



October 17, 2025

The

Guardian

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Mayfield Students Lead Hispanic Heritage Celebration

By: Laurna Todd;
KPI WRITER

The Mayfield Foreign Language Club hosted its 5th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Festival, celebrating the rich culture, music, and traditions that make the community so vibrant. The event drew a large crowd eager to experience a day full of culture, food, music, and family fun at Mayfield High School.

The success of this year's celebration was due to the incredible support from the community, the talented Mariachi Cardinal, hardworking students who spent their fall break preparing dances and musical performances, energetic karaoke participants, dedicated vendors, and generous sponsors who helped bring it all together. Festivalgoers enjoyed authentic cuisine, tra-



PHOTO from Mayfield High School facebook page, taken by JOSEPH "PEE WEE" PETTY

ditional music, and colorful performances that highlighted the diversity within Mayfield's Hispanic community. The karaoke challenge added an extra dose of excitement—especially when Isais took home the cash prize for his winning performance.

The festival, sponsored by the Mayfield High

School Foreign Language Club, continues to grow each year as students and families come together to honor Hispanic culture through art, dance, and education.

In addition to the festivities, the school spotlighted several members of the Cardinal family who embody the spirit of Hispanic Heritage Month

through leadership and service:

Ms. Carmen Alvarez Reynoso, Liaison, Advocate, and Tutor for the Kentucky Migrant Education Program, originally from Nayarit, Mexico, has supported local families since 2018.

Coach Juan Garcia, Goalkeepers Coach for both the boys' and girls'

soccer teams, proudly represents his Mexican roots through mentorship and teamwork on and off the field.

Coach Luis Fabian, Head Coach for both Mayfield soccer teams, bus driver, and EL Assistant at Mayfield Middle School, has called Mayfield home for 25 years after moving from

Michoacán, Mexico.

Mrs. Teresa Fabian, Mayfield High School's LINKS Coordinator, credits her education as the foundation of her success and continues to inspire students daily.

Coach Jose Pineda, Assistant JV and Varsity Boys Soccer Coach, serves as another valued role model within the Cardinal community. Fully bilingual, Pineda says his ability to speak both English and Spanish has opened many opportunities for him—both personally and professionally.

Mrs. Arlin Arellano, an EL Assistant Teacher and proud first-generation Mexican American, was born in Zacatecas, Mexico, and came to the United States as an infant. She continues to celebrate her heritage while helping students embrace their own cultural identities.

Mrs. Ana Arellano,

Hispanic Heritage continues to.....back page

Registration for WKAS Low Income Program Opens Early

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

The West Kentucky Allied Services(WKAS) is offering early registration for those who are 60 or older and those who are disabled. The early registration is for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), subsidy applications. Early registration officially began on October 6 and will continue until November 2. However,

if you are in this category for early registration and you miss the November 2 deadline, no worries, the standard registration time will begin November 3, and end on December 12, 2025.

The subsidy offers one-time assistance with electric, natural gas, propane or kerosene costs and it does not require a disconnect notice, a past due bill or eviction notice. Benefits are paid directly to the

household's vendor and can be applied as a credit on the recipient's account. Applications will be accepted during the enrollment period on a first-come, first serve basis. The income eligibility for the program is up to and including 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

All applicants will be required to supply the following documentation at the time of application: proof of Social Security number or

permanent resident card (green card) for each member of the household; proof of income for all household members from the preceding month; either the household's most current heating bill, a statement from their utility company if they participate in a prepay electric program or, if electricity is included in their rent, a statement from their landlord; the account number and name on the

account for the main heating fuel sources. If you are interested in applying, you can call all locations for appointments and the main office can be reached at 800-294- 2731. Individuals who cannot visit during normal business hours will need to let the WKAS workers know, and then you can visit WKAS until 6 p.m. on Thursdays only. Those who qualify for early registration but cannot make it to an office in

October can still make appointments for November, when the broader window for applications opens. West Kentucky Allied Services serves several surrounding counties including McCracken, Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman and Marshall counties. In Graves County, the WKAS office can be found at 328 E. Broadway St. To contact the office, call 270-247-4946.

Pumpkins in the Park Draws More Than 1,600 for Fall Fun



By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

Graves County is embracing its spooky namesake all month long with Halloween celebrations and fall festivities throughout Mayfield. Residents are encouraged to check the schedule each week to save the dates for favorite autumn traditions and discover some haunting new adventures along the way.

More than 1,600 people flocked to the Mayfield-Graves County Fairgrounds Saturday afternoon for the annual Pumpkins in the Park event, a fall

favorite that continues to grow each year.

Hosted by WK&T and West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (WKRECC), the family-friendly event offered something for Halloween fans of all ages. From inflatables and food trucks to games, prizes, and live entertainment, there was no shortage of seasonal fun.

Pumpkins in the Park has become a beloved local tradition, with the spacious fairgrounds providing the perfect setting for families to gather and enjoy the activities they look forward to

each fall. Organizers said the event continues to expand in both attendance and community participation each year.

Family Fun and Superhero Surprises Highlights of this year's festival included the Tea Party with a Princess, where children met their favorite storybook royals, and the Capes and Clicks Photo Opportunity, featuring Spider-Man, Superman, and a live transformation of Clark Kent into the Man of Steel.

Adding a spooky touch were the return of eerie stories, delighting crowds with

ghostly tales perfect for the Halloween season. Organizers said they were thrilled by the strong turnout and enthusiasm shown by families who came ready to "carve out some fun."

The 2025 Pumpkins in the Park was held Saturday, Oct. 11, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Mayfield-Graves County Fairgrounds, located at Highway 121 and North 17th Street in Mayfield.

More Spooky Fun Ahead in Graves County

Graves County's fall festivities are just getting started! The following events will

keep the Halloween spirit alive throughout October:

- Oct. 17-18**
 - Cartwright Grove Haunted Grove Festival
 - "Heathers" at Purchase Players
- Oct. 18**
 - Trick or Treat in the RVs at Youngblood's RV & Outdoor, sponsored by Community Financial Services Bank
 - A-Maize-ing Farms 275 Ticket Giveaway
- Pumpkin Dan's Jack-O'-Lantern Trail at FeatherStone Farm
- Oct. 23**
 - First Kentucky Bank Glow in the Park at Kess Creek Park

- Oct. 24-25**
 - Cartwright Grove Haunted Grove Festival
 - "Heathers" at Purchase Players
 - Pumpkin Dan's Jack-O'-Lantern Trail at FeatherStone Farm
 - Oct. 25**
 - First National Bank Glowing Graves Parade
 - Oct. 31 & Nov. 1**
 - Pumpkin Dan's Jack-O'-Lantern Trail at FeatherStone Farm
- From glowing parades to haunted trails, Graves County is lighting up the season with events that bring families, friends, and a little Halloween spirit together all month long.



Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. approves more than \$4.5 million in loans

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. (KAFC) approved 23 agricultural loans totaling \$4,576,205 for projects across the Commonwealth today at its monthly board meeting.

Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program (AILP)
Five Agricultural Infrastructure loans totaling up to \$1,004,350 were approved. Loan recipients were in Graves (\$10,000, \$250,000, and \$250,000), Ohio (\$250,000), and Taylor (\$244,350) counties.

