Its proximity to multiple rivers, including access to the Mississippi, positioned it as a gateway for goods moving from the Midwest to the

Gulf of Mexico and beyond. The completion of locks and dams further enhanced navigability, making inland waterways a dependable mode of transport even during low-water seasons.

*World War II and Postwar Expansion*

World War II marked another turning point for Paducah’s river economy. The demand for steel, coal, and petroleum skyrocketed, and the inland waterways became critical to supplying America’s war machine. After the war, barge companies expanded operations, investing in fleets and infrastructure to meet growing demand from agriculture, energy, and manufacturing sectors.

The 1950s and 1960s saw a surge in economic activity tied to river transport, with Paducah becoming home to shipyards, repair facilities, and a skilled workforce specializing in marine engineering. The region also attracted federal investment in navigation infrastructure, securing its role as a long-term transportation hub.

*Today’s River Economy*

In modern times, Paducah’s river heritage continues to power economic growth. The inland waterways remain

one of the most efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly methods of freight transportation. Each barge can carry the equivalent of 70 truckloads, reducing congestion on highways and minimizing fuel consumption.

Companies based in the region provide essential services that keep the river economy moving. Barge operators, logistics firms, and marine service providers ensure goods flow smoothly from Kentucky to markets across the globe. These industries support thousands of local jobs and drive investment in infrastructure, education, and workforce development.

*A Legacy with a Future*

Paducah’s history with the rivers is a story of adaptation and resilience. From steamboats to barges, from the Civil War to the global marketplace, the city has leveraged its location and ingenuity to remain at the forefront of inland navigation. As new technologies and infrastructure projects continue to modernize the river system, Paducah stands as both a guardian of a proud legacy and a leader in shaping the future of America’s inland waterways.

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## Corps will dig dry conditions with finished Kentucky Lock cofferdam



Barney Schulte (Left), lead engineer for the Kentucky Lock Addition Project, confers with Jody Robinson, Contract Team lead at Western Kentucky Area Office, while standing on top of the completed cofferdam at the Kentucky Lock Addition Project March 22, 2021 on the Tennessee River in Grand Rivers, Kentucky. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District is constructing a new 110-foot by 1,200-foot navigation lock at the Tennessee Valley Authority project.

(USACE Photo by Lee Roberts)

## Mississippi and Ohio Rivers News Briefs

**Mississippi River**  
Louisiana International Terminal: Federal permit approved for the new deepwater container terminal in St. Bernard Parish.

**Osceola Harbor:** \$6.5 million secured to extend the navigation channel 3,000 feet.

**Low-Water Inspections:** Mississippi River Commission reviewed drought resilience and navigation restrictions at major ports.

**Port of Gulfport:** Channel deepening to 46 feet continues through federal review.

**Ohio River**  
Regulatory Changes: Huntington District will oversee Ohio's Corps permitting statewide starting Oct. 1.

**Brent Spence Bridge:** River-based construction operations are underway at the Kentucky-side logistics hub.

**Big Rivers Dredging:** Maintenance dredging continues at D.B. Wilson through Sept. 18.

**Cairo Port:** The \$300 million container-on-barge project continues pursuing federal and state funding.

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**Louisiana International Terminal:** Federal permit approved for the new deepwater container terminal in St. Bernard Parish.

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**Cumberland River Port**  
**Cumberland River Water Management:** Corps continues balancing drought-related low water levels with navigation, hydropower and water-supply needs

**River Infrastructure Maintenance:** Corps crews continue maintenance work on locks and dams supporting Cumberland River navigation.

**Cheatham Lock:** The navigation lock remains a key link connecting Middle Tennessee commerce to the Mississippi River system.

**Tennessee River Port Navigation**  
Maintenance: Corps maintenance crews continue supporting locks and dams along the Tennessee River to keep commercial traffic moving.

Tennessee River Dredging: Navigation dredging remains an ongoing priority at shoaling locations along the river system.

Paducah Riverfront: The major riverfront improvement project is nearing completion, with a September 2026 opening planned.

