

The Marshall Times

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FNB Donates Over \$87,000 Back to Local Schools Through Spirit Debit Card Reward Program in 2025

FNB Bank is proud to announce that they have donated over \$87,000 back to Mayfield, Graves County, Trigg County, and Marshall County Schools through their Spirit Debit Card Program in 2025. Most recently, FNB’s 4th quarter (2025) donation resulted in over \$22,000 to the participating schools. “We are proud to offer our exclusive FNB Spirit Debit Card Program to our local schools,” stated Brooke Wiles, FNB Marketing Director. “Our customers have pride in knowing that they are making a difference in the lives of our youth by simply swiping their Spirit Debit Cards at

the checkout. The donated funds allow the school systems the opportunity to do more for their students and staff, which is an invaluable asset to our community.” The FNB Spirit Debit Card Program allows FNB and their customers the opportunity to give back to their local schools when they use their FNB debit card. FNB currently offers Spirit Debit Cards for Mayfield, Graves County, Trigg County, and Marshall County Schools. The Spirit Card works like a traditional debit card and for each signature-based transaction (not using your PIN), FNB donates \$0.10 to the corresponding



school. The tracking process is hassle free for the card holder, as FNB does all the track-

ing and submits the check to each school on a quarterly basis. The donated funds are

utilized at the school’s discretion. To learn more about the Spirit Debit Card Program,

stop by your nearest FNB Office or visit Spirit Debit Cards – Grow With FNB.

Murray Art Guild to Open Early February

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

The Murray Art Guild is preparing to open its doors for its new Fourth Street location in early February, offering a larger footprint, updated design and expanded opportunities for artists and the community. The Murray Art Guild will officially open on February 3, 2026 featuring workshops and a makers’ market. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for March 6 and will include multiple events, such as a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an opening reception for a new exhibition. The new facility provides space the guild has been without for the past two years,

including a retail area, dedicated clay and weaving studios, rentable rooms for art-

years in the making as the planning and fundraising for the project stretched

intended to allow the organization to start “dreaming and planning” for the future.

entities and donations from community members, the guild was able to construct

This project reflects local and statewide support for the arts, particularly in rural communities. With the new space, the guild can now provide creative experiences locally that previously required traveling to larger cities, such as Paducah. The guild aims to be a place that brings people together, fosters creativity and adds meaning to everyday life through artistic expression. While the building is new, the guild’s existing programs will continue. The weaving and clay programs are expected to grow now that each has its own dedicated space designed specifically for those activities.



ists and an exhibition gallery. It was stated that the journey to the new building has been

over more than six years. It began when a guild member made a donation specifically

Through a combination of a community block grant, support from local public

the \$2.1 million building in about 18 months as part of its Brick by Brick campaign.

Marshall County Tater Day Festival Officially in the Planning Stages

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

The City of Benton’s long-running Tater Day festival is still about two and a half months away, but that means preparations are already underway, and organizers are actively seeking volunteers to help support the growing event. More than 180 years later from the very first tater day, the tradition has expanded into a multi-day celebration featuring a parade, vendors, competitions

and a wide range of activities. Festivities are set to kick off Friday, April 3, with the traditional Tater Day parade scheduled for Monday, April 6. As the schedule has filled out, the need for additional help has increased to ensure events can be run safely and smoothly. Interest from the public has driven many of the ideas for new activities, including requests for additional horse-related events and other attractions and can only move forward if there are

enough volunteers willing to help organize and manage them. The first volunteer meeting is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday February 3, 2026 at Benton City Hall. Volunteer meetings will continue to be held every few weeks leading up to the festival. One of the more recent changes to Tater Day has been the push to establish a street market around the courthouse square. That plan was intended to debut in 2025, but heavy rainfall and flooding required road

barricades to be used elsewhere, leaving the square open during the planned market hours. After dealing with weather-related disruptions last year, a contingency plan is in place for the 2026 festival. Those plans include purchasing additional barricades for the square, identifying alternate locations for certain events and preparing for potential schedule adjustments if weather conditions require them. The organizer is also exploring the option of personal-

ly purchasing gates that could be used to control traffic flow around the square. The gates would allow vehicles to pass through when needed while still maintaining clear detour routes for festivalgoers. It was also added that this approach would provide added support for city staff and law enforcement, rather than relying solely on municipal resources. Among the newer additions to Tater Day was a sweet potato pie bake-off introduced in 2025, with hopes

to expand that this year and a new sweet potato pie eating contest for 2026 is being considered as well. Those activities, along with a vendor market, are planned for the courthouse square throughout the weekend. The square will also serve as a hub for live music and additional entertainment. Several popular events are already confirmed for 2026, including the Couch Potato Pet Photo Contest, the Tater Trot 5K, designated trade day areas and more.

Gov. Beshear Announces Nearly \$884,000 in Grant Funding Available To Reduce Crime and Violence

Press Release

FRANKFORT, Ky. Gov. Andy Beshear announced that applications are open for nearly \$884,000 in federal grant funding to reduce crime and violence across the commonwealth.

Funding from the federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) is available to units of local governments to assist state, local and tribal efforts to prevent and reduce crime and violence, with a focus on gun violence and programs and initiatives that address root causes. Eligible applicants include towns, counties and cities, as well as law enforcement, judicial enforcement districts, or school districts.

“Preventing crime in all of our communities is essential to building the safer New Kentucky Home all of our children deserve,” Gov. Beshear said. “As we continue to make progress, I am proud to work with our local governments to ensure every corner of our state is safer than ever before.”

This funding opportunity follows December’s announcement of more than \$1.3 million in Byrne SCIP funding awarded by Gov. Beshear to 12 organizations, including the city of Somerset, the Fayette County Board

of Education, Hope Center Inc., Maryhurst and Western Kentucky University.

Byrne SCIP provides funding to create and implement state crisis intervention court proceedings, including mental health courts, drug courts and veterans’ treatment courts, and related programs or initiatives to prevent or reduce gun violence. Kentucky’s State Crisis Intervention Advisory Board adopted five program areas for priority funding: court programs and court-based diversion programs; behavioral health initiatives and crisis response; community crisis intervention and co-responder programs and training; suicide prevention initiatives, particularly those related to veterans and youth; and education and public awareness campaigns and gun safety device distribution.

“Funding like this is essential to our continued support of local government agencies who work each day to reduce crime in their communities,” said Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Keith Jackson. “It fosters collaboration and builds relationships that allow us to support all Kentuckians and build brighter futures for all.”

Applications must



be submitted online by 5 p.m. EST on Feb. 27, 2026, via Intelligrants 10.0 (IGX), the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet’s electronic grants management system. Assistance with the application process may be obtained by contacting grants management staff at JUSIGX@ky.gov. Awards are expected to be announced in September with the award date beginning Oct. 1.

The Beshear-Coleman administration’s top priority is the safety of all Kentuckians. The Governor’s public safety actions are creating safer communities and a better Kentucky.

Since taking office, the Beshear-Coleman administration has awarded more than \$162 million in grant funding to victim service agencies across

the commonwealth. Gov. Beshear has also signed legislation to make sexual extortion a felony and strengthened statutory language to include other forms of abuse and sexual exploitation of minors.

For the first time, Kentucky is simultaneously offering basic training in two locations, Richmond and Madisonville. As of January, 37 officers have graduated from the Western Kentucky Law Enforcement Training Facility, which is currently in a building provided by the Madisonville Police Department. Team Kentucky is in the process of constructing a new, state-of-the-art facility in Madisonville, and Gov. Beshear’s 2026-2028 executive budget requests an additional

\$64.8 million to construct the remaining critical elements of the facility, including an indoor firing range and a driving track.

Protecting the commonwealth’s schools are a top priority of Team Kentucky. In August of last year, the Governor announced that 1,315 Kentucky public schools are following statutory safety requirements required by the School Safety and Resiliency Act and that the number of school resource officers protecting schools has increased more than 100% since he took office.


Since Gov. Beshear took office, fewer Kentuckians have returned to prison after their release. In February 2025, it was announced that nearly 70% of those released

from state custody have not returned. The 2024 Crime in Kentucky report, released in June, shows that, from 2023 to 2024, there was an overall decrease of 7.66% in reports of serious crime.

For three straight years, overdose deaths have decreased in Kentucky. In 2024, the commonwealth saw 30.2% fewer overdose deaths than the year prior. Gov. Beshear continued this progress in November by scheduling 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) as a Schedule I narcotic, making it illegal to sell, possess or distribute any isolated or concentrated forms of 7-OH in the state.

In April of last year, Gov. Beshear officially opened the doors to the new law enforcement training facility named in honor of Jody Cash, who lost his life in the line of duty. The facility is designed for officers to learn intensive and specialized training that will support all of Kentucky’s law enforcement agencies.

Since taking office, Gov. Beshear has awarded nearly \$12 million in grant funding to assist state and local law enforcement agencies with enhancing public and officer safety, curbing the sale of illegal drugs and fighting addiction.



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25 Years Later: Comets Celebrate 2001 Region 1 Champions

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

Recently, Carlisle County Comets fans were treated to a special night during one of their home games against the Hickman County Falcons on January 23, as the school celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the 2001 Region 1 Championship team.

Before the games, the spotlight was on the legendary 2001 Comets team, which shocked the region with its unforgettable postseason run. Entering the season with only two returning starters and facing highly ranked teams like Paducah Tilghman, Graves County, and Marshall County, the Comets exceeded all expectations. After an early upset in the All A regional tournament, the team rallied to finish the regular season 18-5. Their postseason included a dominant 68-43 district win over Hickman County and a hard-fought 65-57 victory over Fulton



Pictured at the ceremony: Kirk Arnold, Brett Hoskins, Dirk Draper, Cody Martin, Austin Tyler, Brett Reddick, Derek Lemons, Matt Hoskins, Lucian Rogers, Coach Brian O’Neill, Dustin Williams, Coach Rob Anderson, and Coach Casey Henderson.

City to claim the district championship.

In the Regional Tournament, the Comets defeated Ballard Memorial and top-ranked Marshall County before facing Paducah Tilghman in the championship game. Trailing in the first half, the Comets rallied to take a 62-54 victory, securing their place in Carlisle

County basketball history. Their season concluded at Rupp Arena in Lexington with a close Sweet Sixteen loss to eventual state champion Lexington Lafayette, finishing with a 23-6 record. The 2001 Comets were celebrated for their half-court defense, precise offense, and


unmatched team play. Coach Brian O’Neill, along with assistant coaches JR Conkle, Rob Anderson, and Casey Henderson, led a roster that included seniors Matt Hogancamp, Matt Hoskins, Doug O’Neill, Phillip Gonzales, Jeff Solomon, and Dustin Williams, juniors Derek Lemons and

Lucian Rogers, sophomores Dirk Draper, Cody Martin, Brett Reddick, and Austin Tyler, and freshmen Kirk Arnold, Brett Hoskins, and Kris Kelly. During the Varsity Boys game, the Comets defeated Hickman County 61-29. Leading the team were Rickard

with 12 points, 13 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals, and 5 blocks, and O’Neill with 12 points and 7 assists. Other contributions included McBride (9 points, 2 rebounds), Perez (6 points, 6 rebounds, 2 steals), Neeble (6 points, 3 rebounds), Chandler (6 points), Bruer (4 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals), Garrett (2 points, 7 rebounds, 2 blocks), Fourshee (2 points, 4 rebounds), and Canary (2 points).



The Varsity Girls also claimed victory, 47-38, highlighted by Hogancamp’s 17 points and 12 rebounds, with support from Lemons (11 points, 3 steals), Edging (9 points, 4 rebounds), Webb (4 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals), Bruer (4 points, 3 rebounds), Thornsborough (2 points), and Draper (4 rebounds, 3 assists).

The celebration honored the lasting legacy of the 2001 team, reminding fans of the memories and triumphs that continue to inspire the Comets community.




ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH • 10:07 AM • 6716 TURNBERRY DRIVE • PADUCAH, KY • IN THE GROVE! • BUILT BY GEORGE CHURCHWELL
±5055 SQ. FT. UR. • 5 BR, 3 1/2 BA • 3 CAR GARAGE • BRICK HOME & BRICK PRIVACY FENCE • RAISED BRICK PATIO W/FIREPLACE





Open House: Sunday, February 1st from 1:07-3:07 PM. One of the last subdivisions and homes built by the late and great George Churchwell with his partnership. George was McCracken County's preeminent builder/developer for nearly 60 years. Our seller – a physician – recently widowed and retired. Loves everything about Paducah and her "lovely home". Has moved to be near family in another state. Outstanding is an understatement. Designed and built for a lifetime of enjoyment. Luxury entertainment and comfort on the main level. Luxury comfort and relaxation throughout. Every element/component of a Churchwell home makes a signature statement. Consider the attractive brick and stone entry with bevel glass door, sidelights, and transom; steps into the ±21x8 Ft. wood floored foyer with double guest closet and to the ±22.5x18 Ft. family room with fabulous ±10 Ft. high coffered ceiling, pretty fireplace with hardwood built-ins, mantle, & surround with pretty window treatments, ceiling fan, & wood floor; ±18.66x13.5 Ft. kitchen with open dining concept, ±10 Ft. ceiling with crown molding, solid hardwood cabinetry, breakfast bar, granite countertops, hall pantry, built-in desk, fine iron chandelier (in the dining area) highlighting the ±10 Ft. ceiling with octagon dome and octagon inlaid wood flooring, plus wainscot paneled walls; the kitchen/dining area steps out through patio doors to the ±26x15 Ft. raised brick terrace/patio with brick wood-burning fireplace, and views the private backyard. You must see for yourself the ±20.33x16.75 Ft. master bedroom with its ±14x12 Ft. master bath and its ±9.25x8.25 Ft. walk-in closet adding up to nearly 600 Sq. Ft.; the bedroom features a ±10 Ft. high double tray ceiling with crown molding, ceiling fan, and custom window treatments; bath has new frameless glass shower plus ceramic tile floor, with his/her cabinetry, plus the walk-in closet with shelving and hardwood floor. Up the beautiful wainscot paneled staircase with wood & iron handrails to a wood floored balcony wrap-around leading to four large bedrooms with Jack-and-Jill baths (or two ±600 Sq. Ft. master bedrooms including baths and two adjoining bedrooms/offices/bonus rooms, etc.); one with a vaulted or cathedral ceiling; Each bedroom has one or more walk-in closet. Other amenities include: ±4100 Sq. Ft. living area; ±955 Sq. Ft. 3 car garage; utility room with cabinetry and shelving; half bath; pantry; ceiling fans throughout; wood or tile floors throughout; recessed lighting; alarm system; pretty homesite; gated private fenced backyard; brick & stone exterior; concrete drive & parking; natural gas central heat and air; city water and sewer; and much more! **Auctioneer's Note: Call your REALTOR or call us today! Inspectors welcome by appointment. Terms of Auction:** 15% Deposit day of auction; balance within 45 days. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the total contract price. Possession immediate at closing.




ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH • 10:07 AM • 301 KENNEDY ROAD • PADUCAH, KY • AT THE HOME OF THE LATE PASTOR DON YOUNG
BRICK • ±4212 SQ. FT. UR. • 5 OR 6 BR, 4 BA • 2 CAR GARAGE • 2 FIREPLACES • PRIVACY FENCED AND GATED BACKYARD

Preview: Monday, February 9th from 3:07PM-5:07PM or Day of Auction beginning at 8:37AM or call 270-556-5212 to schedule a viewing. This pretty, colonial-style home provided a lifetime of enjoyment for Pastor Don, his wife Edie, and their children. Such a great place to grow up, and Don only had a few minutes to the Heartland Worship Center - founded and loved by Brother Don and his family. And of course, it's very near other churches, schools, restaurants, shopping, I-24, Mercy Health Hospital, and much more. Consider these features: ± 34'x5.5' Brick 4 Column "Welcome Home"/"Rocking Chair" Front Porch; Enter into the ±11.5'x8.5' (with offset) hardwood foyer with pretty chandelier; ±22.25'x22' Family Room w/Tray Ceiling, crown dentil molding. Victorian style fireplace w/gas logs, and more; ±21'x11.25' Kitchen w/breakfast bar, ceramic tile floor, 2 pantries, lots of cabinetry, plus furnished with counter top cooking, built in oven, microwave, and dishwasher. Adjoins the ±12'x11' Breakfast room w/±16.75'x11.5' bumpout w/hardwood floor and patio doors to the ±20.33'x12' railed covered deck and out to the ±23.5'x21' privacy fenced courtyard. Adjoins the ±21.75'x12' formal dining room w/hardwood floor and Victorian style mantled fireplace w/gas logs. The master bedroom this level is ±16.75'x11.5' w/patio doors to the railed deck and courtyard. The master bath is ±14.75'x11.5' with his and her walk-in closets, jacuzzi style tub, and corner shower. The second bedroom (study or bonus room) this level is ±12'x10.75' with patio door to the driveway. Here is found the second full bath which is ±10'x7.25' with utility closet plus washer and dryer hookup. Up the hardwood and railed staircase (which has a decorative iron double security gate at the top) you'll discover 4 bedrooms and 2 baths including the 2nd master bedroom which is ±20.25'x13.5' and in addition a master bath and 3 double closets. The 4th bedroom is ±13.5'x14'. The 5th bedroom is ±13.2'x12.25' and the 6th is ±12.5'x8.75. The fourth bath is ±8'x7' w/ceramic tile floor. Other amenities include ±3612 sq ft living area; ±600sq ft 2 car garage; plus, a ±310 sq ft finished out office (to the back of the garage) with a ±11'x8' below level panic room and a staircase to a large, floored attic. Gated black top drive with parking in back. Natural gas central heat & air, city water and sewers. 2nd floor attic, breaker system, gazebo & so much more. **Real Estate Terms of Auction:** 15% deposit day of auction, balance within 45 days. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the total contract price. **Also selling online only** ±4,212 sq ft of furnishings including appliances, furniture, antiques, tools, collectibles and more. Begins Thursday, February 19th at 10:07AM. See website for online auction terms, end times, pickup times, w/inventoried items and pictures coming soon.






ABSOLUTE ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION

BEGINS: THURS., FEB. 26TH AT 10:07 AM • APPROX. 922 & 923 DOC-SILER RD. • WILLIAMSBURG, KY • ±80-85 ACRE LUSH MOUNTAIN RETREAT

It's over a half mile between the creek bottom on one end of this farm and the mountain top on the other end of this lush mountain retreat, and can be adequately described from the top as breathtaking! The majority of this farm has belonged to the William Tidwell family since 1890, and the remainder since just after WWII - farming much of it (as evidenced by terracing found on part of the property). For ±80 years, this was their homeplace - their farm. It's been since 1970 (or thereabout) that any of the descendants have lived on the property, and now the heirs - those great-grand descendants - have elected to sell now (due to age). This is a once-in-a-lifetime investment opportunity! The families have decided to sell it all together by the deed descriptions. Acreage amount - although professionally estimated - is not guaranteed. PVA estimates, as well, are likely inaccurate. However, this property borders the historical Kentucky Tennessee line with massive stone "cucumber" markers at the highest elevation's east and west corners, that are believed to still be in place. Whitley County water is available to the property. There is a heavy stand of timber on the property - not harvested in ±30 years. Do your cruises and evaluations! There are lots of deer and other game on this property. Almost untouched for half a century. **Terms of Auction:** 20% Deposit day of auction; balance within 45 days. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the total contract price. See additional terms & conditions on our website!