KAFC participates with lenders to provide financing to producers making capital expenditures for agricultural projects through the AILP. Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations. Producers may be eligible for up to \$250,000 not to exceed 50 percent of the project.

Beginning Farmer Loan Program (BFLP)
Fifteen Beginning Farmer loans totaling up to \$2,821,855 were approved. Loan recipients were in Clinton (\$74,980), Graves (\$250,000), Grayson (\$62,500 and \$152,500), Green (\$125,000, \$220,000, \$250,000 and \$250,000), Harrison (\$250,000), Logan (\$250,000), Marshall (\$250,000), McClean (\$250,000), Metcalfe (\$150,000), Scott (\$173,375), and Shelby (\$113,500) counties.

The BFLP is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to develop, expand, or buy into a farming operation. Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, or agriculture facilities; to secure permanent working capital; for the purchase of farm real estate; or to invest in a partnership or LLC.

Diversification through Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Program (DEALP)
Two Diversification through Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness loans totaling up to \$500,000 were approved. Loan recipients were in Bath (\$250,000) and Logan (\$250,000) counties.

DEALP is designed to assist agri-entrepreneurs with the purchase, establishment or expansion of a business that sells agricultural products or services to farmers or consumers.

Large/Food Animal Veterinary Loan Program (LFAVLP)
One LFAVLP Loan totaling \$250,000 was approved for a recipient in Owen County.

LFAVLP is designed to assist individuals licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Kentucky who desire to construct, expand, equip, or buy into a practice serving large animal producers, including goat, sheep, swine, and other smaller food animals.

For more information on KAFC participation loans, contact your lender or Bill McCloskey at Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 382-6093 or email kafc@ky.gov.

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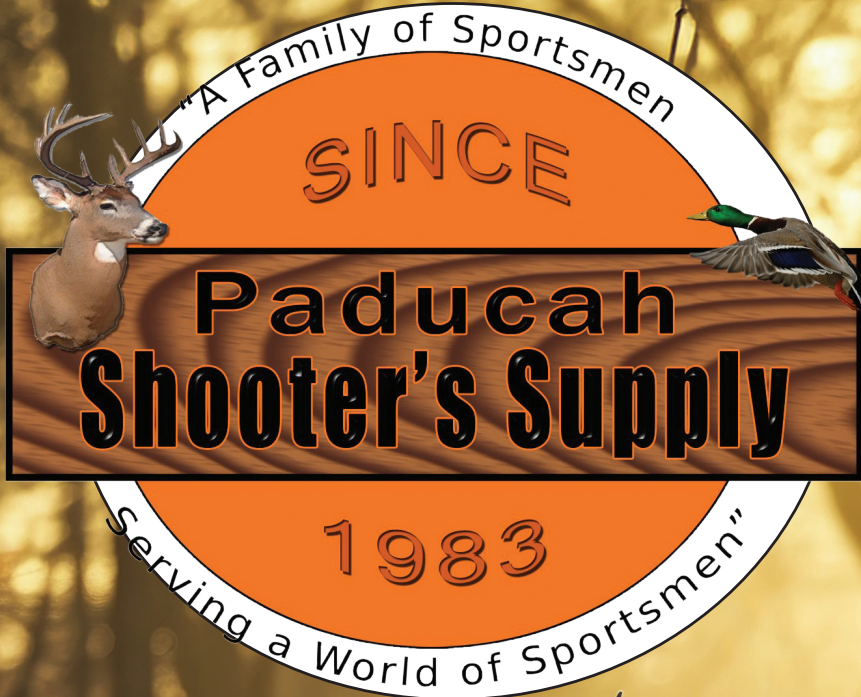
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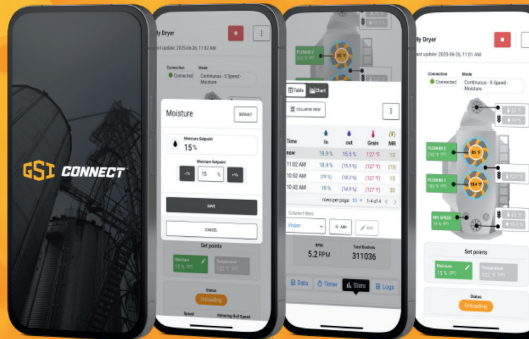
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Kentucky needs public charter schools

An educator’s plea for choice

BY: Gus LaFontaine

I was a public school teacher. Many of my closest friends still are, and my daughter attends our local public school. I know firsthand the challenges teachers face and the slow pace of systemic change. I stepped away from traditional public schools over 15 years ago, not from a lack of faith in public education, but to create a better model for students, families and teachers. That journey led me to apply to open what could become Kentucky’s first public charter school. I believe more families – especially those with limited financial means – deserve real options for their children’s education. Kentucky’s teachers deserve environments where they are trusted, supported and

given the freedom to innovate. Public charter schools can deliver these opportunities. Critics argue charter schools undermine the traditional system. I understand those concerns, but the current system – while serving many – certainly isn’t meeting every student’s needs. It’s a one-size-fits-all approach that fails too many students. To those in our traditional system of schools, let me ask: Are you satisfied with Kentucky’s only public education option? If so, I’m happy for you. If not, you’re not alone. I’m advocating for Kentuckians to have access to an additional public education model that operates successfully in all states bordering ours and in nearly every one – red and blue – across the nation.



Gus LaFontaine

The school we built 15 years ago, which I hope will eventually become a public charter school, wasn’t designed to compete. We built it because we couldn’t wait for smaller class sizes, better teacher support or systemic fixes that never came. Now, we want to offer this tuition-free, open-to-all public education model to others. Here’s what our school offers: Our teachers teach four days a week, with the fifth day for uninterrupted planning. They have hour-long lunches. Class sizes are capped at 16 students. There

is room to teach, collaborate and recharge. Our students get three recesses a day and are free of the burden of excessive test preparation. They move, play and grow. Critics claim charter schools will harm traditional public schools. But if we trust our public schools, why fear giving families options? Public schools will still have the largest budgets, most experienced teachers and best facilities. They’re not going anywhere. I believe in public schools. I also believe many families want options. Those goals can coexist. Critics say only the privileged will benefit. But wealthy families already have options. For low-income families, single parents and students who don’t fit neatly into – or

thrive in – a uniform system, having only one option limits them in ways I believe are unjust. Kentucky teachers in traditional systems have ideas about how schools could better serve students and whisper to me that they’re ready to innovate. A public charter school system in Kentucky would empower them to act on their ideas, fostering innovation that benefits students and families. We must recognize that many families feel trapped in a standardized system and create schools that meet diverse student needs while empowering teachers. That’s why I’m hopeful Kentucky’s Supreme Court will soon rule that charter schools are constitutional under legislation passed by the General Assembly, enabling families,

students and teachers to finally have real choices within our public education system. Gus LaFontaine and his wife, Kristin, founded LaFontaine Preparatory School, a nonprofit private school in Madison County, in 2011 after a tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Kentucky Army National Guard. A former public-school teacher, LaFontaine sought to create an innovative approach to early education. The school has grown from 13 half-day pre-kindergarteners to over 175 students in pre-K through fifth grade. LaFontaine has applied to convert his school to Kentucky’s first public charter school. He’s a party in a Kentucky Supreme Court case challenging the constitutionality of legislation funding public charter schools.

