

GCHS Crowns 2026 Football Homecoming Queen



(Photos by Jaime Prince)

By: Laurna Pruett
KPI Writer

MAYFIELD — Graves County High School crowned its 2026 Football Homecoming Queen during Friday night’s annual homecoming court ceremony.

GCHS clubs were given the opportunity to nominate one senior to serve as a homecoming candidate. Each nominee completed an application highlighting how she demonstrates the school’s SOAR characteristics of Safety, Ownership, Achievement and Respect.

Libby Kendall, representing DECA, was crowned the 2026

GCHS Football Homecoming Queen. She is the daughter of Chase and Amy Kendall.

Kendall was escorted by Kyler Alderdice, son of Amber and Ronnie Murphy and Kyle and Heather Alderdice.

Kendall is active in numerous school and community organizations. She serves as co-captain of the All-Girl Cheerleading team, DECA vice president of community service, Beta Club president, Hope Center student ambassador and Youth Leadership secretary.

She is also a member of Eagles for Christ, Interact Club, Empow-



er Club and the Youth Advisory Council.

Emerson Binkley was named first runner-up and was escorted by Jaxon Mason. Addi Cole was named second runner-up and was escorted by Hayden Peevyhouse.

Lane Restriction Planned on KY 339 in Graves County, East of Sedalia, Starting Monday, Oct. 5

Slope stabilization project to last 5 days

By: Carrie Dillard
KY Transportation Cabinet

A slope stabilization project is planned on KY 339 in Graves County between mile points 0 and 1, east of Sedalia. The work is expected to begin on Monday, Oct. 5,

weather permitting. Motorists should expect a daily lane restriction on KY 339 near its intersection with KY 564 for approximately five days. Please use caution in the work zone.

Mayfield Sophomore Selected for Statewide Civic Leadership Institute



Mayfield High School sophomore Arya Anderson

Ferren Gives Mayfield Rotary Behind-the-Scenes Look at Talon Falls



From left Rotarian Fred Biggs, Talon Falls owner and guest speaker Todd Ferren, and Mayfield Rotary Club President Lindsay Shankle.

By: Laurna Pruett
KPI Writer

Members of the Rotary Club of Mayfield got a behind-the-scenes look at one of Graves County’s seasonal attractions during the club’s Sept. 28 meeting.

Guest speaker Todd Ferren, owner of Talon Falls Scream Park in Melber, hosted the club at the attraction and shared the history and operation of the business.

Ferren said the park encompasses approximately 50 acres with 50 buildings and 28 attractions. He began

his career in photography 28 years ago and operated the park in Paducah for 18 years before relocating to Melber 10 years ago.

Talon Falls draws more than 60,000 guests from October through December from a four-state area, Ferren said. The park is currently preparing for its Halloween season.

A tornado earlier in September destroyed the park’s hayride, but Ferren told Rotarians it has since been rebuilt.

The Scream Park employs approximately 140 actors and helpers,

while the Adventure Park employs about 30 people. Ferren said the business recruits students from Murray State University and the University of Tennessee at Martin and advertises through social media and radio.

During the tour, members saw areas of the property not normally open to guests and learned more about the work that goes into creating the attractions, including the work of nine airbrush artists. Ferren said the attractions are broken down beginning in mid-January. Admission to the

Scream Park is \$25.

During club business, Chris Kemp reported that more than \$3,900 in sponsorships had been received for the Oct. 17 Tombstone Bike Ride, with proceeds benefiting scholarships. Andy Elliott reported more than \$5,000 had been deposited from the club’s sports package raffle.

Stacy Overby led members in singing “My Old Kentucky Home,” while Sergeant-at-Arms Dale Usher levied fines and accepted happy dollars.

The club will not meet Monday, Oct. 5.

By: Mayfield High School

Mayfield High School sophomore Arya Anderson has been selected for the inaugural 2026-27 cohort of the Civic Leadership Institute, a new multiyear program that prepares Kentucky high school students for future leadership in law, government, public policy, history, education, public service and other civic-minded fields.

Anderson is one of 20 students in the cohort at the Western Kentucky University Center for Gifted Studies in Bowling Green. The institute also runs a second site at the University of Louisville McConnell Center.

Selection was competitive. The institute’s first year drew 126 applications from 37 school districts and 54 high schools and academies across the state. Applicants were evaluated on academic achievement, leadership experience, civic interests, community involvement and thoughtful engagement with differing viewpoints.

This school year, participants will attend six Saturday sessions with hands-on work

in government, public policy, historical thinking, communication and leadership development. The cohort’s first session is Saturday.

In later years, students will move into more advanced work, including policy analysis, mock trials, legislative drafting, media literacy, negotiation and advocacy. They will also have chances to attend summer programming.

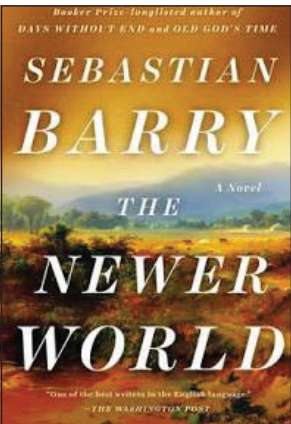
The program ends with a senior capstone experience in Washington, D.C.

“There are incredible young people across Kentucky who are interested in government, history, law, public policy, leadership, and serving their communities,” said Justin Mitchell, founder and director of the institute.

“The Civic Leadership Institute gives them a place to come together, challenge one another, learn from leaders in these fields, and begin discovering how they can use their own talents to make a difference.”

The institute’s guiding statement is “Think critically. Lead confidently. Serve purposefully.”

Library Notes for October 8, 2026



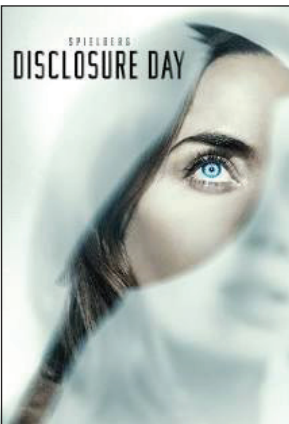
“A library is where you meet fascinating characters you never forget.” ~ Judy Blume

What’s happening at the library:

Check out Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and our website: www.jlslibrary.org for upcoming programs

E-Books, E-Audios, E-Comics, Movies and more can be checked out on Hoopla & Libby

All our Cadiz Records and Trigg County High School Yearbooks are available on our website



Storytime with Ms. Katie every Wednesday at 10:30

Popcorn Tasting: October 12th at 6:00

JLS READS: October 15 at 6:00

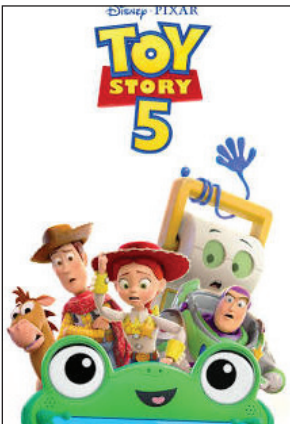
Book Sale: October 22nd-30th

Sunrise on the Reaping Book Club: October 22nd at 6:00

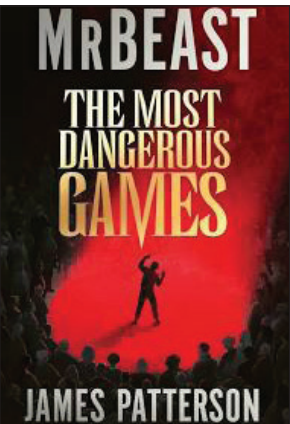
Murder Mystery Night: at Fairholme October 23rd at 6:00

Halloween Safe Night: October 30th 4:00-6:00 downtown Cadiz

Pam’s Pick this



week: “Hollow Bones” by Jodi Picoult, this is the story of Molly, who lost her mother on 9/11. She was just a baby but her mother’s death shaped her life, motivating her to pursue a career in disaster relief. Now, Molly is head of the Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Rhode Island. She falls for and marries Jesse Fitzgerald. When Molly discovers she’s pregnant, she struggles with the implications of bringing



ing a child into her life given her career. Can she protect her child from the disaster she has faced her whole life?

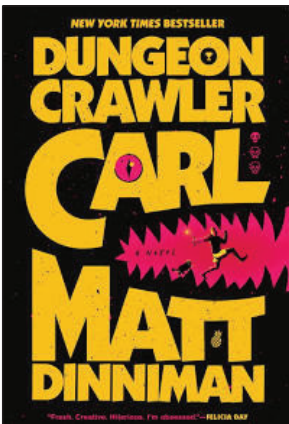
New Fiction: “The Newer World” by Sebastian Barry, “Under Story” by Chloe Benjamin, “The Butcher’s Masquerade” by Matt Dinniman, this is the fifth book in the Dungeon Crawler Carl series, “Big Bad Wolf” by Laurie Gilmore, “The Me I Used to Be” by Kristan Higgins, “The Pirate Queen”



by Ariel Lawhon, and “Exit Party” by Emily St. John Mandel.

New Christian Fiction: “In a Word, Yes” by Kit Tosello, “To Enchant a Lady’s Heart” by Robin Lee Hatcher, this is the first book in the British are Coming series and only in large print.

New Non-Fiction: “Go and Do Likewise: How We Heal a Broken Country” by Andy Beshear, “Redwood: The Untold Story of the Cold War’s Most Extraordinary Spy”



by Ben Macintyre, “Home Learning Year by Year” by Rebecca Rupp, and “Life with Birds” by Birds & Blooms.

New Audio Book: “The Most Dangerous Games” by MrBeast & James Patterson.

New Movie: “Disclosure Day” and “Toy Story 5.”

New TV Season: “Landman” season 2.

Happy Reading!

Pam Metts, Director

ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION
Thursday, October 15th, 2026 | 6:00 PM
2248 State Route 564, Mayfield, KY 42066

PREVIEW: Monday, October 12th, 2026 from 5:00-6:00 PM

HOME • BARN • 80± ACRES • BUILDING SITES • SELLING IN 9 TRACTS!

An exceptional opportunity to purchase approximately 80 acres of Graves County real estate, featuring a brick home, barns/outbuildings, productive farmland, building sites, and a variety of tract sizes. The property has been divided into 9 tracts ranging from 1.41 acres to 34.30 acres, giving buyers the opportunity to purchase a homesite, acreage, farmland, improvements, or combinations of tracts to fit their needs. The auction layout shows approximately 80.02 total acres.

TRACT 1 contains approximately 2.86 acres and features the primary residence, detached garage, sheds, and a barn. The home has 3 bedrooms, 1 full bath, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and an attached 1-car garage. The home offers an established country residence with room to enjoy the outdoors while remaining on a manageable-sized tract.

TRACT 2 – 1.42 ACRES Road frontage along St Rt 564
TRACT 3 – 1.41 ACRES Road frontage along St Rt 564
TRACT 4 – 18.02 ACRES Productive farmland
TRACT 5 – 9.14 ACRES Offers mid-size acreage opportunity
TRACT 6 – 3.42 ACRES Wooded lot, country setting, road frontage along State Route 564
TRACT 7 – 3.29 ACRES Approximately 3.29 acres adjoining Tracts 1 and 6
TRACT 8 – 4.18 ACRES Road frontage along St Rt 564
TRACT 9 – 34.30 ACRES Large acreage tract, farmland

REAL ESTATE TERMS: The property will be offered 9 tracts and combinations. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 30 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. **YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING.** Make Inspections Prior To Date Of Sale. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. All 2026 ad valorem taxes will be prorated at closing. The property will be sold by a new survey. Buyer is responsible for 50%.

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

**HOMES - FARMLAND
ESTATES - WATERFRONT**

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ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION
2500 Biggs Road • Kevil, KY 42053
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2026 at 10:00 AM

**4,380± SQ. FT. COUNTRY HOME
HORSE BARN
17.85 ACRES
OFFERED
IN 2 TRACTS**

CUSTOM HOME • ACREAGE • PASTURE • WOODED LAND • HORSE BARN

Don't miss this opportunity to purchase an exceptional Western Kentucky country property. Situated on 17.85± acres, the property will be offered in two tracts: **Tract 1 - 9.57± acres with the home and improvements**, and **Tract 2 - 8.28± mostly wooded acres**.

The impressive **4,380± sq. ft. home offers 3 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms**, featuring 10- and 12-foot ceilings, hardwood flooring, custom cabinetry and 16 solid mahogany doors. A French mantel with gas fireplace adds timeless character, while a spacious bonus room offers flexible additional living space.

Enjoy approximately **1,536± sq. ft. of covered porches accented by Bevolo gas lanterns**. Additional improvements include a horse barn and 500-gallon underground propane tank, surrounded by an attractive blend of open ground, pasture and wooded acreage.

HOME & PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

- **4,380± sq. ft. home**
- 3 bedrooms
- 3.5 bathrooms
- 10' & 12' ceilings
- Hardwood flooring
- Custom cabinetry
- 16 solid mahogany doors
- French mantel & gas fireplace
- Large bonus/flex room
- 1,536± sq. ft. of covered porches
- Bevolo gas lanterns
- Horse barn
- 500-gallon buried propane tank
- Open ground, pasture & wooded acreage
- Private Western Kentucky setting

REAL ESTATE TERMS: The property will be offered in 2 individual tracts, any combination of tracts, or as a whole property. The property will be sold in the manner resulting in the highest total sale price. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 30 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. **YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING.** Make Inspections Prior To Date Of Sale. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. All 2026 ad valorem taxes will be prorated at closing. The property will be sold by a new survey, buyer responsible for 50% of the survey costs.

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**HOMES - FARMLAND
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The Marshall Times • West KY News Pennyryle Edition • Mayfield Graves Guardian • West KY News

First Kentucky Cow-Calf Summit to focus on building opportunity

By Jennifer Elwel
jennifer.elwell@uky.edu

LEXINGTON, Ky.—The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, part of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE), invites cattle producers from across the state to attend the first Kentucky Cow-Calf Summit on Thursday, Oct. 29, at the L.D. Brown Ag Expo Center in Bowling Green.

Under the theme “Building Opportunity,” the summit will give cow-calf producers practical information and a forum to explore financing, land access, succession planning and strategic growth.

“We built an agenda that we felt really tried to address the challenges identified at the leadership conference, such as land availability, getting the next generation involved and really addressing some of the barriers to entry within the beef industry,” said Katie VanValin, Ph.D., assistant Extension



The Kentucky Cow-Calf Summit may be especially useful for beginning and first-generation cattle farmers, producers preparing for succession or bringing the next generation into an operation, and those seeking to expand or gain access to land. Photo by Matt Barton.

professor of beef cattle nutrition at Martin-Gatton CAFE.

The summit grew out of the 2025 Mid-South Beef Leadership Conference, where Kentucky and Tennessee producers, county agents and industry leaders identified access to land and in-

volving the next generation in farming as two pressing concerns for the beef industry.

Featured speakers include Steve Isaacs, Ph.D., UK Extension farm management specialist, who will discuss how goal setting connects daily decisions with a pro-

ducer’s larger purpose; Chris Cooper of Central Kentucky Ag Credit, who will offer a lender’s perspective on barriers to entry, business growth and financing opportunities; and John Genho of Eldon Farms in Woodville, Virginia, who will share strategies for improving op-

erational efficiency and creating opportunities for long-term success.