Regional Navigation: The Tennessee River

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# Hines Furlong’s: how a WWII Vet expanded the River Industry

By: **Ciro Astarita**  
KPI Writer

Hines Furlong is a very well known and prominent fixture in the barge/river transportation industry in the four river region. It started as a family business—originally named “The Bowling Green and Evansville Packet Company”—started by Captain Richard T. Williams and his three sons. Two of the sons—Tom & Edgar Williams—were Captains and Will Williams was their engineer. Together, they built a

steamboat and began operations in the 1870s. They transported passengers and goods from Evansville, TN to Paducah, KY, even stopping at popular tourist attractions like Mammoth Cave. Later in 1940, grandson of the founder—James R. Hines—formed James R. Hines & Company with T. C. Melton. They towed asphalt from Kyrock, KY to Bowling Green, KY on the Barren River. James R. Hines had a son himself. His name was James G. Hines, making him the Great-Grandson of

the originally Packet Company. He started working for his family at 14 and continued to help the business until he was enlisted to serve in WWII after graduating high school in 1943. The Rock Asphalt operation closed and the company entered the gasoline transportation business by adding Gulf Oil Company as a client. While James G. Hines was serving, the business continued to grow. Eventually, James G. Hines returned from his service. In 1946, He took 15 thousand dollars from

his time in the Armed Forces and savings from his river work to help create ‘James R. Hines’ Corporation with his father, who already had his boat ‘The New Hanover(100p)’ and a wooden asphalt barge. There barge was then replaced with a massive steel tank barge. They later purchased two more vessels, increasing their fleet of purchased and chartered tank barges. Later, The company was formed into Hines Furlong Line Inc.(HFL) and was incorporated in 2004 by Kent E. Furlong,



M/V John J. Kelley(320 hp). Photo from Hines Furlong Line

the Grandson of James G. Hines. Since then, they purchased the assets of Hunter Marine Transports Inc. of Nashville, TN

in 2017 and acquired the Campbell Transportation Company, Inc River Division in Januray, 2026.



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M/V Glenn A. Hendon, named in honor of Hines Furlong Line Chief Operating Officer Glenn A. Hendon, has undergone a full refurbishment—celebrating renewed capabilities and a career defined by leadership, integrity, and strong relationships. The vessel’s upgrades reinforce HFL’s appreciation for Glenn Hendon’s service as well as a commitment to safety, reliability, and crew comfort.



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# Community Ventures Breaks Ground on Cannonball Run Subdivision, Bringing New Housing to Tornado-Impacted Cayce

7 home development represents another step in Fulton Co.'s long-term recovery & investment in rural housing

SUBMITTED

CAYCE, Ky. — Community Ventures joined state and local officials, funding partners and community members Wednesday to break ground on Cannonball Run, a new seven-homesite residential development in Cayce that will expand housing opportunities while advancing the Fulton County community's long-term recovery from the 2021 tornado.

The project represents years of collaboration among Community Ventures, Fulton County and state, federal, regional and local partners to acquire property, secure resources, navigate environmental and development requirements, and prepare the site for new housing.

"The measure of this project will be the homes that rise here and the families who make their lives inside them," said Bart Horne, president of real estate development for Community Ventures. "We're humbled by this community's trust and grateful for the opportunity to help deliver on it."

Public investment supporting Cannonball Run includes Community

Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery resources from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Kentucky Department for Local Government, as well as support by Kentucky Housing Corporation and the Rural Housing Trust Fund. Community Ventures also recognized Fulton County Fiscal Court, the Purchase Area Development District, and the public, nonprofit and private partners whose cooperation helped advance the development.

Fulton County Judge-Executive Jim Martin emphasized both the time required for disaster recovery and the importance of cooperation between the county and Community Ventures.

"I remember standing out in this road looking at this rugged property and these old, dilapidated houses that the tornado had smashed around and thinking, 'I wonder if we'll ever do anything with this?'" Martin said. "You have to buy land. You have to go through the grants process. You have to go through the environmental process. It just takes a lot of time. But we're

here today, and we're ready to go."

Martin described his vision for what the property will become. "I want to look over here and see children out here in the street riding bicycles," he said. "I want to see houses. I want to see neighbors being neighbors to other people. That is the dream of this project."

Sen. Jason Howell, who represents Fulton County and grew up in the area, emphasized the need for quality housing as the county works to retain families and strengthen schools, workforce and industry.

"We can't have people staying home, and we can't have people moving here and bringing families into our communities and into our schools, without a good place to live," Howell said.

Howell also stressed the importance of public-private collaboration in addressing Kentucky's housing needs.

"There aren't any silver-bullet answers," he said. "There are a lot of things that we have to do. Public-private partnerships and groups like Community Ventures are absolutely essential to this process."