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Home delivery for: Advance Yeoman, Carlisle County News, The Carlisle Weekly, Livingston Ledger and West Ky News
Subscription rates: \$51.00 per year(420 zip code) • **\$81** per year (outside a 420 zip) • Website subscription: **\$51.00**
Mail subscriptions to: Kentucky Publishing, Inc 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, Ky 42001.
Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover accepted. Subscriptions are payable in advance. Late payments are retroactive

The Advance Yeoman
Editor; Teresa Pearson
Periodical Class Postage paid at the
LaCenter Post Office; LaCenter, Ky 42056
Publication Number, 7-520
Physcial Address: 114 West Ky Drive
LaCenter, Ky 42056

The Carlisle County News
Freelance Writer; Lilly Morefield
Periodical Class Postage paid at the
Bardwell Post Office, Bardwell, KY 42023
Publication Number, 9-0780
Physcial Address: 305 Front St.,
Bardwell, Ky 42023

The Carlisle Weekly
Freelance Writer; Lilly Morefield
Periodical Class Postage paid at the
Bardwell Post Office, Bardwell, KY 42023
Publication Number, 1-5123
Physcial Address: 5995 St Rt Hwy 80 E
Arlington, KY 42021

The Livingston Ledger
Periodical Class Postage paid at the
Smithland Post Office, Smithlandl, KY 42081
Publication Number, 316-560P
Physcial Address: 129 Adair St.,
Smithland, KY 42081

West KY Sports



Nominations open for Kentucky Comeback Athlete of c Year Award

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — For the 10th year, UK Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, through its partnership with the KHSAA, seeks nominations for the Kentucky Comeback Athlete of the Year, meeting the following criteria:

The nominee must have overcome illness or injury that affected their ability to participate in KHSAA-sanctioned sports.

The nominee must have returned to their sport(s) and demonstrated excellence and achievement beyond expectations.

The student-athlete must consistently demonstrate good sportsmanship and ethical behavior on and off the playing field.

The nominee must be in verified good academic standing with their school.

The student must have participated and been a member of an athletic team during the 2024-25 academic year.

Nominations should be

submitted by Friday, Feb. 6 to the KHSAA via form submission – <https://form.jotform.com/260063927314050>

Nominees will then be sent to UK Orthopedics and Sports Medicine for review and selection.

Nominees will be automatically forwarded to UK HealthCare and the Sports Medicine Staff for review and selection.

The selection committee, consisting of athletic trainers from each region across the state, will evaluate each nominee.

A decision will be made and the winner will be contacted in February.

The boys' award will be presented at the 2026 UK HealthCare Boys' Sweet 16 Basketball tournament at Rupp Arena.

The girls' award will be presented at the 2026 Clark's Pump-N-Shop Girls' Sweet 16 Basketball Tournament at Rupp Arena.

St. Mary 56, Murray 37

Staff Report

MURRAY — Winning on the road, St. Mary defeated 1st Region rival Murray 56-37 in a non-district girls' basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 22.

St. Mary shot 31.6 percent (18-of-57) from the field. The Lady Vikings made five of 25 three-point field goal attempts.

St. Mary shot 75.0 percent (15-of-20) from the free throw line.

Alana Thomas led St. Mary with a double-double. Thomas scored 18 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for the Lady Vikings.

St. Mary featured three scorers in double figures. Kenzie Herrmann scored 13 points for St. Mary while Annabelle O'Neill netted 10 points.

In all, five players entered St

Mary's scoring column. The additional scorers for St. Mary were Audrey Sims (eight points) and Kynnlee Brummett (seven points).

Murray shot only 26.7 percent (12-of-45) from the field. The Lady Tigers made three of 16 three-point field goal attempts.

Murray shot 71.4 percent (10-of-14) from the free throw line.

Reagan Ballard scored a team-high 13 points for the Lady Tigers.

Along with Ballard, Murray received scoring from Mayla Smith (nine points), Addison Neal (seven points), Brooke Parker (four points), Niah Lee (two points) and Leilani Brown (two points).

Neal provided a strong presence inside for Murray, securing 12 rebounds.



Jeff Brohm will begin his fourth season at Louisville this fall. (AP Photo/Jacob Kupferman)

Probst Named MVC Field Athlete of the Week



MSU senior Brooke Probst attempts the high jump at competition (Photo by Dave Winder-Murray State Athletics)

Press Release

The Murray State women's track & field team saw senior Brooke Probst honored as the Missouri Valley Conference Field Athlete of the Week as announced from the league office in St. Louis.

At the SIU Don DeNoon Invite, Probst won the high jump competition when she cleared 1.73M (5ft-8in) for a personal best. Her leap is tops so far in this indoor season in the Missouri Valley Conference

and the seventh-best effort in Murray State program history.

Probst is the second Racer to be named to a weekly MVC honor after pole vaulter Tayla Tootle was highlighted on Dec. 10.

The Racers are back in action (Feb. 5) at the Missouri Invitational in Columbia.

For more information on the Murray State track and field team, visit GoRacers.com or follow @RacersXCTF on Instagram and X.

Cardinals release 2026 football schedule; face Ole Miss in opener

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) – The University of Louisville learned its full 2026 football schedule Monday evening as part of the ACC Huddle: Football Schedule Release on ACC Network and ESPN2.

Louisville opens the fourth season under head coach Jeff Brohm with a neutral-site game versus Mississippi on either Sept. 5 or Sept. 6 at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn. It will be the second time since 2021 that the Cardinals will open the season against the Rebels in a neutral-site game. The Rebels defeated the Cardinals

43-24 in Atlanta to kick off the 2021 season.

The Cardinals will return home for three straight games at L&N Stadium, including the home opener against Villanova on Friday, Sept. 11. Louisville opens the 2026 Atlantic Coast Conference slate with home games against SMU on Saturday, Sept. 19, and Wake Forest on Saturday, Sept. 26. Louisville has yet to beat SMU since the Mustangs joined the league in 2024. The Cardinals will play the Demon Deacons for the first time since a 48-21 win over No. 10 Wake Forest in 2022.

The Cardinals hit the road for their first true road game on Oct. 3 when U of L plays at NC State for the first time since a 13-10 win at Raleigh in 2023.

Louisville returns home to face Florida State on Friday, Oct. 9, before making its first trip to Syracuse since the 2022 season opener. The Orange dominated the Cards 31-7 in the JMA Wireless Dome. The Cardinals and Seminoles face off for the first time since the 2023 ACC Championship.

After the first bye week of the season, the Cardinals host Stanford for the first time on Oct. 31 before traveling to Georgia Tech on either Friday, Nov. 6 or Saturday, Nov. 7. ACC will finalize the date at a later time.

Louisville hits the road for the second-

straight week when it plays at North Carolina on Saturday, Nov. 14, for the first time since 2017 when Lamar Jackson and the Cards opened the season with a 47-35 win over the Tar Heels. The Cardinals close out their home schedule when they face Pittsburgh on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Cardinals face Kentucky on Saturday, Nov. 28, at Kroger Field in Lexington to close the regular season.

2026 LOUISVILLE SCHEDULE

Saturday or Sunday, Sept. 5 or 6 vs. Mississippi – Nashville, Tenn.

Friday, September 11 vs. Villanova – Louisville

Saturday, September 19 vs. SMU – Louisville

Saturday, September 26 vs. Wake Forest – Louisville

Saturday, October 3 at NC State – Raleigh, N.C.

Friday, October 9 vs. Florida State – Louisville

Saturday, October 17 at Syracuse – Syracuse, N.Y.

Saturday, October 24 – BYE

Saturday, October 31 vs. Stanford – Louisville

Friday or Saturday, November 6 or 7 at Georgia Tech – Atlanta, Ga.

Saturday, November 14 at North Carolina – Chapel Hill, N.C.

Saturday, November 21 vs. Pittsburgh – Louisville

Saturday, November 28 at Kentucky – Lexington, Ky.

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McCracken County 75, Calloway County 58

Staff Report

MURRAY — McCracken County pulled away to defeat 1st Region counterpart Calloway County 75-58 on Friday, Jan. 23.

The Mustangs thrived offensively.

McCracken County shot 58.8 percent (30-of-51) from the field. The Mustangs shot 53.3 percent (eight-of-15) from three-point range.

McCracken County shot 63.6 percent (seven-of-11) from the free throw line.

Miles Woodfork led McCracken County to the win, scoring a team-high 23 points for the Mustangs.

Accompanying Woodfork in double figures for McCracken County, Jackson Klope scored 12 points, and Garrett Miller netted 10 points.

Nind different players entered McCracken County’s scoring

column. The additional scorers for McCracken County were Aaron Adams (eight points), Carter Hawes (eight points), Maxx Tanner (four points), Owen Grogan (four points), Paxton Carver (three points) and Jay Martin (three points).

Calloway County shot 42.6 percent (20-of-47) from the field. The Lakers shot 31.0 percent (nine-of-29) from three-point range.

Calloway County shot 90.0 percent (nine-of-10) from the free throw line.

Luke Armstrong led Calloway County, pouring in a game-high 33 points for the Lakers. Armstrong was the only Calloway County player to reach double figures.

Jackson Ames (nine points), Trent Jones (eight points), Peyton Weatherford (six points) and Greyson McManus (two points) joined Armstrong in Calloway County’s scoring column.

St Mary 70, Century (Ill.) 40

Staff Report

ULLIN, Ill. — St. Mary pulled away to defeat Century (Ill.) 70-40 in a boys’ basketball game on Friday, Jan. 23.

The Vikings excelled offensively and defensively throughout the matchup.

St. Mary shot 54.7 percent (29-of-53) from the field. The Vikings shot 41.2 percent (seven-of-17) from three-point range.

St. Mary connected on five of six free throw attempts, shooting 83.3 percent from the foul line.

Ja’Cobi Nichols led St. Mary to the win. Nichols scored a game-high 24 points for the Vikings.

Accompanying Nichols in double figures for St. Mary, Jack Griffith netted 15 points.

St. Mary received scoring from nine different players. The additional scorers for St. Mary were JW Pittman (seven points), Lanie Fearon (six points), Griffin Mayes (five points), Andrew Puckett (five points), Owen Masek (three points), Liam Stewart (three points) and Micah Itiavkase (two points).

Currie-Jelks named to Mid-Major Player of the Year Award Watch List

Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray State junior forward Sharnecce Currie-Jelks has been named to the midseason watch list for the 2026 Becky Hammon Mid-Major Player of the Year Award, Her Hoop Stats announced Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Currie-Jelks is one of 15 players nationally to earn a spot on the prestigious list, which recognizes the top performer in women’s mid-major college basketball. The Jackson, Tennessee, native has been a dominant force in her first season with the Racers, currently averaging 19.3 points and 12.4 rebounds per game. She leads the

nation in double-doubles, ranks third in rebounds per game, and is 26th in points per game.

The junior remains the only player in the nation to average at least 15 points and 12 rebounds.

The Becky Hammon Award, established in 2020, honors players from the 26 conferences not deemed high-major. It is named after the WNBA legend and current Las Vegas Aces head coach.

The watch list will be narrowed to 10 semifinalists in February, followed by five finalists in March. The winner will be announced during the NCAA Women’s Final Four in April.

Public meetings on boat dock, shoreline use to be held

Staff Report

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources regulates boat docks and shoreline uses around several state-owned lakes through a permit system.

Department officials are planning to recommend amending these permit regulations and will hold a series of public meetings to explain the current system and seek public input on potential changes.

The first of these public meetings concerns Boltz, Bullock Pen, Corinth and Kincaid lakes in northern Kentucky. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. (EST) Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 at Revive Church, 2020 Taft Highway, Dry Ridge. Those with property interests in the area, or users of these lakes, are encouraged to participate.

Boltz and Corinth lakes are in Grant County. Bullock Pen straddles the Boone/Grant County line. Kincaid Lake is in Pendleton County.

The regulation for discussion is 301 KAR 1:016, which governs boat docks and shoreline use activities at the subject lakes. A Guide for Construction on KDFWR Lakes and Land Buffer Areas is a summarization of the regulations in

a more user-friendly format and can be found on the Access Structure and Private Boat Docks - Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife webpage on the department’s website (fw.ky.gov). Final recommendations incorporating public input will be presented to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission at a future meeting for further action.

Those unable to attend public meetings may still provide comments to the Boat Dock/Shoreline Use Working Group. Written comments may be directed to “Boat Dock/Shoreline Use Public Comment” at Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, or by email with “Boat Dock/Shoreline Use Public Comment” in the subject line to fwboatdocks@ky.gov. Please send public comments to arrive by Friday, March 6.

Commenters should include their first and last name, county and state of residence, and organization represented with position held in the organization, if applicable.

Future meetings are planned for Beaver, Elmer Davis and Guist Creek lakes; Carpenter and Kin gfisher lakes; and Lake Malone. Dates and locations will be announced.

Lady Bombers 5th Most Wins In Region



By Tim Taylor
KPI Sports Writer

The Lady Bombers rebounded from their All A loss to Mayfield by picking up their 13th win of the season with a 50-30 victory over Fulton City. Mal-lie Owens hit a trey to end the 1st quarter for the Lady Bombers 9-6 lead. With the lead remaining 3 late in the half, Kate O’Neill hit a trey, and Rilee Bodell hit a field goal to push the lead to 21-13 at the half. Gracee Beere hit a pair of treys to start the 2nd half to extend the lead to double figures. The lead reached 27 points in the 4th quarter before settling for the 20 point win. Owens had a career high of 13 points with O’Neill adding 12 points.

Tessa Holman led the team with 6 rebounds in the win. In their 3rd district matchup with Graves, the Lady Bombers could not get the open looks and were not able to hit their contested shots. They kept the game close for a majority of the first half with Charlee Birney field goal trimming the Graves lead to 9-8 in the 2nd quarter. Graves ended the half on a 11-4 run to take an 8 point lead into the half. Birney’s field goal and free throw in the 3rd quarter left the Lady Eagles lead at 24-17. Graves found their range from outside the arc. They ended the 3rd quarter on a 11-2 run to lead by 16 heading into the 4th quarter. Bodell hit the Lady Bombers

only trey of the game to start the 4th quarter, but the Lady Eagles scored the next 7 to put the game away. Graves picked up the 3rd District win 50-25. The Lady Bombers entered the game averaging 5 made treys per game but only managed one, while the Eagles scored 8 treys themselves. Tessa Holman led the Lady Bombers with 10 points and 6 re-bounds. The 50 points allowed were the 2nd most surrendered this season for the Lady Bombers. They play their next 3 games on the road at Mayfield Friday, Fulton County Saturday, and Carlisle County on Monday before returning home with a rematch with the Lady Eagles on Tuesday.

Learfield appoints Miliotto as General Manager of Murray State Sports Properties

Staff Report

MURRAY — Learfield, the exclusive multimedia rightsholder for Murray State Athletics, announced Sal Miliotto as the General Manager of its locally based team, Murray State Sports Properties on Monday, Jan. 26.

Miliotto’s appointment comes as Murray State and Learfield begin a new 10-year multimedia rights partnership focused on transforming revenue generation, fan engagement, and sponsorship solutions.

“We are thrilled to have Sal join Racer Nation as general manager of our new Learfield property,” Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. “His thorough approach to revenue generation will create new opportunities for the department and our sponsors. He will be a tremendous asset for us as we finish building out this team.”

As General Manager of Murray State Sports Properties, Miliotto will oversee all aspects of the multimedia rights relationship, including corporate partnership sales, sponsorship activation, and brand integration initiatives. He will collaborate with Murray State Athletics to expand local and regional partnerships while delivering innovative solutions that enhance the fan experience and create long-term value for corporate partners.

“As we begin this new partnership with Murray State, it was important to appoint a leader who can drive local market relationships and build the enterprise-level strategy,” said

Mike Haake, Vice President of Sports Properties at Learfield. “Sal’s background and approach position him well to establish a strong foundation and drive long-term success.”

Miliotto joins Murray State from Omaha Sports Properties, where he most recently served as Manager of Business Development for Learfield. Recognized for his results-driven approach, he brings a strong background in sales leadership, game-day operations, and partnership development across multiple levels of sports organizations. Prior to Omaha, Miliotto served as Director of Game Day Operations for the Wichita Falls Warriors before moving to Lincoln, Nebraska, to join the Lincoln Stars of the United States Hockey League. He began his tenure with the Lincoln Stars as Director of Game Day Operations and quickly advanced to Vice President of Sales, overseeing revenue generation while assisting with day-to-day team operations.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to lead Murray State Sports Properties and be part of this new chapter with Learfield,” added Sal Miliotto, General Manager of Murray State Sports Properties. “I look forward to collaborating with Murray State Athletics and our brand partners to create impactful solutions and grow the Racers brand across the region.”

A Long Island, New York native, Miliotto began his career after earning a bachelor’s degree in Broadcasting & Mass Communications from SUNY Oswego.

WKCTC 2025 President’s Honor List and Dean’s List

Paducah, KY - West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) has announced the President’s Honor List and Dean’s List for the Fall 2025 semester, recognizing 1,039 full-time and part-time students for outstanding academic achievement.

The President’s Honor List and Dean’s List celebrate the dedication, discipline, and hard work WKCTC students bring to their studies. For Fall 2025, 638 full-time students and 401 part-time students earned recognition on one of the two lists.

To qualify for the President’s Honor List, full-time students must earn a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA). The Dean’s List recognizes full-time students who achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Full-time students must complete at least 12 credit hours of coursework numbered 100 or above during the academic term to be eligible.

Part-time students must complete 3–11 credit hours during the term and earn a cumulative total of at least 12 KCTCS credit hours of coursework numbered 100 or above. Part-time students must also declare a major within a KCTCS degree program to qualify for either honor.

Students named to the WKCTC Fall 2025 President’s Honor List and Dean’s List are named below alphabetically by their state and county of residence.