The program will also feature a producer panel titled “Building Opportunity: Producer Perspectives,” interactive producer exchange sessions, an Operation Opportunity workshop and the UK Beef Exten-

sion Awards Luncheon.

Although the program is designed with cow-calf operations in mind, organizers encourage all Kentucky cattle producers, regardless of herd size or experience level, to attend. The summit may be especially useful for beginning and first-generation cattle farmers, producers preparing for succession or bringing the next generation into an operation, and those seeking to expand or gain access to land.

Registration and coffee begin at 8:30 a.m. CT, followed by the program at 9 a.m., at the L.D. Brown Ag Expo Center, 406 Elrod Road, Bowling Green, Ky. The summit will conclude at 4 p.m.

Registration is \$30 per person or \$50 per couple and includes lunch. Register online at Kentucky Cow-Calf Summit. For more information, contact Michelle Padgett, Extension beef associate, at michelle.padgett@uky.edu.

UK clinical trial includes game experience

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – For children participating in a six-minute walk test at the

University of Kentucky, a trip down the clinic hallway armed with a wand can now become something more: a game.

Young patients move

through a course with interactive stations positioned along the route. At each completed lap, they scan the wand to earn a point and level up an avatar

displayed on a screen. Behind the playful experience is a serious research question: Can turning a standard clinical assessment into a game help children with neuromuscular disorders remain engaged and give their best effort?

A new UK clinical trial is evaluating whether the “gamified” experience affects children’s performance, motivation and enjoyment during the six-minute walk test. The project brings together clinical providers with faculty in the UK College of Fine Arts, demonstrating how collaboration among medicine, art, design and technology can produce creative approaches to patient care.

The connection was facilitated through the University of Kentucky Arts & Health Alliance, an interdisciplinary network that

brings together faculty, staff and students to integrate creative practice with health research and clinical care. The team is working within Creative Link for Advancing Digital Health, an initiative funded by UK’s Office of the Vice President for Research through the Research Leadership Academy. Creative Link brings together people from different disciplines to explore how the arts and creative practices can contribute to digital health research and innovation.

“This test gives us valuable information about a child’s functional abilities, but six minutes is a long time to ask a child to walk back and forth down a hallway,” said David Neil Toupin, M.D., the study’s principal investigator and director of UK’s Neurology Evaluation and Management

Optimization (NEMO) Clinic. “By introducing an interactive goal, we hope to make the experience more engaging and better understand how motivation influences children’s performance.”

The six-minute walk test helps assess endurance and functional walking ability. During the test, a patient is asked to walk as far as possible in six minutes while clinicians record the total distance traveled. For pediatric patients, the repetitive nature of the assessment can make maintaining interest and motivation difficult. If a child slows down or does not complete the test, clinicians may not know whether the result reflects the child’s physical capacity, fatigue, boredom or a lack of motivation.

That uncertainty inspired the UK team to explore the more engaging approach.

FALL CLEAN-UP DAYS

October 15th - 16th - 17th

DUMPSTER LOCATIONS

TIRES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED THIS FALL

The following is a listing of the dumpster sites for the Fall Clean-up days.

For residents of Ledbetter, Smithland, Grand Rivers, Lake City and Tiline the dumpsters will be located at the Convenience Center on the Cutoff Road.

For residents of Burna, Hampton, Carrsville, Lola, Salem and Joy the dumpsters will be located at the Old Riding Club @ 1795 U.S. 60 East; between Burna and Salem.

Hours of Operation at Each Location

Thursday October 15th	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Friday October 16th	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday October 17th	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WHITE GOODS PICKUP

(Sponsored by the Livingston County Conservation District)

Thursday October 15th
Pick up items East side of County:
Hampton, Burna, Salem, Carrsville, Joy, etc.

Friday October 16th
Pick up items West side of County:
Tiline, Smithland, Ledbetter, Grand Rivers, etc.

To make arrangements for white goods (washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, etc) and other large items to be picked up at your homes please call the Judge Executive’s Office at 928-2105.

Trash will be accepted at the Convenience Center located on the Cutoff Road and the Old Riding Club located between Burna and Salem
October 15th, 16th & 17th.
FREE OF CHARGE.

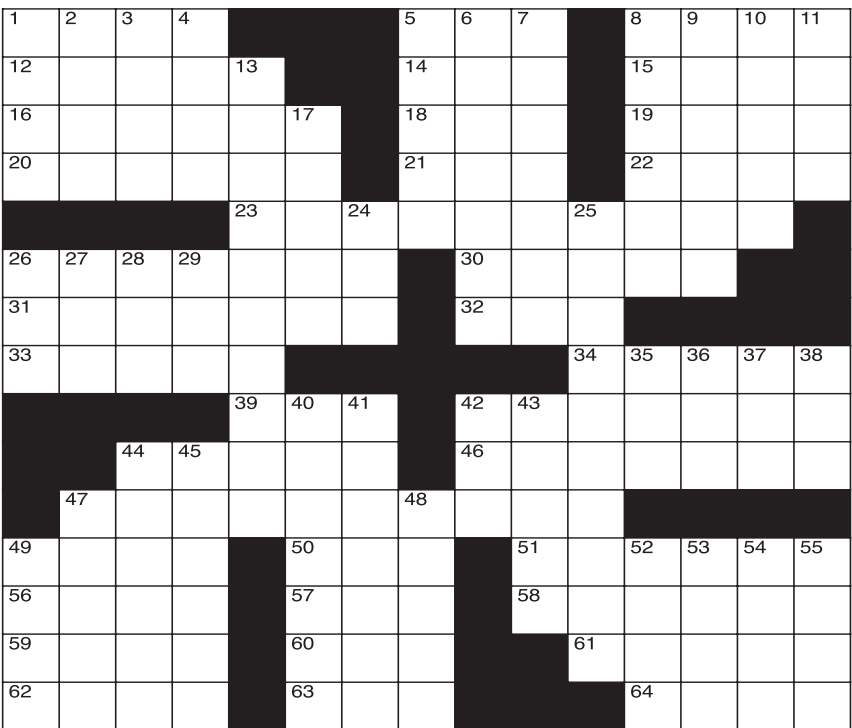
Sponsored by The Livingston County Fiscal Court and The Livingston County Soil Conservation District

VOTE

OCTOBER 5, 2026

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. “Wicker Man” actor Nic

5. Protection

8. Cloth worn over a shoulder

12. Ceramic jars

14. Midway between northeast and east

15. South American hummingbird

16. Platforms

18. Taxi

19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

20. A citizen of Yemen

21. Military mailbox

22. Nuclear near reach weapon

23. Clears

26. Broken

30. Actress Lathan

31. Avid fan

32. One and only

33. Proceeding
34. River in Portugal and Spain

39. Doctor of Education

42. Defeat handily

44. Less complicated

46. Handyman tools

47. Written works

49. Castle dweller’s safety net

50. Honorable title (Turkish)

51. Greatest

56. Can do

57. A place to sleep on the road

58. Member of U.S. Navy

59. 24-hour units of time

60. Actor Horsley

61. In a way, sounds off

62. Formerly (archaic)

63. Eye infection

64. Plundered

CLUES DOWN

1. William __, Buffalo Bill

2. Wings

3. Candle or lantern

4. Freedom from difficulty

5. A type of pie

6. Metrical foot

7. __ Kerr, actress

8. Nap

9. Popular singer Bocelli

10. Immune responses

11. “Mad Men” leading man

13. A citizen of Senegal

17. Philly basketball player

24. Not even

25. Measures wind speed

26. Insecticide

27. Jordan glided through it

28. Bird-like dinosaur genus

29. Expression of satisfaction
35. Big Blue

36. One point east (clockwise) of due north

37. Of she

38. Oral rehydration solution

40. Knocks off course

41. Popular cop show of yesteryear

42. Zhou dynasty state

43. Genus of gulls

44. Onion flatbreads

45. Declare as true

47. Of a lobe

48. Missouri county

49. Produced

52. Volcanic crater

53. Off-Broadway theater award

54. KU hoops coach Bill

55. Check for

Puzzle Solutions on B14

Word Search

OFF TO COLLEGE WORD SEARCH

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

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

ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION WORDS

- ALUMNI
- BURSAR
- COMMENCEMENT
- COMMUTER
- CREDIT
- DORMITORY
- FRESHMAN
- GPA
- GREEK
- JUNIOR
- LECTURE
- MAJOR
- MINOR
- POSTGRADUATE
- PREREQUISITE
- QUAD
- REGISTRAR
- RESIDENT
- SEMINAR
- SENIOR
- SOPHOMORE
- SYLLABUS
- TUITION

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

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

ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION

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

Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to college.

SCAMUP

Answer: Campus

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born in Canada on September 27, 1984. I began singing when I was 2-years-old after my father built a studio in the basement. I won an MTV Video Music Award for Best New Artist in a Video in 2002. I also was the youngest female solo artist to release a #1 album in the United Kingdom.

Answer: Avril Lavigne

Coloring Fun

Color the picture in your favorite fall colors.



PUZZLE SOLUTION

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



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Searching for the ‘super tomato’: UK lab is advancing horticultural crop breeding for a healthier future

By Christopher Carney
christopher.carney@uky.edu

LEXINGTON, Ky.— A lab at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) is at the forefront of breeding and genetics of fruits and vegetables.

The Sapkota Horticultural Breeding and Genetics Lab, located on campus and at the Horticultural Research Farm (South Farm), is led by Manoj Sapkota, Ph.D., assistant professor in horticultural crop breeding for nutrition in the Department of Horticulture. The lab’s mission is to enhance crop productivity, increase disease resistance and improve nutritional quality to meet the needs of

resistant,” Sapkota said. “The big goal of the lab is developing new varieties, so growers here in Kentucky have different options that are well suited to Kentucky conditions and have all the best qualities.”

Sapkota works with a team of lab members — research staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and volunteers — on several research projects that include field-based tomato breeding and strawberry disease-resistance screening to seed morphology, herbicide resistance and computer vision-assisted phenotyping.

The student researchers who work in the lab have a range of UK majors, including agricultural and



Dr. Manoj Sapkota (left) pictured with his students and undergraduate researchers behind a truck bed full of tomatoes at South Farm. Photos by Sabrina Hounshell.

is mentoring future leaders in this dynamic field.

“We are training the next generation of scientists, and I’m grateful that mentors and collaborators, both within the university and beyond, have supported me throughout my career,” Sapkota said. “Integrated science is very important right

College of Health Sciences.

Potts is working collaboratively with Sapkota and the other student researchers to measure crop improvement with nutrition, human health and consumer-focused research through sensory testing and surveys — starting with tomatoes.

The tomatoes are already receiving positive reviews in the community, according to Potts.

“I have people trying the tomatoes we are growing, and they love them so much they want to know the name and grow these tomatoes themselves,” Potts said. “When I talk with my family, friends and peers about social determinants of health and share what I know about breeding and genetics, I feel that I’m bridging the gap and helping to demystify the science.”

right combination of tomato traits.

The tomato is a “model species” for this type of research, and Kentucky offers the ideal geographic location, according to Sapkota.

“Basically, the tomato is pretty simple — it’s a very common vegetable across different cultures and plays a huge role in nutrition,” Sapkota said. “Scientifically, tomatoes are also an important model crop for genetics and genomics. What we learn from tomatoes can provide insights into related crops and, more broadly, help us understand the genetic basis of important traits in plants. It’s also an important vegetable crop for many growers, especially here in Kentucky, which offers amazing weather conditions.”

According to Sapkota, creating one super tomato for everyone to enjoy is challenging.

From Kentucky to global collaboration

When he arrived at UK in 2025, Sapkota was eager to get his lab established. His mission was clear: Develop improved horticultural crop varieties that are not only high-yielding and disease-resistant but also packed with better flavor and enhanced nutritional value.

According to Sapkota, helping to meet the evolving needs of Kentucky growers and consumers while contributing to food security on a global scale will put UK on the map as a leader in plant breeding and genomics.

“We need to go beyond the boundaries,” Sapkota said. “UK already has tremendous expertise and resources. The opportunity is to connect those strengths across disciplines and build collaborations beyond the university as well. Science is teamwork. As a growing breeding program, we want to collaborate across UK, with researchers throughout the country and with international partners, while keeping the needs of Kentucky growers and consumers at the center of our work. We want our research to have an impact statewide, nationally and globally.”

In the future, Sapkota is hopeful to establish a genomics and breeding consortium at UK, bringing together the best researchers, experts and scholars to advance this field of study.



Dr. Manoj Sapkota holding a yellow crate full of tomatoes at South Farm.



UK student Caroline Potts picking tomatoes at South Farm.

growers, producers and consumers in Kentucky and beyond.

“We are trying to find genes and genetics that make fruits and vegetables more nutritious, increase the quality, enhance the shelf life, make fruit size bigger or smaller and disease

medical biotechnology, biology, computer science, data science, health sciences, horticulture and neuroscience.

Sapkota said leveraging the students’ different academic backgrounds is helping the lab create new breeding tools, and he

now and every student brings something new to the table. They are helping us build toolkits and develop new crop varieties down the line.”

One of those students is Caroline Potts, who is majoring in human health sciences at the UK

Searching for the super tomato

One of the lab’s current projects is working toward what Sapkota calls “super tomato,” a tomato that is delicious and healthy for consumers, offering agricultural advantages for both growers and producers. The goal is to develop tomatoes that are well adapted to Kentucky conditions and are flavorful and nutritious, while also producing strong yields and resisting diseases.

At UK’s South Farm, Sapkota and his student researchers are growing over 250 different tomato varieties, breeding lines and other genetic materials, searching for the

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9/11/26_LL_4X

The Arboretum is now home to Little Free Library for books, health-related resources

By Bailey Vandiver
bailey.vandiver@uky.edu

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Visitors to The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky, enjoy Kentucky landscapes, attend engaging programming and learn more about the environment. Now, they can also take or leave a book from the Little Free Library.

A collaboration among University of Kentucky organizations and colleges, including the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the College of Health Sciences, the library is publicly accessible, with donated books that are free for anyone to take.

From class assignment to public resource

This project began when human health sciences student Katie Neglia, who hopes to attend medical school, wrote a class paper about how to improve health literacy in creative ways, including through the installation of a Little Free Library to stock free health resources for the public.

A busy student, Neglia could have turned in the paper for her social determinants of health course and moved on. Instead, with encouragement from her professor, Brendan O’Farrell, she

decided to try to make the library a reality.

“My course encourages students to think beyond doctors, hospitals and pills when considering health and health outcomes. From education and socioeconomic status to transportation and community context, this leaves us with a lot to ponder,” said O’Farrell, assistant professor in the Department of Health and Clinical Sciences. “It is always inspiring to work with students like Katie, who bring their own passion to the course content and extend it beyond the classroom.”

Because Neglia was involved with research, she brought her idea to Haven Patrick, programming and marketing specialist at the Office of Undergraduate Research. The Arboretum, where Neglia has volunteered with children’s programming, seemed like “the perfect spot.”