Mark Welch, president of the

Fulton-Hickman Counties Economic Development Partnership and a Community Ventures board member, described housing as fundamental economic infrastructure.

"For those of us working in economic development, we see every day how housing is a foundation of a strong local economy," Welch said. "When a family considers staying

here or moving here, they're asking: 'Can I build a good life here? Is there a home for my family? Is this a

see **VENTURES**, page C15

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# Dr. Alexandra Oldham returns to Western Kentucky to care for local families

**By Lurna Pruett**  
KPI Writer

A dream that began in middle school will soon bring Dr. Alexandra “Lexie” Oldham, DMD, to Western Kentucky.

Oldham will join Warmath Family Dentistry, located at 2418 New Holt Road in Paducah, and Ballard Family Dentistry, located at 148 E. Kentucky Drive in La Center. She will begin seeing patients in September and will provide general dentistry services for the entire family.

A graduate of Todd County Central High School, Oldham knew by middle school that she wanted to



become a dentist. While in high school, she participated in ULEAD, the University of Louisville's early-admission program for high school students. Through the program, she interviewed for early admission to dental school and began preparing for her future

career.

Oldham earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Louisville before completing four additional years at the university's School of Dentistry. Her education combined academics, technology, community involvement and hands-on training. During her final two years, she treated patients while continuing her classroom work.

Oldham graduated among the top 10 students in her dental class, but reaching that point required long and demanding days.

"The hardest part was balancing the hands-on and academic portion of school," Oldham said.

“Some days I would come home exhausted, but knowing that I was working toward moving back home to Western Kentucky always kept me motivated. I am so happy to be back and to be near family again.”

Oldham is married to Ballard County native Jarret Oldham. The couple welcomed a son this year and wanted to return to the area where Jarret grew up so their family could remain close to relatives.

Caring for children is one area of dentistry Oldham especially enjoys. She believes a child's earliest visits to the dentist can shape how that person views dental care for years to come.

"I love working with kids and making an effort to make their first dental experiences a positive memory," she said. "How they are treated as a child can affect how they view the dental office for the rest of their life, so it is important to me that we try to make them feel as comfortable as possible."

Oldham is also looking forward to providing more

procedures within the offices, giving patients additional opportunities to receive treatment from a dentist they already know and trust rather than being referred elsewhere.

She understands that many patients enter a dental office feeling nervous, embarrassed or worried that they will be judged. Her goal is to replace that fear with trust.

"I hope they feel welcome, cared for and know that they are never being judged," Oldham said. "I always make my recommendations based on what I would recommend to a family member."

She said the overall goal is to help patients feel good about their smiles while building a strong foundation for long-term oral health.

For Oldham, serving a smaller community also means taking time to listen and involving patients in their care.

“I think for smaller communities, it is important that health care professionals make the patients feel heard,” she said. “I think it’s important to make

decisions together that balance what the patient wants and the best care available.”

Her desire to help others was also evident during her time at UofL. Oldham served as a student liaison for raiseRED Dance Marathon, the university's largest student-run philanthropic organization. Its efforts benefit the Norton Children's Cancer Institute and the UofL School of Medicine. The organization is also part of the national Miracle Network Dance Marathon movement supporting children facing serious illnesses.

Outside of dentistry, Oldham enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, kayaking, crafting and taking part in almost anything outdoors.

As she prepares to meet local patients, Oldham wants people to know that her concern for them does not end when they leave the dental chair.

"I went into dentistry wanting to help others," she said. "The most important thing to me is working with the patients and helping them reach their goals. I want them to know that I'm here for them and that I think about them and their case even when I'm home."

Warmath Family Dentistry's Paducah location is open Tuesday through Friday. Ballard Family Dentistry in La Center is open Monday through Wednesday.

The image is a vertical banner for Greer Neon Co. At the top, the company name "Greer Neon Co." is written in a large, white, cursive font on a black banner with a red outline. Below this, "MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further down, the tagline "Manufacturing Signs of All Kinds Since 1951" is written in a white, italicized, sans-serif font. To the right of the tagline, the letters "INC." are written vertically in white. The background of the top section is dark grey with a textured, metallic appearance. Below this, a large, white, sans-serif phone number "270-247-4682" is displayed with a red outline. The middle section has a dark red background with a textured, metallic appearance. Below this, a list of services is written in white, bold, sans-serif font: "SIGNS • MANUFACTURING", "INSTALLATION • SERVICE", "LED MESSAGE CENTERS", "CHURCH SIGNS • FLAG POLES", "DESIGN • VINYL • WRAPS", and "NEON • NEON REPAIRS". The bottom section has a dark grey background with a textured, metallic appearance. On the left, a white starburst shape contains the text "Proud creators of the signs for Broadway Dental Ballert Medical Aesthetics FNB Bank" in a white, sans-serif font. On the right, there is a white thumbs-up icon with the text "Like us on facebook" below it, and a white cursor icon pointing towards the bottom right corner. The website address "GreerNeonCo.com" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font at the very bottom right.