Massac County, IL

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Ashley R Caldwell
Jadyn Taylor Carrigan
Mazzy Draffen
Trinity Evans
Jalyn Grace Faulkner
Anna Shea Helm
Cheyenne Rose Bunting Lang
Jacob Carter Quint
Brooklynne Lashea Riley
Gabriel Ross Rottmann
Skylynn Mae Sullivan
Preston Taylor Summers

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Gabrielle Cornwell
Olivia Layne Heine
Ethan Christopher King
Natalee Brooke Owens
Autumn Brooke Story
Joanna Marie Taylor
Gage Fieldy Tilley
Juanita Danielle Kizziar

Dean’s List, Full-time
Waylon William Clifford Abney
Adam Christopher Boyd
Kennedy Addison Brinker
Alysa Jolie Browning
Hannah Christian
Bethany Farrington
Ethan Lee Goines
Michael Hall
Carey Elizabeth Lindsey
Anna Marie Martin
Carter Shane Mcginnis
Mollie Russell
Katelyn Rebecca Russell
Alexis Santiago - Hernandez
Mary Faith Snell
Briley Grace Wentworth
Sarah Grace Wrye

Dean’s List, Part-time
Parker Banks
Katie Elizabeth Gentry
Mallory Renee Holmes
James Vanmeter

KENTUCKY Ballard County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time

Shahizah Cuizon
Laura Kortz
Alex James Qualls
Nola Grace Reynosa

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Abigail Nicole Boulton
Terra Griffith
Raevyn Halliwell
Tristan Holdman
Alexander M Lane
Madelynne Grace Parrott
Shelby Lynn Seaton
Winter Aurora Walker
Terris Alana Wood

Dean’s List, Full-time
Clayton P Baldwin
Jennifer Dawn Chandler
Abby Gail Cooper
Hannah Michelle Edwards
Shelby L Finley
Emma Clare Graves
Eric Gregory Johnston
Madeline Kate Martin
Sergio Carlos Mota Vargas
Raymond Bryce Rideout
Mandy Shepherd

Dean’s List, Part-time
Jennifer Joy Berry
Tyler Earl Chandler
RyLea Beth Chandler
Rebecca Abigail Matney
Donna Inez Monroe
Carol Smith

Caldwell County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Preston Luke Birrell
Donald Fowler
Jackie Wayne Jerome III
Tiffany R. Kendrick
Dustin William Lambert
Laycee Kate Lynn
Corbin S Nichols
Jesseka Sadler
Michaelyn Jo Sample
Patricia Cathleen Smith
Benashka Thomas
Allan Clay Widdifield

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Sharon M. Boyd
Jonathan Arick Brown
Chantel Goldsberry
Anthony Thomas Grimes
Kelli Dawn Kilgore
Grace L Oliver
Brandie Pierani
Na’jia Malik Rodgers
Shellie Nichole Schmitt
Ali C Southard

Dean’s List, Full-time
Emily Taylor Berry
Whitleigh C Carter
Janiyah Aleshia Gresham
Ethan Dennis Hodges
Miah Ann Jones
Crystal Elizabeth Lancaster
William Gabriel Paul
Stephanie Danielle Piston
Allison Rene Turashev

Dean’s List, Part-time
Faith Gossum
Mariah Alexis Hall

Calloway County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Dustin Alexander
Ronald Cecil Allen
Jered Thomas Bullock
Brayden D Conway
Yvonne B. Giese
Bradley Shawn Hale
Kimberly Harpole
Sandra Catalina Hill
Nicole Ashlynn Hill
Elizabeth Dawn Hodge
Kristen Hudspeth
James E Johnson
Micah William Koenecke
Kristen Nicole Lee
Ashton Paul Mcwherter
James Edward Overby IV
Robert Patterson
Alexis Elizabeth Poor
Zachary Rhodes
Haily Sanderson
Jennifer Santiago Santos
Blake Austin Schanbacher
Annalise Smith
Kinslie Rhea Stallings
Karen Su

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Cortino Allen
Emily Nicole Brown
Justin Burgin
Harleigh Isabelle Cole
John Tyler Davis
Renee Nichole Dixon
Sophie Alana Dunham
Johnnie Ebel
Christina Keenan Hall
Rebecca Hart
Jessica Herron
Justin Allen Hodge
Christopher Hudspeth
Kaitlyn Marie Jones
Kaimana Mahoe-Olive
Dessa Ellen Majors
Erin Lindsey McClure
Kylaria B. Miller
Katherine Ann Morefield
Courtney Outland
John Pearsall
Mitchell Saddoris
Randi Louise Sanders
Kelsey Schroader
Kayla Spaulding
Emily Stout
Tisha Marie Travis
Kirsten Anne Walker
Ashley Wallace
Asia Wallace
Hannah Rose York

Dean’s List, Full-time
Emily Shea Allen
Gloria Arrieta
Olivia Ann Bone
Pierce Bramley
Zachary Burton
William Cary Clinton
Brandi Leeann Frost
Christopher S Hopkins
Billie Horsley
Colin Joshua Kerswill
Tristan Ramon Lopez
Fulton Mcrae Manning
Samantha J Martin
Chloe Elise Mensch
Rainlee C Miller
Emily M Mousseau
William Larry Osborne
Lauren McKenzie Parker
Alec M Rodgers
Joshua Rudolph
Kaitlyn Sexton
Elijah Bradley Shoemake
Mirah Nicole Smith
Seth Thomas Stovall
Andrew Philip Sutton
Lucas Swift
Faith Hannah Taylor
Alanna Kylie Wheeler
Sonya Windsor
Sharanda Nicole Wyatt

Dean’s List, Part-time
Samuel Birdsong
Olivia Copeland
Emmalee C Devers
Chaney Elizabeth Fulton
Frances Christina Hammonds
Cassie Elizabeth Jones
Jaquelyn Michelle Perez Gomez
Chasity Rae Pryor
Dee-Anna Robinson
Emily A Shields
Sharon Sleboda

Chelsea Nicole Wells
Kristy Yates

Carlisle County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Jace Burgess
Adrian Cunningham
Brittany R Dennis
Emma Marie James
Kylen Benjamin King

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Alyssa Dawn Aikins
Sara Filler
Chyenne Rose Geveden
Jami M McClure
Barbara Mcgee
Albert Terry
Lisa Michelle Threatt

Dean’s List, Full-time
Kenton Dale Arnold
Avie May Counts
Kaylee-Anne Rene Creason
Adrianna Lashae Hopson
Jerrell Alexander Keys
Chloe Rae Nichols
Erin Mckenzie Peterson
Michael Hunter Robbins
Sarah Kate Wilson

Dean’s List, Part-time
Cameron L Wheeler

Christian County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Shaovion N Davis
Melinda Dawn Lodge

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Braydee Paige Brown
Mikala E Dickson
Shannon Nicole Goforth

Dean’s List, Full-time
Haleigh McLaughlin
Shelby Jean Towerly

Dean’s List, Part-time
Jzona Justine Theis

Crittenden County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Tyler John Comes
Ellie Lu Rume Guess
Robert Patrick Carrico
Ganna Nicole Sizemore

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Stephanie Camp
Dusty Lemon
Shannah Dee Poindexter

Dean’s List, Full-time
Hannah Grace Faughn
Ellary Ann McKinney
Matthew Nesbitt
William Seth Peek

Dean’s List, Part-time
Jennifer Lynn Daugherty
Candice Brooke Draper
Kekoa Anthony Kuamoo
Jessica M McConnell

Fulton County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Noah Gordon
Katelyn Renee Kobilka
Shavana Leighann Peckham

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Shelby Holman
Allyssa Lewis
Mariah Taborn
Janay Vaughn

Dean’s List, Full-time
Madeline B Gardner
Braelyn Candy Walker

Graves County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time

Madison Brooke Alderdice
Franky Baten Ajanel
Sydney Burgess
Cheyenne Brooke Burgess
Alexa Opal Castillo
Emilee Ara Chamness
Henry Coleman Clark
Lindsey Ross Cope
Gabriel A Diaz
Destiny R Dowell
Lyndee Michelle Dunn
Amanda Fakkhoorian
Adley Renae Franklin
Brittany Garcia
Joshua Geeding
Garner David Gibson
Melissa D Gill
Nichola Ann Gossett
Taylor Anne Hargrove
Lanny Jace Hays
Anjelica L Jackson
Gracie Lynn Johnson
Laynie Rose Kidd
Riley Nicole King
Kylie Beth Lamb
Kristin Raquel Martinez
Florcita Mercado
Keisha Jean Miller
Aubreigh Marie Carol Milliken
Amber Newsome
Terilyn Rachelle Odle
Christian Wayne Paintner
Sara Kay Palmer
Kelsey Paige Perkins
Sophie Nicole Pierceall
Maria De La Luz Ramirez
Amber Rena Reed
Danielle Faye Reeves
Isabelle Lola Ruggles
Khloey Elizabeth Scott
Amanda Scrone
Samantha Smith
Aiden Heath Stanley
Tiffany A Streetman

Jason Ethan Sullivan
Natalie Kathleen Swift
Ellie Dawn Swift
Lela Marie Tidwell
Danielle Maria Tyler
Abigail Leigh Workman

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Elijah Acree
Kathlene Redondo Alejandro
Ruth Tubongbanua Azores
Bailey Bauza
Esmeralda Blanco-Rodriguez
Allison Sue Brown
Jodi Butler
Hope Campbell
Payton Carter
Aaliyah Marie Cash
Erin Lynn Cecil
Victoria Clark
Kaytlyn Marie Collins
Delaney Olivia Collins
Emma Grace Cope
Cyler N Davis
Brittany Davis
Katelyn Evans
Cassandra Falder
Shelby Gill
Tiffany Johnson
Kinsey Lynn Keller
Sarah Katherine Lyell
Alexander Chase Mathis
Addisynn Marie Mcalpin
Liliana Mercado
Lindsey Nicole Miles
Molly Ray Miller
Kinsey Grace Mills
Madelyn Claire Morrison
Mazelyn Rayana Murdock
Albani Orduna
Mckenzie Rose Page
Autumn Parrott
William Dayton Sanders
Emily Grace Shelton
Payton Riley Smith
Abigail Jayce Smithson
Ethan Ryan Thompson
Devin Viniard
Morgan Weaver
Kylee Shay Whitaker
Mason Jerry Whitaker
Latroy Robert White
Brooklyn Mckenzie Williams
Shelia Dawn Wurth

Dean’s List, Full-time
James David Allen
Micah Alan Asbell
Dominic Barthell
Aiden Christopher Bransford
Nicholas Brandon Bryson
Juana Angela Carmona
Elijah Patrick Carrico
Zachary Aaron Clark
Thomas Davis
Nicholas James Derosia
Austin Ellis
Emily Nicole Ellis
Isabelle Ford
Magen Shae Fox
Aaron Christopher Fuller
Rebecca Cheryl Gaither
Austin Garrigus
Luis Armando Gonzalez
Adyson Jean Gossom
Katlin Renee Gowen
Brendon Walter Grove
David Guardian
Noah Lucas Hamilton
Brianna Marie Hidgevi
Garrett Allen Higgins
Erika Nicole High
Rozalynn E Hill
Elizabeth Jo Hite
Chloe Jamese Hughes
Abby Grace Ingram
Jacob T Johnson
Jason Jones
Hanna Rakay Kujawa
Avery Warren Landry
Raul Alberto Mata
Xander Memullin
Malary Kay Milliken
Christopher Monroy-Canales
Yasmin Oronia Cruz
Alexander Houston Preston
Gabriele Maria Quezada
Arelly S Romo
Kennedi Dale Shelton
Tosha Ann Slayden
Ella Grace Smith
Alan Summers
Hayden Matthew Thompson
Mara Elise Vallengunga
Katlyn Michele Wiley
Jordan Benjamin Wilkerson
Abigail Hosanna Wimbley

Dean’s List, Part-time
Alyssa Breedlove
Jessica Brooks
Nathaniel Michael Dunkin
Ryan Elizabeth Goodman
Ainsley Nichole Greenfield
Hunter Hicks
Carter David Morris
Gage T Munsell
Korey Brook Murphey
Luis Angel Romero
Callie Beth Smith
Brittany Rochelle Sutton
Karen Marie Walker
Michelle Wadley
Kristin L Wimsatt

Hickman County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Anna Lilia Esparza
Kristen Kay Ferguson
Katherine Marie Hamilton

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Zane Anthony Barnt
Malia Ashly Cates
Dawson Thomas Naranjo
Brandi Shae Stacy
Ian Michael Wilson

Dean’s List, Full-time
Lindsey Brooke Bencini
Samual James Latham
Maddie Pittman
Joseph Wilson

Dean’s List, Part-time
Bobby Cruise
Burke Phillip Dalton

Emily Alejandra Guess

Hopkins County, KY

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Alexandria Amaya
Lillian Bennett

Dean’s List, Full-time
Hailey Nicole Weldon

Livingston County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Taylor Elyse Crawford
Jody Gingerich
Nevaeh Sincere Grimm
Destiny Sue-Ann Millikan
Justin Laine Sharp
Kaleigh Beth Vallandingham
Babi J Wood

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Bobbi-Jo Asher
Taylor Janel Baker
Lindsay Mikaela Baker
Jason Ryan Culver
Tina A Dunkerson
Preston Allen Holman
Gabriel Reese Lawless
Brenden Floyd Mitchell
Emma Claire Owen
Sharla Ann Sparks
Shelby Lynn Weathers

Dean’s List, Full-time
Randall Allen Gray
Mikaela L Holman
Victoria Elizabeth Joiner
Ryann Elizabeth Osborne
Dahlia Scott
Charles Gabriel Seely
Addyson Ray Sledd
Danyelle Taylor Thompson

Dean’s List, Part-time
Jaycee Mallory
Anthony L Rinella
Lauren Shea
Viva Leeanna Katherine Wright-Koenig

Logan County, KY
Dean’s List, Full-time
Taylor P Gipson

Lyon County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Frank Tracy Coronado
Carlos Campanur Coronado
Stephen Neil Gibbons
Brian David Wayne Gross
Deven Guess
Kairi Mefford
Antony Benjamin Moore
Dallas Oliver
Dhyan Patel
Felix Edil Rivera Rodriguez
Madison Marie Russell
Derald Lee Weeks

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Chelsie Diane Caraballo
James Day
Ashlee Rianne Morgan
Jake Jamieson Neely
Ella Patterson

Dean’s List, Full-time
Raymond Larri Delqeda
Akia Marie Dodd
Eden Starr Dukes
Lajuan Delshawn Hayes
Michael Keith McQueen
Haylee Jean O’daniel
Hunter Cole Patterson
Rhyann Elizabeth Stephen
Kaylin Marie Stewart
Rebecca Addison Walker
Gabriel Thomas White

Dean’s List, Part-time
Katie Marie Dowell
April Grace Daut Higgins
Anthony Herman Leeds
Lydia P’Poole

Marshall County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Arianna Rose Akel
Renata G Austin
Brooklyn Paris Bennett
Emily Renee Bobo
Carson Wesley Burnett
Colby Barrett Byars
Christian Marshall Byars
Chloe Chandler
Mark Deleon
Kylie Ann Diamond
Amber Leighanne Fralix
Kassandra Leigh Gibson
Keyia Girley
Luke Clayton Harper
Brooklyn Abbygayl Hayden
Kari Rose Hendrick
Hailey Elaine Henson
Abigail Leeann Holland
Elizabeth Kaye Langhi
Elizabeth Katherine Lynch
Devin William McDougal
Sadie Mccall Nelson
Audrey E Noles
Robert Wilson Norman
Asia Camille Plummer
Aaron Reed
Jorge Enrique Rhon
Kody Phillip Ringstaff
Dalton Levi Smith
Meishan Tillman
Audreyanna Timmons
Breana Nicole Travis
John Connor Vannerson
Dalton Layne Warmath
Tiffany Leigh Rose Williams

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Abigail Angle
Abigail Beth Belcher
Clara Shae Boddy
Christina Marie Cathey
Elizabeth Cavanah
Abby Grace Cooper
Ryleigh Alexis Duwall

Rayvin Serenity Garrison
Emma Green
Karen Hendrickson
Kelsey Higgins
Denisa Higgins
Gracie Jean Howard
Elizabeth Marie Jaimes
Tatum Amber Jones
Taylor L Kaul
Jeremy Scott Kidd
Cheri Jewel Kirchner
Kinley Elyse Koch
Linsey Nicole Lucas
Keegan Brent Mckenty
Aleea Meyer
Jessica Mills
Madysen Morton
Kelyn Madison Nanney
Hope Kaylean Oliver
Knox Sandlin
Natan Singer
Faith Ann-Marie Smith
Rylee Marielle Thompson
Beau Samuel Ward
Ashley R Womack
Justin Dalton-Lee Young

Dean’s List, Full-time
Benjamin William Robert Anderson
Kimberly Ann
Bailey Dawn Buchmeier
Shea Burke
Jared Ryan Caldwell
Ava Gracen Canup
Fernando Xavier Coloma
Skyler Preston Cook
Cole L Cothran
Terri Leigh-Ann Cummins
Landon T Dyke
Boston Reed English
Hadlee Anne Frizzell
Kennedy Marie Gattis
Conner Riley Harmon
William Lee Harris
Pamela J Hayes
Kelsey Grace Hughes
Kaitlyn Louise Janic
Emma Marie Jones
Andrew Lee Lanham
Briley Miles
Kinsley Nicole Moon
Brandi Carlina Moss
Kristen Danielle Neal
Tyler Orlandi
Mitchell Morris Overby
Aidan James Patrick
Evie Brie Powell
Jaden Scott Powell
Nicholas Logan Reilly
Falisha Isis Sailer
Parker Edward Story
Keirstin M Thompson
Olivia Adaire Thweatt
Anna Kathryn Vasseur

McCracken County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Leighton Allen
Caitlyn Marie Banks
Drew Landon Barrett
Isaiah Barrett
Sydney Elizabeth Board
Jennaveave R Bonnell
Erica Brandstetter
Domonique Bryant
Lindsay Nicole Champion
Stephanie Lynn Chowning
Benjamin Joshua Clark
Lily Grace Conn
Erica Davis
Lauren Kait Denton
Courtney Lyn Ditrapani
Anthony Ditrapani
Steven T Dixon
Elisabeth Faye Dunn
Mia Duong
Lorann Duyey
Emily Kate Eason
Raelynn Anslee Felker
Ashley Page Figley
Kristina Flores
Cody D Fraley
Aimee Brooke Freeman
Kaylee Renea Gaia
Paris Olivia Galindez
Jeanette R Glaude
Preston Gleue
John Gabriel Goodman
Isabel Joy Guzman
Taliyah Hamilton
Payden Harned
Ella Elizabeth Harp
Madison Grace Hayes
Luke Mitchell Heath
Peyton M Hobbs
Annie R Hoffman
Joshua Ryan Hoffmeyer
Phillip Christopher Hogan
Graham Bryant Holshouser
Benjamin Huang
Brandon Lee Huff
Colin Douglas Hughes
Brooke Paige Humphrey
Victoria Ann Ilg
Jenna Kaitlyn Jackson
Joseph Jackson
Jadyn Annie Jones
Keegan Douglas Joslyn
Aaliyah Kyrell Kellett
Matthew Solomon Kendall
Nathan Daniel Leath
Giannina Loaiza
Elijah Thomas Mccallon
Kyle Douglas Mcclellan
Charles Jo Mcmanus
Steven Patrick Mcmasters
Brooke Ann Means
Kameron Moore
Daniel Van Morehead
Axiel Moreno
Laney Remington Newell
Jill L Nichols
Gaven Blake Oakley
Kristin Elizabeth Osborne
Kendall Brooke Pleasant
Sydney Grace Powers

WKCTC 2025 President’s Honor List and Dean’s List Continued

Matt Kyle Rankin
Jennifer Raye
Mallori D Rea
David Blake Record
Kevin A Redmond
Jeffrey Malcolm Reeder
Andrean Reyes
Amanda Roberts
Chris Roberts
Drake B Roberts
Raygan Noelle Rodgers
Michelle Rushing
Alexandra Rachael Seibert
Sally Sloan
Alexis Renae Smiley
Kirksee L Snider
Nicholas Taylor Space
Donald Ray Spillman
Clarissa Stanley
Logan Heath Steckenrider
Justin Allen Steele
Chloe Streetman
Alyssa Rose Talbert
Graclyn Renee Taylor
Kayleigh Marie Taylor
Traci Nu Thomasson
Calli A Toon
Bryanna Dawn Travis
Steven Tucker
Emerson Anne Turner
Gavin Miles Vance
Lydia B Vaughn
Joseline Noemi Vieyra
Jordan P Waid
Abbott Edward Waller
Drake Austin Walsh
Haylee Welch
Kaleb Stephan Whatley
Brenden William Wielgos
Clayton Devance Williams
Elliot James Wilson
Elizabeth Leeann Woods
Kelly Worley
Jessica Wren

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Jacob Denham Adams
Peyton Nathaniel Aldridge
Tracy Lynne All
Kaylee Brooke Allday
Lacie Kathleen Bielecki
Gerardo De Jesus Blanco Mata
Tiffany Nicole Bradley
Lorie Briggs
Tiffany Danielle Burns

Autumn Caldwell
John Camara
Mia Jaden Cannon
Christopher Emmanuel Cerda Santiago
Carson Christian
Abigail Cole
Mitzi Marie Collins
John Cooper
Kristi Carol Copeland
John Charles Cox
Oliver Rives Cox
Taylor Myael Cullins
Kaylee Cursey
Emily Darnell
Bethany Paige Dever
Destin Scott Dunn
Kayla Leigh Edwards
Mckenzie Farley
Emilee Kate Ferrel
Mariah Faith Fitzgerald
Anita Kay Fondaw
Samantha Gail Fraser
Alexis B Froman
Oscar Javier Galvan Gaona
Taylor Gower
Destiny Gowins
Erica Lynn Grom
Lilly Haynes
Amber Hochstatter
Robert B Hunter
Samantha Ingram
Allyson Jefferson
Arieana Jones
Cecilia Anastasia Kaler
Jonathan Kelly
Jessy Marie King
Jenna Rose Krueger
Kathryn Elizabeth Lawrence
Brittnie Littlemyer
Brandon Wesley Mcmanus
Samantha Grace Medlin
Guadalupe Sherlyn Molina
Alex Logan Moore
Ashley Moore
Jadan Elizabeth Noles
Russell Wayne Peck
Amber Nikole Podgorski
Alejandra Politron
Amber Potter
Billie Preston
Lydia Freeda Pritchard
Carson Lee Purvis
Lucinda Allison Rickard
Pamela Irene Riley
Euraisa Roddy
Jacob Rudolph