Neglia brought the proposal to Hannah Wells, education coordinator and director of the Kentucky Children’s Garden, then to Michael Wall when he started as director of The Arboretum in June.

The team decided on the location for the Little Free Library: across from the entrance to the Kentucky Children’s Garden, beside the logs that are a popular destination



Katie Neglia, left, and Haven Patrick organize the books in the Little Free Library at The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky, in Lexington on Friday, Aug. 28. Photo by Sabrina Hounshell.

at The Arboretum.

“This is where kids are,” Wall said, making it a prime location for families to use the library.

Plus, Wall added, it’s not difficult for the Arboretum team to landscape at that location. The continued maintenance of the library has been an important consideration for the team, which is why Neglia created The Shared Shelf, now a campus organization, to ensure the library is sustainable beyond her graduation.

“Our core mission is to educate, inspire and enrich the lives of our community,” Wall said. “Integrating health literacy and accessible reading right outside the Kentucky Children’s Garden extends our educational impact beyond plants and ecology, supporting the overall well-being of the families and

kids who visit us every day.”

Improving the world

Once the plan for the library was in place, the team set up an on-line fundraiser to seek community support.

“We sent it out to a lot of people, and we just told them our mission, and a lot of people were very responsive,” Patrick said.

Community members stepped up beyond financial contributions, too. Patrick’s father helped her build and install the library. Two UK students, Maria Wanderley and Rylie Workman, joined The Shared Shelf to help out.

Neglia said it’s been great to see college students be part of a project like this.

“That really reflects well on our generation because we really do care, and there are a

lot of us who are very passionate about making our world a better place,” Neglia said.

The team was intentional about decorating the Little Free Library, from choosing a “nature-like” handle for the door to what Patrick painted on the outside of the box. In addition to books, Patrick painted plants and insects that call Kentucky home — using a book she checked out from the public library for reference.

“We wanted to make sure we were accurate because at The Arboretum, horticulture and environmental sustainability are a very important thing,” Neglia said.

The monarch butterflies that Patrick added are a nod to her grandmother as well as to Dolly Parton, whose Imagination Library provides free books to children. The

ribbon cutting for the Little Free Library was about a week before Parton’s death.

A free library for books at a place as popular as The Arboretum was a win for everyone, Neglia said.

“It’s an easy thing for people to come behind,” she said. “Everyone loves The Arboretum. Not everyone loves to read, but maybe they will after this.”

The Arboretum as launching pad

Neglia said The Shared Shelf hopes to establish more in Lexington areas that need greater access to health literacy resources and reading materials in general.

“The sky’s the limit for where we could put them,” Neglia said. “One of our big goals is to start collaborating with other organizations at the university because there are a lot of cool people doing really cool things, and we want to involve as many members of the community as we can.”

Patrick said The Arboretum was the right choice for the organization’s first library in Lexington: “the most perfect launching pad.”

Learn more about The Arboretum, including how to visit. Visitors are encouraged to pick up or donate books at the Little Free Library.



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By: **Laurna Pruett**
KPI Writer

More than 260 business leaders, Chamber members and community partners gathered at Whip-poorwill Manor for the Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce’s 2026 An-

nual Dinner & Awards Celebration. The annual event provided an opportunity to recognize businesses, organizations and individuals for their contributions to Mayfield and Graves County. The Good News Shoppe was named

Business of the Year, while Stor-Mor Portable Buildings received the Visionary Business of the Year award. Camp Graves was recognized as Nonprofit of the Year. Individual honors included Zach Alexander, who was named Ambassador of the

Year, and Graciela Fabian, who received the Citizen of the Year award. John Davis was honored with the Chamber’s Lifetime Achievement award. In addition to the awards presentation, guests enjoyed dinner, drinks, music and

fellowship at Whip-poorwill Manor, which served as the presenting sponsor and host venue for this year’s event. The celebration highlighted the accomplishments and contributions of businesses and individuals throughout the May-

field-Graves County community. Chamber officials also thanked the sponsors, volunteers and others who worked behind the scenes to make the annual event possible.

Mayfield Named 2026 Kentucky City Government of the Year



L-R: 2026 KLC Board President Paul Sandefur, Mayor of Beaver Dam; Mayfield City Attorney, Jay Matheny; 2026 KLC Board Second Vice President Kathy O’Nan, Mayor of Mayfield; Jim Johnston, Collins and Company; J.D. Chaney, KLC President and CEO. Photo provided

Mayor Kathy O’Nan is proud to announce the selection of Mayfield as the Kentucky League of Cities 2026 City Government of the Year. This honor was earned due to the

dedication of our outstanding, hard-working City employees and City Council members and the herculean efforts they put forth in helping rebuild our town

after the December 2021 tornado. Many thanks to KLC for the honor and to Collins and Company for the sponsorship of this award.

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Kentucky waives CDL written test for veterans, active military

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear removed an employment barrier for veterans and active-duty military on Tuesday by signing an emergency regulation to fast-track Commercial Driver’s Licenses (CDLs).

The action waives the written CDL test for eligible current and former service members who operated commercial-style vehicles within the past two years, easing their transition into civilian employment.

“Our veterans sacrifice to keep us safe, and it is our

sacred duty to make sure they have access to a good job and the same American Dream they’re willing to fight for on our behalf,” Beshear said. “This step will help remove barriers and ease access to employment for those who’ve bravely and selflessly served, helping them better support their family who sacrificed alongside them. It’s the right thing to do.”

Eligible military personnel can request an application form established by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) to request a waiver of written knowledge and skills test. Completed forms are submitted to KYTC,



with notification of approval or disapproval to be delivered by mail within 30 days of submission. Approved applicants can then take their approval form to any KYTC Driver License Regional Office.

“With this action, military members can translate valuable

military training and driving experience into a credential that opens doors for careers that help meet national and local transportation needs,” said Transportation Secretary Rebecca Goodman. “It’s the next right step to build upon our existing road test waiver to support more employment

opportunities for active-duty or recently discharged service members.”

To be eligible, military personnel must be a resident of Kentucky and have operated commercial-style vehicles within the past two years and have one of the following military

occupational specialties or occupational classifications:

U.S. Army: 88M - Motor Transport Operator, 92F – Fueler, 14T - Patriot Launching Station Operator.

U.S. Marine Corps: 3531 - Motor Vehicle Operator.

U.S. Navy: EO - Equipment Operator.

U.S. Air Force: 2TI - Vehicle Operator, 2FO – Fueler, 3E2 - Pavement and Construction Equipment Operator.

Interested Kentuckians can learn more and apply at drive.ky.gov.



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FK2109  2006 Caterpillar D6N dozer	FK4139  2002 Morbark PT737 trommel screen	FK4143  2009 Wirtgen W2100 milling machine	FK4164  2018 Freightliner Business Class M2 bucket truck	FK2133  2010 Vermeer by Wildcat TR626 trommel screen

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Class of '76 Celebrates Golden Reunion



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Kevill Elementary School Classmates



Barlow Elementary School Classmates

By KEVIN STEWART
(Class of '76)

The Ballard Memorial High School graduates of 1976 convened a smashing 50th class reunion with a two-day affair on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 18-19, much to the absolute enjoyment of those who attended either day or both.

Festivities began with a bang Friday night with a good old-fashioned fish fry at the home of

classmate Vernon Golightly and his wife, Debbie, on VFW Road. The home sits just a football toss or two south of Barlow—quite appropriate considering Ballard Memorial's first varsity football season was led by this class in the fall of 1975.

Vernon's ace in the hole was a delicious, flaky batch of Florida crappie. The meal brought back memories for many who, as youngsters, devoured

fresh-caught crappie compliments of the friendly lakes in the Ballard County Bottoms, like the crappie-filled Axe Lake with its towering Bald Cypress trees. After retired pastor Kevin Denton, Ballard's first starting quarterback, offered a prayer of thanks, the digging-in began. Familiar faces beamed as friendships were renewed and a lot of catching up ensued. If anyone left hungry, it certainly wasn't the fault of

those who brought the many side dishes and desserts.

Saturday's gala reunion event was held at the Kentucky Publishing Inc. building in the Information Age Park near Paducah. An hour of greetings, hugs, handshakes, and a ton of smiles preceded a catered dinner. Class President Larry Buchanan spoke after the meal. Larry's family roots run deep at Ballard Memorial;

his older brother Bob Buchanan was the school system's superintendent, and another older brother, Tom, was the boys' varsity basketball coach, both in 1976.

The 50th class reunion organizers were recognized: Larry Buchanan, Cathy Childress Terrell, Vicki Keeton Watson, Mary Hazelwood Dennis, Terri Young Hyatte, Dorothy Greer Taylor, and Deena Hite Myatt. A recent Facebook

post by Terri Hyatte noted that Cathy and Deena headed the organizing group. An outstanding rendition of the Ballard Memorial alma mater song was performed by Larry, Mary, and Terri—a rhyming triplet if there ever was one.

The reunion was blessed by the presence of two wonderful former teachers: 80-years-young Barbara Allen, who

Continued on page 3

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Continued from page 2 lot of laughs and fond memories.

The festivities concluded with a class reunion photo, followed by photos of classmates grouped by their elementary schools, cheerleaders, and other activities. In all, 45 classmates made it to the Saturday reunion, while others attended the fish fry Friday night. A beautiful placard memorialized the 33 classmates who have passed on. Gone but never forgotten.

Some bright soul—or perhaps it was Larry himself—came up with the idea of offering anyone the opportunity to stand and share a story, a tale, or a funny remembrance from their high school days. When Larry asked if someone from each table wanted to speak, many did, producing a



(Left to Right) Mary Hazelwood Dennis, Terri Young Hyatte, Michelle Fondaw Hayes, Debbie Owens Denton, Susan Harper DeBaun, Dorothy Gear Taylor, Alice Goode-Wiley, Vickie Steele, Dana Bellamy Farrington, Shelley Strange Medlin SECOND ROW (Left to Right) Kevin Stewart, Heather Pittman Gibson, Deena Myatt Hite, Carol Osborne Enlow, Vicki Keeton Watson, Linda Poole Sandage, Cathy Childress Terrell, Vickie Parnell Wickliffe, Sharon Siegelman (Jones) Fesmire, Sandra Yates THIRD ROW (Left to Right) Curtis Dennis, Martin Robertson, Leon Bellamy, Jr., Kevin Denton, Cary Steele, Don Hurst, Larry Powell, Larry Buchanan, Mark Stroud, Rob Thompson, Vernon Golightly, Greg Bugg BACK ROW (Left to Right) Randy Dillon, Tommy Joe White, Mark Buchanan, Gary Myers, Jackie Terrell, Byford Temple, Mike Moss, Steve Sullivan, Bruce Hargrove. All Photos by Karen Hargrove

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BALLARD

Brian Travis, 65, of Barlow, KY, passed away on September 25, 2026, at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, TN. Friends and family were invited to visitation on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY, from 12:00 p.m. until the funeral at 2:00 p.m., officiated by Rev. Letoun Bledsoe. Interment followed at Barlow Cemetery.

Kenneth Carter, aged 79, of West Paducah, KY, passed peacefully on September 23, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Center. No services are planned at this time. Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY are in charge of arrangements.

CALDWELL

George William Large II, age 80, of Princeton, passed away on September 27, 2026, in hospice care. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm on Friday, October 2, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Pastor Adam Bridgman officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Judy L. Freeman, age 81, of Princeton, passed away September 26, 2026 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville, KY. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm Thursday, October 1, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm Thursday, October 1, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Jerry Horine officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

CALLOWAY

Michael Peter Paszkiet, 79, of Murray, passed away on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at Spring Creek Healthcare. Per his wishes, no services will be held. Imes Funeral Home is entrusted with caring for his family.

Gary Lee McKinney, 71, of New Concord, KY, passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at his home. Per his wishes, no services will be held. Imes Funeral Home is entrusted with caring for his family.

Martha Lou Crick, age 80, of Almo, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at her daughter’s home. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Bro. Richard Burkeen will officiate, and burial followed in the Coles Campground Cemetery.

Steven Michael “Mike” Goad, age 71, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, September 28, 2026, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky. A memorial visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Friday, October 2, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Janet (Boswell) Kirk, age 90, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, September 25, 2026, at her home. A graveside service will be held at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, October 10, 2026, at the Murray City Cemetery. Bro. Jim Stahler will officiate and burial will follow. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. till 12 p.m., Saturday, October 10, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Jimmy “Jake” Crittendon, age 68, of Hazel, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at his home. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Regina V. Davis, 71 of Almo, KY, passed away Monday, September 28, 2026, at Murray Calloway Co. Hospital, Murray, KY. Arrangements are incomplete at this time at Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Murray,

KY.

Dorothy L. “Dottie” Benoit - February 7, 1926 - September 27, 2026 - A service celebrating Dottie’s life will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, with Dr. Timothy D. Kanold and Rev. Sammy Cunningham officiating. Burial will follow the service in the Elm Grove Cemetery, Murray, KY. Friends may visit with the family after 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2026, until the service hour of 1:00 p.m. at the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, 713 South 4th St., Murray, KY.

CARLISLE

Janie High, 79, of Bardwell, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday September 26, 2026. A graveside service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at Roselawn Cemetery in Bardwell, Kentucky. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to the Carlisle County 4-H, PO Box 518, Bardwell, KY, 42023.

Charlie Crider, 75, of Arlington, Kentucky, passed away on September 25, 2026, at Ray & Kay Eckstein Center in Paducah, A funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, September 28, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington, with Rev. Kevin Paschall officiating. Burial followed at Milburn Cemetery.

CHRISTIAN

Gena Leigh Gerbo-Simpson, 64, of Bowling Green, KY died at 9:56 p.m. Friday, September 25, 2026 at her residence. A Celebration of Life will be 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 2, 2026 at Stokes Chapel, 2970 Stokes Chapel in Elkton, KY. 42220.

CRITTENDEN

Helen Marie Travis, age 92, of Kuttawa, passed away September 26, 2026 at Rivers Bend Retirement Community. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home with Bro. Nathan Howton officiating. Burial followed in Asbridge Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Kenneth DuWayne Boling, 75, of Dycusburg, KY passed away September 27, 2026 at the Rivers Bend Retirement Community. Services were held at 2 PM Thursday October 1, 2026 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY with interment in Dycusburg Cemetery.

Patsy Daniel Carter passed away peacefully at Salem Springlake Health and Rehab Center on September 26, 2026. Funeral services will be held 2 PM Saturday October 3, 2026 at Myers Funeral Home with Rev. Janean Tinsley officiating. Burial will follow at Maplevue Cemetery. Visitation will be held Saturday beginning at 11 AM and continuing til service time.

FULTON

Judy Cagle Powell, age 82, of Hickman, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Obion County Nursing Home in Union City, Tennessee. Funeral services for Mrs. Judy Cagle Powell were held at 11AM Thursday at the Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman with Bro. Jason Sipes officiating. Burial followed in hthe Hickman City Cemetery.