Baptist Health Paducah invites community to Baby & Family Health Expo

PADUCAH, KY - Baptist Health Paducah invites all parents-to-be and growing families to its Baby & Family Health Expo on Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 4:30–6:30 p.m. Join physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers

in the Larry Barton Atrium located inside Medical Park 2 to learn how Baptist Health Paducah can care for families through all stages of life. Whether you’re beginning a family, or thinking about growing it, you will

have the chance to meet with an assortment of local vendors at the expo. The Baby & Family Health Expo will help individuals find the provider that is right for them and their family by having representatives from OB/GYN, Labor

& Delivery, NICU, pediatrics, primary care, family medicine and others in attendance. Along with meeting providers, the Baby & Family Health Expo will include: Guided Tours: See the renovated Mother/Baby suites

with guided tours happening every 30 minutes throughout the expo. Vendors: Visit with Baptist Health Paducah-affiliated and community vendors. Family fun: Enjoy a kid’s craft table with coloring books and Play-Doh.

Giveaways and door prizes: From car seats to breast pumps, door prizes will be announced every 20 minutes throughout the event. All community members are invited to attend this free event.

Kentucky’s Charter Schools

A New Era of Choice and Controversy

Charter schools in Kentucky represent a relatively new chapter in the state’s education system. Although charter schools have been authorized by law since 2017, their implementation has faced significant delays due to funding and political debates. In 2022, the Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation requiring state and local education funding to follow students to charter schools, effectively paving the way for their creation. Charter schools are

publicly funded but operate independently of traditional school districts. Supporters argue that they provide families with more educational choices and foster innovation through flexible teaching methods and specialized curricula. They believe that charter schools can raise academic performance by encouraging competition and accountability. Opponents, however, worry that diverting funds from public schools could weaken already under-resourced districts, particularly in

rural areas. They also question whether charter schools will serve all students equitably, including those with special needs. As of 2025, Kentucky’s first charter schools are in early stages of development, with applications emerging in major cities like Louisville and Lexington. Their success or failure will likely shape the future of education reform in the state, influencing debates over school choice, funding priorities, and the role of public accountability in education.

Public Notice

Applicant Patti’s Enterprises, LLC, having the mailing address of 1793 JH O’Bryan Ave, Suite 1, Grand Rivers, KY 42045, hereby declares its intention to apply for a Quota Retail Drink License. The licensed premises will be located at 1793 JH O’Bryan Avenue, Suite 1, Grand Rivers, Kentucky 42045, and will be operated under the name Calvin Swine’s Moonshine & More dba Calvin’s. Patti’s Enterprises, LLC is the sole member and owner of Applicant. Applicant’s designated manager is Michael Lee Grimes of 151 Wabash Ave, KY 42045. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the licenses by writing the Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St., Frankfort, KY 40601, within 30 days (DRS 243.430) of the date of this legal publication. (10-17-25, LL, 1x)

ORDINANCE NO. 05 -2025
CITY OF GRAND RIVERS, KENTUCKY

ANNUAL TAX RATES

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL TAX RATES

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Rivers annually sets tax rates based upon the 2025 tax roll assessment for the assessment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Rivers has reviewed the proposed tax rates as based upon calculations provided by the Pennyrile Area Development District,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF GRAND RIVERS, KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Annual Tax Rates: The annual tax rates, based upon the current assessment, for real and personal property in the City of Grand Rivers shall be:

Real Property Tax Rate	.263
Personal Property Tax Rate	.3788
Inventories	.3788

SECTION 2: Discount and Penalty: All taxes due as set forth herein shall be subject to a discount of two percent (2%) for all tax bills paid on or before November 30, 2025. All taxes due as set forth herein shall be subject to a flat penalty of ten percent (10%) if paid after December 31, 2025 and an additional monthly penalty of one-half of one percent (0.5%) for all bills paid after February 1, 2026.

SECTION 3: Governmental Revenue: All revenue received from taxes as set forth herein is for governmental purposes for the operation of City government.

SECTION 4: Severability and Enactment: All ordinances, orders, resolutions, motions or parts thereof insofar as some may be in conflict herewith are repealed.

This ordinance shall be published and take effect thereafter.

Date of First Reading of Ordinance: September 9, 2025

Date of Second Reading of Ordinance: October 14, 2025

Date of Publication of Ordinance:

Ordinance published in: Livingston Ledger

Ordinance Referenced: Minutes Book , Page



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West KY Sports



Reviving stagnant running attack will be crucial for Cards at Miami



BluegrassPreps.com High School Football Rankings

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) - Louisville's football team began the season with high expectations for its rushing attack, and with good reason; the Cardinals boasted a trio of experienced, talented running backs led by 2024 ACC Rookie of the Year Isaac Brown.

Brown set a U of L freshman record with 1,173 rushing yards and scored 11 touchdowns. He was backed up by two other reliable and dangerous sophomores in Duke Watson and Keyjuan Brown.

But instead of dominating, the Cards' running attack has disappeared, and the timing couldn't be worse as they get ready to face No. 2 Miami (5-0, 1-0) and the Hurricanes' ferocious defense in prime time Friday night at 7 in Hard Rock Stadium.

Going into the game Louisville is averaging only 115 yards per game rushing, which

ranks 12th in the FBS, and its running backs haven't scored a touchdown since Isaac Brown's 78-yard dash in a 40-17 romp past overmatched Bowling Green on Sept. 20. The bulk of the Cards' rushing yards came in their first three games against Eastern Kentucky, James Madison and the Falcons.

Against Power 4 opponents in the last two outings, they have managed a total of just 107 yards, 53 in a 34-27 win at Pittsburgh and 54 in a 30-27 loss to Virginia. In those two games, Brown has netted 86 yards on 27 tries, but even that modest total is deceiving. Take away his 78-yard TD and he has averaged less than a half yard per trip. Watson has fared better, with 49 yards in 15 tries for a 3.2 ypc average.

"We need to find ways to run the ball more effectively and be able to put some pressure on the defense," U of L

coach Jeff Brohm said. "That way, instead of having to throw the ball quite as much, that will be important as we proceed forward. We just have to play more efficient. We're just going to have to go make plays. We'll have an opportunity this week, but we're going to have to block these guys and find a way to create some big plays."

Granted, all three running backs have been banged up, but it has been apparent that of L has problems in the offensive line, which hasn't been able to protect quarterback Miller Moss consistently, as well as being unable to open holes for Isaac Brown and company to get started.

"Our offensive line has to play better," offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Brian Brohm said.

However, Coral Gables isn't an ideal place to go seeking an offensive repair job. Far from it. Running

against the Canes' front is like trying to bust through a brick wall with a head start -- painful, pointless and over before you know it.

Miami ranks second in the ACC and 25th nationally in rushing yards allowed at 87.4 yards per game and are second to Louisville in total defense in the league, allowing 276 yards against a much stronger schedule than the Cards (262 ypg).

"Their defensive line is very good," Brian Brohm said. "They've got really good pass rushers. Remind you a little bit of the Florida State team from 2023 that we played in the ACC championship game (a 16-6 loss). They're just really good up front, going to present a challenge for us. And we've got to do some different things protection wise to try to keep them on their toes."