Tiffany Rutland
Naomi Sagitteh
Mary Beth Salyers
Kennedy Mariah Sampson
Dakota Scott
Benjamin Joseph Scott
Krista Danielle Seldat
Zoe-Anna Marie Shelepet
Kristen Siegle
Kayla Mckenzie Sluder
Winter Grace Luna Smith
Crystal Anne Smith
Ashley Nicole Spaeth
Cynthia Wynn Steger
Amanda Rane Stevens
Aleyah Strong
Patrick Glen Tallent
Scott’arious Sanchez Thomas
Mary Timmons
Danna Noel Torian
Madison Rene Vanderboegh
Emelia Kalkidan Walden
Chris W Walker
Emmalee Lynn Walker
Autumn Marie Wallace
Maranda Whiteley
Roneisha Wilkins
Ta’Shaela Emonya Wilkins
Kelsie Renae Wilson
Nadia Yamada

Dean’s List, Full-time
Eleese Anderson
Emily Amanda Angle
Victoria Christine Athey
Ashley Ballard
Elijah Wade Ballowe
Zaniya Alyce Barkley
Kadyn Nicole Barnes
Ian Xavier Beasley
Hannah Dawn Bellamy
Mallory Brooke Blackwell
Kayla A Boyd
Jayce Maddox Braboy
Carson Glenn Bradford
Sarah Michelle Brindley
Aaron Lee Burgess
Vincent Gabriel Carmona
Ian Xavier Chalke
Tera Rachelle Cownie
Brianna Crider
Shakeitha Douglas
Tristin Kay Drake
Cadin Travis Drake
Austin Lee Duncan
Shaun Avry Duncan

Zachary Thomas Dunn
Kayla Duong
Zoe Michelle Eaves
Mia Jolise Elder
Darrius Lashaun Ellison
Micilah Gail Elrod
Emma Reigh Ewing
Leroy Ferguson
Shaileah D Fletcher
Payton Casey Frye
Abbigail Grace Futral
Keira Ann Gardner
Asia Shade’ Givens
Ashley Gossett
Ryan M Grentzer
Justin R Guilmain
Catherine Grace Hall
Elisabeth Anne Hall
Carsen Hammonds
Brittany Noelle Hardman
Braden Joshua Hawkins
Cole Mitchell Haynes
Emily Heath
Cohen Wyatt Hook
Sage Mckay Hutchinson
Jacob Lee Irvin
Luke Edward Jackson
Chase Jarvis
Tiffany Nicole Johnson
Samuel Grayson Jones
Brianna Marie Kaletch
Tristan Kellermeyer
Kaitlyn Michelle Kidd
Landon Michael King
Brenna Josalyn Kingsley
Madison Pauline Kinsey
Kloelee Belle Latham
Courtney A Laubscher
Cameron Patrice Lenox
Lilly Kay Lewis
Skylar Lindsey
Lucero Lopez
Cristina Lizbeth Machaen
Matthew Daniel Martin
Nevaeh Mathews
Hannah M Mathis
Noah Trey Mays
Lexis Jo Miller
Isabelle Jewel Miller
Connor Shane Miller
Rebecca Miron
Eli Robert Mitchell
Malik Breon Morris
Cameron Thomas Myre
Cole Alexander Neihoff
Sydney Rene Nelson

Travis Dean O’Nan
Anthony Elijah Parkinson
Reagan Jean Perkinson
Addison Perkinson
Joseph Perrault
Jeanine Phelps
Kaelyn Marie Presscott
Macey Laine Pruitt
Autumn Nichole Ray
Ava Isabelle Reinold
Claudia Lucia Reyes
Anthony Jefferson Richter
Lucas James Rix
Samayah Robison
Heaven Lee Roschefski
Isaiah Thomas Timothy Lee Rudolph
Jacob Sanford
Canaan Jacob Shanks
Quentahja Shaw
Katelynn Nicole Shockley
Nolan Edward Smallwood
Ainsley Jane Smith
Milleah Lily Smith
Katie B Stevenson
Mariah Sydney Stevenson
Addison Brooke Stringer
Ronniesha Stubblefield
Justin Todd Teas
Jerry Teer
Madeline Tucker
Jakob Daniel Vartanian
Noah Vaughn
Jevon M Vinson
Cannon Burke Waggoner
Carson Ray Wallace
Harriet Ann Wallace
Madeline Renee Walton
Nathaniel Watkins
Millicent Williams
Nicholas James Williams
Ally Elizabeth Wilson
Ian Thomas Woodruff
Aidan Allen Woods
Jeremy Woolery
Madilyn Michelle Wyatt
Kimberly Yates
Anthony Dominic Zakutney

Dean’s List, Part-time
Elizabeth Dawn Armstrong
Ericka Breanna Brizendine
Isaac Christopher Brown
Sarah Beth Byers
Unique Deevine Campbell
Kelli Canup
Wesley Lopez Chavez

Chandler Addison Christ
Payton Courtney
Haley Brooke Crider
Charity Crooks
Lauren Emery
Grace Elizabeth England
Breanna Mae Gallatin
Bailee Gipson-Harris
Andrew Blake Goins
Jessica Diane Hall
Caden Hargrove
Levi Hensley
Geoffrey Hudson Ray Jones
Jontasia Arionna Jones
Michelle R Key-Byas
Owen Scott Krall
Justice Rose Mcwithey
Gage Ryan Mills
Kierra Lee’shun Moses
Devan D Mounts
Emily Okerson
Lonnie Lee Peck
Elena Marie Puga-Duran
Shelley Caroline Smith
Andrew Thomas Smith
Aydan Connor Smith
Landon Drew Snyder
Jorge Omar Soto
Symantha Jo Tipton
Jenna Nicole Turner
Austin Anderson Vance
Adrianna Walker
Madison Williamson

Trigg County, KY

President’s Honor List, Full-time
Courtney Brame
Kyla Kay Poltorak

President’s Honor List, Part-time
Stephanie Nicole Graves
Brooklyn K Greene
Natasha Hensley
Brenda Kay Jones

Dean’s List, Full-time
Hallie Adison Joiner
Dakota Rain Ramsey

AMTEC Launching 2026 Professional Development Sessions for Educators Nationwide

By Bernie Hale

OWENSBORO, KY
AMTEC, a national collaborative of educational and industry partners committed to preparing highly skilled industrial maintenance and mechatronic technicians, is hosting the AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation (NSF Award No. 2350012), due to a National Science Foundation grant award. Since 2018, AMTEC has been housed at Owensboro Community & Technical College (OCTC), and has been a recipient of multiple National Science Foundation ATE grants that have focused largely on diversifying student populations within manufacturing programs, offering competency-based educational opportunities, and fortifying partnerships with both industry and educational profession-

als.
The AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation (AI3) seeks to build upon past projects and to expand the latest Industry 4.0 technologies into classrooms across the United States. This institute is providing free professional development opportunities and resources to manufacturing instructors at high schools, community and technical colleges, and universities from across the United States. The program was awarded in 2024 with the intent to serve at least 100 instructors. Training sessions began in 2025, and throughout the year, 54 instructors from 15 states and 45 schools, colleges, and administrations attended and had the opportunity to learn the latest skills relevant to manufacturing while also networking with their

peers.
“Attending the AMTEC AI3 training was a game-changer. It equipped me with hands-on experience in Industry 4.0 technologies and gave me the tools to confidently bring these innovations into my classroom,” says Sergio Sgro, Professor at Eastern Kentucky University and May 2025 AI3 participant.
During 2026, AMTEC is once again collaborating with partners zSpace and Multi-Skill Training Services (MST) to provide hands-on training sessions (two days for each session). zSpace, a world leader in virtual reality technology, will provide training with a focus on virtual and augmented reality tools. MST, a leader with over 30 years of direct industrial training services, will

provide customized equipment and related training. Supportive sessions on artificial intelligence, Competency-Based Education, and potential funding resources will be shared by presenters, Dr. Ryan Hall, Jason Simon, and Christi Midkiff from the OCTC/AMTEC Teams and Dr. Mike Rodgers from Wilkes Community College. The 2026 trainings have been scheduled for the following dates:

- March 17-18, 2026
- May 19-20, 2026
- June 16-17, 2026
- October 6-7, 2026

Stipends will be provided to faculty who complete program requirements, and travel assistance will be available depending on their location.

In addition, AMTEC has been providing continued guidance through online Community of Practice sessions, scheduled monthly, to offer additional tips and resources. Past speakers have included representatives from partners and organizations such as UniFirst, ATE Central, and the Competency-Based Education Network. Future guest speakers for upcoming sessions include Dr. Ann Beheler, developer of the Business and Industry Leadership Team model, and Eric Wooldridge, Director of the KCTCS Additive Manufacturing Center at Somerset Community College.
“The AMTEC team is very excited about offering additional training sessions during 2026, and we invite instructors teaching manufacturing, auto-

mation, engineering, and related programs who can benefit from the program to join us,” said Jason Simon, Director of AMTEC and Principal Investigator of the AI3 grant project. “Over the past year, we were able to see instructors skill-up, network, and return to the classroom with excitement. This year is slated to be just as great, and we are looking forward to working with our partners to meet instructors who are ready to incorporate modern manufacturing skills into the classroom.”
For more information or to register for a training session, call 270-686-4410 or email cadie.underwood@kctcs.edu. Learn more by visiting their website at: <https://amtecworkforce.org/amtec-institute-for-industry-4-0-innovation-ai3/>

Regional Riverport Project moves forward

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

The West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority (WKRRRA) is a quasi-government entity formed by the county Judge/Executives of Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton counties to lead planning and development of a regional riverport and related infrastructure in West Kentucky.

The Authority was created in response to major job losses across the region and is focused on strengthening the local economy by expanding transportation options, attracting new industry, and supporting existing agricultural and industrial partners. By developing inland waterway access, the Authority aims to reduce transportation costs for businesses, improve

supply chain efficiency, and create long-term opportunities for job growth.
Working in coordination with the West Kentucky Alliance for a Vibrant Economy (WAVE), the Riverport Authority oversees site selection, infrastructure planning, grant development, and partnerships related to riverport operations. The Authority also serves

as a regional voice in discussions involving state and federal agencies, positioning West Kentucky for future transportation and economic development investments.
Wickliffe was selected as the focus of riverport development due to its strategic location near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, proximity to Cairo, Illinois, and

strong interest from agricultural and industrial stakeholders. The location offers access to major national and international trade routes while complementing existing riverport activity in Hickman and Paducah.
Meetings of the West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority are open to the public, and officials encourage residents to attend to

learn more about current projects, long-term goals, and the potential impact on the region’s economy.
2026 Meeting Dates
Meetings are held on the second floor of the Carlisle County Courthouse, 985 U.S. Hwy. 62, Bardwell. Dates are subject to change.
Feb. 10 • March 10 • April 14 • May 12 • June 9 • July 14 • Aug. 11 • Sept. 8 • Oct. 13 • Nov. 10 • Dec. 8, 2026

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Cats run out of comebacks, have 5-game winning streak snapped at Vandy

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

Kentucky has made it a habit of falling behind early and rallying late. Another comeback wasn't an option for the Wildcats after falling behind from the opening tipoff in Nashville on Tuesday night.

The Wildcats had a five-game winning streak snapped in an 80-55 loss at No. 18 Vanderbilt. Kentucky (14-7, 5-3 Southeastern Conference) missed its first nine field goals and failed to find a rhythm in Music City. The final outcome was Kentucky's lowest-scoring output of

the season.

"We just got punched in the face early, and we never responded," Kentucky coach Mark Pope said on his postgame radio show.

In four of their previous five contests, the Wildcats used second-half comebacks to overcome LSU, Mississippi State, Tennessee and Texas, a stretch that included road victories in Baton Rouge and Knoxville. The SEC loss was the first for Kentucky since dropping its first two conference encounters to Alabama and Missouri during the first week of January.

In Kentucky's previous appearance in Nashville, the Wildcats dropped a 94-59 loss to No. 6 Gonzaga at Bridgestone Arena.

This time, however, the Wildcats trailed from start to finish against the Commodores and failed to get within single digits after falling behind 26-10 only 12 minutes into the contest.

Kentucky missed its first nine field goals and shot just 28 percent (9-of-32) in the opening half and finished 19-for-59 for 32 percent. Kentucky made just six 3-pointers on 24 attempts.

While making shots was an issue, the Wildcats failed to match Vanderbilt's intensity on the glass and were outrebounded 43-37. Kentucky managed just 13 offensive rebounds and committed 15 turnovers. The hosts turned those miscues into 28 points.

"They hurt us in transition (and) their pace was so much better than ours," Pope said. "Our offense was so dysfunctional that we were getting really flat on the baseline. We got hurt in transition, early and then throughout the game, we got hurt that way. We were pretty dys-

functional the whole night, all."

Otega Oweh led the Wildcats with 20 points, followed by Denzel Aberdeen with 15. Oweh has scored double figures in all 21 games this season.

Pope was disappointed in his team's overall fight against the Commodores.

"That's been a space where we're we've been fighting a difficult battle all year long to get our guys to kind of embrace this idea of being incredibly physical and forceful to earn possessions for teammates," he said. "We didn't do

that at all. They're switching hurt us, their physicality hurt us ..."

Tyler Tanner led the Commodores with 19 points as Vandy increased its winning streak to two games after dropping three straight. The Commodores (18-3, 5-3) were without second leading scorer Duke Miles. Vandy is off to its best start since the 1973-74 season.

Gametracker: Kentucky at Arkansas, 6:30 p.m., Saturday. TV/Radio: ESPN, UK Radio Network.

Jasper Johnson waited his turn, taking advantage of opportunity

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Jasper Johnson's first year at Kentucky has been a learning experience and the freshman guard is starting to define his role 20 games into the season.

Johnson said it's "hard" not being able to contribute regularly but understands the time it takes to adjust to playing at the next level.

"It happens to people at the next level and it's good that I'm getting the experience," he said. "I'm always staying prepared — being consistent with my workouts and whenever I get in the games I can make an impact."

Johnson has made significant contributions off the bench during the team's current five-game winning streak and scored 11 points in a 72-63 win over Ole Miss Saturday. He scored eight of those, complete with a pair of 3-pointers, in the first half. Johnson has scored 23 points in two of the past three games.

"We have great guys



Freshman Jasper Johnson provided 11 points - eight in the first half - on Saturday in Kentucky's 72-63 victory. (Photo by Les Nicholson)

on the team, and it can be anybody's night," he said. "I'm just doing whatever I can to impact the game in any way, whether that's scoring, passing, playing good defense, just doing whatever I can to impact the game"

The Wildcats (14-6, 5-2 Southeastern Conference) will be leaning on Johnson to make more significant contributions during a two-game road stretch this week, starting with Tuesday's contest at No. 18 Vanderbilt.

Kentucky is at No. 15 Arkansas Saturday.

Kentucky coach Mark Pope wasn't surprised by Johnson's performance against the Rebels and praised his ability to learn and gain more confidence during the season.

"That's who Jasper Johnson is," Pope said. "... as coaches, we have this beautiful opportunity to chart the growth and actually that's what I love about this game and Jasper is in it, man. I'm so proud of him.

I keep saying it every single game, he's playing more and more and more and playing better and better and better and getting more and more and more confident."

Pope added that Johnson's growth is similar to what reigning NBA Most Valuable Player and Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander endured in his lone season with the Wildcats in 2017-18 season.

"He's making some

mistakes, but he's learning from them, he's a really talented player and he's on his way," Pope said. "Shai Gilgeous-Alexander didn't start his first 10 games of his freshman season. He actually turned out to be a really good player ... Jasper has got a huge future in this game."

Johnson has gained more playing time since injuries sidelined Jaland Lowe and Kam Williams during the past three weeks. The Wildcats have adjusted, especially

during the past three weeks after opening the league schedule with back-to-back losses to Alabama and Missouri.

"I think the guys are little more comfortable with each other. We are staying as simple as we possibly can. Teams are built different ways. We are trying to stay really, really simple so our guys can go play. Sometimes, you have guys that function a little differently where you can trick up the game a million different ways, and they like the little nuance part of it. Our team is actually playmaking team. And so we managed to do it on offense and defense."

The Wildcats, who suffered close setbacks to North Carolina and Missouri by a combined margin of five points, have won each of their last four games single digits.

"It seems like we've had a lot of close games right now, which has been really fun. Our players are just stepping up and making big plays."

Kansas joins UK, UNC and Ohio State in CBS Sports Classic

By KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — The CBS Sports Classic added another heavyweight to its four-team event on Wednesday. Kansas will join the four-team field next season, which features Kentucky, North Carolina and Ohio State. St.

John's replaced UCLA this season and Kansas will be the fourth team in the field.

In next year's event, set for Dec. 19 at Madison Square Garden, Kentucky will take on North Carolina, and the Jayhawks will take on Ohio State in a double-header.

Future matchups will be Kentucky and Ohio

State and Kansas and North Carolina on Dec. 18, 2027. The following season on Dec. 16, 2028, the Wildcats will face Kansas and North Carolina and Ohio State will tangle.

On Dec. 15, 2029, Kentucky will again play North Carolina and Kansas will take on Ohio State.

Why St. John's Withdrew from the CBS Sports Classic

St. John's decision to withdraw from the CBS Sports Classic stemmed from scheduling and logistical concerns rather than any controversy. The event, traditionally held in mid-December, conflicted with the program's broader non-conference planning and preparation for Big East play. With a demanding league schedule looming, the Red Storm faced limited flexibility to add a high-profile matchup

without overextending players.

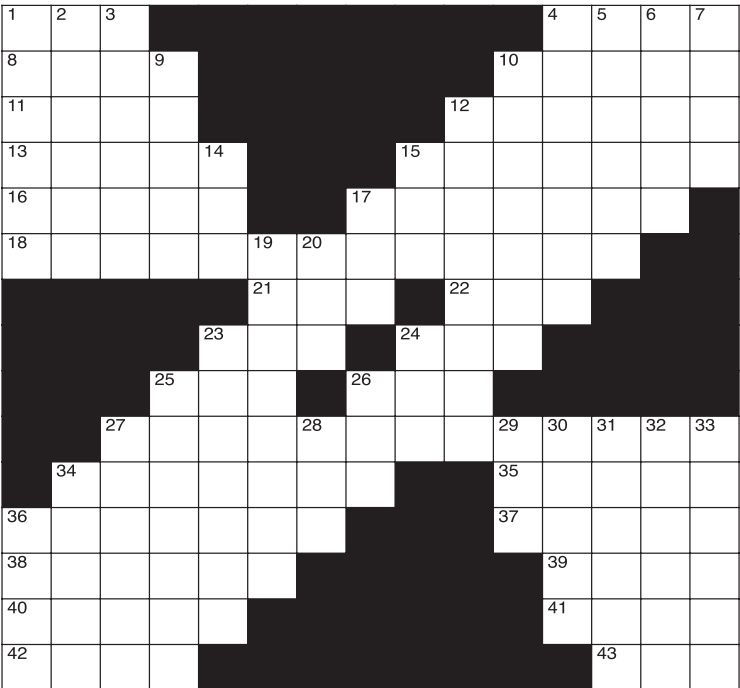
Logistical challenges also factored into the decision. Venue availability at Madison Square Garden, travel coordination, and existing television obligations complicated efforts to finalize participation. From the program's standpoint, committing to the event only made sense if it fit seamlessly within season-long priorities.

There were also com-

petitive considerations. St. John's coaching staff reportedly preferred to preserve scheduling flexibility to secure matchups that better supported roster development and team chemistry.