Dike Nerren, age 81, of Hickman, KY, passed away Friday, September 25, 2026, at the Baptist Memorial Hospital Emergency Room in Union City, TN. Funeral services for Mr. Dike Nerren were held at 2 PM Monday, September 28, 2026 at the Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman with Bro. Jason Sipes and Rev. Richard Holloway officiating. Burial followed in the Hickman City Cemetery.

GRAVES

Deanna Lynn Badillo of Mayfield, KY, passed away Monday, September 28, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY. Funeral services for Deanna Lynn Badillo will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, October 3, 2026, at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, with Mr. Dennis Zimmer officiating. Burial will follow in the Liberty Cemetery. The family will receive friends Friday, October 2, 2026, from 5:00 until 8:00 PM at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield.

Betty J. Stephenson, age 83 of Mayfield, Ky passed away on Monday, September 28, 2026 at 11:59 PM at her residence. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, Ky.

Robert Clifton Kalafat II, age 30, a resident of Hickory, KY, passed away on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at his residence. Funeral services for Robert will be held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, October 2, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Rev. Corey Cowart officiating. Interment will follow in the Mayfield Memory Gardens.

Larry G. Bouland, age 86, of Mayfield, KY passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at the Green Acres Healthcare in Mayfield, KY. Funeral arrangements for Larry G. Bouland is incomplete at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY.

Cathy Holmes, age 65 and a resident of Sedalia, passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Green Acres Healthcare. Funeral arrangements for Ms. Cathy Holmes are incomplete at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield.

Diane Redden, age 64, of Fancy Farm, passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at her home, surrounded by her family. Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Diane Redden are incomplete at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield.

HICKMAN

Frank Woolf, “Pops”, age 92, formerly of Fulton, KY, passed away Sunday, September 27th, 2026, in Lafayette, LA. Memorial service arrangements are incomplete at this time. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to First United Methodist Church in Fulton, P.O. Box 1386, Fulton, KY 42041 where Frank took his children and spent many joyful Sundays.

Barnett Herman Raff, age 84, of Fulton, Kentucky, passed away at his residence on Saturday, September 26, 2026. No services will be held at the funeral home. Hornbeak Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

MARSHALL

Bobby Jack Dempsey, Sr., 80, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away at his home on Sunday, September 27, 2026. Bobby Jack Dempsey, Sr., 80, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away at his home on Sunday, September 27, 2026. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar Street, Benton, Kentucky 42025. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann. Bro. Ricky Cunningham will officiate, and the burial will follow at Hardin Baptist Church Cemetery.

Rhonda Gale Thompson Powell, 72, of Benton, Kentucky passed away Saturday, September 26th, 2026, surrounded by her loving family at her residence. Funeral services were held at 5:00 PM Tuesday, September 29, 2026, in the chapel of Collier Funeral Home with Rev. Alan Miller officiating.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Linda F. Randles, 73 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at Oakview Manor Healthcare Center in Calvert City, Kentucky. A funeral service was held Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 2 PM at the Collier Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Carlton Bodine officiating. Burial followed at Marshall County Memory Gardens.

Shirley L. Weinberg, age 65 of Benton, KY, born Shirley L. Lewis, passed away on September 26, 2026, at Mercy Health Lourdes. There are no services scheduled at this time. Goodman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Weinberg family.

McCRACKEN

Dr. Frank “Doc” Hideg, Jr., 84, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, September 28, 2026, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health. Visitation was held on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at Brooks Stadium from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. A Funeral Mass will be at St. Francis de Sales on Friday, October 2, 2026, at 11:00 am. Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah is in charge of arrangements.

Isaac Lally, 23, of Crestwood, Kentucky returned to his Heavenly Father on September 25th, 2026. Funeral services will be held at 10:30am on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at Ashland Community Church located at 3714 West Highway 146, LaGrange, KY 40031 with the Rev. Casey McCall officiating. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Louisville, KY.

Caroline Wagner, 72, of Paducah passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. She will be cremated per her wishes. Online condolences may be left at www.lindeyfuneral.com.

Michael A. Cron, age 73, passed away on September 27, 2026, at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. There are no services scheduled at this time. Keeling & Goodman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cron family.

Nancy Carolyn (Byrd) Burch, 89, of Paducah passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Nicholasville, KY, surrounded by her loving family. Visitation was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001. A Funeral Mass will start promptly at 12:00 p.m. at the church. Burial followed at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, 4149 Old Mayfield Road, Paducah, KY 42003.

TRIGG

Lynn Turner King - November 11, 1954 - September 29, 2026 - Funeral arrangements are incomplete for 71 year old Lynn Turner King of Cerulean. She passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. Please check back later for complete service details.

Betty Jean Lester - September 13, 1938 - September 24, 2026 - Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 - 9:00 AM at King’s Funeral Home, Inc., 161 Lone Oak Drive , Cadiz, KY 42211.

Amani Deshawn Riley, 23-days-old, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz, where the family will receive friends from 11 AM to 1 PM on Friday, October 2, 2026. Graveside service will follow at 1:30 PM at East End Cemetery, with Bro. Daniel Colley officiating.

Ladd Sutton, age 68, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, September 25, 2026, at his home in Cadiz. There will be no services at this time. Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, is in care of the arrangements.

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.

The National Quilt Museum Announces Leadership Transition

Press Release

PADUCAH, Ky., — The National Quilt Museum today announced a planned leadership transition that will take effect November 18, 2026, marking a new chapter in Executive Director Bonnie Schrock’s leadership with the Museum.

Schrock will transition from Executive Director to Executive Advisor, allowing her to remain actively involved with The National Quilt Museum while focusing on strategic initiatives. Laura Grimes, currently Director of Development and Special Projects, will become Executive Director and assume responsibility for the Museum’s day to day leadership.

The transition provides continuity for the Museum while allowing Schrock to continue contributing her leadership, experience and longstanding community relationships to its future.

Schrock has served

as Executive Director since May 13, 2024. During her tenure, The National Quilt Museum has expanded educational programming, Museum experiences, contributed revenue and community and corporate engagement while strengthening its financial and strategic position.

Under Schrock’s leadership, The National Quilt Museum established a national STEAM initiative using quilts to teach geometry. NQM STEAM Trunk teaching kits now travel coast to coast, bringing quilt based learning to students across the country while also being available to classrooms visiting the Museum.

The Museum also managed \$900,000 in state appropriations supporting building and structural improvements at The National Quilt Museum and a new dome skin supporting the AQS Quilt Show, two significant economic drivers for Western

Kentucky.

During this period, the Museum established a corporate giving structure to strengthen engagement with businesses throughout the community and region, expanded revenue generating experiences and contributed revenue, and experienced 30 percent revenue growth since 2024.

“This next chapter gives me the opportunity to remain deeply engaged with The National Quilt Museum while focusing on strategic initiatives that can help advance its future,” said Schrock. “I am tremendously proud of what our Board and staff have accomplished together and deeply grateful for the extraordinary support the Museum receives from our Friends, sponsors, donors, community partners and the people of this region. Those relationships mean a great deal to me, and I look forward to continuing them in

this new role.”

Beginning in January 2027, Schrock will also serve as an ex officio member of The National Quilt Museum Board of Directors. In May 2027, she will transition to Director at Large on the Board, assuming the full responsibilities of a Board Director.

As Schrock moves into her new role, Grimes will assume responsibility for the Museum’s daily leadership and continued growth.

Grimes joined The National Quilt Museum in May 2026 as Director of Development and Special Projects. She brings experience in nonprofit executive leadership, fundraising, development and arts administration. Before joining the Museum, she was Director of Development for Arkansas Hospice Foundation and executive director of a major regional performing arts organization.

Since joining the Museum, Grimes

has demonstrated strengths in leadership, advancement, relationship building and creative programming while developing relationships with Museum staff, supporters and community partners. Her previous executive leadership experience, combined with her knowledge of the Museum and its current priorities, provides continuity as she moves into the Executive Director position.

“Laura has quickly become an important member of our leadership team,” said Meredith Schroeder, Board President. “She brings executive leadership experience, a strong development background and an understanding of the arts and nonprofit community to this position. The Board is confident in her ability to build on the Museum’s recent progress while advancing its mission and strengthening its relationships locally, nationally and internationally.”

Schrock expressed confidence in Grimes as she prepares to assume the Museum’s day to day leadership.

“Laura brings valuable executive and development experience to the position, and I have great confidence in her ability to lead the Museum,” Schrock said. “We will continue to work closely together during this transition, providing continuity while allowing each of us to focus on the areas where we can contribute most effectively to the Museum’s future.”

The National Quilt Museum Board has worked with Schrock in planning for the leadership transition and has appointed Grimes to serve as the Museum’s next Executive Director.

Grimes relocated to Paducah in July 2025 with her husband, Ben Grimes, Managing Artistic Director of Market House Theatre. She will assume her duties as Executive Director on November 18, 2026.

WEST KY SPORTS

TOP 10 RANKINGS BY CLASS

Class 1A

1. Pikeville
2. Raceland
3. Sayre
4. Middlesboro
5. Bethlehem
6. Louisville Holy Cross
7. Kentucky Country Day
8. Paintsville
9. Eminence
10. Covington Holy Cross

Class 2A

1. Beechwood
2. Owensboro Catholic
3. Lexington Christian Academy
4. Mayfield
5. Belfry
6. Somerset
7. Danville
8. Caldwell County
9. W.E.B DuBois
10. Prestonsburg

Class 3A

1. Christian Academy-Louisville
2. Lexington Catholic
3. Lloyd Memorial
4. Murray
5. Glasgow
6. Lawrence County
7. Central
8. Rockcastle County
9. Bourbon County
10. Larue County

Class 4A

1. Highlands
2. Boyle County
3. Covington Catholic
4. Paducah Tilghman
5. Corbin
6. Ashland
7. Logan County
8. Johnson Central
9. Franklin County
10. North Oldham

Class 5A

1. Pulaski County
2. Scott County
3. Woodford County
4. Owensboro
5. Atherton
6. West Jessamine
7. Collins
8. Bowling Green
9. Madisonville-North Hopkins
10. Cooper

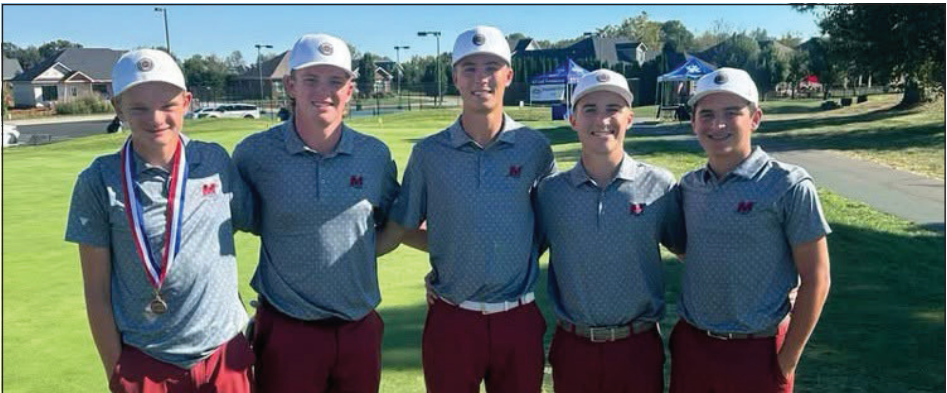
Class 6A

1. Trinity
2. Frederick Douglass
3. Manual
4. Saint Xavier
5. Madison Central
6. South Warren
7. Male
8. George Rogers Clark
9. Bryan Station
10. McCracken County



The McCracken County Middle School V Team won the 7th Grade Region 1 Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 26.

(Photo Courtesy of McCracken County Middle School)



McCracken County has advanced to the final round of the KHSAA Boys' Golf State Tournament. The Mustangs amassed a team score of 292 and placed third in the KHSAA Boys' Golf State Tournament First Round.

(Photo Courtesy of McCracken County High School)



The Seniors are the 2026 Mayfield High School Powderpuff Champions.

(Photo Courtesy of Mayfield High School)



Murray's Micah Wyatt (senior), Henri Acreman-Nyamwala (junior) and Brodie Morris (senior) were selected to the All "A" Classic State Tournament Team.

(Photo Courtesy of Murray High School)



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McCracken County finished as the 2026 KHSAA Region 1 Girls' Golf Runner-up. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Third KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll released

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The third KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll of the 2026 high school volleyball season has been released.

The Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association released the third KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

McCracken County (1), Graves County (2), Marshall County (3), Ballard Memorial (4), Carlisle County (T-5) and Murray (T-5) comprise the third KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll.

Currently, teams across the state are competing in the second half of the 2026 high school volleyball season.

The third KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll follows.

KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll

1. McCracken County
2. Graves County
3. Marshall County
4. Ballard Memorial
- T-5. Carlisle County
- T-5. Murray

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Marshals shut out Blazers

Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County shut out University Heights 7-0 in a non-district boys' soccer match at Colburn Field on Monday, Sept. 28.

The Marshals improved to 14-3-2 after notching the win.

After suffering the loss, the Blazers slipped to 9-5-2.

The Marshals thrived both offensively and defensively.

Davis Hunt (two goals), Austin Lyles (one goal), Maddox Konrad (one goal), John Shadowen (one goal), Drake Croft

(one goal), Max Myers (one goal), Caysom Graham (two assists), Hugh Thompson (one assist) and Lincoln Colburn (one assist) each contributed offensively for the Marshals.

Goalkeeper Carson Lovett paced Marshall County defensively, recording a shutout.



Murray finished as the All "A" Classic Boys' Soccer Statewide Tournament Runner-up on Sunday, Sept. 27. (Photo Courtesy of Murray High School)

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Lady Bomber Volleyball Exceeds 20 Wins



(Photos by Tim Taylor)

By Tim Taylor

For the 15th time in the last 18 seasons, the Ballard Memorial volleyball team has reached 20 or more wins. They reached their 20th win in 2026 in their 3 set sweep over CCA in the annual Volley For A Cause match.

The Lady Bombers earlier in the week got their 19th win of the season in a 1st Region All A Championship rematch with Carlisle County defeating the Lady Comets 25-23, 25-18, 25-17. Grace Flowers had a double-double leading the team in both assist and digs recording 11 assists and adding 17 digs while Aubrey Alexander had a team high 6 aces. In their victory over CCA, they defeated the Lady Warriors 25-13, 25-9, 25-16. Andee Bodell had a team high 10 assists and Mallie Owens had 7 kills to lead the way. In win 21 of the season, it was the third consecutive sweep for the Lady Bombers as they defeated Paducah Tilghman on Little League Night defeating the Lady Tornado 25-19, 25-19, 25-9. Rilee Bodell led the way with 17 assists, Owens had a team high 8 kills, and Jada Roberts had 4 aces. Ballard Memorial made it win 22 on the season with the 3rd District sweep over Mayfield 25-20, 25-21, 25-14. Sarah



Wilkins led the team with 10 kills, Rilee Bodell with 5 aces, and Flowers had 12 assists. The Lady Bombers continued district play hosting Graves County. After losing the opening set 25-23, Ballard Memorial won the next 3 sets 25-17, 25-20, 25-22 to defeat the Lady Eagles. The

win earned the Lady Bombers a share of the 3rd District regular season title. Mallie Owens had her 500th career kill and let the team with 18 kills and 7 aces, and Rilee Bodell had 18 assists. Ballard Memorial is now 23-8 on the season.