The Canes aren't just fast and talented,

they're cocky, confident and mean, reminiscent of Jimmy Johnson's dominant Miami teams in the mid-to-late '80s. In the 1987 Fiesta Bowl against Penn State in a game that was billed as good vs. evil, the Canes arrived dressed as storm troopers, wearing green and brown Army fatigues. Even without the pregame look, Jeff Brohm expects them to show up Friday night ready to go to war.

"Trust me, it shows up on tape," he said. "They've got two defensive ends that are really talented and fast and strong along with some big guys up front and fast linebackers. They're not overly complicated, but when you're that talented, you don't have to be. They come off the ball, they strike and they do a very good job."

- Class 1A
1. Pikeville
 2. Raceland
 3. Kentucky Country Day
 4. Campbellsville
 5. Sayre
 6. Hazard
 7. Middlesboro
 8. Louisville Holy Cross
 9. Covington Holy Cross
 10. Newport Central Catholic
- Class 2A
1. Beechwood
 2. Lexington Christian Academy
 3. Owensboro Catholic
 4. Mayfield
 5. Belfry
 6. Somerset
 7. Monroe County
 8. Prestonsburg
 9. Danville
 10. Hancock County
- Class 3A
1. Christian Academy-Louisville
 2. Lexington Catholic
 3. Bell County
 4. Murray
 5. Glasgow
 6. Lawrence County
 7. Lloyd Memorial
 8. Bourbon County
 9. East Carter
 10. Bardstown
- Class 4A
1. Boyle County
 2. Highlands
 3. Covington Catholic
 4. Johnson Central
 5. Franklin County
 6. Paducah Tilghman
 7. Corbin
 8. North Oldham
 9. Logan County
 10. Ashland
- Class 5A
1. Woodford County
 2. Madisonville-North Hopkins
 3. Owensboro
 4. Bowling Green
 5. Cooper
 6. Scott County
 7. Atherton
 8. Pulaski County
 9. North Laurel
 10. Collins
- Class 6A
1. Trinity
 2. South Warren
 3. St. Xavier
 4. Manual
 5. Frederick Douglass
 6. Ryle
 7. Madison Central
 8. Male
 9. Bryan Station
 10. Ballard

Purdue tops preseason AP Top 25 poll for 1st time; Kentucky comes in at No. 9, Louisville at 11

By AARON BEARD - AP Basketball Writer

Purdue is No. 1 in the preseason Associated Press Top 25 college basketball poll for the first time.

The Boilermakers earned 35 of 61 first-place votes to top Monday's poll to begin the 2025-26 season. That put Matt Painter's squad ahead of the two teams that played in last year's NCAA title game, with runner-up Houston at No. 2 and reigning champion Florida at No. 3.

"We are obviously excited to get the season going and being ranked No. 1 in the preseason is a great indicator of what we feel this team can accomplish," Painter said. "But the goal is to be No. 1 at the end of the year. We're thrilled that people think this highly of our team, but there is a long ways to go and a lot of work to do to reach that goal in April."

Purdue started a year ranked as high as No. 2 once before, in 1987-88 under Gene Keady.

It's another milestone for Painter,

the former Keady player who has built his own successful program that is still looking for its NCAA title breakthrough as he enters his 21st season. Purdue had never been ranked No. 1 in any AP poll before the 2021-22 season, which marked the first of three straight seasons in which the Boilermakers have reached the top. The last was during the 2023-24 season behind two-time AP national player of the year Zach Edey in a run all the way to the national title game.

The Boilermakers reached last year's Sweet 16 before falling to Houston on a last-second basket, but return a first-team AP All-American in point guard Braden Smith, scoring leader Trey Kaufman-Renn (20.1) and veteran guard Fletcher Loyer.

Kentucky, which plays Purdue in an exhibition game in Rupp Arena on Oct. 24, came in at No. 9 Louisville cracked the preseason top 25 for the first time since 2019, landing at No. 11. The Cats and Cardinals play an early regular-season

battle on Nov. 11 at the KFC Yum! Center.

The top tier

Kelvin Sampson's Cougars earned 16 first-place votes to match the program's best-ever preseason AP ranking after last year's finals run. The other No. 2 appearance was by the 1967-68 team led by Elvin Hayes.

Todd Golden's Gators earned eight first-place votes to start this year with their highest preseason ranking since the last time they entered a year as reigning champions in 2006-07, the start of a run to a second straight title.

UConn was next at No. 4 and earned the remaining two first-place votes. St. John's was fifth, with Rick Pitino's Red Storm surpassing the program's previous best ranking in a preseason AP poll (No. 7 in 1984-85).

Duke was next at No. 6, followed by Michigan, BYU — which landed the nation's No. 1 recruit in A.J. Dybantsa — Kentucky and Texas Tech to round out the top 10.

Quick transitions

It hasn't taken long for Pat Kelsey to get Louisville back among the national elite, with the Cardinals checking in at No. 11 after a 27-win season to start his tenure. The Cardinals were 12-52 in the two seasons before his arrival.

Louisville is one of five programs with a second-year coach in the preseason poll, joining Michigan, BYU, Kentucky and No. 14 Arkansas with John Calipari.

Jayhawks lower Kansas checked in at No. 19, the lowest preseason rank for Bill Self's Jayhawks since starting at No. 24 in the 2008-09 season as the reigning national champion. Kansas had been ranked outside the top 10 only once since that year (No. 13 in 2011-12) while starting at No. 1 in 2019-20 as well as each of the last two seasons in that stretch.

Pearl's debut

Auburn opens at No. 20 as it enters its first season since the unexpected retirement of coach Bruce Pearl following last year's Final Four run.

Pearl stepped aside last month after 11 seasons, triggering a transition to his 38-year-old son Steven, who climbed his father's staff through the elder Pearl's Auburn tenure but has never been a head coach nor coached elsewhere in college.

Conference watch

The Southeastern Conference, Big Ten and Big 12 each had six ranked teams to make up 72% of the field. The Atlantic Coast Conference and Big East were next with three each, while the West Coast Conference had one with No. 21 Gonzaga. The Big 12 was the only league of that group to have three top-10 teams.

Watch list

Will Wade's arrival at N.C. State and subsequent roster shakeup has the Wolfpack as the first team outside the poll, sitting just three points behind 25th-ranked rival North Carolina from the ACC. Oregon is lurking close behind entering its 16th year under Dana Altman.