Ultimately, the withdrawal reflected a strategic choice to protect the program's overall season structure. Both St. John's and event organizers remain open to future participation under more favorable circumstances.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

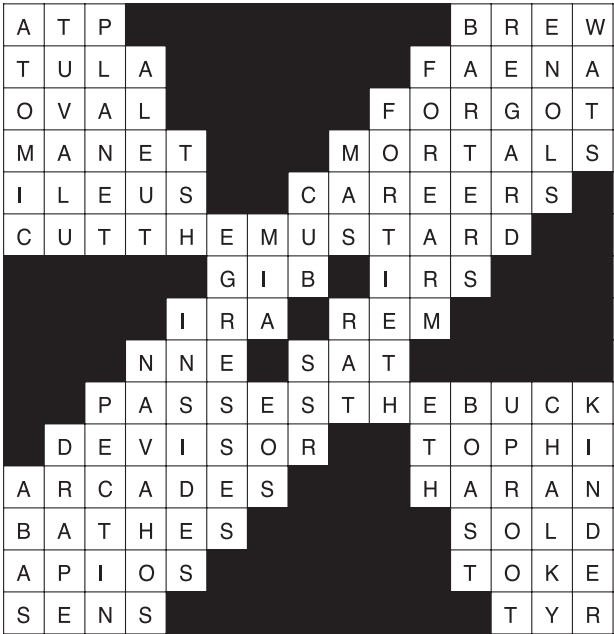
1. Racket sport pros
4. Make tea
8. City South of Moscow
10. Spanish bullfighting term
11. Egg-shaped
12. Could not remember
13. French modernist painter
15. Persons
16. Painful intestinal obstruction
17. Professions
18. Is up to the task
21. Wood or metal bolt
22. Tax collector
23. A way to save for the future
24. Georgia rockers
25. Midway between north and northeast
26. High schoolers’ test
27. Does not accept responsibility
34. One who prepares
35. Gout-indicative deposits
36. Place to play games
37. Book of Genesis character
38. Cleans oneself
39. Unloaded for money
40. Genus of flowering plants
41. Take a puff
42. Congressmen
43. God of battle in Scandinavian mythology

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of bomb
2. South Pacific islands
3. Celestial body
4. Negotiates
5. Consider in a specified way
6. Type of group in organic chemistry
7. Buddhist monasteries
9. Inhabitant of Bering Sea island
10. Body part
12. Milestone birthday
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
15. More (Spanish)
17. Chicago ballplayer
19. Leaves a place
20. Cannot be found
23. One’s internal body parts
24. Tell on
25. North American peoples of southwest
26. Soviet Socialist Republic
27. Extract used for jams and jellies
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Old English letter
30. A way to exaggerate
31. Get up and leave
32. “Boardwalk Empire” character
33. More generous
34. Hanging cloth used as a blind
36. Ancient Greek sophist

Puzzle Solutions on B9

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to basketball.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 20 = O)

- A. 14 20 20 8 13
Clue: Another name for basketball
- B. 1 20 11 4 3
Clue: Place to play basketball
- C. 4 12 2 20 11 6 24
Clue: Bounce back
- D. 2 5 13 17 12 3
Clue: Place for ball

Answers: A. hoops B. court C. rebound D. basket

Word Search

BASKETBALL WORD SEARCH



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

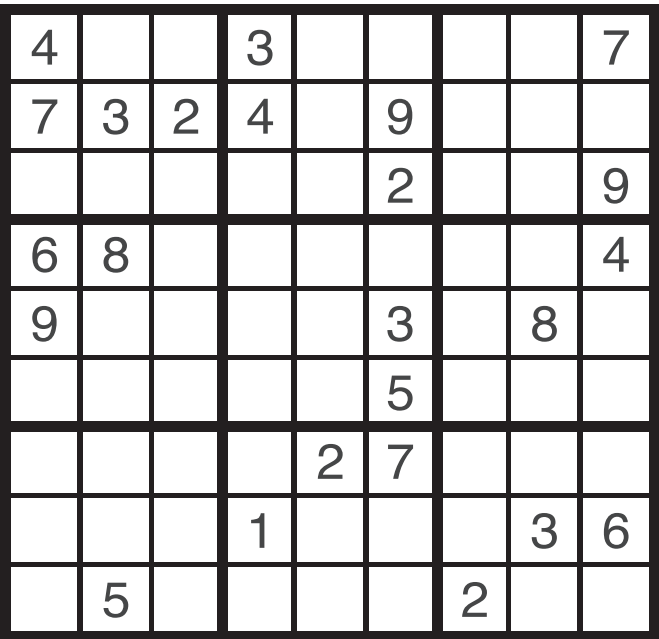
ANSWERS IN B SECTION
WORDS

- ASSIST
- BACKBOARD
- BASELINE
- CLOCK
- COURT
- CROSSOVER
- DEFENSE
- DRIBBLE
- DUNK
- FOUL
- FREE THROW
- JUMP SHOT
- LAY-UP
- OFFENSE
- PIVOT
- REBOUND
- SCREEN
- SHOT
- SUBSTITUTION
- THREE-POINTER
- TIMEOUT
- TIPOFF
- TRAVELING
- TURNOVER

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 B SECTION**



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to basketball.

H O S T O



Answer: Shoot

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born in New York on January 25, 1981. I studied Mozart and Chopin as a youth, and graduated from the Professional Performing Arts School. I became the first singer to receive five Grammy Awards at once after releasing my debut album.

Answer: Alicia Keys

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.



Answers: 1. Missing lock on doorknob 2. Man at door 3. Different wreath above fireplace 4. Missing fur rug.

COLORING FUN



Color Key

- 1 = White 2 = Light Blue 3 = Green 4 = Blue
- 5 = Purple 6 = Orange 7 = Black

Jokes

Why did Princess Elsa fall off her sled?
She let it go.

Why did the snowman go to the doctor?
He was getting cold chills.

Where do snowmen keep their money?
In snowbanks

Kevil man dies after camper fire

Kevil, KY — On Monday, January 26th, at approximately 10:01 p.m., emergency services were dispatched to a

reported camper fire at 4716 County Line Road in Kevil.

Upon arrival, first responders found 73 year old Mickey Beasley, who had

sustained serious injuries as a result of the fire. Beasley was transported to a local hospital where he was listed in critical condition.

Tragically, Beasley later succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday, January 28th.

Kevil Fire Chief Ronnie Rathman

stated that preliminary findings indicate the fire appeared to have originated from a heating source that was being used inside

the camper. The incident remains under investigation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Beasley family during this difficult time.

AG UPDATE

for Ag and Natural Resources



Tom Miller,
Ballard County Ext. Agent

Farm Transition and Estate Planning

2 Night Series

According to the latest Census of Agriculture in 2022 the average age of farmers in Ballard County was 56.3. Three years later, we are looking at an average age of 59 to 60. How much longer are you going to farm? How much longer can you physically farm?

You need to come up with a plan on how you are going to pass on the farm to the next generation. If you die without a will, the State of Kentucky has a plan for you. One half goes to the surviving spouse and the other half goes to the kids. If this is not what you want, you need to do something. Ky Farm Bureau has made Farm Land Transition a major focus. According to their figures over the last 20 years, Kentucky has lost 1.4 million acres of farmland and 17,000 farms. We have to work together to figure out the solutions needed to change that.



We are going to hold a two meeting series on Farm Transition and Estate Planning starting on Monday night, February 23 and a second session on Monday night March 2. The meetings will be free and open to anyone with interest in the topics, but I

do ask you to call us at 270-665-9118 and reserve a spot as our meeting room space is limited. If we get more interest than space, I will look at moving to a larger venue.

The first night will start at 6:30 pm and our first speaker will be Aleta Botts. She

is the coordinator for Farm Bureau and the KY Farm Land Transition Program and has an interesting story and has a mission to help you learn what you need to know to develop an Estate Plan. Our second speaker that night will be Ginger Adkins from Life

Care of La Center. Unfortunately, nursing home stays and nursing home costs have become a major focus of any plan you might develop. There are some special rules about assets and income pertaining to nursing homes that come into play.

The second night

will also start at 6:30 pm and is be the legal night. Our first speaker will be Whitney Riley, who is a partner with Ben Stewart from Lovelaceville, at Riley and Stewart PSC from Paducah. She specializes in Estate Planning and will discuss Will and Trusts and other legal issues that may be needed in your plan. Our final speaker that night will be Retired Judge Keith Myers, also from Lovelaceville, who will talk about what actually happens in court, what is probate and the pitfalls and things you need to be prepared for. I have never seen this presented in estate planning meetings and I thought this might be one of the more interesting parts.

Again, this meeting is free, but if you are interested please get on the list so I know if I need to look for a larger venue.

Integrated Pest management virtual training school set for March 19th

By Jennifer Elwell

LEXINGTON, Ky.— University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Extension specialists will share the latest integrated pest management (IPM) farming innovations during the 2026 IPM Virtual Training School.

Developed to help Kentucky’s grain, forage and produce farmers, this annual one-day virtual workshop takes place

March 19, beginning at 8 a.m. CST via Zoom.

“IPM is core to managing our farms for sustainability and financial stability,” said Ric Bessin, UK Extension entomologist. “Our leading subject matter specialists will share their latest research addressing core production challenges, including weed, disease, insect and nutrient management for row crops and specialty crops.”

The morning field crop sessions will include presentations on weed control for pastures and grain crops, updated recommendations for corn and wheat disease management, and control of fall armyworm and alfalfa weevil. Other topics include fertilization methods for organic crop production, nutrient management in cropping systems, and best practices for drone applications.

The afternoon

horticulture sessions will include presentations on fungicide schedules for tree fruit, advancements in biopesticides, mechanical weed control, fertility management of vegetable crops, and preparing a greenhouse for a successful growing season.

New to the lineup of topics is wildlife damage, an issue that affects most outdoor crops. Matthew Springer, associate Extension professor of

wildlife management in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, will present multiple methods to reduce wildlife damage across production systems.

“Wildlife populations can be problematic for producers across Kentucky, with numerous species ranging in size from voles to bears causing issues,” Springer said. “This program will help producers understand the legal options they have to help reduce or

restrict wildlife damage in their operations, subsequently benefiting their bottom lines.”

After each session, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions. The training also offers continuing education units for commercial pesticide applicators and Certified Crop Advisers.

Online registration is required to participate. For questions or more information, contact Zenaida Viloria at zenaida.viloria@uky.edu or 859-562-1336.



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10 confirmed deaths from winter storm

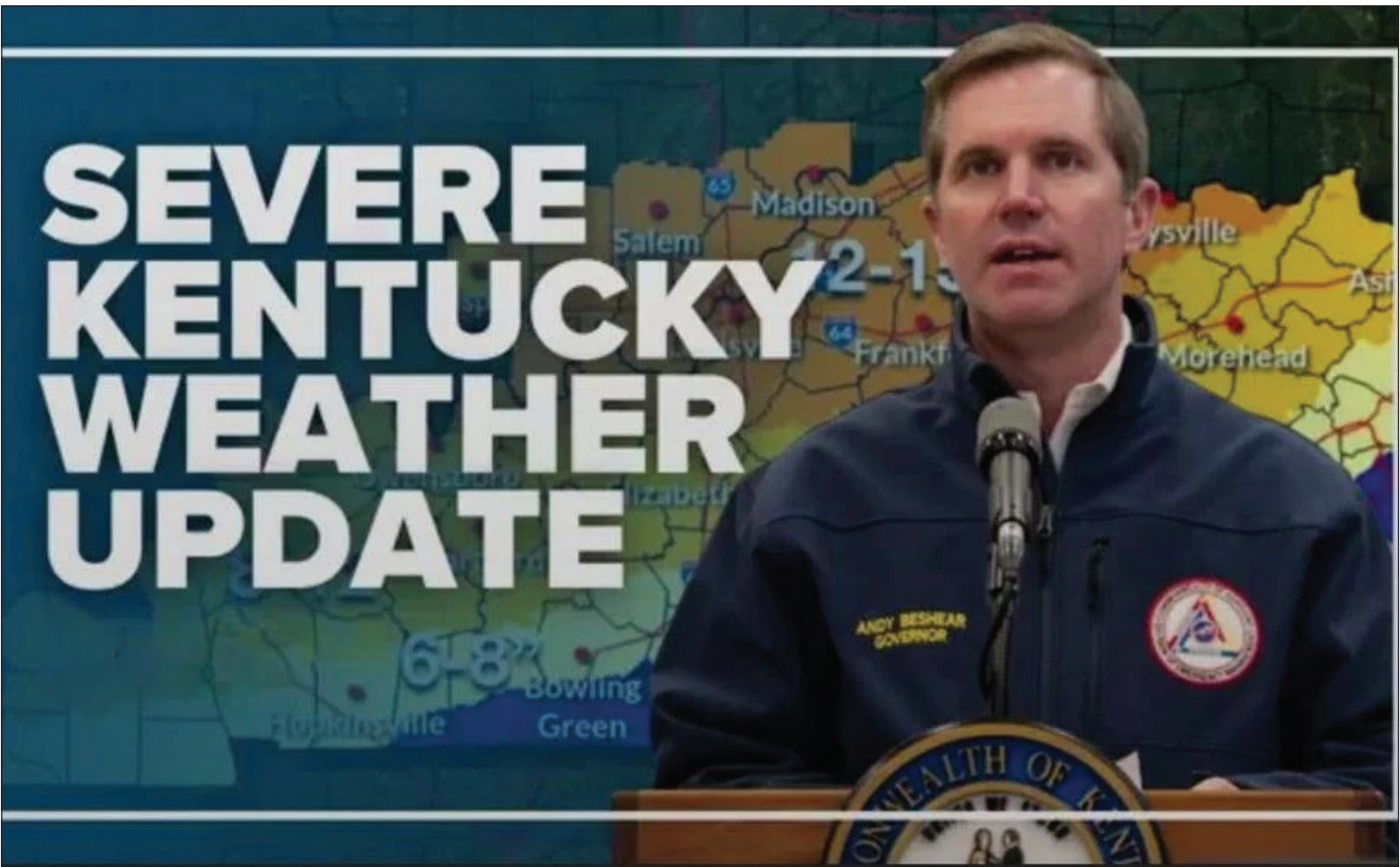
By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear said during a Thursday press conference that there are now 10 confirmed deaths as a result of the winter storm that struck over the weekend, and that more snow could come this weekend.

According to the governor, the deaths occurred in Whitley, Morgan, Graves, Daviess, Pulaski, Owen and Jefferson counties, along with three in Johnson County.

“We are praying for all of these families during this difficult time,” he said. “We are also opening the Team Kentucky Storm Relief Fund, where will offer to pay \$10,000 apiece for each of these funerals. We don’t want these families to have to wait for reimbursement from FEMA. We will be reaching out to these families directly.”

Beshear said that as of around 1:30 p.m. (ET), there were still around 12,485 power outages,



which is down from the peak of 73,590 on Sunday. “We are hearing that it might be up to a week before power is fully restored. What that means is you need to prepare. You need to know where your nearest warming centers are or you need to stay with family. Take all the steps necessary to make sure you

get through this, because it’s going to be dangerously cold at least through the middle of next week.” Under the current state of emergency, the Governor says the Transportation Cabinet has authorized their crews to start helping with clearing non-state roads, in the hardest hit areas.

“This will let local line workers start to restore power more quickly.” Beshear notes water systems have been affected as well, many due to broken pipes. “We currently have 11,483 homes or businesses under boil water advisories. Sixteen drinking water systems are on limited operation and there are 2,496

connections that are currently without water.” He said 885 people came to one of the warming centers established across the state last night. There are 117 warming centers open in Kentucky. Go to <https://www.kyem.ky.gov/> to find warming centers near you or call 502-607-6665.

Beshear stated there were some gas and fuel shortage Sunday and Monday due to the weather but is not aware of any current issues. He added, Kentuckians should not let their guard down and remain prepared, as another winter storm could affect the state this weekend.

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Dental Program Coming to MSU

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

A recently awarded grant is helping move Murray State University closer to launching its long-anticipated dental hygiene program, an effort aimed at addressing a widespread workforce shortage and improving access to oral healthcare across western Kentucky. MSU officials began exploring the need for the program after consulting with area dentists, leading to dental hygienist needs assessments conducted in 2018 and

again in 2021. Those studies, reviewed by the university’s Board of Regents, confirmed a clear and ongoing demand for dental hygienists both regionally and nationwide. It was stated that the program aligns directly with the school’s mission to serve both workforce and health needs in the region. The shortage of hygienists has had real consequences locally, limiting access to routine dental care. It was also stated that many residents including children have gone without necessary oral healthcare,

and in some cases patients have faced wait times of several months just to secure an appointment. The shortage is also being felt by dental providers. According to a late-2023 survey that was conducted by the American Dental Association and its Health Policy Institute found that nearly 95% of dentists reported significant difficulty recruiting dental hygienists. The new program is expected to ease that burden by training and graduating more hygienists who can enter the workforce

locally, strengthening dental practices while improving care availability for patients throughout the region. Another major benefit to the program is accessibility for students. Currently, the nearest universities that offer dental hygiene degrees are Southern Illinois University and Western Kentucky University. West Kentucky Community and Technical College offers a dental assistant program, to which it was then said that assistants and hygienists serve different roles. Financial support for the program

has come from multiple sources. In 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded MSU’s School of Nursing and Health Professions a \$1 million grant to help establish the program. In early 2026, the Delta Dental of Kentucky Foundation added \$40,000 to support the purchase of equipment and supplies. The dental hygiene program will be housed in a renovated Mason Hall, which will include a dental clinic, laboratory spaces and offices for faculty. The school hopes to use the clinic not only for student training

but also as a resource for the community, including plans to offer free monthly dental clinics, particularly for children. Dr. Shanna Burris has been named program chair, and the university plans to hire at least one additional faculty member. While the program is still awaiting final approval from the Commission on Dental Accreditation, MSU officials are optimistic about launching the dental hygiene program as early as this fall.

MC Fiscal Court Sees Elk Lodge; Recognizes MCHS AP Government Class

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

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MURRAY / CALLOWAY COUNTY WEEK IN REVIEW

Murray State Junior Sharnece Currie-Jelks has been named to the midseason watch list for the 2026 Becky Hammon Mid-Major Player of the Year Award. Currie-Jelks is one of 15 players nationally to earn a spot on the prestigious list, which recognizes the top performer in women’s midmajor college basketball. The Jackson, Tennessee, native has been a dominant force in her first season with

the Racers, currently averaging 19.3 points and 12.4 rebounds per game. She leads the nation in double-doubles, ranks third in rebounds per game, and is 26th in points per game. The junior remains the only player in the nation to average at least 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Justin Holland, Murray’s official government weather observer for NWS Paducah, said

Murray’s final total from Winter Storm Fern as of Sunday afternoon(1/25/2026) was 7.25 inches. That total is a combination of sleet and snow. There was about 2 1/2 inches of snow Saturday(1/24/2026) before it changed over to sleet that night. With roughly 3 1/2 inches of sleet, and then another couple of inches of snow was added Sunday, so it was a grand total of 7.25 inches.

MARSHALL COUNTY WEEK IN REVIEW

The 2026 Marshall County basketball homecoming court has officially been announced. The homecoming court consists of 10 girls including Ania Kwiatkowski, Tsieanna King, Addi Dougherty, Faith Eutsler, Addison Cline, Olivia Hawkins, Emerson Odom, Evylee Terry, Madelyn Miller and Bri Burgess and 10 boys including Kobey Yates, Neyland Jezik, Donaven Watson, Isaac Darnall, Blake Harper, Andrew Kimbro, Wyatt Doom, Keaton Barrett, Matthew Caudill and

Jacob Thorn.

The Marshall County High School AP government class was recognized at the fiscal court meeting for being only the second class ever in Mr. Kerrick’s class has a 100% pass rate on the AP Government Exam. All of the students qualified for college credit after taking the national exam. The students include Ayen Arceo, Jess Barnes, Keston Chiles, Lynlee Craven, Makenzie Cunningham, Trinity Franklin, Eli Holaday, Ethan Jeter,

Annie Lane, Lyla Loven, Peyton Matos, Hubert McClean, Juliana O’Bryan, Lillian Perry, Joanie Pullen, Emma-Leigh Reynolds, Sarah Reynolds, Lilly Wathen, Jaycee Williams, Bailey Willis, Avery Criswell, and Dustin Sanders.