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Price Family Videoboard announced as centerpiece of CFSB Center renovation

Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray State Athletics has introduced the Price Family Videoboard, a new state-of-the-art, center-hung display that will be installed inside the CFSB Center as part of the ongoing transformational renovation to the home of Racer Basketball. The new videoboard ranks as one of the top 10 largest basketball-specific boards in the nation.

Named in recognition of the Price Family and their unwavering support to Murray State Athletics and the Murray community, the Price Family Videoboard will become one of the signature features of the CFSB Center by significantly enhancing the game presentation, providing greater opportunities for fan engagement and creating additional revenue streams.

“The transformation

of the CFSB Center represents an important investment in our University, our students and the experience we provide to the entire Murray State community,” President Dr. Ron Patterson said. “The Price Family Videoboard will be a highly-visible centerpiece of that transformation, and we are grateful to the Price Family for their commitment to our University and for helping create an experience that students, alumni, fans and visitors will enjoy for generations.”

The new centerhung videoboard will be 60 percent larger than the existing display and each of the four panels measures 18.5 feet tall by 25.5 feet wide. Featuring more than 10 million pixels, the system will provide enhanced clarity for live video, instant replays, statistics,

graphics, sponsor integration and in-game entertainment.

“The Price Family Videoboard represents exactly what we envisioned when we began planning the transformation of the CFSB Center, and we are incredibly thankful to the Price Family for their belief in the vision of this project,” Vice President and Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. “This technology will completely change how we tell the story of Racer Basketball inside the arena and is another example of how we are creating spaces that bring people together for a best-in-class experience.”

Four additional 6.5-foot by 10-foot underbelly displays will provide optimal viewing for student-athletes, coaches and fans seated in the lower rows and courtside areas. The centerhung system will also feature

a winch system, allowing the display to be raised and lowered to accommodate daily operations and the variety of events hosted inside the CFSB Center.

“Our family loves Murray State University, and Murray State Basketball has been a part of our family’s story for generations,” Dr. Matt Price said. “We are grateful to be a piece of something that has created so many memories for us and are thankful for the opportunity to give back to Racer Athletics. We hope the Price Family Videoboard helps create unforgettable experiences for years to come.”

Beyond the center-hung display, the renovation will also introduce new ribbon boards and LED tables throughout the CFSB Center, creating a more integrated digital environment

and additional opportunities to enhance game presentation. Together, the new technology will provide greater flexibility to create unique content.

“Formetco is incredibly proud to be part of the transformation taking place at Murray State,” said Jeff Huffman, Director of Collegiate Sports Partnerships at Formetco. “What stands out most about this project is the tremendous investment Murray State is making in their fans and the overall game-day experience. With more than 12.8 million pixels of LED technology throughout the arena, including a spectacular four-sided center-hung display with additional underbelly displays and 226 linear feet of ribbon displays and scorer’s tables, this is far more than a scoreboard upgrade, this is a showpiece that will be

recognized nationally and modeled by peers for future projects. Combined with the premium seating and unique amenities being added throughout the CFSB Center, Murray State is creating an entirely new experience for Racer fans. We’re thrilled that Formetco was selected as a partner to help bring that vision to life.”

The Price Family Videoboard joins a series of improvements currently underway as part of the ongoing renovation of the CFSB Center, including new premium offerings throughout the facility.

A limited number of loge boxes and courtside seats remain for the 2026-27 season, while ledge seating is completely sold out. For more information on premium seating, call the Murray State Ticket Office at 270-809-3000

Paducah Tilghman outlasts Webster County

Staff Report

PADUCAH — Paducah Tilghman outlasted Webster County 2-1 in a non-district boys’ soccer match on Monday, Sept. 28.

The Blue Tornado

improved to 11-6-1 after notching the win.

The Trojans slipped to 4-8-1 after suffering the loss.

Oliver Townsend Eck scored both of Paducah Tilghman’s goals.

Aiding Paducah Tilghman offensively, Charlie Wolfrom dealt out two assists.

Defensively for Paducah Tilghman, goalkeeper Nolan Black held Webster

County to one goal. Black recorded seven saves.

Paducah Tilghman

beat Webster County 2-1 for the second time in the 2026 boys’ high school soccer season.

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Stein doesn't want No. 24 ranking to be a distraction

By KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Kentucky coach Will Stein doesn't want his team's first appearance in the rankings to be a distraction going into Saturday's contest at South Carolina.

"It's more important for the fans than anything," Stein said during his weekly press conference on Tuesday.

After going 3-1, including a 1-1 mark in the Southeastern Conference to open the season, the Wildcats are ranked No. 24 in this week's Associated Press Top 25 poll. Kentucky is one of 10 Southeastern Conference schools ranked heading into the second month of the regular season. Texas is No. 1, followed by Georgia second.

Despite being recognized nationally, Stein said, "Our guys have to go play well."

"I'm not really sure

why they rank people this early in the season — there's a lot of games left," he said. "It's about playing well on Saturdays and not letting that dictate how we play. We should play to our standard regardless."

Stein wasn't pleased with his team's execution in the first half of a 45-21 win over South Alabama last Saturday, adding "there's plenty of things to improve on."

"It's obviously great when you can win and coach these guys even harder," he said. "I was pleased with their effort. Just the execution from play one to the last play has to be better moving forward. Were there great spots in the game that happened? Sure, but there were things early on that I thought that we can control that we did not. We'll keep improving on that."

South Carolina (2-2, 0-2) dropped a 49-18 decision s to No. 7 Al-



Kentucky receiver Nic Anderson makes a leap over a defender in a win over South Alabama last week. (Photo by Les Nicholson)

abama on Saturday in Tuscaloosa and will be without standout edge rusher Dylan Stewart after he threw a punch at a Crimson Tide player in the fourth quarter and was suspended for one game.

"Dylan Stewart's egregious contact reflects behavior that is unacceptable and not aligned with the standards of the Southeastern Conference," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said.

"Such action against an opponent carries a serious risk of injury and has no place in our conference competition. This suspension is appropriate, and any future misconduct by Dylan Stewart will result in more severe disciplinary action."

Stein said Stewart's absence on the opposite sideline won't have any bearing on his team's preparation.

"It really doesn't do

anything to us," Stein said. "We control what we can, and Shane's got to take care of his team just like I've got to take care of mine. We're excited to play them regardless of who's on the field."

RESPECT

Stein recalled when Beamer was an assistant coach at Oklahoma and visited Lake Travis in Texas to recruit a player, where

Stein was coaching high school at the time.

"I just felt like he was genuine; he was authentic," Stein said. "He took the time for me, as a high school coach, to sit in my office and really talk about my players at Lake Travis. He knew other players within the district. He was able to talk football."

"It didn't feel like he was in a rush to leave the school; he was just real. I've always had a ton of respect for Shane because of that. And then, I think he's a really good football coach. He's obviously been there for a while. He's done a lot of really good things. He's got a great team and great players."

Gametracker: Kentucky at South Carolina, 4:15 p.m., Saturday. TV: SEC Network (Taylor Zarlzour, Matt Stinchcomb and Michella Chester). Radio: UK Radio Network (Tom Leach, Jeff Piecoro, Dick Gabriel).

Kentucky has the style of play that could mirror Pope's identity

By KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Coach Mark Pope's third team at Kentucky has the potential to take on his identity based on his early assessment.

"I think this team can comfortably work its way into playing the style of play that I think is winning basketball," he said during media day on Monday. "I also think it's creative basketball. I think it's really hard-to-guard basketball, and I think it's a really connected basketball on the defensive end. I think there are a lot of the components on this team that can do it, and I think we're trying to grow into that."

The Kentucky coach said his team will be physical and has "physicality" from all different spaces on the roster and also more length than his first two teams in Lexington.

"We're going to compensate for any space where we're dealt with

skill and shooting and length," he said. "I think our length is going to have to be a big factor. ... Length is our strength. So the question is, can we use it? Can we make it something that impacts every single possession? There are a lot of ways to do that."

Aside from building his team around returning forward Malachi Moreno, Pope specifically wanted "creators on the floor to play the way that we love to play this beautiful basketball that we love to play."

"I think we've answered that well," Pope said.

Pope said Malachi has developed into a creator underneath and had three assists in five minutes during a scrimmage last Saturday. The backcourt, anchored by Zoom Diallo and Alex Wilkins, will be counted on to create on both ends of the court.

"Zoom Diallo is an extraordinary connector of people in a locker room," Pope



Kentucky coach Mark Pope makes a point during media day on Monday at Historic Memorial Coliseum. (Keith Taylor/Kentucky Today)

said. "He might be one of the best connectors that I've ever had the opportunity to coach. ... He's really special that way and he's a physical guard. ... It's been so impressive to watch him during the course of the summer. Every time we went on a team retreat at the end of the summer, we spent a couple of days all together the whole time, and every time you saw somebody kind of like just wander off, Zoom had this magical ability to go in and collect them and bring them back

into the group."

To complement Diallo, Wilkins and freshman guard Mason Williams, Pope's perimeter will feature sharpshooter Milan Momcilovic.

"We think that our shooting is going to be elite," he said. "We think that we shoot it really, really well, and we have a depth of shooters and that's important for us."

He added that "the length component of this is really fun."

"Of all that, the thing I've been most excited about is our

cutting, and you know that's a major part of what we do," Pope said. "Our guys have bought into cutting hard, cutting hard, cutting hard. There's so much movement on the floor for us right now that it's pretty exciting."

TOP QUESTION

Student Ricky Lumpkin, son of former Kentucky defensive lineman Ricky Lumpkin, asked the first question, asking Pope what it felt like to be tall.

"One, it gives you some advantages as a basketball player, and I love this game so much," Pope said. "It gives you advantages as a coach because you actually have a different view. You can actually see more things from the perspective, and when you take your family to Disneyland, it gives you a massive advantage because your girls can always find you in the crowd."

INJURY UPDATE

Kentucky senior guard Jerone Morton injured his knee in practice earlier this week and will be re-evaluated the next two weeks ... Momcilovic has been cleared to practice without a splint ... Trent Noah's hamstring is "progressing well" and may return for the season opener against Manhattan... Kam Williams is also expected to make a full recovery before the season opener.

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

People may reject you – but God never will

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Do you ever feel left out and lonely? I think most people do from time to time. Others live in a state of feeling “less than”. I recently read a book by Lysa TerKeurst entitled, *Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely*. I thought of what it means to me, individually, to live with a feeling of being loved. The first thing that came to mind was: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you” (Isaiah 43:2).

To me, that means to feel loved I need to feel protected and secure. I want to know I have hope for a good future. I want to know I have family and friends who will stand beside me and I will do the same for them. If that’s what I need, how do I get it? First of all, I think it originates with God and his love for us. In Isaiah, God said,

when the waters begin to roll over you and you’re about to go under, he’ll not let you be destroyed. That’s comforting. That’s the kind of God I want to serve and the kind of relationships I want in my life. I want the kind of friends who are the same yesterday, today and forever. I’m not looking for friends who speak to me one day and ignore me the next. Neither are you.

Basically, we all want the same thing. We all want to love, to be loved, to be respected and to be accepted.

Love is much like a fine-cut diamond with many different facets. There is love between a husband and wife and the euphoria it brings. There’s love between a parent and child, brothers, sisters, and friends and the comfort and peace that brings. There is even a love between a person and a pet and the satisfaction that brings. All these types of love come in varying degrees. Some you love more than others. Some you want to spend a lot of time



with and some you’re happy just seeing once in a while.

What are the benefits of “living loved”?

Feeling loved leaves you in better health. If there were no other benefit to feeling loved than better health, then the health benefit would be worth the risk of developing good relationships. According to WebMD, people who feel loved live longer. They have few-

er doctor visits and shorter hospital stays. They experience less depression and less substance abuse.

Love gives us the assurance that we are not alone in the world. I like that. I remember Jesus saying, “I WILL NEVER LEAVE OR FORSAKE YOU” (Heb. 13:5). That’s the kind of friend to hold onto.

Love gives us a sense of responsibility because when we

love we have a sincere concern for the welfare of those we love. Loving is always an action word. People can make you feel loved without saying a word. You also feel unloved without anyone saying a word.

One thing you can be sure of, there is no material object that can make you feel loved. Only the love of God or of a human or a pet can make you feel loved.

Of those three, the only one that satisfies the deepest longing inside a man/woman is the love of God. All other love is icing on the cake. It’s just an added blessing.

The truth is this: People may reject you. People may leave you feeling lonely and left out, but God never will. God’s love is the ultimate of “living loved”. His love gives you hope for a brighter day.



By Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org

As deer season begins, my mind goes back to my earlier and less mature years of hunting. Those were the days when I spent more time complaining on the stand instead of being thankful for the opportunity I had to be there. I complained about not seeing deer, about only seeing little ones, and about all my friends having better success than

me. And who was I complaining to? Well, God of course. I mean no one else was around and after all He could change my lot if He wanted to. So it was His fault. I mean it shouldn’t have made any difference that I smelled like Right Guard and was hunting with my back to the wind. And it shouldn’t have made any difference that the sound of my

Little Debbie cakes opening crackled like a broken microphone. And it shouldn’t have made any difference that I was in a location that had only limited deer. No, God should have eliminated all of that and given me my miracle 200-inch deer within the first hour of the hunt. He didn’t. So, I complained.

The truth is, complaining is natural for all of us. If you think about it, most of our mundane, “Good-morning-how-are-you-doing?” conversations lead with a complaint. “Sure is hot.” “Sure is cold.” “We sure need a little rain.” “Sure wish that rain would stop.” “Work is killing me.” “I’m just too busy.” It’s

true that our natural inclination is to complain. Thankfully, complaining is not always bad. It probably helped our ancestors survive when they realized something was not right. And that’s another thing complaining does. It makes us recognize how things could or should be. There is somewhat a moral compass and a call to action when we complain about the way something is. It’s here that we recognize what is right and correct, and then hopefully create a better way. Again, if you think about it, very little gets improved until somebody first notices what’s wrong. But there is another side to complaints. Constant complaints

without offering a solution can eventually turn you into a complainer. And constant complaints to and about God can reveal something even deeper. A lack of trust. Does God want us to complain? I don’t think He does, but I think He knows we will. Nearly every servant of God in the Bible complained at some point, and God allowed them to voice it. But there were also times when the complaint began turning into something more. It began turning into distrust. And when that happened, God sometimes simply said, “That’s enough.” So, do you complain about things? I’m sure you do. We all do.

But have your complaints turned you into a complainer. If so, don’t be surprised if you hear a familiar voice from your Heavenly Father saying, “That’s enough!” He’s just making sure your disappointment doesn’t become distrust.