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# Murray-Calloway County Hospital welcomes new Chief Financial Officer, Valerie Bryant

MURRAY, KY – Murray-Calloway County Hospital (MCCH) is pleased to announce the appointment of Valerie Bryant as Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Bryant brings extensive healthcare financial leadership experience to MCCH, including 15 years of service as a Chief Financial Officer for hospitals in Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Throughout her career, she has developed a strong background in healthcare finance, financial strategy, and operational leadership. As CFO, Bryant will oversee MCCH’s financial operations, including budgeting, financial planning and reporting, revenue cycle management, and other key financial functions. As a member of the hospital’s executive leadership team, she will also help guide financial strategy and support MCCH’s continued growth and investment in healthcare services for

the region.

“We are excited to welcome Valerie to the Murray-Calloway County Hospital leadership team,” said Reba Celsor, CEO of MCCH. “Her extensive healthcare financial experience, strategic insight, and understanding of the challenges facing community hospitals will be tremendous assets to our organization. Just as importantly, Valerie shares our commitment to ensuring MCCH remains strong, independent, and positioned to continue serving this community for generations to come.”

Most recently, Bryant served at Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s Clarksville hospital. Her healthcare career has included financial leadership roles with hospitals across four states, giving her a broad perspective on the opportunities and challenges facing healthcare organizations today.

Bryant holds a Bachelor of Accountancy and a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Finance from Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration in Troy, Michigan.

Originally from Michigan, Bryant currently resides in Clarksville, Tennessee, and plans to relocate to Murray in the near future. She and her husband, who were high school sweethearts, have been married for 37 years and have two adult children, a son and daughter, who reside in Michigan.

MCCH welcomes Valerie Bryant to its executive leadership team and looks forward to the experience and leadership she brings to the organization and community.

For more information, contact the Marketing Department at 270.762.1382, or visit our website at [www.murrayhospital.org](http://www.murrayhospital.org).

About Murray-Calloway County Hospital

Murray-Calloway County Hospital is a not-for-profit, community-owned hospital dedicated to providing outstanding healthcare services to Murray and the surrounding region. With a commitment to excellence and compassion, MCCH offers a full range of medical services to meet the needs of patients and families across Western Kentucky and Northwest Tennessee.



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# How communities can help to grow local businesses

A community is comprised of various resources that coalesce to make it unique. Businesses are important components of that formula, and successful enterprises increase the chances a community will thrive. According to the business development experts at WSB, businesses help support and diversify a community property tax base, provide goods and services for existing and future residents, and contribute to a strong, local economy. There's much to gain from a thriving local business sector, and communities can help

them thrive and grow in various ways.

- Prioritize shopping at local businesses. Before making purchases online or at big-box retailers, shoppers can explore the offerings closer to home. Local businesses often have high-quality items that cannot be found elsewhere.
- Choose local restaurants. When searching for places to enjoy a meal, community members can select local restaurants instead of chains. They also can purchase gift cards to local restaurants when gifting others.
- Encourage and support small business



partnerships. According to research by Faire, an online wholesale marketplace, a majority of retailers are focused on establishing partnerships with other local businesses to set them apart

from larger competitors. Shared loyalty programs, co-hosted events and joint promotions are popular ways that businesses can benefit from partnerships. Community chambers of commerce can

promote such efforts and residents can support them by patronizing these companies.

- Influence local sourcing. While patronizing local businesses, consumers can suggest options to

influence businesses' own purchasing decisions and encourage them to prioritize local suppliers and products.

- Be informed about local policies. Community members should advocate for policies that are favorable to local businesses and entrepreneurs. This can create a diverse and robust local economy.

The relationship between community members and local businesses is symbiotic. Each provides benefits to the other and the relationship can be nurtured to grow a strong local business community.



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**VENTURES,**  
from page C11

community with a future?” Cannonball Run helps us answer yes to all of those questions.”