The Miracle League of Western Kentucky hosted the 2026 Miracle Gala and raised \$148,301.16 through live and silent auctions and generous donations. This far exceeds any Miracle Gala to date.

Leadership Murray Golden Gala to Take Place in March

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

Leadership Murray is preparing for its Golden Gala, with a little over a month away from the event. The proceeds made from the gala will benefit the Murray-Calloway County Senior Center’s Meals on Wheels program. The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 7 and will take place at the Calloway County Library. The evening will include a cocktail

hour, dinner, live entertainment and a live auction, all aimed at raising support for local seniors who rely on Meals on Wheels. In a social media post promoting the gala, Leadership Murray emphasized the purpose behind the event, noting that it is meant to both celebrate older adults in the community and support the essential services provided through the program. Tickets for the Golden Gala

went on sale Tuesday, January 20, 2026 so be sure to get yours now. Organizers are also seeking event sponsors, along with donated auction items and themed baskets to be included in the live auction. Those interested in sponsorship opportunities, donating auction items or purchasing tickets can find more information by emailing galagolden2026@gmail.com.

MARSHALL COUNTY UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb 2, Blind Date with a Book, Benton Library, 9 am - 5 pm
- Feb 2, Scavenger Hunt, Hardin Library, 9 am - 5 pm
- Feb 2, Adult Farmer Grain Series, MC Extension Office, 6:30 pm
- Feb 3, Yoga in the Park, Calvert City Civic Center, 6 pm
- Feb 4, Story Hour, Benton Library, 10 am
- Feb 4, Lunch Break Gardening Series–Peach Tree Pruning, MC Extension Office, 12:15 pm
- Feb 5, Story Hour, Hardin Library, 10 am
- Feb 6, Sips & Smalls, Benton Library, 10 am
- Feb 6, Chair Yoga, Calvert Library, 10 am

MURRAY/CALLOWAY COUNTY UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan 31, MAG Loves Murray–Collage Making Workshop, Wits End Records, 1 pm
- Jan 31, Neon Party DJ Night, Tap 216, 8 pm
- Feb 3, Cooking through the Calendar–Winter/Spring Series, CCPL, 10:30 am
- Feb 3, MSU Men’s Basketball v. UIC, CFSB Center, 7 pm
- Feb 4, Toddler Storytime, CCPL, 9:30 am
- Feb 4, Multi-age Storytime, CCPL, 10:30 am
- Feb 6, Laugh & Learn, CCPL, 10 am

Power returning and roads clearing, but Beshear asks Kentuckians to stay home

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear said during a press conference that a lot of progress was made to restore power and clear Kentucky roads and expects more during the day but advises

people not to go out if they can avoid it. “Folks need to stay indoors as much as possible and limit outdoor exposure,” he said during the press conference at the Emergency Operations Center in Frankfort. “Even 10 to 30 minutes outside can cause frostbite or



Gov. Andy Beshear is flanked by Kentucky Emergency Management Director Eric Gobson, left, and Transportation Secretary Jim Gray on Tuesday in Frankfort. Beshear was giving a weather update.

hypothermia. We also need Kentuckians to make sure they’re bringing their pets inside. This cold is dangerous for them as well.” He noted four deaths around the state that may have

see **BESHEAR**,
Page B3



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Reader submitted
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Kyler Brown and Ryan Pillow

UK Graphite Center receives \$2 million in federal funding



By Tom Latek
kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – The University of Kentucky Graphite Center, a research initiative to advance graphite technology and manufacturing innovation, has been given \$2 million in federal funding.

Kentucky Sixth District Congressman Andy Barr, R-Lexington, says he pushed the funding through the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026. He voted for the appropriations package earlier this month and President Trump recently signed the funding bill into law.

“This investment is about bringing manufacturing back to America and putting Kentuckians to work in good-paying jobs,” Barr said. “By pairing the Made in America tax credit with workforce training and cutting-edge research at the University of Kentucky, we’re rebuilding domestic supply chains, strengthening our manufacturing base, and preparing Kentuckians for the jobs of the future.”

The funding will be used to purchase specialized equipment for analytical characterization and prototype manufacturing

of graphite at the University of Kentucky’s research facility. The investment would strengthen the university’s capacity to conduct advanced materials research and support domestic supply chain development for critical materials.

“The University of Kentucky plays a critical role in helping the Commonwealth prepare for the industries shaping our future,” UK President Eli Capilouto said. “Support for this work at the Center for Applied Energy Research strengthens Kentucky’s capacity for innovation, workforce development and economic resilience in a rapidly changing global landscape. We greatly appreciate Congressman Andy Barr’s continued partnership in advancing opportunities that benefit communities across the Commonwealth.”

The Graphite Center plays a key role in supporting research, commercialization, and collaboration between academia and industry. Enhanced equipment capabilities will allow researchers to accelerate creation, improve material performance, and support prototype development for emerging technologies.

Go to <https://research.uky.edu/news/demand-graphite-grows-uk-caer-positioned-lead-material-sourcing>, for more information on the University of Kentucky Graphite Center.

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Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers will be on the scene at Calvary Baptist in Glasgow for a feeding operation to support The Salvation Army's efforts in South Central Kentucky and in four Tennessee communities on the state line hit hard by frigid weather and ice that have caused power outages.

(File photo)

KYDR setting up feeding operation in Glasgow to support Salvation Army efforts in Ky., Tenn.

By Mark Maynard
Kentucky Today

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) - Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief will be setting up a feeding operation in Glasgow to service three counties in Kentucky and four in Tennessee for those dealing with the extreme temperatures and ice.

KYDR will set up its mobile kitchen and feeding team at Calvary Baptist in Glasgow starting with feeding 800 per day. They were asked to support

the efforts of the Salvation Army to feed those affected by the winter storm in south central Kentucky and four Tennessee counties - Mason, Sumner, Clay and Robertson along the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

Three dozen volunteers are expected to be on the site.

"Things are in motion and once again our volunteers are stepping up to bring help, hope and healing to those in crisis," said KYDR Director Ron Crow.

Crow said it is

not expected to be a long deployment, but KYDR will remain until power is restored to communities.

Also, Luke Cumberland Associational Mission Strategist Tommy Floyd is leading an eight-person team to Jamaica on Saturday and returning Feb. 7. It will assist with the rebuilding from Hurricane Melissa that devastated Jamaica in late October. Follow Kentucky Today for more details on the trip to Jamaica.

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Or visit: samcarter2026.com



BESHEAR,
from front page

been related to the winter storm, and officials are working to determine the cause of death in each case.

As of 9 a.m. (ET) Tuesday, there were 27,014 power outages across Kentucky, which is down from the peak of 73,590 on Sunday. The hardest hit counties are Pulaski, Allen, Monroe, Barren and Russell counties, Beshear said.

"There are more than 130 warming

centers set up across the commonwealth," he said. "That means if your home is without power and you're cold, there is a place for you to go and get warm. Right now, there are about 950 people sheltered at one of those warming centers, or a Red Cross Shelter."

He said law enforcement agencies such as the Kentucky State Police are working hard to help people who are in need of assistance. "KSP has received 6,679 calls for service related to the

winter storm. They have conducted 364 wellness checks and responded to 521 requests for motorists' assistance. State Police continue to urge Kentuckians to call 911 only for emergencies. Kentucky Emergency Management has also received 400 calls to our unmet needs line, and they have responded to each of them."

That unmet needs number is 502-607-6665.

Beshear noted, "State highway crews, nearly 1,500 trucks, have worked since the weekend to clear as many roads as possible. Since Friday, state and contracted plow crews have traveled 670,000 miles. That's enough to circle the Earth 26 times."

His advice to Kentuckians: If you're traveling, clean off your car, go slow. If you're without power, go to a warming center. Keep your phone charged, make sure you have a weather safety kit ready."

His Faithful Love ENDURES

Psalm 136:1

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BALLARD

Gary Payne Sr., 69, of Wickliffe, Kentucky, passed away on January 26, 2026, at his home. Services will be held at a later date. Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Wickliffe are in charge of arrangements.

George Shinn, 77, of Kevil passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Mercy-Health Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. He will be cremated per his wishes and no services are scheduled at this time. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Shinn family.

Randy Gibson, age 66, of Kevil passed away Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY. Visitation will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY. Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY. with Rev. Wes Peeler officiating. Interment will follow at Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery in Wickliffe.

Rexanna Ashcraft, age 77, passed away on Wednesday, January21, 2026. Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY. A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 12:00 with Brother Glen Dunn officiating.

CALDWELL

Jerry A. Henry, 87, of Princeton, entered Heaven’s gates on Friday, January 23, 2026, at Caldwell Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Kyle Noffsinger and Bro. Ronnie Sivells officiating. Burial will follow in Dycusburg Cemetery in Crittenden County. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until service time on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home.

Lucas Aaron Harris, infant child, passed away January 23, 2026 at Baptist Health Madisonville. Lucas was born to his loving parents, Marcus and Emily Noffsinger Harris of Princeton. Visitation will be held from 12:00 pm until 2:30 pm Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 pm Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Kyle Noffsinger officiating. Burial will be held privately at a later date.

Miracle Grace “Gracie” Ritter, infant child, passed away January 22, 2026 at Baptist Health Paducah. Gracie is survived by her loving parents, Jonathan Kalab Ritter and Whitney Michelle Thatcher of Princeton. There will be no services held at this time. Morgan’s Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

CALLOWAY

Kimberly Ann Horton, age 58, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Murray – Calloway County Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Kenneth Edward Johnson, 71 of Hardin, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Baptist Health in Paducah, Kentucky. Arrangements are incomplete at this time at Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Murray, KY.

CHRISTIAN

Diane Morris Samples, age 82, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center of natural causes. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM on Friday, January 30, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Rev. Billy Crick officiating and Rev.

Phillip Brumfield and Rev. Larry Croft assisting and burial to be held at a later date in Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Patsy I. Dukes Naylor, age 78, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center of natural causes. The family has chosen cremation with a Celebration of Life Service to be held at a later date. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

Nancy Gay Stevens, 79, of Hopkinsville, KY and formerly of Tupelo, MS died at 11:47 a.m. Friday, January 23, 2026 at her residence. Funeral services will be 12:00 p.m. Friday, January 30, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. Reed Shepherd and Rev. Dr. Rick Stevens officiating. Private burial will be held at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West. Visitation will be Friday from 10:30 a.m. until the funeral hour. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Caleb Ray Hayes, 24, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 10:30 p.m. Thursday, January 22, 2026 at his residence. Memorial services will be 4:00 p.m. Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Journey Church with Pastor Vince Farrell officiating. Visitation will be 2:00 p.m. until the service hour. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

Chief Petty Officer Colin P. Kelly (Retired) USN, 83, of Clarksville, TN died at 3:34 a.m. Thursday, January 22, 2026 at his residence. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home. Burial with military honors followed in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West.

Elizabeth M. Manners, 84, Oklahoma Avenue, Oak Grove, KY passed away Friday, January 23, 2026 at her home of natural causes. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

David Allen Bryant, 65, Trenton, passed away on Friday, January 23, 2026, in Trenton, KY. He was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Spring Creek where he was an Usher, Deacon in Training, maintenance, Finance, and Culinary. He was employed as a Foreman with Kent Smith Farms. No services are scheduled at this time.

James David “Jim” Scott, 77, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on January 24, 2026. 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 Jim.

CRITTENDEN

James Calvin Darnell, age 69, of Marion, KY passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at his home. There will be no visitation or services at this time. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

FULTON

Thomas Dean Stow, age 63, of the Latham community, passed away January 23, 2026, at his residence. There will be no services held at the funeral home. Hornbeak Funeral Chapel Fulton is in charge of arrangements.

Michael Marks, age 25, of Fulton, KY passed away Thursday, January 22, 2026, at the Jackson Madison County General Hospital ER in Jackson, TN. There will be no services held at the funeral home and private family services will be held.

Robby Robertson, age 84, of South Fulton, Tennessee, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield, Kentucky. A memorial graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026, at Greenlea Cemetery. There will be no visitation at the funeral home. Friends are asked to meet at the cemetery at the hour of service.

GRAVES

Betty Pinkleton Koerner, age 71, of Mayfield, KY passed away at 6:25 AM Monday, January 26, 2026 at the Lake Way Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Benton, KY. Funeral services for Betty will be held at 2:00 PM Thursday, February 5, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Ronnie Stinson Jr. will officiate with burial to follow in the Robbins Cemetery. Friends are invited to call after 11:00 AM on Thursday February 5, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY.

Geralynn Marie Carbine, age 63 and a resident of Fancy Farm, KY, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield.

Dorothy Pierceall age 85 of Mayfield passed away at 9:31 PM Sunday January 25, 2026 at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House in Murray. Funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM Friday January 30th, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Bro. Michael Farmer and Bro. Barry Summerville officiating, burial will follow in the Mayfield Memory Gardens, visitation will be held after 11:00 AM Friday at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield.

Valetta Mae DeAngelis, age 87, a resident of Mayfield, KY., passed away at 8:40 P.M. Saturday, January 24, 2026 at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield. A private family service will be conducted at a later date.

Vicky Riley, born August 22, 1949, passed away on January 24, 2026, leaving behind a lifetime of memories marked by love, laughter, and unmistakable punk. Funeral Mass was held at 12:00 PM Thursday January 29, 2026 at the St. Jerome Catholic Church in Fancy Farm with Father Darrell Venters officiating, burial followed in the Church Cemetery.

HENDERSON

Carol Ann Hinton, 81, of Henderson, KY, passed away Saturday, January 24, 2026, at Deaconess Henderson Hospital. Graveside services will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Fairmont Cemetery Mausoleum. Tomblinson Funeral Home, Henderson Chapel, is entrusted with arrangements.

Betty S. (Qualls) Ward Jenkins, 93, of Henderson, passed away after a brief illness on Friday, January 23, 2026 at Lucy Smith King Care Center. Private services will be scheduled at a later date. Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson is handling arrangements.

George Becker “G.B.” Vogel, age 99, of Corydon, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Breckinridge Place Retirement Center in Morganfield. Funeral service will be 11 AM Friday, January 23, 2026 at St. Peter’s catholic Church in Waverly, KY. Fr. Dave Johnson will officiate. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery in Henderson, KY.

HICKMAN

Timothy McCowan, age 69 of Clinton, KY passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at his residence. He was of the Christian faith. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. The Brown Funeral Home in Clinton, KY is in charge of the arrangements.

HOPKINS

Lori Marshall, 64, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026 while her husband held her hand at Baptist Health Deaconess. There are no events scheduled at this time.

Ernest Michael Werley, 71, of Princeton, KY, passed away to his heavenly home on Thursday, January 22, 2026. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 4, 2026, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Madisonville

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

with the Bishop of the church officiating. Cremation will follow. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2026, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home and Crematory.

Tony Wendell Camplin, 74 of Mortons Gap went to home to be with Jesus on Monday, January 26, 2026, at his home. Service will be held Saturday, January 31 at 2:00 pm at Unity in Christ Church in Madisonville with Bro. Richardson officiating. Visitation will begin at noon until service hour at the church. Due to current weather conditions, burial at Cranor Cemetery in St. Charles will be delayed at this time.

Ronald Wilburn Shaw, 84 of Mortons Gap passed away Friday, January 23, 2026, at his home with his family at his side. Services are currently pending due to weather. Update will appear here as soon as possible. Arrangements are entrusted to Bandy Funeral Home.

Darrell McConnell, 66, of Slaughters, KY passed away on Monday, January 26, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville Arrangements are currently pending.

Ruth Duvall, 95, of Providence, KY formerly of Monessen, PA passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. Arrangements are currently pending.

Mary Ann Scott, 66, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. Arrangements are currently pending.

Dorothy Menser, 69, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Friday, January 23, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. The funeral service will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville with Pastor Raymond Farmer officiating. A burial will be held at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville once the weather permits.

Walter A. Kunkle, 78, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. The funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville with Dr. Mark Partin officiating. A private burial will be held at Little Muddy Cemetery in Morgantown, KY at a later date. A visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the funeral hour on Friday at the funeral home.

LIVINGSTON

Kelly Chase, age 64, of Grand Rivers, passed away January 25, 2026 at Lake Barkley Health and Rehab. There will be no services held at this time. Lakeland Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Louis Glenn Parrish, age 70, of Ledbetter, Ky passed away on January 21st, 2026, at Baptist Health of Paducah. There will be no services at this time. The family ask for some privacy at this time. Smith Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

MARSHALL

Henry “Buddy” Brown, 78, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Bro. Mike Farmer officiating. Burial will follow at Vanzora Baptist Church Cemetery.

Anna Pauline Richardson Cutsinger, age 83, of Calvert City passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Lakeway Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm on Friday, January 30, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar Street, Benton, KY 42025, with Bro. James Oates officiating. Burial will follow at Marshall County Memory Gardens. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until the 1:00 pm service time on Friday, January 30, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann.

Nancy Freeman Lomprey, 86, of Symsonia, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at her place of residence. There are no services scheduled at this time. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Miner & Orr is handling the arrangements.

Alicia Gail Andersson, 57, of Benton, passed away Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Mercy Health - Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. Memorial services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home with Bro. Rick Miller officiating.

Randall “Randy” Bruce, age 73 of Benton passed away on Monday, January 26, 2026, at Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. A Funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at Collier Funeral Chapel located at 211 West 5th St. Benton, Kentucky 42025 with Brent Henderson and Russel Steele officiating.

Interment will follow in Cole Cemetery. Visitation will be held between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at Collier Funeral Home.

Rev. Raymond O. Lewis BA, M.Div. age 89 of Benton, KY passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Calvert City Convalescent Center in Calvert City, KY. A Funeral service will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Collier Funeral Chapel located at 211 West 5th St. Benton, KY 42025 with Dennis Lewis officiating. Interment will follow in Marshall Co. Memory Gardens, Benton, KY.

Visitation will be held between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Collier Funeral Home.

Emma Jo Edwards, 84 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Marshall Co. Hospital in Benton, Kentucky. A funeral service was held at Collier Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1:00 pm, with Bro. Ricky Cunningham officiating. Burial followed at Hardin Baptist Church Cemetery.

McCRACKEN

Mat Valerius, 83, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, January 26, 2026, at his residence. Memorial Graveside Services will be held at a later date. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah is in charge of arrangements.

Ruth Sieverkropp Kendall, age 91, passed peacefully on Sunday, January 25, 2026 at Mills Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Thursday, January 29, 2026 with Pastor David Appold officiating. Burial will follow at Liberty Cemetery. Visitation was held from 11:00 am until the 1:00 pm service time on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Homes.

Betty Leavell Wurth passed away at 1:30 p.m. on January 23, 2026, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026 at St. John Catholic Church at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Bruce Fogle officiating. Burial will follow the service at St. John Catholic Church Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home with prayers at 4:30 p.m.

Lydia Maria (Wolf) Cackowski, also know as Oma. 77 years young, passed away on January 27,2026 at 0509 am at Missouri Delta Hospital in Sikeston Missouri surrounded by the love of her family. Funeral services will be postponed, as Joe and Lydia wished to share one service and be laid to rest together as one.

James Johnson - For nearly 50 years, Jim was married to the love of his life, Alice, a partnership marked by deep loyalty, friendship, and a lifetime of shared adventures. He passed away just one month shy of their 50th wedding anniversary, leaving behind a legacy of steadfast love and the kind of partnership built through years of showing up for one another.

Ayisha Melonnie Wall “Nonnie” as she was affectionately known, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Saturday, January 17,

2026 at Baptist Health Paducah. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, 12 noon at Pettus Rowland Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a. m. until 12 noon where Reverend Donna G. Hawkins will offer words of comfort.