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 24 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

The Lord is our strength and shield

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

We have learned since childhood about the blessings of being protected. Remember when we were in the arms of our moms and dads? It seemed as if the world’s dangers could not reach us. Now that we are grown up, we believe we can take care of ourselves, like having a home which shelters us from the elements and provides security against whatever might want to harm us. But of all the things in this world that might give us a sense of safety and defense, there is nothing that can compare to the divine power and authority of God’s presence always watching over us. Psalm 23:4 helps us to see there is no need to be afraid: “Yea, though

I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” The rod and staff symbolize God’s authority, guidance, and protection, serving as reminders of His covenant with His people and His commitment to lead them through any of life’s challenges. In John 10:11, Christ promises, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” Accept and receive His great love and allow Him to give you true hope and peace.

The other night I had difficulty sleeping, and as I tossed and turned, harassing thoughts were bombarding me and trying to interfere with my peace. I began to pray and ask God to help

me and was reminded that in the Bible, one of God’s attributes is that He is like a shield. If we choose to stay close to Him and trust Him, we can be safe. This brought me great comfort as I could imagine being surrounded by His presence as I envisioned the arrows of the enemy harmlessly bouncing away. The next thing I knew, it was morning. As I went downstairs and started on my first cup of coffee, I was still thinking about the shield and went into my office to look up the definition. “Shield” basically means a guard to defend and protect, to cover as a barrier, a place of shelter and security to hide behind, and a way to preserve and maintain our safety. Being aware of this promise gives

us confidence even when fear is trying to defeat us. A familiar scripture of comfort is found in Matthew 11:28: “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Like most of you, I’m hearing a lot of talk about an economic recession, food and fuel supplies and prices, and the wars currently being fought, which are unnerving, to say the least. However, even within the chaos and anxiety, God’s people can choose to stay close to Him and be filled with His faith and joy! As we make a sincere decision to trust Him no matter what may come, we can stand strong and believe as First John 4:4 declares, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He

who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” Proverbs 18:10 reminds us, The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” When we are perplexed with worry and doubt, we can run to Jesus. He is the King of Kingdom authority!

There is a story recorded in Matthew chapter eight about Christ being in a boat on a lake with His disciples. While He took a nap, there arose a violent storm, and His friends were terrified the boat was going to sink. They awoke Him, and He calmly spoke to the wind and waves to stop, and suddenly it was perfectly calm. Some may say, “What does this have to do with my crisis?” He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and still has the power and

desire to command “Peace be still” to your storms now! Jesus is perfectly aware of what you are going through and knows exactly what to do. Psalm 33:20 reassures us, “Our soul waits for the Lord: He is our help and our shield.” Whatever is troubling you today, remember that God can do anything, and nothing is impossible for Him. Be encouraged with Psalm 28:7, “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song will I praise Him.”

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

BEGGARS

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A proficient painter once sought to portray the Bible’s “prodigal son” in a pastel painting. He searched every asylum, prison, and soup kitchen to find a man ragged enough to embody the prodigal, but he was unsuccessful. One day, as he was walking home he encountered a poor beggar curled up on the street. The man was disheveled, dirty, and destitute—the ideal candidate for the painting. The artist approached him and offered payment in exchange for being painted as a model, and the beggar agreed.

When the day came, a clean-shaven man in a crisp suit and tie stood in the studio. When the artist asked who he was, the stranger reminded him, “You made an

appointment with me, remember?” “Sir, I’ve never seen you before in my life,” replied the painter. “Yes, it’s me!” said the man. “You wanted me to meet you here at ten o’clock!” To which the painter explained, “You must be mistaken; I was to see a beggar here at this hour.” “I am he!” said the man, “I just thought I would dress myself up a bit before I got painted.” And the painter said, “No, no, no! I didn’t want you dressed up and perfect; I wanted you just as you were.”¹

And the same can be said of the God who painted the constellations upon the canvas of the heavens. God does not command us to “clean up” and make ourselves presentable before we approach Him. He does not expect us to

come to Him adorned in the polished suit of religious works. The Lord doesn’t want you to be embellished in religious makeup or doused in the perfume of piety. He calls you to come to Him just as you are, as a bankrupt beggar in need of the riches found in Christ Jesus.

We have all wallowed like swine in the mire of iniquity, and we reek of sin’s stench. Even so, God urges us to come to Him in repentance to be washed in Christ’s blood and clothed in His robes of white (cf. Luke 15:15-22; Revelation 3:5). Our account of righteousness doesn’t contain a penny of God-glorifying works, either (Matthew 5:3). And yet, Jesus calls us to bring Him an empty cup so that He may fill it with

the “unsearchable riches” of His gospel (Ephesians 3:8).

The Lord’s invitation to all spiritual beggars is this: “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he

who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price . . . Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked

forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:1, 6-7).

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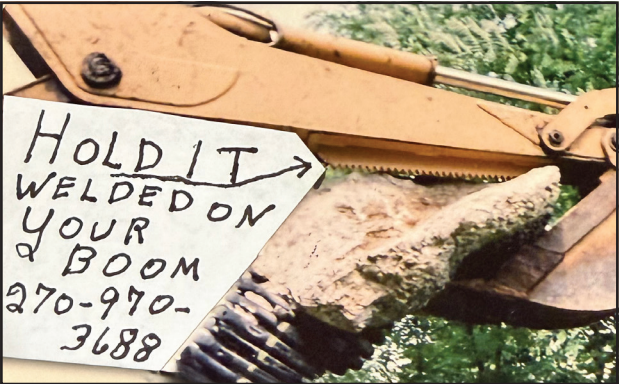
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Sudoku Answers								
9	8	6	4	9	2	1	7	8
9	1	4	9	8	7	6	8	2
8	7	2	8	1	6	9	9	4
1	2	9	6	4	8	8	9	7
8	4	9	2	7	9	8	6	1
7	6	8	9	8	1	4	2	9
4	8	8	7	9	9	2	1	6
6	9	7	1	2	4	9	8	8
2	9	1	8	6	8	7	4	9

Word Search Answers									
1	0	1	A	R	O	I	H	R	O
W	D	V	E	N	O	I	O	T	G
C	W	E	I	T	W	O	D	A	N
X	R	O	I	N	N	C	H	A	I
G	S	I	C	A	K	X	H	I	S
E	H	H	O	L	O	E	S	H	W
R	H	Y	L	S	H	E	S	V	E
R	O	V	O	O	D	I	C	I	N
C	N	S	I	N	O	I	E	O	E
W	E	C	L	V	A	R	H	I	L
T	V	X	E	V	X	J	I	G	G
X	E	A	O	E	D	O	R	V	N
I	H	S	H	W	R	C	S	V	R
N	O	V	A	N	R	X	H	I	L
C	R	V	N	D	O	D	V	E	H
K	C	R	V	I	S	I	G	E	R
N	O	I	T	I	N	F	O	D	O

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SHOP, FARM & MISCELLANEOUS

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in 4 Tracts & Combinations



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Property Highlights Include:

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- 1,973+/- Sq. Ft. Home
- 3 Bedrooms • 3 Bathrooms
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- Exposed Wood Ceiling Beams
- Eat-In Kitchen • Dining Area
- Attached 2-Car Garage
- Two Detached Shops - One w/Bathroom
- Workshop Area • Add'l Storage Space
- Large Stocked Pond & Hardwood Plantation
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- Beautiful Country Setting

PREVIEW DATE:
Monday, September 21
from 5:00-6:00 PM





REAL ESTATE TRACTS	
Tract 1	3.68 Acres with Home & Shops
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FARMERS' Quarterly

★ ★ ★ FALL HARVEST & LIVESTOCK ★ ★ ★

Kentucky agriculture enters busy Fall season

As September gives way to October, Kentucky's agricultural community enters one of the busiest and most important times of the year. Across the Commonwealth, farmers are harvesting crops, preparing fields for winter and making plans for the next growing season.

Fall harvest brings activity to farms throughout Kentucky as producers bring in corn, soybeans and other crops. Harvest timing can vary from one region to another depending on planting dates, weather conditions and crop maturity. Farmers closely monitor field conditions and crop moisture as they

determine when the time is right to begin harvesting. For livestock producers, fall also brings important management decisions. Cattle operations are preparing herds for cooler weather, evaluating available pasture and making

see **SEASON**,
page A2



All in for Ag Week was celebrated across the state last week. See related story on page A7.

UK dietitians release first nutrition-focused guide for alpha-gal syndrome

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— A tick-borne food allergy that was almost unheard of years ago is now so common in Kentucky that many residents know someone living with it. To help patients, families, clinicians and the community make sense of it, registered dietitians at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) have published one of the first nutrition-focused guides to the condition.

The paper, “Nutritional considerations for alpha-gal syndrome: a mini-review,” appeared in *Frontiers*

in Allergy and was supported with funding from The Bill Gatton Foundation. Heather Norman-Burgdorf, Ph.D., assistant Extension director for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and part of FCS Extension, and Anna Cason, also from FCS, played roles as second authors.

“Not only is it a new syndrome, it’s also just one of a kind,” said Abbigail Pace, Ph.D., UK Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition assistant professor, one of The Bill Gatton Foundation Early-Career Professors and the paper’s lead author. “That’s why it’s been challenging to really characterize it and get the information out there broadly.”



Rather than a blanket recommendation to avoid all mammal products, the paper lays out a tiered elimination approach.

Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is triggered by bites from certain ticks, most commonly the Lone Star tick in Kentucky. The bite sensitizes the body to a sugar called galactose-alpha-1,3-galactose, or “alpha-gal,” found in the meat of most mammals — beef,

pork, lamb, venison, rabbit and squirrel among them — and in dairy products, gelatin, some medications and a long list of food additives. “Unlike most food allergies, which are reactions to proteins, alpha-gal syndrome is a reaction to a

Photo by Sabrina Hounshell carbohydrate,” Pace said. “That distinction is part of what makes it so difficult to diagnose and manage.” An estimated 15,000 new cases are identified in the United States each year, according to the review, with many

more believed to go undiagnosed. Kentucky, sitting in the heart of Lone Star tick range, is among the hardest-hit states. “We’re seeing such an explosion of it right now,” Pace said. “You can ask a group of people, and several of them will say, ‘Yes, I know someone with alpha-gal syndrome,’ especially in rural areas. Kentucky is just inundated with it.” Reactions typically appear two to eight hours after exposure, a delay that separates AGS from most food allergies and often leaves patients waking in the middle of the night with hives, swelling or, in severe

see **ALPHA-GEL**,
page A5

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SEASON
from page A1

plans for winter feed supplies. Hay production and storage are particularly

important as farmers work to ensure adequate forage is available during the colder months. Kentucky's agricultural economy extends far beyond traditional row crops and

livestock. The state is also known for its tobacco, poultry, dairy, equine, horticulture and specialty-crop industries. Together, these agricultural enterprises contribute

significantly to rural communities and the state's overall economy. Fall is also a time when many Kentuckians reconnect with agriculture through county fairs, farm markets, pumpkin patches, agritourism destinations and other seasonal activities. These opportunities give families a chance to see where food comes from while supporting local farmers and rural businesses. Weather remains one of the biggest factors affecting Kentucky agriculture. Farmers must make decisions based on rainfall, temperature, soil

conditions and changing forecasts. Once harvest begins, dry weather can help producers move equipment through fields, while excessive rainfall can create delays and difficult field conditions. As farmers move through the final weeks of the growing season, attention also turns toward soil preparation and planning for 2027. Some producers will plant cover crops, manage crop residue, apply needed nutrients and make repairs to equipment during the slower winter months. Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell and the Kentucky

Department of Agriculture continue to work with farmers, agricultural organizations and communities on programs and initiatives affecting Kentucky agriculture. From the fields being harvested to cattle being prepared for winter, September and October demonstrate the year-round commitment required to keep Kentucky agriculture moving. For Kentucky's farmers, fall is not simply the end of a growing season—it is also the beginning of preparations for another year on the farm.

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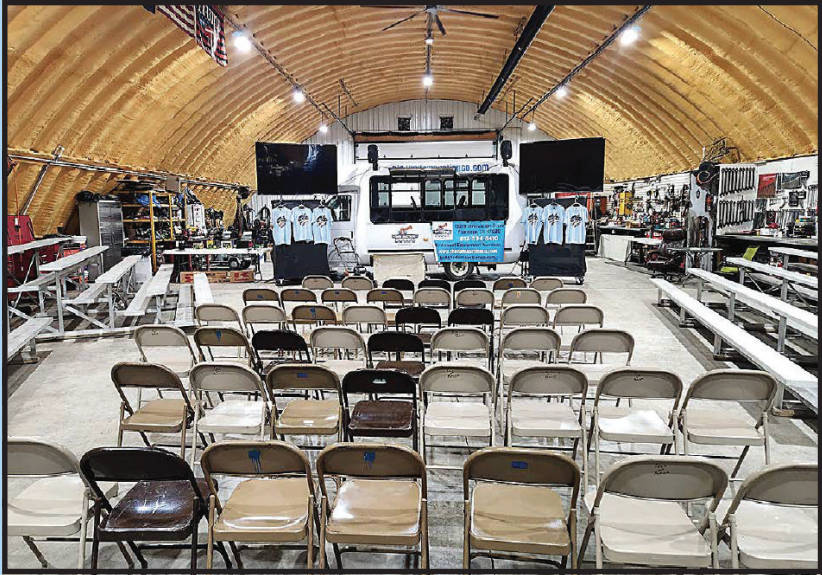
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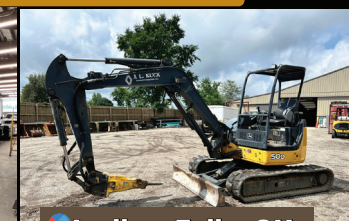
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OCTOBER AGRICULTURE FACTS

October is an important month for agriculture as farmers across the country move into the heart of the fall harvest season. Here are a few facts about agriculture and October:

- **Harvest Time:** October is a major harvest month for crops such as corn, soybeans, pumpkins, apples and fall vegetables.
- **Fall Planting:** Farmers may plant winter wheat, cover crops and other cool-season crops during October.
- **Livestock Care:** Cooler temperatures mean farmers begin preparing barns, pastures and livestock for winter weather.
- **Pumpkins:** Pumpkins are an important fall crop and are used for food, decoration and seasonal activities.
- **Farm Markets:** October is a popular month for farmers markets featuring apples, pumpkins, squash, sweet potatoes and other locally grown products.
- **Planning Ahead:** After harvest, farmers often prepare fields, maintain equipment and begin planning for the next growing season.

Agriculture remains an important part of Kentucky's economy and rural communities, connecting farmers and families throughout the Commonwealth.



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ALPHA-GEL
from page A1

cases, anaphylaxis. The severity of a person’s reaction can also be pushed higher by factors such as exercise, alcohol consumption, dietary fat intake, and use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen.