McCracken County ranked 14th in KVCA Top 25

LEXINGTON — The Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association released its fourth Top 25 Poll on Tuesday, Oct. 14.	McCracken County is ranked 14th. The KVCA Top 25, with first place votes noted in parenthesis, follows.	3. Mercy Academy (1) 24 - 10 3	11. Ryle 17 - 11 13
Defending champion Assumption remains ranked number one.		4. Beechwood 30 - 3 9	12. DuPont Manual 19 - 12 11
Current Region 1 frontrunner	KVCA Top 25 Poll	5. Ballard (2) 26 - 3 10	13. North Oldham 16 -11 14
	Rank School Record Previous	6. Ballard Heart 15 - 16 7	14. McCracken County 23 - 7 12
	1. Assumption (19) 29 - 4 1	7. Bowling Green 31 - 3 4	15. Christian Academy-Louisville 26 - 5 16
	2. Notre Dame 23 - 6 2	8. St. Henry 19 - 15 5	
		9. Elizabethtown 24 - 6 8	
		10. Lexington Catholic 26 - 3 6	

West KY Sports



Glisson 3rd in KHSAA State Championship

By: Tim Taylor

Ballard Memorial senior golfer Madison Glisson looked to put an exclamation point on her high school golfing career. She entered the Leachman Buick-GMC-Cadillac KHSAA Girls State Championship as one of the top 5 golfers expected to make a run at a state title. She did not disappoint as she competed in the 2-day tournament at the Bowling Green Country Club. In her 6th and final appearance in the state tournament, a state title was on her mind. She had claimed 3 All A State Championship in her career, but the overall state championship had alluded her. She entered the 2025 tournament with a career best 4th place finish in her previous 5 attempts. Day 1 was about putting yourself in contention and Glisson accomplished that with a strong one under par performance. She had 3 bogeys but offset that with 4 birdies to

end the day one shot off the lead. Day 2 could not have started any better. She birdied holes 2 and 3, including nearly hitting a hole in one



on the 3rd hole on the par 3. Her tee shot bounced a few feet in front of the pin and the ball appeared to hit the back lip of the hole and stopped about a foot away from the pin. Her 3

under par through 3 holes put her atop the leaderboard with Marshall County's Trinity Beth. She remained at 3 under before troubles struck

as a great tee shot on the par 3 11th hole left her about 5 feet from the hole. But the putt came up inches away from getting a stroke back. Another 10 foot putt on 12 would not fall for the Lady Bomber senior. She struggled making the greens on a few holes and settled for pars. Her final hole, she was 4 shots off the lead and with the state title hopes diminishing, she wanted to close out with a strong finish. The final hole ended similarly to her final round. Her birdie putt on the par 5 rimmed out leaving her with a tap in par to finish the tournament at even par 71-73 total 144 for the 2 days. Her even par 144 was 3rd best with Beth finishing 2nd with a 142, but no one was catching Sacred Heart's Keira Yun. The junior had a pair of birdies and an eagle on the back 9 to finish with a tournament best 5 under par 67 for the final day and a tournament 2-day total 138.

on the par 3 7th hole. A double bogey on the hole followed by a bogey on the par 4 9th hole dropped her back to even par for the tournament. Glisson could not get her putts to fall on the back 9

Fourth KVCA Region 1 Top 5

PADUCAH — The fourth KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll of the 2025 girls' high school volleyball season was released on Tuesday, Oct. 14. McCracken County remains ranked number one in the KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll. Graves County (2), Ballard Memorial (3), Marshall County (4) and Mayfield (5) are ranked behind McCracken County in the fourth KVCA

Region 1 Top 5 Poll of the 2025 girls' high school volleyball season. The Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association released the fourth KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll, which follows.

- KVCA Region 1 Top 5 Poll
1. McCracken County
 2. Graves County
 3. Ballard Memorial
 4. Marshall County
 5. Mayfield

Tigers capture 2nd District title

MURRAY — Murray defeated crosstown rival Calloway County 3-1 in the 2nd District Boys' Soccer Tournament title match on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Drew Foley led tournament host Murray to the win, scoring two goals and distributing one assist. Accompanying Foley in Murray's scoring column, Kellen Crouch netted one goal. Aiding Murray offensively, Brodie Morris and Henri

Acreman-Nyamwala each dealt out one assist. Goalkeeper Hank Fronza paced Murray defensively, limiting Calloway County to one goal. Fronza recorded six saves for the Tigers. Murray defeated Calloway County for the third time in the 2025 boys' high school soccer season. Both Murray and Calloway County advanced to the 1st Region Boys' Soccer Tournament.

HS Football Schedule

Friday, Oct. 17
Apollo at Madisonville-North Hopkins, 7 p.m.
Christian County at McCracken County, 7 p.m.
Crittenden County at Fort Campbell, 7 p.m.
Fulton County at Ballard Memorial, 7 p.m.
Graves County at

Marshall County, 7 p.m.
Henderson County at Hopkinsville, 7 p.m.
Hopkins County Central at Webster County, 7 p.m.
Mayfield at Trigg County, 7 p.m.
Murray at Union County, 7 p.m.
Paducah Tilghman at Warren East, 7 p.m.

Mustangs shut out Marshals in 1st District title match

PADUCAH — McCracken County shut out Marshall County 3-0 in the 1st District Boys' Soccer Tournament title match on Wednesday, Oct. 8. The Mustangs forced the Marshals to play from behind during the 1st District Boys' Soccer Tournament title match. McCracken County benefitted from a balanced offensive attack. Jake Hazel, Dawson Beyer and Grant each scored one goal for the Mustangs. Goalkeeper Lane

Grace led McCracken County defensively, recording a shutout for the Mustangs. Active in the net, Grace delivered six saves for McCracken County in its shutout win. Defensively for Marshall County, goalkeeper Carson Lovett allowed three goals and made two saves. The Mustangs topped the Marshals for the third time in the 2025 boys' high school soccer season. Both McCracken County and Marshall County advanced to the 1st Region Boys' Soccer Tournament.



High School Scoreboard

Results from Tuesday, Oct. 14
Boys' Soccer 1st Region Tournament
McCracken County 3, Calloway County 1
Marshall County 2, Murray 1 (penalty kicks)
Volleyball
Ballard Memorial 3, Christian Fellowship 1
Calloway County 3, Fulton County 0
Hickman County 3, Murray 1
Marshall County 3, Paducah Tilghman 0
Trigg County 3,

Fulton City 0
Results from Monday, Oct. 13
Girls' Soccer 1st Region Tournament
Marshall County 2, Murray 0
McCracken County 1, Calloway County 0
Volleyball
Ballard Memorial 3, Paducah Tilghman 0
Hickman County 3, Fulton City 0
Marshall County 3, Mayfield 0
Murray 3, Fulton County 1

Marshall County wins 1st District title

Staff Report

PADUCAH — Marshall County outlasted McCracken County 1-0 in the 1st District Girls' Soccer Tournament title match on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Rylee Teague scored off an assist from Addison Peterson to lift Marshall County to the win. Goalkeeper Savannah Dodd paced Marshall County defensively, recording a shutout for the Lady Marshals. Dodd supplied three saves

in Marshall County's district championship-clinching win. Defensively for McCracken County, goalkeeper Addison Smith allowed only the one goal and provided five saves. Marshall County defeated McCracken County for the third time in the 2025 girls' high school soccer season. Both Marshall County and McCracken County advanced to the 1st Region Girls' Soccer Tournament.

Calloway County secures 2nd District championship

MURRAY — Calloway County shut out crosstown rival Murray 2-0 in the 2nd District Girls' Soccer Tournament championship match on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Mirielle Gupton and Ann Marie Arnett each scored one goal for the Lady Lakers. Chipping in offensively for Calloway County, Aubree Morton distributed one assist. Goalkeeper Gabriella Yocum led Calloway County

defensively, recording a shutout. Yocum delivered nine saves for the Lady Lakers. Defensively for Murray, goalkeeper Della Podrovitz allowed two goals and supplied 10 saves. Calloway County shut out Murray for the third time in the 2025 girls' high school soccer season. Both Calloway County and Murray advanced to the 1st Region Girls' Soccer Tournament.