Verda Louise Estes Downs was called home by her Lord and Savior on January 24, 2026. Known to her family and close friends as Nookey or Aunt Nookey. She is strolling the streets of gold with Gayle, the love of her life. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, February 2, 2026 at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Pastor Michael Wooley officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Paducah. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to service time Monday at the funeral home.

TRIGG

Nelta L. Yeager, 78, Canton Lake Shore Drive, Cadiz, KY passed away Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at her daughter’s home in Gracey, KY of natural causes. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Linda Futrell Hendon - July 14, 1942 - January 24, 2026 - Private Burial for 83 year old Linda Futrell Hendon of Cadiz were held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. at the East Cadiz Baptist Church Cemetery. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Captain Mike Stewart beloved husband, father, friend and top notch mariner, peacefully “crossed the bar” on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at the age of 72. Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at King’s Funeral Home with Brian Morris officiating. Visitation will be on Friday, from 11:00 – 1:00 at King’s Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Daniel Stewart Cemetery.

Bill Lester - November 5, 1932 - January 22, 2026 - Funeral Services for 93 year old Bill Lester of Gracey were held Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville with Rev. Steve Hussung and Rev., Dr. Vona Wilson officiating. Burial will follow in the Lester Family Cemetery in Gracey. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Dee Steele-Hamm, age 60, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at her home in Cerulean, Kentucky. A memorial service to celebrate Dee’s life will be held at a later date. Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, is in care of the arrangements.

UNION

Denise Walker was born on September 15, 1957 and was called home to the Lord on January 23, 2026 after a life beautifully lived and deeply rooted in love, faith, and family. The service will be 12PM Friday, January 30, 2026 at St. Peter’s Catholic Church in Waverly. Fr. Dave Johnson will officiate. The burial will be in St. Peter’s Cemetery. The visitation will be 10AM until service time on Friday at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield.

Daryl Gene Gourley, age 74, passed away peacefully on January 23, 2026 at his home in Waverly, KY surrounded by his family. Funeral service was held at 1 PM Thursday January 29, 2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Bro Geoff Deibler will officiate. Burial will be in St. Agnes Cemetery in Uniontown, KY.

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

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Angels watching over us

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Until I fell off a City Scooter while on vacation in Denver, Colorado, I had no concept of the impact a fall can have on a person's life. I'm ashamed to say, in July 2025, when my family doctor said, "You're in very good health, but the older you get, the more you'll have to be careful about falling", I almost laughed. My immediate, and somewhat proud response, was: "Well, I'm not worried about that because my muscles are strong and I don't think I'll be falling in the near future."

I didn't take ignorance into consideration. Why would someone, my age, get

on an electric City Scooter anyway? I did, and the MRI showed I had torn my hamstring from the bone. I spent three days in the hospital in Denver. It took eight days before I could raise my leg enough to put it on a pillow by myself. On the tenth day, I could get out of bed by myself but it was eleven days before I could walk just a couple steps without a walker. On the 13th day, I felt like a miracle had happened. I was extremely slow, but was able to take care of my basic needs without help. It has now started my fourth week and I'm so excited to be able to sit without tremendous pain.

The amazing thing
is that for almost two



weeks I had to have someone do everything for me and miraculously on the 12th day, everything begin to get better day-by-day. I attribute that healing process to God's divine intervention and lots of prayer from lots of Christians. I still need help with some things and it remains to be a

challenge. I'm so grateful for where I am. In fact, from where I was, to where I am, I know God's love and mercy was instrumental in my healing.

I read where celebrity chef, Guy Fiera, fell down some stairs in November, tearing his quadricep muscle in half. He said it was

one of the worse things he's ever gone through. I agree. This is one of the most painful things I've ever experienced. But I'm on the mend and the long-term process of physical therapy must take place if I don't want to limp around the rest of my life.

I don't fully understand the reasons people fall when we get older. In my case, it was a bad choice on my part, but when most people fall it's not their fault. It could be from general weakness, uneven steps, vision problems or something they trip over like a pair of shoes, a cord or a pet. In any case, it's a rude awakening when it happens to you.

The point of my tell-

ing you this is that we think it can't happen to us. It can. We take so much for granted when, in fact, we should look at "normal every day" activities as a privilege. It's God's blessings that we get out of bed, without help, in the morning. I cling to the scriptures, "He sent His Word and healed them" (Ps 107:20) and "Healing is the children's bread" (Matt. 15:21-28).

If you're going through something that's new and painful remember God is with you to heal and restore you. "With us is the Lord our God to help us" (2 Chron 32:8). I honestly believe there are angels watching over us.

There is no substitute for perseverance

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

When it comes to finding our place in this world, let's consider two categories. The first one, let's call "floating down the river." Imagine someone napping in a small boat without a compass or a paddle and not caring about where they are going. Having a spectator mentality, they have yet to understand the importance of having an intentional direction and instead settle for just hoping for the best. They are comfortable with what they do not know, and believe that everything will somehow be alright. Our second way of thinking involves listening and developing an awareness of our personal accountability to ourselves, those around us, and, of course, God, the one who made us. Until we embrace the reality that He has a specific meaning and purpose for our lives, we will not fulfill our potential.

As a substitute teacher, I have the honor to help children learn, and while in this position, I observe different types of personalities and attitudes. I notice that those who are eager to absorb knowledge and excel are enthusiastic about all subjects. I believe when

kids are encouraged at home, and education is a priority, this transfers over to the student as it opens their eyes to encouraging possibilities and opportunities. On the other hand, when children are looking out the window and doodling on their papers instead of answering the questions, it seems they are not only bored and avoiding the subject matter, but have made a mental decision to refuse to learn. Do some have a resistance to change because they are afraid of failing?

Being a minister, I also volunteer at our local detention center a couple of times a month, where I speak to the inmates about God and the Christian life. For those who ask God to intervene, and agree to let go of their ways, our team will baptize and serve them communion, and try to help them all we can. I've heard some heartbreaking stories from these individuals, and often, they testify about having a hard life at home when they were kids. They lost interest in school, started running with a bad crowd, and it's been a downhill slide ever since. Some admit they are on the bottom, with terrible personal problems, and have burned every bridge, but of course,

it's never too late to ask
for God's help.

God's love encourages and motivates us, but another aspect of success is to realize there are certain conditions and responsibilities on our part for His plan to be fully activated. It will require surrendering our will to him. You see, with God being the Potter and us being the clay, it's critical to accept the fact that we do not conveniently add God to the plans we already have, but rather we must allow Him to transform us into His brand new creation. One of the basic attitudes I see all the time is "I don't care." So what makes people rise from the ashes of apathy, rebellion, and discouragement? Well, personal change is not easy, and anyone who advertises how wonderful it is to sacrifice, suffer, and step into a lifestyle completely opposite to their comfort zone is not being honest. There's nothing wrong with reading books about how others have conquered their demons, but even if someone understands what it will take, this does not automatically mean they will do it.

Sadly, many are only trying to survive today, without a desire to plan for tomorrow. If you've

ever tried to help someone find their direction, you understand when I say we cannot force anyone to do anything, especially those who are not willing to help themselves. In every area of life, the ones who desire a healthy state of being must comprehend the truth about their own responsibilities and be willing to do something about it. Beyond the motivational seminars, the Bible studies, and achievement formulas,

it will take a personal revelation, an enlightenment of the mind and soul, to have faith in ourselves the way God has hope in us. Whether we are young or old, being an overcomer requires seeking, praying, and working, and living in denial and blaming everyone for our problems only makes it worse. I have compassion for those whose parents failed them and know those who still struggle from neglect.

Life has always seemed like a huge mountain that was impossible to climb. There is no substitute for perseverance, as it's true, "We cannot lower the mountain, therefore we must elevate ourselves."

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



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Randy and Andrea Orr



TRIBUTE
MONUMENTS



My hunting season is over. I have scheduled a couple of fishing trips, but they are a few weeks away. Until then, I am surrounded by everything man-made. I don't mind this too much after a season of God-made stuff, but I need to return to the God-made stuff quickly. But not for the hunting or fishing, but for the God of the stuff. You see, most of the time when I go to the woods I am going for the purpose of pursuit – whether that is for the purpose

of scouting or hunting. When I'm in the woods I'm thinking about deer or turkey. When I'm on the water, it's usually with a fishing rod. The point is that while I'm surrounded by the very handiwork of God when I am outside, I am focused on a more mundane activity. And sometimes (not all the time) my purpose doesn't line up with my place. Let me explain.

What I need right now more than anything, is to be surrounded by creation for the purpose of

being with and hearing from the Creator. My purpose needs to line up with my place. And yours does too. As you know because you hear it from me all the time, creation is the first way God spoke to his people, and it is still the first way He does it. Sure, the Bible is what we as Christians look to more than anything. But creation is how God speaks to believers and unbelievers all over the world. It is God confronting us head on with something so great that we must contemplate His

desire to include us. And those of us who are Christians need to lean into hearing God through creation as well as through the scriptures. But to do that, we have to get in creation for this specific purpose. So, here's what I'm going to do and maybe it's something that you might want to do. Go to the woods or get in your boat and go to the lake, for the express purpose of hearing what God might want to say to you through His many masterpieces. When you get there

simply ask God, "What do you want to say to me while I'm here?" And then, shut up, look at all the wonders around you, and listen. And then be able to answer this question should someone ask, and your life depended on it. "What was the one thing God wanted you to know from your time in the woods or on the water?" Be able to answer that question. If you and I do this, we will have perfectly used creation for the primary purpose it was meant. And I can't help to

believe the man-made world we are returning to, will be filled with a greater joy as well.

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

HEAVEN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

The young man complied although he did not completely comprehend his father's request. If he wished to continue living at home, he had to stick with his dad's straightforward stipulations: hold down a job and pay rent. So, he paid his parents a substantial sum every month, hard-earned money that might otherwise have gone toward video games, upgrading his smartphone, and acquiring frivolous things from Amazon.

Eventually, he decided to move out and buy his first home. It was then that his father revealed a long-time-coming surprise: "Son, I've been putting all of the money you've paid your mother and I into a savings account for the down payment on your house."

His sacrifices literally paid off. Though he likely doubted at times whether it was a waste of time and money, he ended up paying himself. And similarly, the sacrifices we make for the Lord and His kingdom are everlasting

investments. What we give up for Christ—as costly as it may be on earth—is sent ahead of us and reserved in an eternal "savings account," to be inherited when we leave this world to live in a "house not made with hands" (2 Cor. 5:1). And this account is insured by the greatest "FDIC" of all: the Father's Deposits in Christ.

According to Jesus, we rob ourselves of heavenly rewards when we settle for a comfortable and complacent life where our time, talents, and

treasures are spent on ourselves (cf. Mark 8:34-36). But when we give until it hurts, serve when it interrupts our schedule, and choose costly obedience over convenient sins, we grow "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21) and stockpile treasure in heaven: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do

not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:19-20, KJV). Christ also assured that we accrue "interest" on what we sacrifice: "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life" (Luke 18:29-30). In other words, the Lord will not only reimburse what we give up on earth—He will infinitely multiply it in eternity.

Still, just as the son paid rent to please his father rather than secure a reward, we must bless others, give our all for God's kingdom, and treat every day as a sacrificial altar—not to manipulate God for blessings, but simply to please Him. The Lord owes us nothing, yet He promises to reward our faithfulness with "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). Are you storing up treasures in heaven?





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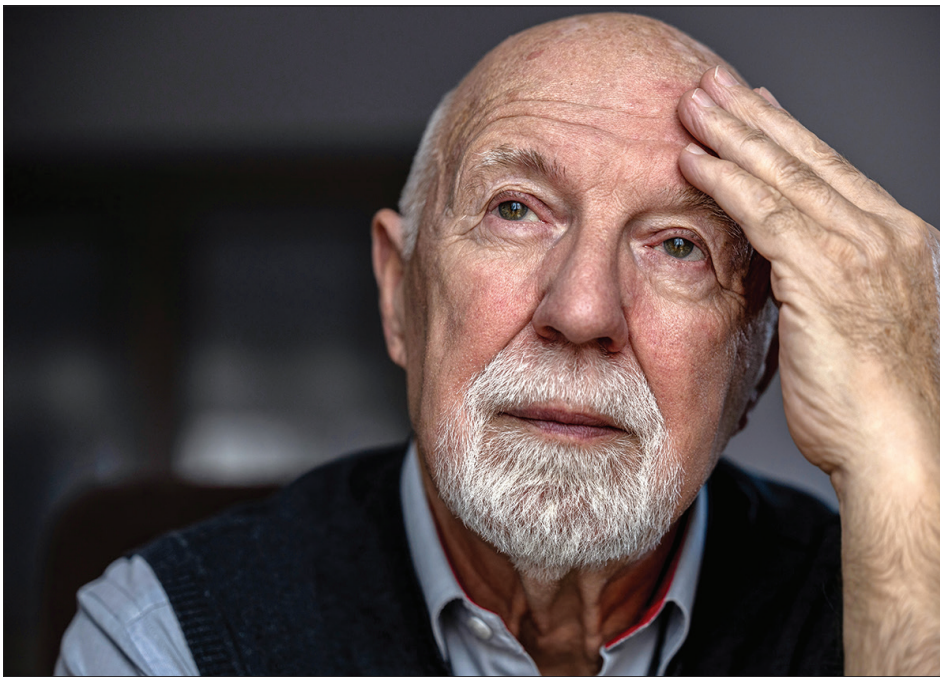


What seniors can do to safeguard their mental health

Mental health has increasingly been noted as a key ingredient to an individual health regimen. The stigma once assigned to mental health issues has largely dissipated, and many people now recognize that mental health should be just as big a priority as physical health.

Seniors may not have come of age in a world where mental health was prioritized, and thanks to that aging men and women may not recognize where their mental health is suffering and what they can do to combat such problems. Recognition of the importance of mental health is a step in the right direction, and seniors also can consider these strategies to safeguard their mental health.

- *Recognize your vulnerability.* The



World Health Organization notes older adults are uniquely vulnerable to potential mental health issues. That's because mental health is shaped by numerous variables, including earlier life experiences and some notable stressors related to aging, such as a decline in functional ability that can

cause psychological distress. Seniors also are more likely than others to experience adverse events like the loss of a loved one or even a loss of purpose, which can affect anyone upon retirement. Recognition of this vulnerability may be enough to compel seniors to seek advice and assistance on how to safeguard their

mental health from age-related stressors.

- *Take time out if you're a caregiver.* The WHO notes that many older adults serve as caregivers for spouses with chronic health conditions, including dementia. The Alzheimer's Association reports that studies have found that 70 percent of caregivers report

feeling stress related to coordination of care, while two in three caregivers have difficulty finding resources and support for their needs. Seniors who have taken on caregiving duties for a loved one must protect their own mental health by taking time out to care for themselves as well. Work with family members to share responsibilities when caring for a loved one. If family members cannot pitch in, then work with local government agencies to alleviate some of the stress of caregiving.

- *Make a concerted effort to socialize.*

A 2025 report from the WHO indicated that roughly one-fourth of all older adults are affected by social isolation and loneliness. Social connection can significantly improve mental health and

provide a sense of life satisfaction while improving quality of life. Seniors are urged to prioritize socialization. Many community-based groups, including government offices, run programs designed specifically to facilitate socialization among older residents. Take advantage of such programs whenever possible. Seniors living alone also may want to consider relocating to communities exclusive to people age 55 and over, as such developments typically offer an array of socialization opportunities to residents.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to mental health issues, but older adults can take many steps to safeguard their mental health.

Tips for seniors dealing with anxiety, depression & grief

Anxiety, depression, and grief are common challenges for seniors, especially during times of change such as retirement, declining health, or the loss of loved ones. While these feelings can be difficult, there are healthy ways to cope and regain a sense of balance and hope.

First, stay connected. Isolation can worsen emotional struggles, so maintaining regular contact with family, friends, or community groups is important. Even brief phone calls, shared meals, or attending local events can provide comfort and remind seniors they are not alone.

Second, keep a daily routine. Structure offers stability and purpose, which can ease anxiety and low mood. Simple habits such as waking up at the same time, going for a short walk, or enjoying a favorite hobby help create a sense of normalcy and control.

Physical activity also plays a key

role in emotional well-being. Gentle exercises like walking, stretching, or chair yoga can boost mood, reduce stress, and improve sleep. Always consult a healthcare provider before starting new activities, especially if health conditions are present.

When dealing with grief, it's important to allow space for emotions. Grief has no timetable, and feelings may come and go. Writing in a journal, talking openly about memories, or participating in a support group can help process loss in a healthy way.

Seniors should also pay attention to their mental health just as they would their physical health. If feelings of sadness, worry, or hopelessness persist, speaking with a doctor, counselor, or faith leader can be an important step. Professional support can provide reassurance, coping tools, and treatment options when needed. Finally, focus

on small joys. Listening to music, spending time outdoors, reading, or volunteering can bring moments of peace and meaning. While emotional challenges may arise, support, routine, and self-care can help seniors move forward with resilience and renewed purpose.



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What to know about AMD

Physical changes are a normal byproduct of aging. Gray hairs and less elastic skin that contributes to wrinkles may be among the more notable physical signs of aging, but older individuals also may note their vision is not what it once was.

Diminished vision can be a byproduct of various conditions. Aging individuals who have noticed a loss of vision may be dealing with age-related macular degeneration, or AMD. Seniors concerned by AMD can learn about the condition so they're well-positioned to manage it if and when they need to.

What is AMD?
The National Eye Institute notes that AMD is an eye disease that is the leading cause of vision loss for older adults. In fact, Johns Hopkins Medicine notes age is the most common cause of severe loss

of eyesight among people 50 and older. The NEI notes that aging causes damage to the macula, which is the part of the eye that controls sharp, straight-ahead vision. When a person has AMD, his or her central vision is blurred.

What happens when a person has AMD?
Because AMD blurs the central vision, people who develop the disease may struggle to recognize faces, read, drive, or engage in activities that require close-up work, including cooking or fixing things around the house.

Are all cases of AMD the same?
The NEI notes that AMD happens very slowly in some people and faster in others. Some people may not recognize they have vision loss even when they already have early AMD. In addition, there are two types of AMD:
• Dry AMD: Dry

AMD is the most common type of the disease and occurs as the macula gets thinner with age. Dry AMD progresses slowly over several years, and occurs in three stages: early, intermediate and late.
• Wet AMD: Wet AMD is a less common form of late AMD that the NEI notes typically causes faster vision loss. Wet AMD occurs when abnormal blood vessels grow in the back of the eye and damage the macula. Wet AMD is treatable.

Does AMD produce symptoms?
AMD produces different symptoms depending on the stage of the disease. Early dry AMD does not cause any symptoms, and the NEI notes some people with intermediate dry AMD may not experience symptoms. Those who do may notice symptoms such as mild blurriness in their central vision or difficulty seeing in low lighting. Late wet or dry AMD patients may notice that straight lines are beginning to look wavy or crooked and there may be a blurry area near the center of their vision. That blurriness can grow larger over time and people may begin to see blank spots. Colors also may seem less bright and people may have difficulty seeing in low lighting.

Who is at risk for AMD?
The NEI notes that adults over 55 are more likely to have AMD than any other group. People with a family history of AMD, Caucasians and smokers also have a higher risk of developing AMD. Quitting smoking, getting regular physical activity, maintaining healthy blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and eating a healthy diet that includes leafy greens and fish are some ways people can lower their AMD risk.
AMD is most common among individuals over 50. More information is available at nei.nih.gov.

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Baptist Health implements Blue Band Project to reduce maternal risk

[PADUCAH, KY] — In observance of Maternal Health Awareness Day on Jan. 23, Baptist Health Paducah is highlighting the Blue Band Project, a maternal safety initiative implemented across all Baptist Health hospitals to support early recognition and coordinated care for pregnant and postpartum patients with high blood pressure-related conditions.