AGS Guidance
Rather than a blanket recommendation to avoid all mammal products, the paper lays out a tiered elimination approach. The first tier targets the highest-risk foods for someone with AGS: mammalian meats, especially fatty cuts. The second tier includes dairy, broths,

gelatin, lard and other mammalian-derived ingredients. The third covers additives such as carrageenan, glycerin and magnesium stearate, which may or may not be sourced from mammals depending on the product. Highly sensitive patients may need to eliminate all three tiers; others can stop after one.
“There are people who have alpha-gal syndrome who don’t necessarily react to dairy and other mammalian-based food ingredients,” Pace said. “That gives people more options and a little more autonomy to create a diet that is reasonable for them in their lifestyle.”
The safest protein sources include poultry, eggs, fish,

seafood, beans, lentils, nuts and seeds. Some individuals with alpha-gal syndrome turn to less common proteins such as emu, ostrich and duck.
The review devotes substantial attention to label reading, an area where alpha-gal syndrome patients face unusual challenges. For example, chicken sausage may be packed in pork casing. “Plant-based” and “vegan” claims are not always reliable safety nets. Mammalian-derived ingredients also show up in everything from gel caps to gravy. The paper includes a reference table of common food additives that may contain alpha-gal.
Pace’s core advice for anyone newly

diagnosed is short: Be prepared, not scared.
“Do your research, communicate that you have a food allergy and that it’s very serious, and bring your medication,” Pace said. “Keep your EpiPen and antihistamine on you.”
Because the syndrome touches diet, gastroenterology, dermatology and mental health—and because tick prevention is central to keeping it from worsening—the authors recommend a team-based approach that includes an allergist, a registered dietitian, a mental health provider and a tick-prevention expert. There is also hopeful evidence in the literature that, without additional tick



Lone Star ticks account for a majority of alpha-gal syndrome.
Adobe Stock photo

bites, alpha-gal antibody levels can decline over time, and a small group of patients has been able to reintroduce mammalian products under medical supervision.
Kentucky is currently in peak tick

season, and every life stage of the Lone Star tick, from larva to adult, can transmit alpha-gal sensitization.
To learn more about FCS Extension at Martin-Gatton CAFE, visit fcs.mgcafe.uky.edu.

UK opens Meats and Food Industry Advancement Center to strengthen Kentucky agriculture

By Derrick Meads

VERSAILLES, Ky.—
The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment celebrated the opening of the Meats and Foods Industry Advancement Center today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the C. Oran Little Research Center in Woodford County.
The nearly 30,000-square-foot center brings research, teaching, Extension and industry support together to advance meat science, food safety, workforce development and value-added production. Designed with processors supporting local producers in mind, it includes a 56-seat classroom connected directly to the processing area, providing students with hands-on learning throughout the product development process.
“This center reflects what it means to be Kentucky’s land-grant university,” said University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto. “Everything we do is to advance the state we were created to serve. By connecting our research and Extension expertise with the needs of producers and industry partners, we can help

strengthen businesses, develop our agricultural workforce and create new opportunities for communities across the Commonwealth.”
Specialized spaces will support the development of products such as hams, sausages and other value-added foods. A sensory laboratory will allow researchers and businesses to evaluate consumer response to new products, while an on-site market will offer meat products developed at the center and other Kentucky agricultural products.
The facility will operate under U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection for cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry. These capabilities will help businesses improve food safety, develop and test new products, train employees and explore opportunities to increase the value of agricultural products grown in Kentucky.
“This center demonstrates what is possible when we lock arms and move forward together,” said Kentucky Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman. “It is going to prepare our workforce, support our local processors, unlock new opportunities for our producers and strengthen the agricultural economy



The Meats and Foods Industry Advancement Ceremony ribbon-cutting ceremony at the C. Oran Little Research Center in Woodford County.

Photo by Sabrina Hounshell

of the Commonwealth for generations to come.”
The Meats and Foods Industry Advancement Center will also strengthen the college’s ability to serve Central Kentucky by housing members of its Central Region Extension team.
“This center gives our faculty, specialists and Extension professionals another important place to work directly with producers, entrepreneurs and industry partners,” said Jennifer Hunter, associate dean for Extension and director of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. “The knowledge and resources available here will help Kentuckians address real-world challenges, explore new ideas and move promising products from concept to market.”
The facility was designed by Morris

Workshop Architects and Kirksey Architecture and constructed by Messer Construction.
“The opening of the Meats and Foods Industry Advancement Center marks an exciting new chapter for the C. Oran Little Research Center and Kentucky agriculture,” said Kentucky Rep. Daniel Fister. “As vice chair of the House Agriculture Committee and a representative of Woodford County, I am proud to see this investment strengthening the University of Kentucky’s commitment to research, education and innovation that supports our farmers, livestock producers and food industries. This facility carries forward Dr. Little’s vision while preparing the next generation of Kentucky agricultural leaders for the opportunities ahead.”
The new center is part of a broader series

of transformational capital investments across Martin-Gatton CAFE. The Martin-Gatton Agricultural Sciences Building opened in May, followed by the reopening of Scovell Hall in July. The college is also rebuilding research facilities at the Robinson Center in Jackson and the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton.
“Kentucky has made important investments in meat-processing infrastructure, and this center will build on that progress through research, training and food-safety expertise,” said Laura Stephenson, vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of Martin-Gatton CAFE. “Our role is to listen and provide the expertise Kentucky producers and processors need to solve problems, develop new products and create more value here in Kentucky.”

Construction continues on the Agricultural Research Building, which is expected to open next year and become one of the nation’s premier agricultural research facilities.
Together, these investments are expanding the college’s capacity to educate future leaders, advance research, strengthen Kentucky’s agricultural and food industries and improve lives in communities across all 120 counties.
“Agriculture has always been a cornerstone of Kentucky’s economy and our way of life. With investments like this, Kentucky will remain at the forefront and be strong for years to come,” said Kentucky Sen. Donald Douglas. “The Meats and Foods Industry Advancement Center builds on more than a century of agricultural research and education at the University of Kentucky while giving our students, producers and industry leaders access to the modern facilities they need to compete and succeed. I’m proud of the General Assembly’s continued commitment to UK and Kentucky agriculture, and I look forward to seeing the opportunities this facility creates across the Commonwealth.”



AG NEWS



By Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell

There's something special about October in Kentucky.

October brings crisp, cool mornings, warm afternoon sunshine, and some of the most beautiful fall foliage of the year. The outdoor beauty, comfortable temperatures, and normally dry days make this time of year ideal for outdoor farm trips. It's the perfect time to get out and experience agriculture, which is such an important part of Kentucky's identity.

Agritourism gives us an opportunity to do more than simply drive past a farm. It invites us to stop,

explore, and learn. It might mean visiting a pumpkin patch, picking apples, purchasing fresh produce directly from a farmer, touring a farm, enjoying a corn maze, attending a fall festival, or simply taking the time to talk with the people who grow the food we eat.

For families, agritourism can provide experiences that children remember for years. There is a difference between seeing a picture of a pumpkin and walking through a pumpkin patch searching for the perfect one. There's a difference between

buying a jar of honey at a store and meeting the beekeeper who produced it.

Those experiences create connections, and those connections matter.

Kentucky agriculture is about much more than crops and livestock. It is about families, traditions, hard work, and a way of life that has been passed from one generation to the next. Agritourism allows Kentucky farmers to share that story with people from near and far.



It also provides an important economic opportunity for agricultural operations. When visitors spend money at a farm, farmers' market, orchard, winery, agritourism destination, or other farm-based business, those dollars help support local families and communities.

Perhaps most importantly, agritourism helps remind all of us where our food comes from. In a world where much of our food arrives on grocery

shelves without us ever seeing how it was produced, visiting a farm can be an eye-opening experience. It gives us a chance to appreciate the long hours, uncertainty, patience, and dedication that go into producing food and maintaining a farm.

So, make a commitment to experience a little more of Kentucky agriculture. Visit a farm. Buy something locally grown. Take the kids to a fall festival. Stop by a farmers' market before they close for winter. Learn something new. Thank a farmer.

And when you do, remember that you're not just enjoying an outing. You're supporting Kentucky agriculture, supporting local businesses, and helping preserve a connection to the land that makes our state so special.

October may be our last chance to experience comfortable outdoor temperatures. But it can also be a reminder of something that should never go out of season: our appreciation for Kentucky farmers and the bounty they provide.

‘Surviving the Farm Economy Downturn’: *UK agricultural economists offer new guidance in collaborative farmer resource*

By Jennifer Elwell

LEXINGTON, Ky.—As farmers across the South face tightening margins, elevated production costs and uncertain markets, agricultural economists from the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) are contributing practical guidance to help producers navigate the downturn.

Six of the 36 agricultural economists who contributed to the Southern Extension Risk Management Education Center (SRMEC) publication, titled “Surviving the Farm Economy Downturn: 2026 Update,” are based at Martin-Gatton CAFE.

“Our specialists covered topics from cattle markets and row-crop profitability to lender communication, bankruptcy, alternative crops, value-added

marketing and long-term farm resilience,” said Jennifer Hunter, associate dean for Extension and director of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. “Their contributions reflect the breadth of economic expertise available through the UK Extension.”

According to Jordan Shockley, Ph.D., an Extension professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, the update builds on an earlier version that was developed 10 years ago, when Southern Extension economists saw a need for a coordinated regional resource. With another downturn emerging over the past two to three years, the group decided to update the publication for current conditions and add chapters reflecting new challenges facing producers.

“This is a great example of the working relationship



we have in the Southern region,” Shockley said. “When issues arise for producers here, we get together and respond. The fact that we put this together in a couple of months shows the urgency of the issue and how close-knit and effective we are as economists in the Southeast.”

The SMREC publication, also supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture, includes 24 peer-reviewed articles with strategies to help producers weather

the storm as commodity prices soften and production expenses remain high.

Across the update, several common themes emerge: Producers need to know their costs, communicate early with lenders, preserve liquidity, evaluate risk carefully, avoid short-term decisions that weaken long-term viability and build resilience before the next downturn arrives.

Southern agriculture, Shockley said, is uniquely diverse. Unlike parts of the Midwest, where corn and soybeans dominate, the South

includes a broader mix of livestock operations and crops, including cotton, peanuts and rice. That diversity can provide some protection, but it also means producers face different levels of risk depending on their crop mix, input needs and market exposure.

“Farmers in some Southern states are facing extreme circumstances when it comes to profitability projections,” Shockley said. “Kentucky is fortunate because it has diverse agricultural production, and many of our farms are diverse as well. That helps. But some other states in the Southern region are not in that same position. When producers are choosing between rotations of corn, cotton and peanuts, and all of them are extremely negative from a profitability standpoint, it raises the question: What do

you do?”

Those themes are reflected across the UK-authored and co-authored chapters, which address both immediate financial decisions and longer-term strategies for keeping farm businesses viable.

In addition to Shockley, UK contributors included Kenny Burdine, Grant Gardner, Jonathan Shepherd, Tyler Mark and Tim Woods. Together, their chapters address livestock markets, farm business strategies, row-crop profitability, lender relationships, bankruptcy, alternative crops, value-added marketing and long-term resilience.

Farmers and agricultural professionals can access the publication and related content through the Economic and Policy Update E-newsletter provided by the UK Department of Agricultural Economics at Martin-Gatton CAFE.

Willie B. takes center stage for All in for Ag Education Week

FRANKFORT, Ky. – A dog and his farm adventures helped teach Kentucky students about agriculture and farm safety during this fall’s All in for Ag Education Week, Sept. 21-25.

More than 700 public elementary schools across the Commonwealth received a copy of “Farm Adventures with Willie B.”, along with a Willie B. stuffed dog and standards-based literacy lessons for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Through Willie B.’s farm adventures, students were encouraged to think critically about making wise decisions while learning about Kentucky agriculture. “There may not be a better way to get a child’s attention than with a good dog and a good story,” Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. “Willie B.’s farm adventures can teach students more about Kentucky agriculture and, just as importantly, how to stay safe around the farm.”

In real life, Willie B., an Australian Cattle dog, is the mascot for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s (KDA) Raising Hope Program, which is a part of the Farm Safety and Rural Health Division that focuses on farm safety, farmer’s health, and farm rescue.

Willie B. first became part of Raising Hope through the late Dale Dobson, director of

KDA’s Farm Safety and Rural Health Division. Dobson often brought Willie B. with him to Raising Hope events, where the dog quickly became a favorite among farmers, families, and children.

That popularity eventually earned Willie B. an unofficial role with KDA and a permanent place on the Raising Hope team.

Dobson, who passed away in July, was nationally recognized for his work in farm safety, health, and rescue. He helped build KDA’s farm safety program and spent decades working to protect Kentucky farmers and farm families. His likeness is featured in the book as “Farmer Dale,” allowing his legacy to continue reaching a new generation.

Farm safety was the central theme of this year’s All in for Ag Education Week. The dates coincided with National Farm Safety and Health Week, giving educators an opportunity to connect agriculture education with lessons that can help keep students and farm families safe.

All in for Ag Education Week is a collaborative effort among Commissioner Shell, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, and Kentucky Education Commissioner Robbie Fletcher to expand access to agricultural education across the Commonwealth.

Written by Murray State University agriculture professor Brian Hoover and

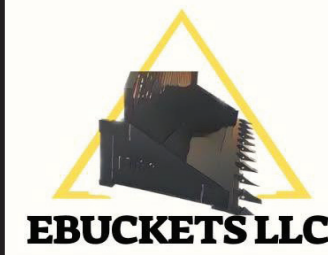
agronomist Emily Schell, and illustrated by Ashley Schell Fowler, “Farm Adventures with Willie B.” follows Willie B. and Farmer Dale through a day on the farm. Along the way, Willie B. helps teach his friends how to stay safe while Farmer Dale tackles chores, goes fishing, and even enjoys a picnic.

“I have enjoyed seeing this project grow from an idea into a finished product with such a meaningful purpose,” Hoover said. “This book is a simple story presented in a simple way with a potential lifesaving and life-changing impact.

The safety message and learning opportunities provided by Willie B.

carry forward the work and legacy of Dale Dobson and his team to

see **WILLIE**, page A9



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from page A7

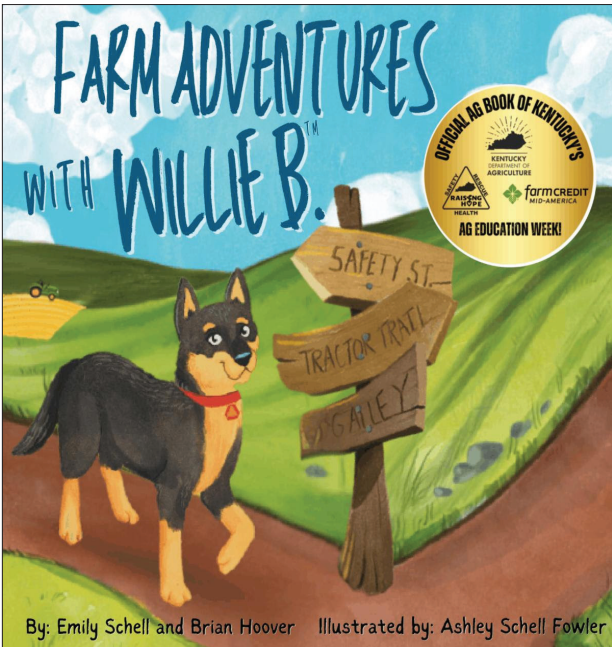
promote safer and healthier agricultural communities.”

“As an agronomist, agriculture safety is something that is very important to me,” Schell said. “This book began as a school project with Dr. Hoover and has turned into so much more. Working with everyone on this project and seeing it become something that children can learn from is absolutely incredible and I can’t wait to see where Willie B. goes next!”