“Seven new homes will not solve every housing challenge in our region, but they will be tangible proof that this community can meet a need, bring the right partners

together, secure resources and move from planning to construction,” Welch added.

The development’s name was inspired by Cayce’s railroad heritage and the community’s connection to legendary railroad engineer Casey Jones, who grew up in the area. Horne said the connection reflects

“service, courage, responsibility, and remembering where you came from when you move forward in life.”

The August 12 ceremony included remarks from Horne, Howell, Martin and Welch, followed by a ceremonial groundbreaking. Community representatives, local officials, economic-

development partners, contractors, school representatives and other community stakeholders were among those in attendance.

Construction of Cannonball Run will turn the seven planned homesites into new opportunities for families to establish roots in Cayce while contributing to the community’s

ongoing recovery and economic future.

Individuals interested in Cannonball Run or other Community Ventures housing and homeownership opportunities may contact Joshua Wessel at [jwessel@cvky.org](mailto:jwessel@cvky.org).

About Community Ventures

Through partnerships and community-

based investment, Community Ventures empowers individuals, families and communities to build stronger financial futures by expanding access to opportunities including housing, homeownership, lending and business development, creating sustainable economic opportunities in communities across Kentucky.

# How to master remote work

Remote working might not be as common as it was during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when a significant percentage of working professionals were required to work from home as a safety precaution. A 2025 report from Wow Remote Teams estimated that 22 percent of American workers would spend the year working remotely, while the staffing and recruitment experts at Robert Half anticipated four in 10 workers being afforded some amount of remote work opportunities in 2025.

Those figures might be a far cry from remote work statistics earlier in the decade, but they still indicate that a significant percentage of professionals are spending at least some, if not all, of their workday working from home. Working from home poses some unique challenges that are not necessarily present when commuting to an



office each day. A few simple strategies can help remote workers overcome the unique issues that may arise when working from home.

• **Schedule each day.** A work calendar that includes daily tasks and meetings can help remote workers stay the course and avoid succumbing to distractions present at home that are not around in a typical office. In addition to listing tasks and meetings,

add goals to a daily schedule, which can keep remote workers motivated to continue working during lulls in the workday.

• **Minimize in-office distractions.** Remote workers who spend enough time working from home to merit a separate home office space should do what’s necessary to minimize in-office distractions. For instance, a television in a home office can be a needless

distraction that remote workers may turn on even when they have a full day’s work on their plate. Additional creature comforts also can be nice but distracting. Minimizing such distractions in a home office can ensure remote workers are as productive at home as they were when they commuted to an office each day.

• **Stay in touch.** One of the hurdles companies face when allowing workers to work from home

is maintaining open lines of communication between staff members. Remote workers should prioritize communication with colleagues and coworkers even if they no longer see them each day. Identify ways to remain in touch so productivity does not suffer and projects are completed on time and up to par. Utilize communication channels such as email, messaging

apps, text messaging, and Zoom to remain connected with colleagues. Management personnel can consider daily or weekly meetings with necessary personnel to ensure workflow is not suffering and confirm everyone is on the same page with projects and expectations.

• **Remain flexible.** Flexibility is often cited as part of the appeal of remote work, but remote workers must recognize that’s a two-way street. If employers and supervisors allow remote workers flex hours and other perks exclusive to working from home, then that flexibility must be reciprocated when the need arises. A willingness to work some late nights or even weekend hours is a good tradeoff for the benefits of working from home.

Remote working remains a fact of life for millions of workers, who can employ various strategies to remain productive when working from home.

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# Ag commissioner looking into data centers

## Kentucky Dept. of Agriculture

The placement of data centers has been a heated topic in several communities across Kentucky in recent months, not only because of their utility needs and noise, but also because of the land — sometimes farmland — they are targeting.

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said recently that his office is working to make sure citizens have answers to many of the uncertainties surrounding the projects, including who owns the companies.

“The biggest concern that we have is around the unknown of who has ownership of the companies, and then also around taking prime farmland out of commission,” Shell said. “So what we have been focused on, and this is whether it’s been solar projects, wind projects, or data centers that are coming in now, is that we’re seeing an extreme use around electricity rates, we’re seeing potential property value increases, and then we’re also seeing

farmland being taken up for purposes that are other than farmland. So what we want to do is to make sure that we give and help procure as much information as possible for a local community to make the decision that’s best for them.”