“The initiative uses a simple tool – a blue silicone wristband – provided to patients diagnosed with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, such as preeclampsia, during pregnancy or after delivery,” said Lisa Parnell, Director of Mother/Baby Care at Baptist Health Paducah. “These conditions are often manageable with timely care, and this project helps strengthen communication among care teams and supports prompt attention if concerns arise.”

Patients who receive the wristband are encouraged to wear it for up to six weeks after delivery, a time when follow-up care remains especially important. The band serves as a visual cue for healthcare providers, emergency departments and first responders that a patient may need closer

monitoring related to blood pressure concerns. Patients also receive educational materials to help them recognize warning signs and feel informed as they recover and adjust to life with a new baby.

“Pregnancy and the weeks after delivery bring many changes to the body, and high blood pressure is one of the most common conditions we monitor,” said Parnell. “The Blue Band Project adds an extra layer of communication and support for patients and care teams during a critical period.”

The Blue Band Project is part of a statewide effort led by the Kentucky Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Task Force to promote consistent maternal safety practices. Through initiatives like this, Baptist Health continues its focus on supporting healthy pregnancies and safe recoveries for patients and their families.

More information about the Blue Band Project is available at kypqc.org.

To learn more about maternal care at Baptist Health, visit Maternity Care - Mother & Baby Care | Baptist Health or speak with your healthcare provider.

About Baptist Health Paducah
Baptist Health

Paducah is a regional medical and referral center serving about 200,000 patients a year from four states. With more than 1,300 employees and 364 physicians, it offers 42 points of care with a full range of services, including cardiac and cancer care, diagnostic imaging, women’s and children’s services, surgery, emergency treatment, rehabilitation, and more. It has the region’s first heart center and only accredited chest pain center and certified stroke center with 24/7 neurohospitalist coverage, as well as Paducah’s only comprehensive cancer center and Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care unit. Baptist Health Paducah has a network of healthcare providers for patients in western Kentucky and southern Illinois — from Baptist Health Medical Group physician offices to Baptist Health Urgent Care and Occupational Medicine locations.

The hospital is also designated Pathway to Excellence® for excellence in nursing services by the American Nursing Credentialing Center. It opened in 1953 as Western Baptist Hospital and changed its name in early 2013, along with other facilities in Baptist Health, the largest not-for-profit healthcare systems in Kentucky.



Blue wristband that notifies healthcare professionals of those at risk for hypertensive disorders such as preeclampsia during pregnancy or after delivery.






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How to maximize outdoor wedding venues

When searching for the right place to tie the knot, each couple looks for their own unique spot. According to The Knot Worldwide 2024 Global Wedding Report, couples across the globe identify cost and venue style/type as the most important variables to consider. Nearly 75 percent of couples worldwide report getting married within 30 miles of their homes. And many couples prefer an outdoor wedding.

Outdoor weddings peaked in popularity in 2020, when the global pandemic forced couples to be creative as they sought to tie the knot with friends and family in attendance. Statista reported that 68 percent of couples hosted their wedding ceremonies outside or partially outside in 2020. However, Hudson Valley Weddings paints a more conservative picture of outdoor weddings today, with 35 percent of weddings now being held outdoors.

Couples hold their ceremonies and receptions outside for a variety of reasons, including the chance to tie the knot in a naturally beautiful landscape. The following are some ways to maximize the benefits of outdoor venues.

- *Embrace the opportunity to accommodate more guests.* Couples with large guest lists may opt for outdoor weddings because venues with outdoor space typically can accommodate more people. Outdoor spaces can be vast and not constrained by the walls of banquet halls or restaurants — allowing guests to spread out.
- *Include child-friendly elements.* If it would be difficult to exclude children from the festivities, an outdoor venue can ensure kids have something to do. Kids tend to have high energy levels, and an outdoor venue gives them space to run around without crashing into something or tipping something over. Setting up a separate kids’ play area also makes it easy to gather the kids in a certain spot, helping to keep children away from adults who are dancing.
- *Take advantage of the aesthetic.* Most outdoor spaces offer awe-inspiring features. Those who opt for spring or summer weddings can take advantage of cultivated, fragrant gardens or even fields of natural wildflowers. Fall weddings will be on fire with the natural oranges, reds and yellows of the changing landscape, which makes the perfect photo backdrop for nuptials. Try to time the occasion for around sunset to make outdoor areas even more special. A setting sun can cast a special glow on the festivities. And save money on decor by relying exclusively on natural features.
- *Get creative with food.* Part of the appeal of being outdoors for the wedding is the freedom to offer guests less standard fare in regard to food. A pig roast for a tropical affair or even wood-fired pizzas or barbecue align well with an outdoor wedding. Caterers often suggest passed appetizers for the cocktail hour and plated meals for dinner to cut down on insects buzzing around a buffet line.
- *Design a contingency plan.* Every couple wants the wedding to go off without a hitch (except for the actual getting hitched part), so it’s important to have a tent, pergola or covered area to retreat to in the event of rain or strong sun.

Outdoor weddings are popular options that can add a special touch newlyweds will remember for years to come.

A beginner’s guide to engagement ring shopping



Couples far and wide will tie the knot this year. Weddings join two lives together and often culminate with a lavish party that sees extended family and friends gather around tables enhanced by floral arrangements and delicious food. But long before guests can choose chicken or beef or newlyweds mail the final thank you note, couples must first take the initial step on the road to the wedding. That means getting engaged. Traditionally, engagements involve a sparkling gem that symbolizes love, fidelity and a whirlwind series of months poring over every possible wedding detail.

Shopping for an engagement ring is a unique experience. A ring requires a significant financial investment and serves as a lifelong symbol of commitment to another person. To navigate this sparkling world of diamonds and settings, shoppers can focus on key areas, notably budget, gem classification and finding a reputable jeweler.

Establish an engagement ring budget

Those ready to pop the question need not adhere to the outdated “three months’ salary” rule when selecting an engagement ring. Instead, the ring should be chosen based on financial realism and means. The Knot’s 2024 Jewelry & Engagement Study indicates the average cost of an engagement ring in the United States comes in at approximately \$5,200. However, many couples spend less, showing that a marriage need not start on shaky financial footing due to the cost of a ring. If cost is a factor, lab-grown diamonds often cost 50 percent or more less than natural diamonds, yet they are chemically and physically identical to mined diamonds. One also can consider another gemstone, particularly if diamonds are beyond a budget or seem too traditional.

Know the four Cs

Diamond shopping involves mastering the Four Cs, which refers to Cut, Color, Clarity, and Carat Weight. A person should prioritize the cut above all else, and try to find a diamond in budget that has a cut that brings out the gem’s brilliance and fire. It can be challenging to distinguish a diamond’s color with the naked eye. Very often a near-colorless G-J diamond can look identical to a colorless one (Grade D). Color grades increase up to Z, with the diamond being more yellow/brown as the grading goes on. Clarity refers to tiny flaws (inclusions) in the diamond. A diamond that is Very Slightly Included will have inclusions not visible without magnification, making them a safe bet for saving money over those without any inclusions at all. Carat weight refers to the diamond’s weight and not its size. Diamonds just shy of the full- or half-carat mark tend to be less expensive but still look impressive.

Choose a reputable seller

It’s best to choose a gem that has been graded by an independent laboratory like the Gemological Institute of America. Customers also should select a jeweler they trust, which may require some research and word-of-mouth recommendations. A knowledgeable jeweler also can make suggestions on setting and gem shape. Upon purchasing the engagement ring, one also might consider having it independently appraised for further purchase protection.

An engagement ring purchase requires careful consideration and a significant investment. But once the stress of purchase wears away, the lasting memories of the engagement and wedding to come will make everything well worth it.

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Why it pays to trust a pro with wedding photography

User-friendly technology and greatly enhanced connectivity has changed the way people approach various tasks. The do-it-yourself home improvement trend is a testament to that shift, as homeowners now have access to professional grade tools and can easily take to social media for inspiration and instructions for renovations that were once the domain of experienced contractors.

Though it can be fun and budget-friendly to embrace a DIY approach in many settings, that strategy is not ideal for every situation, including the day couples tie the knot. A couple’s wedding day is one to cherish forever, which is why it pays to rely on skilled professionals. That’s particularly so with wedding photography, which will serve as the official record of a day filled with love and laughs. Modern technology may compel some couples to think they can go without the services of a professional photographer on their wedding day, but there are many reasons to trust this important job to an experienced pro.

- Photographers can get great shots no matter the conditions. There’s a difference between snapping great shots of an idyllic setting on a smartphone and taking wedding day photographs couples will look back on for years to come. Experienced photographers have cameras capable of far more than those on a smartphone,



and these skilled professionals also possess the knowledge of how to get great shots in settings that might not be so conducive to photography. A dimly lit reception hall dance floor may prove challenging for untrained amateurs, but professional photographers know what to do to get great shots in such settings. Professionals also know how to utilize natural light to their advantage when taking shots outdoors.

- Photographers handle the details. Couples have enough on their plate when planning weddings. Taking on photography duties requires identifying the right photo locations, knowing when to take photos to maximize surroundings, ensuring bridal party members are all ready to go so photos can be taken within tight deadlines, and post-wedding detailing. That’s a lot to take on, and it’s work best left to professionals.

• Photographers free up time. Many newlyweds note their wedding day

seemed to fly by and was over before they knew it. Such sentiments may be

even stronger when couples take on too much responsibility come the wedding day. A professional photographer will coordinate shots and timelines with couples prior to the big day and take over getting bridal party members where they need to be when they need to be there. That frees up time for couples to spend more time with each other and their guests come the day of the wedding, which in turn can make it feel as though the day didn’t fly by.

- You get a professionally finished product. Amateur photographers

simply won’t produce as stunning a finished product as professionals who take and touch up photos for a living. A wedding day photo album is a keepsake couples will look back on for years, so it’s best to ensure its contents include photos taken and touched up by a skilled professional.

Couples can find ways to cut costs with their wedding budgets. But it’s best to avoid cutting corners regarding photography, as there’s no way to turn back the clock and get better shots if the efforts of amateurs fall short of expectations.



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Plan a Valentine’s Day proposal

Valentine’s Day is often characterized as the most romantic day of the year. Steeped in tradition involving the exchange of tokens of affection like chocolates, roses and gifts, Valentine’s Day also is a popular day to propose marriage.

It’s possible to separate popping the question from standard Valentine’s Day celebrations. Here’s how to shape a proposal that is heartfelt, personalized and presented with genuine emotion.

Be intentional
Before planning the proposal, reflect on what your partner likes and what matters most. Consider their feelings about gestures, namely, whether they like intimate moments or grand displays. The proposal should fit your partner’s personality and not be about grabbing more social media likes.

Start with good intentions that suit your partner.

Find the setting
Select a setting that is meaningful and doesn’t veer into cliché territory. Look for places with personal significance, such as the location of a first date or a spot tied to a shared memory. The location even can be a special spot uniquely special to your partner, like a park bench frequently shared with a grandparent who is no longer living. A new destination that reflects your future together also is a good option. Scout out any areas in advance to ensure privacy and a smooth experience. If the proposal will take place outdoors, have a Plan B ready to deal with weather or any other obstacles.

Make the day flow
Consider the proposal like a mini movie that’s not a standalone moment, but part of a greater narrative. Plan activities leading up to the question. Have a meal together, walk through a favorite neighborhood haunt

or exchange gifts as is customary on Valentine’s Day. These touches set the scene for the day. They may also hint at what’s to come.

Incorporate personal elements
Include touches that call to mind your shared story. Details from inside jokes to beloved songs to objects with sentimental value can elevate this special moment. If family members or close friends are especially important to your partner, figure out a way to incorporate them into the proposal.

Leave room to celebrate
So much emphasis is placed on finding the right words and moment to pop the question, but don’t forget about the afterglow. Knowing your partner will help you decide whether you should move on to a romantic dinner after the proposal or head to a place where phone calls sharing the great news can be handled immediately.



You also may want to spend a cozy night reflecting on this life-changing moment and all that’s on the

horizon. Valentine’s Day proposals are wildly popular. But those considering popping

the question on February 14 can still find ways to make their proposal unique.

What to know before a wedding gown shopping trip

Weddings mark a turning point from one stage in life to another. The significance of that transition is perhaps one reason why couples and their guests dress so nicely for a wedding ceremony and reception. Formal garb is a wedding tradition, and guests anxiously await seeing which type of gown a bride will wear. In western cultures, white wedding gowns have been the standard since the nineteenth century and are believed to symbolize purity and grace. In eastern cultures, wedding gowns often have been elaborate, colorful creations that have their own symbolic meanings unique to various areas of the world. Shopping for a wedding gown can spark mixed emotions.

While it is exciting to try on some remarkable garments, there also is the pressure of knowing all eyes will be on you while wearing this couture creation. Narrowing down wedding gown prospects can take vision, time and patience. The following pointers can help when it comes time to visit bridal shops.

Make an appointment
Many bridal shops operate by appointment only. That’s because the staff wants to devote complete attention to a client, and having people simply walk in from the street can draw their attention away and/or lead to long wait times. Identify the stores you want to visit, and then call to secure your time slot.



Narrow down styles
Think about what your personal style might be and how you want to look on your wedding day. If you’re not sure about the vocabulary surrounding dress silhouettes, visit Pinterest or Instagram and save images of

dresses that you love. Then you can show the sales staff what you are thinking instead of going in empty-handed.

Keep an open mind
Try on a few different styles even if you have a particular dress in mind. You never know if something might be a

better fit for your body type or the scope and style of your wedding unless you give it a go.

Start the process early
Unlike off-the-rack clothing, most wedding shops will have to order your dress and have it shipped. Then comes a few weeks for alterations. KWH Bridal notes eight to 12 months before a wedding is a good time to choose and order a dress. Brides magazine says most made-to-order wedding gowns take about six to nine months to create. There also are three separate fittings to ensure the gown will fit like a glove.

Invite a handful of confidantes
It’s best not to arrive at the shopping appointment with an entire entourage.

Pick, at the most, four people whose opinions you trust; otherwise, it could be a case of too many cooks in the kitchen. As a bride-to-be you’ll already be anxious, and you’ll want soothing, supportive people with you.

Plan your budget
Know well in advance what you can afford to spend. According to data from The Knot, wedding attire accounts for 7 percent of the average couple’s budget. Most wedding gowns are in the range of \$2,000. Don’t forget about additional costs, such as veil, shoes, alterations, undergarments, and any add-ons. In addition to these tips, arrive to an appointment well-rested, fed and comfortable.

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Kentucky Forest Leadership Program opens 2026 applications for unique experience at Robinson Forest

The Kentucky Forest Leadership Program gives high school students seeking practical experience in forestry, entomology and wildlife a head start.

By Jordan Strickler

Quicksand, Ky.—
The University of Kentucky’s Kentucky Forest Leadership Program (KFLP) is now accepting applications for its 2026 session. The weeklong, residential program brings high school students together for hands-on learning about Kentucky’s natural resources. Part of the

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, this year’s program runs June 7–12 at Robinson Forest.
KFLP is geared for students who want to explore the forests, trees, insects, water and wildlife. Participants spend the week outdoors and in field settings, learning from trained forestry and natural resource

professionals. Students will follow a full schedule of activities built around real field methods and problem-solving.
“The KFLP program helps participants understand the importance of Kentucky forests and natural resources as well as the management and conservation of these resources,” said Extension forester

Laurie Thomas. “It also helps students interact with natural resources professionals and learn about academic programs and careers in this field and develop team building and leadership skills while working in resource management teams.”
Participating students can apply to one of three educational tracks — Forestry, Entomology or Wildlife. While each track offers focused instruction, students also work across tracks during the week, sharing findings and tackling the kind of interdisciplinary questions that come up while working in natural resources.
The Forestry Option is intended for students with a strong interest in Kentucky’s woodlands and forest management. These participants learn the basics of forest surveying and

management and complete a survey within an 80-acre forest plot that all three tracks study. Activities include tree identification, land surveying, soil science, fire management, water quality evaluation, Kentucky wildlife topics and GPS/GIS mapping. Forestry students also estimate tree species composition and timber volume as part of their fieldwork.
The Entomology Option focuses on Kentucky’s insects and their impact on forests. Students learn insect identification, collection and ecology, then contribute to an insect survey in the same 80-acre plot examined by the other tracks. The entomology schedule also includes aquatic habitat investigation, tree identification, water quality evaluation, wildlife topics and

GPS/GIS mapping. Students discuss how insect pressures shape forest conditions and how that information feeds into management decisions.
The Wildlife Option centers on Kentucky wildlife and field techniques used to sample, identify and manage species. Wildlife participants complete a wildlife habitat assessment in the shared 80-acre plot and conduct surveys for reptiles and amphibians, signs of mammals (tracks, scat and damage), birds (early morning survey) and bats after dusk using acoustic recording technology. GPS/GIS mapping is also part of the track.
Across all tracks, students periodically come together to compare results and

see **FOREST**, page B20

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Deer harvest of 145,000 fifth largest in Kentucky history

By Tom Latek
kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – The Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) announced Friday that hunters harvested 145,433 deer in Kentucky during the 2025-26 season, the fifth-highest reported total in history and 3,000 above the 10-year average.

The recently completed 136-day season was noteworthy for a newly expanded October youth-only season, impressive success of hunters on public land, and a high percentage of harvested bucks estimated to be 2½ years old or older. However, doe harvest goals, aimed at maintaining a healthy and quality herd, were not met.

“In many ways, it was a great deer season – almost 105,000 hunters were successful in taking at least one deer, walking away with meat in the freezer, some with a rack for the wall and all stories to tell friends



and family,” said Joe McDermott, KDFWR deer program coordinator. “We are looking to substantially increase the female harvest over time.”

This year, KDFWR set doe harvest goals for Zone 1 and Zone 2 counties, but only one county – Simpson – met its goal. Eleven other counties met 80 to 90 percent of the department’s goals.

McDermott said wildlife officials are discussing ways to increase doe harvest.

More than 20 counties are expected to be reassigned to different zones to encourage more doe harvest in the 2026-27 deer season.

An overabundance of deer can result in increased deer-vehicle collisions and damage to agricultural crops and expensive landscaping. It can also increase the spread of tick-borne and other diseases and lead to smaller body sizes and antlers due to competi-

tion for food. “When there are fewer deer on the landscape, the re-

maining animals are better able to reach their full potential,” McDermott stated.

Of the 104,595 successful deer hunters, 74 percent took only one deer, less than 43 percent took a doe and less than 3 percent filled their standard four-deer permit allotment, said Tommy Apostolopoulos, deer program biologist.

As a reminder, hunters who take more deer than they need can donate a deer to Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry or Boone Brothers, two organizations working together to fight food insecurity.

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FOREST,
from page B18

work through real-life forest management problems, culminating in a forest management plan and student presentations. Instructors and advisors are from the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Department of Entomology and Natural Resource and Environmental Science, along with partners from the Kentucky Division of Forestry, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Kentucky Division of Conservation. Enrollment is limited within each track.

“Educating Kentucky’s youth about our natural resources

is critical to the future of our environment and economy,” Thomas said. “Programs like KFLP provide participants a greater understanding about the environment and the importance of managing and conserving our natural resources.”

The program begins at 3 p.m.ET on Sunday, June 7. Families are invited to attend student forest management presentations at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 12.

The program cost is \$600, which covers programming costs and room and board. Payment is due after acceptance. Applications are currently open, and students can apply through the online registration form

posted on the KFLP website.

Scholarship support may be available. County conservation districts often sponsor participants; families can contact Mark Davis with the Kentucky Division of Conservation at 502-782-6594 for details. A Kentucky Woodland Owners Scholarship application is also available through the KFLP site.


For program questions, contact Laurie Thomas at laurie.thomas@uky.edu or 859-257-2703. For questions specific to the Entomology Option, contact Blake Newton at blaken@uky.edu or 859-257-7453.

Learn more about the Kentucky Forest Leadership Program at Martin-Gatton CAFE.

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High school students who participate in the KFLP can take classes in everything from Forestry to Entomology to Wildlife.

Photo by Matt Barton

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