“Creating the illustrations alongside a group of individuals who are deeply knowledgeable and passionate about agriculture and

agricultural safety has been such a rewarding experience,” Fowler said. “Utilizing my skills to support agricultural safety is so important to me, as somebody who grew up in and around farms in rural Kentucky.”

The book and accompanying classroom materials are made possible through a partnership among the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Raising Hope, and Farm Credit Mid-America.



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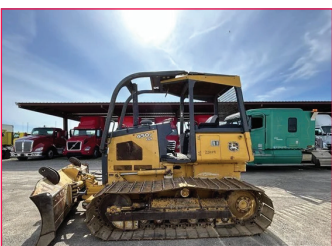
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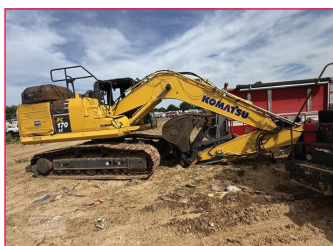
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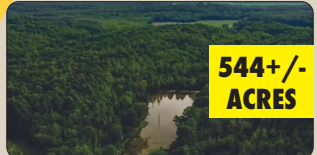
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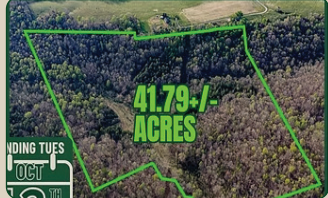
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Productive but priced out: Why input prices matter for US corn competitiveness

By Nicole Hasheider

The National Corn Growers Association today released the second installment of a series related to the prices U.S. farmers pay for crop inputs

compared to Brazilian farmers. This report explores further the impact of input prices on U.S. corn competitiveness in a global market.

“U.S. farmers are the most productive, and

efficient, producers of corn in the world,” says Krista Swanson, NCGA’s chief economist. “But the

see **PRODUCTIVE**, page A13

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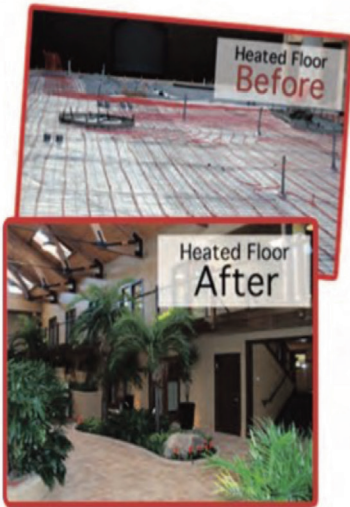
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PRODUCTIVE,
from page A12

advantages that should be gained from producing more output with fewer inputs are minimized, and sometimes erased, due to the difference in pricing structures.”

As the report notes, from an economic perspective, producing more output with fewer inputs should create a durable competitive advantage. However, this has not proven to be true in recent years.

Increasingly, higher input costs are undermining some of the advantages U.S.



growers have earned through superior productivity and efficiency.

“Looking at per-bushel or per-acre costs does not tell a complete story,” says Swanson. “That’s why we spent months digging into input costs for U.S. and Brazilian farmers on a per-unit basis. And we found that U.S. farmers are put at a disadvantage when it comes to paying for the same or similar inputs to grow a crop.”

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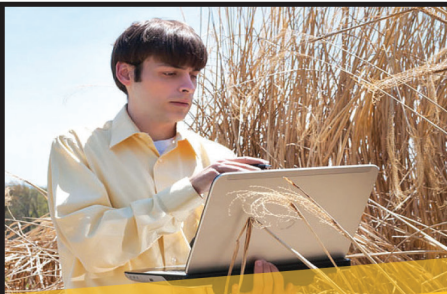
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Mule helps scientists build the clearest horse and donkey genomes yet

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.—
A mule has helped researchers build the most complete reference genomes to date for horses and donkeys, giving scientists access to complex regions of DNA that earlier versions could not fully capture.

Led by researchers in the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) and published in Cell Genomics, the international study introduces new genomes that provide a clearer view of centromeres, telomeres and other highly repetitive parts of chromosomes. These historically impossible-to-assemble regions are important for understanding how chromosomes work, how species evolve and genetic differences that may affect animal health and physical traits.

Ted Kalbfleisch, Ph.D, a researcher in the UK Department of Veterinary Science, provided leadership for the project. Kai Li, also in the Department of Veterinary Science, was one of the study's lead authors.

"For a long time, some of the most complex regions of the horse genome were essentially invisible to us," Li said. "With this new reference genome, we can finally begin to explore those regions and ask how they contribute to chromosome biology, genetic diversity and traits that matter in horses."

The researchers created new horse

and donkey genomes using DNA from a female mule. A mule receives one set of chromosomes from its horse mother and another set from its donkey father; however, their DNA contains enough differences for scientists to tell the two sets apart—making the mule an especially useful animal for this project.

Instead of trying to separate two very similar sets of horse chromosomes, the researchers could identify which pieces came from the Thoroughbred mother and which came from the donkey father. Scientists call this process "phasing," allowing the team to reconstruct a horse genome and a donkey genome from the same animal.

The team combined several advanced DNA-sequencing methods. Some produced highly accurate reads on the order of 10s of thousands of bases, while others produced extremely long DNA reads (100s of thousands of bases). These new technologies made it possible to assemble the very repetitive telomeres and centromeres. The researchers also used information about how different parts of chromosomes physically interact. Together, these methods helped them place millions of DNA letters in the correct order.

The resulting assemblies are described as telomere-to-telomere, or T2T, genomes. Telomeres are protective structures at the ends of



A mule's unique combination of horse and donkey DNA helped UK researchers and their colleagues build the most complete reference genomes yet for both species.
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chromosomes, much like the plastic tips on shoelaces. A T2T assembly aims to follow a chromosome from one end to the other while leaving as few gaps as possible.

A small number of gaps and unanchored chromosome ends remain because some repetitive regions are still difficult to assemble. Even so, the new genomes add a large amount of sequence that was missing from earlier references. Compared with the genomes they replace, the horse assembly contains about 11.4% more sequence, while the donkey assembly contains about 11.5% more.

The National Center for Biotechnology Information has adopted and annotated the assemblies as reference genomes for horses and donkeys. Reference genomes act like maps that researchers use when studying genetic differences among animals.

One of the largest

improvements involves centromeres. A centromere is the region that helps pull copies of a

chromosome apart when a cell divides. If this process goes wrong, cells may end up with missing or extra chromosomes.

Centromeres are often surrounded by satellite DNA, which consists of short genetic sequences repeated thousands or even millions of times. These repeated patterns made centromeres nearly impossible to assemble accurately with older sequencing technology.

The researchers found that satellite DNA makes up about 9% of the horse genome and 8.3% of the donkey genome. They also discovered that horse and donkey centromeres are more varied than centromeres in many other mammals.

Most horse centromeres are built within large areas of satellite DNA. Donkeys are different. Sixteen donkey centromeres do not contain

satellite DNA, while the remaining 15 use several different types of satellite sequences.

The findings also show that centromeres can move within a chromosome without changing the underlying DNA sequence. Earlier research found that some satellite-free centromeres could shift within a region of about 600,000 DNA letters. The new study found variation in donkeys across an area as large as 2.8 million DNA letters. It also showed that movement can occur in centromeres containing satellite DNA.

Beyond explaining chromosome evolution, the new reference genomes may improve studies of equine health, disease, breeding and genetic diversity. Researchers will be able to examine areas that were missing or incorrectly arranged in older genome maps.

"We can now inexpensively build very accurate, very

complete phased genomes. These assemblies were derived from a Thoroughbred dam, and a donkey sire," Kalbfleisch said. "We and others are now working to assemble the genomes of horses from different breeds, and different health conditions. This assembly will serve as a backbone to our Horse Pangenome effort, where we will compare all these horses against one another and learn how Clydesdales, Arabians and all other breeds differ from one another both at the nucleotide level and now structurally."

The assemblies will also support the Equine Pangenome Project, which is building a broader picture of genetic variation across horse breeds. That effort will help scientists identify structural differences, study immune-response genes and better understand how genetic changes relate to traits and disease risks.

Learn more about the Department of Veterinary Science at vetsci.mgcafe.uky.edu.

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2024-67015-42330. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Agriculture.

New reference genomes fill long-standing gaps and offer a closer look at how equine chromosomes have.

Purchase District Health Department Neighborhood Farmer’s Market celebrates Community Preparedness with September event

Paducah, KY — The Purchase District Health Department (PDHD) held its PDHD Neighborhood Farmers Market on September 24 in the back parking lot of the McCracken County Health Center in Paducah.

The theme was “Y’all Ready for This? Community Preparedness.

The market welcomed everyone in the community, whether they were stopping by after work, shopping for fresh locally grown produce, participating in educational classes, or simply enjoying a vibrant neighborhood gathering.

Visitors had the opportunity to learn practical skills for preserving and preparing food through two engaging educational sessions:

“Fresh Longer, Waste Less”

The McCracken County Extension Office’s Champion Food Volunteers presented a class on food safety and preservation basics. Participants discovered easy techniques to prepare, preserve, and properly store farmers market produce to keep it fresh longer, reduce food waste, and maximize their grocery budget.

“Preparedness You Can Taste”

This interactive session demonstrated how everyday emergency food supplies can be transformed into delicious and nutritious meals and snacks. Attendees learned practical tips for building a food pantry that supports both preparedness and healthy eating.

Families were also encouraged to participate in the market’s popular POP Club (Power of Produce) program. This month, children and youth under age 18 had the opportunity to take part in a fun taste test challenge to see if they can tell the difference between store-bought and farm-fresh vegetables.

Every participating child received \$2 in POP Bucks to spend with farmers and vendors at the market, helping young shoppers explore and enjoy fresh, local foods while supporting area growers.

In addition to educational opportunities and youth activities, guests were able to:

Shop fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers

Meet local agencies and community organizations

Enter to win raffle prizes

Enjoy free giveaways

Learn valuable preparedness and food preservation skills

Connect with neighbors in a family-friendly environment

In addition to this month’s event, organizers invited community members to mark their calendars for the final PDHD Neighborhood Farmers Market of the 2026 season on Thursday, October 15.

The season finale will feature a mental health-focused theme, highlighting resources, activities, and educational opportunities that support emotional well-being while continuing to celebrate healthy living, local agriculture, and strong community connections.

The market continues to serve as a community gathering place where residents can access fresh foods, learn practical skills, support local farmers, and connect with organizations working to improve the health and well-being of our region.

Community members are encouraged to stop by, learn something new, and experience the many benefits of buying local while strengthening neighborhood connections.

Come celebrate healthy living, strong community connections, community preparedness, and local agriculture at the PDHD Neighborhood Farmers Market. Help support local farmers while eating well and feeling good in the neighborhood!

The PDHD Neighborhood Farmer’s Market would not be possible without our wonderful sponsors: Kentucky Farm Bureau, Mercy Health, and Paducah Bank; Sara Gipson Group, Systems Solutions, Turning Point RCC; Allen Auto Sales, CFSB, and Davis Drugs. Double dollars funding was received by a grant from Kentucky Double Dollars.

For more information about PDHD programs or the Neighborhood Farmer’s Market, please call 270-444-9631

Tennessee Department of Agriculture names Deputy Commissioner

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Andy Holt today announced Jenny Howard will serve as Deputy Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), effective Sept. 28, 2026. The appointment coincides with Ryan King’s transition back to the private sector.

Howard has served as Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) since March 2023. She previously served TDEC as General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, and Legislative Liaison. During Howard’s 14 years with TDEC, she provided legal, legislative, and operational guidance across a department of more than 2,000 employees. Howard’s leadership expertise includes advising executive leadership through high-impact decisions and improving organizational efficiency by refining internal processes.

As TDA Deputy Commissioner, Howard will lead day-to-day operations, support the executive team in carrying out the department’s goals, and advance Commissioner Holt’s vision for Tennessee agriculture and forestry.

“Jenny brings experience in state government and leadership, along with an educational and personal background in agriculture,” Holt said. “I look forward to her joining TDA and helping lead the department. I also want to thank Ryan King for his service as Deputy Commissioner and for his contributions to TDA and the people of Tennessee.”

During his tenure, King oversaw the expansion of cost-share options, historic investments in agriculture and agribusiness, Gov. Lee’s \$92 million investment in 4-H and FFA camps, and funding for the State Meat Inspection Program. He also supported the launch of the new pesticide recertification process, elevated the Agricultural Crime Unit and advocated for rural infrastructure improvements. Internally, he strengthened TDA’s organizational structure, established consistent workplace expectations and fostered a more mission-driven approach to serving Tennessee’s farm and forest families.

Howard grew up in Florida working in her family’s wholesale nursery business. She earned a bachelor of science in horticultural science from the University of Florida and a Doctor of Jurisprudence and Law and Business Certificate from Vanderbilt University Law School.

“I am honored to continue serving Tennessee in this new role,” Howard said. “Growing up in an agribusiness family instilled in me a lifelong appreciation for the hardworking people in agriculture and forestry. Throughout my career, I have valued the opportunity to work with diverse stakeholder groups to provide clear, predictable regulatory expectations while fostering an environment where businesses can thrive. I look forward to joining the talented and dedicated TDA team and supporting the department’s work across the state.”

Howard is a graduate of LEAD Tennessee and of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute. She has been named a Nashville Business Journal “40 Under 40” honoree and voted “Best of the Bar.”

She lives in Nashville with her husband and two daughters and enjoys weekend family outings to Tennessee agritourism destinations.

Translation and interpretation services for this press release are available free of charge. Please contact Kim. Doddridge@tn.gov.





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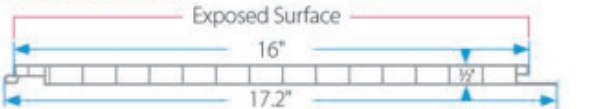
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USDA Deputy Secretary

Stephen Vaden meets with farmers to discuss input costs

USDA Deputy Secretary Vaden heard directly from 170 farmers from 13 states in Ogden, Iowa today about the current pressures farmers are facing, including rising fertilizer costs and uncertainty on fertilizer availability for next growing season.

“I’m here because I care about this issue and we are working to bring actions down the pike that will seek to shine a light on what’s been going on in the fertilizer market,” Deputy Secretary Vaden said.

Pat Clements, Kentucky farmer and agriculture professional, participated on a panel discussion on the topic.

Farmers with information about unfair fertilizer practices or pricing can visit [savefamilyfarms.us](#) to confidentially participate in the Department of Justice investigation. Firsthand experiences from farmers will be critical as investigations move forward.

KY Small Grains thanks the Iowa Corn Growers Association for hosting the “Fed Up” fertilizer hearing. The event was made possible by the Colorado Corn Council, Georgia Corn Growers Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, IL Corn, Kansas Corn, Kansas Wheat, Kentucky Corn, Michigan Corn, Minnesota Corn, Missouri Corn, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, North Dakota Corn Growers Association, Ohio Corn & Wheat, South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association, South Dakota Corn Utilization Council, South Dakota Wheat Growers Association, Texas Corn Producers, and Wisconsin Corn.

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