Shell, however, said his office is not anti-data centers.

“What we want is the correct policies being put in place so that there is as little negative impact for the future as possible,” Shell said, “because what we recognize is a couple of things: One, we’re in competition with China for the data race that’s out there right now. And from a national security standpoint, these things are going to have to be developed and built here in America, the same as they are other places. And we want to make sure that they are American-owned data centers that are here.

“I have a pretty hard stance on that, that we should have American-owned data centers that are here that’s American data that’s owned by American citizens.”

Shell said, in addition to having a clear understanding of what entities own

the data centers, his office wants to make sure there are no negative impacts on the state’s citizens.

“We have to make sure that we protect the residents of a community as much as possible from negative effects, whether it be the tax base or whether it is increased electricity rates or whether it’s around property values increasing,” Shell said. “So it’s one thing for a company to come in and promise all these beautiful things from tax bases to new schools and new buses. But we want to make sure that those things are true. And then the third thing is looking at this expensive technology that’s inside, especially around property values, of having these located in communities, of making sure that it doesn’t negatively impact unduly from where they’re located.

“So we’re putting together some proposals that we want the legislature to look at around disclosure of ownership, around negative impact statements for communities, and then around new



Jonathan Shell

zoning regulations that potentially could be considered for local citizens and local governments to be able to consider, because we also know that this is data we all use every single day. And we’ve got to have the information, the ability to use it.”

Shell said those in agriculture often embrace technology early because of how it helps offset labor issues.

“We can’t get enough people to work on the farm,” he said. “We need technology to increase the ability for us to increase yields and have market availability and be able to play in a global (economy) that we live in to date. And so when we talk about data centers, we’re not trying to be anti-data center to the point that they can’t exist. What we want to make sure of is that local officials

have the information that they need in order to make the best decision and put them where people want them.”

Shell said he’s encouraged that many of the projects announced have been at previous industrial sites. However, it hasn’t erased his concern about the potential loss of farmland.

“I think it’s a concern, because what we’re seeing is these data centers don’t require the amount of acreage that these companies are buying in many cases,” Shell said. “You know, a lot of these data centers can go on 3 to 15 acres, but they’re buying 500. And a lot of places where they’re going is extremely prime areas for farming operations.”

When it comes to losing farmland, Shell said he’s more concerned about the impact from solar farms.

“They need thousands of acres, a lot of ground, and once you remove that ground and you move it around, it doesn’t come back,” he said. “But it doesn’t seem like the pushback is as high on solar farms as it is data

centers.”

Shell said the best way to calm concerns about the potential impact of data centers is to erase the unknowns about them in residents’ minds.

“I think people are just uncomfortable because of the unknown, and whether it’s false information or true information, there’s just a lot of misinformation ... that’s out there,” he said. “We need more information on how these things are being built, how they’re being run, and what the effects of them may be in the future. But as far as seeing the need for them, we see the need. I’m not going to say I’m all in. But there is a need for them.

“We just want to be cautious in how we move forward. But we do definitely see a need for them in the race internationally, for national security, to be able to have the data. But we have to make the right and the smart decisions with these, in our rural communities especially.”

This article was written by Scott Hagerman, Messenger-Inquirer.

# Historic Castleton on offer during Keeneland Championship Sale October 28

Keeneland’s Championship Sale during Breeders’ Cup week will take place Wednesday, Oct. 28 at historic Castleton, which will itself be the final lot of the evening, according to a press release from Keeneland on Wednesday afternoon.

The auction team will offer the farm-listed by Bluegrass Sotheby’s International Realty—marking a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the two entities.

The third annual Championship Sale will once again allow buyers access to unique offerings,

including fractional interests in Breeders’ Cup contenders, stallion shares, breeding rights, elite broodmares, racing prospects and other rare offerings.

“Every year, we ask ourselves how we can push the Championship Sale forward, giving our guests an unforgettable event and buyers something they can’t find anywhere else,” Keeneland President and CEO Shannon Arvin said. “This year’s auction promises to be exceptional, set against one of the most picturesque backdrops in the

Bluegrass, and closing the evening with the offering of Castleton. These historic moments are what make the Championship Sale so special.”

Founded in 1793 by John Breckinridge, Castleton is one of

the Bluegrass’ oldest and most storied horse farms, its roots reaching back to the beginning of the nation. The farm rose to prominence in the late 19th century, producing 1896 Kentucky Derby winner Ben

Brush among other champions.