McCracken County edges Calloway County

PADUCAH — McCracken County edged Calloway County 1-0 in the semifinals of the 1st Region Girls' Soccer Tournament on Monday, Oct. 13. Maddy Ledgerwood scored off an assist from Ava Englert to lift McCracken County to the win. Goalkeeper Addison Smith paced McCracken County defensively, recording

a shutout for the Lady Mustangs. Smith made one save in McCracken County's shutout win. Defensively for Calloway County, goalkeeper Gabriella Yocum allowed one goal and delivered 20 saves. McCracken County (10-7-2) advanced to meet Marshall County (16-3-1) in the 1st Region Girls' Soccer Tournament title match on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Marshall County shuts out Murray 2-0

Staff Report

PADUCAH — Marshall County shut out Murray 2-0 in the semifinals of the 1st Region Girls' Soccer Tournament at McCracken County on Monday, Oct. 13. As part of a balanced offensive attack,

Chaney Green and Addison Peterson scored one goal apiece for the Lady Marshals. Aiding Marshall County offensively, Maddie Reed and Rylee Teague each distributed one assist. Goalkeeper Svannah Dodd paced Marshall County defensively,

recording a shutout for the Lady Marshals. Dodd delivered three saves in Marshall County's shutout win. Marshall County advanced to meet McCracken County in the 1st Region Girls' Soccer Tournament title match on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Fourth KVCA Region 2 Top 5 Poll

Staff Report

PADUCAH — The fourth KVCA Region 2 Top 5 Poll of the 2025 girls' high school volleyball season was released on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Henderson County remains ranked number one in the KVCA Region 2 Top 5

Poll. Webster County (2), Crittenden County (3), Caldwell County (T-4) and Fort Campbell (T-4) are ranked behind Henderson County in the fourth KVCA Region 2 Top 5 Poll of the 2025 girls' high school volleyball season. The Kentucky

Volleyball Coaches Association released the fourth KVCA Region 2 Top 5 Poll, which follows.

- KVCA Region 2 Top 5 Poll
1. Henderson County
 2. Webster County
 3. Crittenden County
 - T-4. Caldwell County
 - T-4. Fort Campbell

McCracken County Approves \$150,000 Grant for Lifeline Recovery Center’s New Women’s Campus

McCracken County officials on Monday approved a \$150,000 grant to support the ongoing construction of Lifeline Recovery Center’s new women’s campus near Barkley Regional Airport. The funds will be used for key infrastructure improvements, including site development, road access, and sewer connections for the new facility, which is expected to open in 2026.

Lifeline Recovery Center, a faith-based

substance abuse treatment organization, has been a vital part of the region’s recovery community for years. The new campus will expand services to women struggling with addiction, providing residential treatment, counseling, and life-skills training.

Lifeline Executive Director Ashley Miller expressed gratitude for the county’s leadership and support. She thanked McCracken County Judge-Exec-

utive Craig Clymer, Commissioners Eddie Jones, Bill Bartleman, and Richard Abraham, along with Deputy Judge-Executive Steve Ervin, for their role in securing the county’s first-ever financial contribution to the center.

“Their support comes at a critical time as Lifeline works to complete the construction of the new campus,” Miller said. “People across our community have come together to be part of this effort

to help restore lives, reunite families, and strengthen our community as a whole. The county’s investment is another powerful example of that shared commitment.”

Construction on the campus began earlier this year. The administration building is projected to open in December, while the dining halls and dormitories are scheduled for completion in March 2026.

The \$150,000 grant is

part of a broader fundraising effort totaling more than \$12 million, most of which has come from local donations and community partnerships. Miller said this grassroots support demonstrates a strong regional commitment to combating addiction and offering second chances.

Donations to support the project can be made online at www.lifelinerecoverycenter.org/donate or mailed to Lifeline Recovery Cen-

ter, P.O. Box, Paducah, KY 42002.

When complete, the women’s campus will mark a major milestone for Lifeline Recovery Center and McCracken County, expanding access to life-changing treatment and reinforcing the region’s dedication to recovery, hope, and community renewal.

Dual Solo Exhibitions by Cody Arnall and Rick Nance to Open at Paducah School of Art and Design

PADUCAH, Ky. — Two provocative solo exhibitions exploring themes of technology, identity, and human error will open Oct. 23 at the Bill Ford Gallery and the PJC Gallery at Paducah School of Art and Design.

The exhibitions, “Boredom and Failure v. III” by Cody Arnall and “I Am Not a Purist” by Rick Nance, will run concurrently through Dec. 5. Both galleries are located at 9th and Harrison streets in

Paducah’s historic downtown. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

An opening reception will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23. Admission to the reception and both exhibitions is free and open to the public.

Arnall, an associate professor of sculpture at Texas Tech University and former instructor at PSAD, presents a body of work shaped by industrial debris,

sound, and a grim fascination with environmental decay.

“My art research is preoccupied by human error — actions that lead to unintended outcomes,” Arnall said. “I think a lot about our impending doom, how fragile existence is, and what the future looks like with or without us.”

Through installation, video, light, and found objects, Arnall invites viewers to confront unsettling themes in-

cluding environmental degradation, violence, and memory. Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, he holds a Master of Fine Arts from Louisiana State University and has exhibited internationally in more than 60 shows.

His solo exhibition will be on view in the Bill Ford Gallery.

In the adjacent PJC Gallery, Paducah-based artist Rick Nance will present “I Am Not a Purist,” a digital art exhibition rooted in the

visual imperfections of analog media.

“I attempt to combine elements found in many non-digital technical processes — hatch marks, halftone dots, plate scratches, uneven saturation and even mistakes from earlier reproduction techniques,” Nance said.

Nance’s work blends pop culture, music and classical references into layered digital compositions. With a career spanning from the 1970s to today, his

background includes pre-press work in Nashville, freelance illustration and decades as a graphic designer and instructor.

The exhibitions are presented by Paducah School of Art and Design, a division of West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

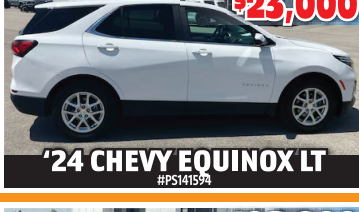
For more information, visit paducah-schoolofartanddesign.org or contact PSAD at (270) 534-3901.



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 '22 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER ES #Z016461 \$21,000	 '22 NISSAN ROGUE SV #C696953, 32K MILES \$22,000	 '18 FORD F150 XLT #X025081 \$22,000	 '20 MERCEDES BENZ A-CLASS 220 #PW039818, AWD \$23,000 53k miles	 '24 CHEVY EQUINOX LT #P514574 \$23,000
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 '24 KIA SPORTAGE XLINE #PC151561 \$28,000 26k miles	 '22 TOYOTA CAMRY SE #P6373414, 55K MILES \$29,500	 '25 TOYOTA CAMRY SE #PU563958, CERTIFIED \$30,000 2900 miles CERTIFIED	 '22 TOYOTA CAMRY SE #P637341A, FWD \$31,000 55k miles CERTIFIED	 '24 TOYOTA TACOMA SR EXTRA CAB #T017443, 4X2, LONG BED \$31,000 Low miles
 '25 TOYOTA CAMRY SE HYBRID #U112899, FWD \$32,000 3500 miles CERTIFIED	 '22 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER #PS102467, LIMITED \$33,500	 '24 BMW X1 DRIVE 28i #S212432 \$35,000 21k miles	 '21 CHEVY CAMARO SS #C135518 \$40,000	 '25 HYUNDAI PALISADE #U621643, CALLIGRAPHY \$46,000

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Kentucky Commissioner of Education to speak at Paducah Chamber Business Education Partnership Luncheon

The Kentucky Commissioner of Education, Dr. Robbie Fletcher, will be the featured speaker for a Business Education Partnership (BEP) luncheon hosted by the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, October 23. The luncheon will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the Commerce Center in the Paducah Bank Community Room. The event is sponsored by McCracken County Public Schools and Paducah Public Schools. Individual tickets are available for \$25. Pre-registration is required at paducahchamber.org.

“I’m very excited for those attending our BEP Luncheon to get the opportunity to meet and hear from Commissioner Fletcher,” said Josh Hunt, McCracken County Schools Superintendent. “I speak for so many school leaders across our state when I say how fortunate we are to have someone like him, with his own experiences and perspective as a successful Kentucky school superintendent, leading our state’s Department of Education. His actions, in just over a year on the job, have proven that he understands just how important business and education partnerships are to the success of each local school district.”

“The vision of adding the local portion to the state accountability model is for



KDE Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher

our accountability model to reflect what our students, families, and business community values most,” said Dr. Donald Shively, Paducah Public Schools Superintendent and Vice Chair of the Paducah Chamber’s Education and Workforce Committee. “This will allow us to have flexibility across the Commonwealth. Strategic alignment of our local accountability measures to what the Paducah/McCracken County business leaders value most is essential for our school systems to produce the workforce for jobs and careers in our community. We need our local business leaders to provide input on the local accountability measures to ensure our children are better prepared to fill our local workforce needs.”

Fletcher began the role July 1, 2024. He previously served as superintendent of Lawrence County Schools from 2014 to 2024 and brings nearly 30 years of education experience into the role of education commissioner. Fletcher, who grew up in Martin County, earned a bachelor’s degree at Morehead State University and a master’s degree from the University of Kentucky. He returned to Morehead State, where he earned his doctorate degree and superintendent certification.

The mission of the Chamber’s BEP is to develop collaborative partnerships between the business community and local educational providers.

To register, go to paducahchamber.org or call 270-443-1746.

DARCI Disaster Preparedness Platform Now Live in McCracken County

McCracken County, KY - McCracken County is proud to announce the official rollout of DARCI, a cutting-edge disaster preparedness and recovery platform now available to all residents and local organizations. With just a name, email, and address, citizens can register for free and join a countywide effort to strengthen safety, communication, and recovery during disasters.

Easy Sign-Up, Immediate Impact

DARCI is built for simplicity and accessibility. Residents can enroll in minutes—no paperwork, no complicated steps. Once registered, users gain access to real-time disaster alerts, streamlined damage reporting, and vital recovery resources, all from their computer or mobile device.

Community Benefits

- **Faster Emergency Response:** Real-time reporting helps emergency management direct resources where they’re needed most.
- **Stronger Community Networks:** DARCI connects residents, emergency responders, and nonprofit partners to coordinate disaster relief and recovery.

• **Data-Driven Decisions:** Aggregated information empowers local leaders to make informed choices and secure additional support.

Calling All Nonprofit Partners

DARCI thrives on collaboration. Local nonprofits are encouraged to join the platform to expand the network of available resources. By partnering with DARCI, organizations can better serve residents and coordinate efforts with county officials. An information session will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025, from 2-4 PM at the McCracken County Emergency Management Office for all nonprofit organizations interested in learning more about the program.

Free to Sign Up

Registration is free for all citizens. Visit www.darciready.com or download the DARCI App, then sign up with your name, email, and address to get started.

Quotes

“We appreciate McCracken County’s leadership for taking a forward-thinking approach to protect their citizens and

community. We are committed to building a large preparedness and recovery network across the county that will pay dividends for years to come.” Ryan Drane, President of Blue Sky Global, creator of DARCI.

“Partnering with DARCI will give the citizens of McCracken County up to date emergency notifications from the McCracken County Sheriff’s Office and McCracken County Emergency Management. Emergency Management will also be able to get resources to those in need quicker when disaster strikes.” Rob Estes, McCracken County Emergency Management.

About DARCI

DARCI is a disaster preparedness and recovery software platform that empowers citizens and communities to report damage, access resources, and coordinate response efforts efficiently and securely. All user data is encrypted, and citizens maintain full control over who can view their information.

For more information, visit www.darciready.com or contact dylan@blueskyglobal.io

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PROPERTY 2
415 Whittington Dr. · 4 Buildings
6+/- Acres · 13,000+/- sq ft
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WKCTC Faculty Member Selected for KACTE Leadership Fellows Program

Staff Report

PADUCAH, Ky. — West Kentucky Community & Technical College (WKCTC) announced this week that Jason Willoughby, assistant professor at WKCTC, has been selected to participate in the 2025–26 Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) Leadership Fellows Program.

The prestigious yearlong program is designed to strengthen leadership skills, expand understanding of educational

policy, and build professional networks among career and technical education (CTE) professionals across Kentucky. As part of the fellowship, participants will engage in three in-person leadership development sessions and monthly virtual meetings. Each component is aligned with WKCTC’s High-Quality Career and Technical Education Program of Study framework, emphasizing innovation, collaboration, and excellence in technical education.



Jason Willoughby

“I am honored to be chosen for the Fellow Leadership Program with the Kentucky Association of Career

and Technical Education,” Willoughby said. “I feel that this yearlong experience will allow me to put

my doctorate degree into action.”

Willoughby, who is currently completing his dissertation in educational leadership, expressed gratitude to WKCTC President Dr. Anton Reece for his encouragement and support during the application process. “I will be able to use my knowledge in the KACTE program on the state level,” he added.

KACTE serves as the Kentucky affiliate of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), one of the nation’s

leading advocacy and policymaking organizations for CTE. Through initiatives like the Leadership Fellows Program, KACTE helps develop educators who are prepared to advance the field of technical education and empower students to succeed in a rapidly evolving workforce.

WKCTC officials said Willoughby’s selection highlights the college’s commitment to fostering professional growth and leadership development among its faculty and staff.



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EC3776 '19 CAT 950M wheel loader



EV4064 '12 Peterbilt 365 crane truck



EV5014 '20 Peterbilt 389 semi truck



YA1106 '25 John Deere 325G tracked skid steer



EV4028 '17 CAT 926M wheel loader



YA0979 '13 Peterbilt 365 crane truck



ED2246 '21 Kleemann MR 130 Zi EV02 impact crusher



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AAA: Gas Prices Continue to Fall Across Kentucky

PADUCAH, Ky. — Gas prices in West Central Kentucky have dropped again this week, falling six cents to an average of \$2.61 per gallon, according to AAA East Central’s Gas Price Report. The decline mirrors national trends as fuel costs continue to slide into mid-October. The national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline is now \$3.08, down five cents from last week. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), demand for gasoline has fallen to a four-month low,

while the transition from summer-grade to winter-grade fuel — which is less expensive to produce — is further driving prices downward. The national average is nine cents lower than a month ago and 12 cents less than a year ago. Regionally, prices vary slightly across Kentucky. Motorists are paying \$2.58 in Bowling Green, \$2.52 in Elizabethtown, \$2.75 in Louisville, \$2.52 in Owensboro, and \$2.69 in Paducah. A year ago, the regional average was \$2.87, while the all-time high for the area remains \$4.74, recorded on June 13, 2022. Nationally, crude oil prices edged slightly higher, with West Texas Intermediate

rising 82 cents to \$62.55 per barrel. Despite the increase, U.S. crude inventories rose by 3.7 million barrels, remaining about 4% below the five-year average for this time of year. Kentucky currently ranks among the 10 least expensive states for gasoline, averaging \$2.76 per gallon, alongside Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Missouri. Meanwhile, the national average electricity cost for public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations held steady at 36 cents per kilowatt hour. Motorists can find the latest fuel and electricity prices nationwide, statewide, and countywide by visiting gasprices.aaa.com.