Today, under the stewardship of the Ryan family, the farm continues that legacy.

“We have been blessed to be part of Castleton’s history, and I would welcome whoever takes over those reins to wrap their arms around this place and truly enjoy it,” said current Castleton owner Shane Ryan. “If possible, live here—live here full-time. Make it your home and enjoy every moment of it. It’s only when you spend even a little time here that you begin to understand what makes the farm so

extraordinary. Enjoy the grande dame that is Castleton.”

To learn more about the Keeneland Championship Sale, including details for prospective sellers and pre-registration for remote and in-person bidding, visit [www.Keeneland.com](http://www.Keeneland.com).

For more information on Castleton, visit [www.BGSIR.com](http://www.BGSIR.com) or contact listing agent Ken Donworth at [kdonworth@bgsir.com](mailto:kdonworth@bgsir.com) or (859) 983-9933.

Additional details about the Championship Sale, including equine offerings, will be announced.



Castleton Greek Revival Mansion | courtesy of Keeneland



# Farmers respond to EPA Biofuels announcement

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented today on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) announcement regarding small refinery exemptions, which impact biofuel demand by exempting refineries from blending renewable fuel as required under the Renewable Fuel Standard.

“Renewable fuels have been a tremendous success story for the country and the rural economy. They reduce our country’s dependence on foreign oil, lower

prices at the pump for consumers, support farm income, and provide good-paying jobs in rural America.

“While we have concerns about granting any small refinery exemptions that undercut a strong domestic biofuels market for farmers, we are pleased to see EPA’s commitment to 100% reallocation of exempted volumes before the end of October. Reallocation is necessary to maintain robust demand for American grown crops. We called on the president to carefully consider the

impact of changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard that would destabilize this important market, and we’re pleased that our concerns were heard.

“Farmers are proud to answer the call to help meet America’s energy needs. Farm Bureau looks forward to working with the administration to ensure 100% reallocation of exempted renewable fuel volumes, strengthening the biofuels market that supports America’s farmers while moving our country closer to energy independence.”



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# Agriculture Commissioner Shell's Farm to Fork Dinner

*Renee Shaw headlines event benefiting Kentucky foster families*



FRANKFORT, Ky. – Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell hosted the third annual Commissioner's Farm to Fork Benefit Dinner on Wednesday, Aug. 19, at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

The event raised funds to provide Kentucky State Fair and agricultural tourism experiences for foster children and families through Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Kentucky Exposition Foundation.

Proceeds from the dinner will help provide foster

children and families with memorable experiences that many might not otherwise have, including a day at the Kentucky State Fair complete with food and rides, West Kentucky 4-H Camp, fall festivals, and other agricultural tourism opportunities.

Since launching in 2024, the program has served nearly 1,000 foster children and families across the Commonwealth.

"There was no better way to kick off the Kentucky State Fair than by bringing people together around a table filled with Kentucky Proud

products while supporting children and families across the Commonwealth," Commissioner Shell said. "Kentucky CASA gives vulnerable children a voice when they need it most. We're proud to help advance that mission and create opportunities for the families they serve."

The Farm to Fork Benefit Dinner was held on Wednesday, Aug. 19, the evening before opening day of the Kentucky State Fair.

This year's featured speaker was Renee Shaw, one of the Commonwealth's most respected journalists who recently retired after nearly three decades at Kentucky Educational Television.

"One of the things that makes Kentucky special is the way our communities rally around children and families in need," Shaw said. "I'm honored to be part of an evening that celebrates Kentucky agriculture while helping create meaningful opportunities and lasting memories for foster children across the Commonwealth"

Each year, trained CASA volunteers serve as advocates for

abused and neglected children involved in Kentucky's court system, ensuring their voices are heard and their best interests remain the priority throughout legal proceedings.

"The Kentucky CASA Network was excited to once again partner with Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell for the third annual Farm to Fork Dinner to kick off the Kentucky State Fair," said Andrea Bruns, State Director/CEO of The Kentucky CASA Network.

"This dinner is an opportunity to share CASA's mission with the agriculture community and raise funds for foster youth. Funds raised go toward the CASA mission as well as funds directly to support foster youth engagement in agriculture tourism and enrichment opportunities statewide."

The event is part of the Kentucky Proud® Farm to Fork Program, administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to celebrate Kentucky-grown food while supporting charitable organizations across the Commonwealth.

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