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

FREDDIE J. MORRIS ESTATE

★ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.

★ AUCTION HELD @ BLONDIE’S ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES LOCATED AT 6180 CAIRO RD. PADUCAH, KY. 42001 OFF OF EXIT 3 & I-24.

ATTENTION COLLECTORS! GENERAL PUBLIC INVITED! LARGE COLLECTION OF SPORTS MEMORABILIA!

SELLING: VEHICLES, HUGE +/- 40 YEAR COLLECTION OF SPORTS MEMORABILIA, BASEBALL CARDS, FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, NASCAR, AUTOGRAPHS, NEW CLOTHING, FITTED SPORTS HATS, MISC. COLLECTIBLES & MORE

MORE ITEMS WILL BE ADDED

LIVE ON-SITE IN PERSON! RAIN OR SHINE!

FOR MORE INFO VISIT COLSONSELLS.COM

TERMS OF AUCTION: Cash, credit card, or check day of sale with proper ID. 10% buyer premium added to final bid. DIRECTIONS From I 24 Paducah Exit 3 & Cairo Rd.: Head west on KY-305 W/Cairo Rd. / Old Cairo Rd. Passing Olivet Church Rd. +/- 1.2 miles arriving at auction site on left. Signs posted.



ABSOLUTE AUCTION

FREDDIE J. MORRIS ESTATE

★ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.

★ 905 STONEBROOK COURT, PADUCAH, KY 42003

ATTENTION HOMEBUYERS & INVESTORS!

HOA IN EFFECT

SHOWINGS BY APPOINTMENT

HOME WITH 2 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS SITUATED IN STONEBROOK ESTATES. ATTRACTIVE & QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD!

LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION! AUCTION HELD ONSITE!

TERMS OF AUCTION: 15% good faith deposit due on day of sale with the balance due in 45 days. 10% buyer premium added to final bid and included in the total contract price. DIRECTIONS From I 24 Paducah Exit 7: Exit on Lone Oak Road going southwest toward town, go approximately 1.2 miles to third traffic light. Turn right on Berger Road then right on Stonebrook approximately one-quarter mile. Follow street as it goes left then take the first right. House is second on right, sitting on a small hill. Approximately .24-acre yard. Signs posted.

Chris COLSON AUCTION & REALTY, LLC

270.444.0031

3250 Key Drive Paducah, KY 42003

Ky. Auction Lic # P939
Ky. RE Lic # 58391
IL Auction Lic # 441.001140
IN Auction Lic # AU10400042

COLSONSELLS.COM



ABSOLUTE AUCTION

HOME & +/- 33 ACRES

★ THURS., OCT. 30th, 2025 @ 5:00 P.M.

★ 445 LYDON RD., PADUCAH, KENTUCKY 42003

ATTENTION HOMEBUYERS! FARMERS! INVESTORS

HELD ON-SITE

CLARK’S RIVER GAME RESERVE

PROPERTY LINES ARE APPROXIMATE

TRACT 1 +/- 22 ACRES

TRACT 2 HOME & +/- 11 ACRES

MCCRACKEN COUNTY HOME & ACREAGE

TRACT 1: +/- 22 TILLABLE ACRES

TRACT 2: +/- 11 ACRES with 3 BEDROOM 1.5 STORY HOME (Needs Partial Renovation)

OFFERED IN 2 TRACTS SEPARATE OR COMBINED

TERMS OF AUCTION: 15% good faith deposit due on day of sale with the balance due in 45 days. 10% buyer premium added to final bid and included in the total contract price. Showings by appointment or on the day of auction between the hours of 3:30 - 5:00 P.M. with the auction starting at 5:00 P.M. on-site. DIRECTIONS From I-24 Paducah Exit 11: turn onto John Puryear Drive and head south, away from town, go approximately 1/2 mile to Lydon Road and turn left. Subject property is approximately 1/2 mile on right. Signs posted. RAIN OR SHINE!

Chris COLSON AUCTION & REALTY, LLC

270.444.0031

3250 Key Drive Paducah, KY 42003

KY Auction Lic # P939
KY Broker Lic # 58391
IL Auction Lic # 441.001140
IL Broker # 471.022779
IN Auction Lic # AU10400042

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ABSOLUTE AUCTION

INCOME-PRODUCING COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

★ SAT., NOVEMBER 1st, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.

★ 1531 EAST 5TH STREET METROPOLIS, IL 62960

CURRENT CASH FLOW WITH EXCELLENT GROWTH POTENTIAL!

3 INGRESS / EGRESS TRAFFIC POINTS

SUBJECT PROPERTY

McDONALD’S

WALLEY AUTO PARTS

HIGHWAY 43 TO BUSINESS DISTRICT

HELD ON-SITE

HIGH TRAFFIC VISIBILITY

PREVIEW: 8:30 A.M. Day of Sale

PROPERTY BOASTS +/- 1.68 AC., ZONED C3, GAS, POWER, WATER, & SEWER

STOREFRONT, 5-6 APARTMENTS, 2 HOMES \$950.00 PER MO. COMBINED RENT, GARAGE

Laurie Hines Broker with Remax Advantage (618) 524-4777

TERMS OF AUCTION: 15% good faith deposit due on day of sale with the balance due in 45 days. 10% buyer premium added to final bid and included in the total contract price. Previews by appointment or on the day of auction between the hours of 8:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. with auction starting at 10:00 A.M. on-site. DIRECTIONS: Take Southern Illinois Exit 37 on I-24 towards Metropolis +/- 2.1 miles arriving at property on right just past McDonalds. Signs Posted.

Chris COLSON AUCTION & REALTY, LLC

270.444.0031

3250 Key Drive Paducah, KY 42003

KY Auction Lic # P939
KY Broker Lic # 58391
IL Auction Lic # 441.001140
IL Broker # 471.022779
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Kentucky State Parks Launches New Mobile App To Improve Visitor Experience

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

ing to cultural events and family outings, this app brings it all together in one reliable and easy-to-use place.” Key features for the mobile app include: Detailed Park Maps – View boundaries, trail networks, restrooms, parking areas and more. Over 1,000 Outdoor Points of Interest – Discover scenic overlooks, boat launches, playgrounds, climbing areas, historical sites and other amenities. Outings – Follow curated experiences created by park staff to help you explore something new. Challenges – Complete outdoor goals and earn digital badges for achievements. Real-Time Updates – Stay informed about trail closures, facility changes and event schedules. To celebrate the launch, Kentucky State Parks is introducing the KY Passport Challenge, a statewide invitation to explore all 44 state parks. Participants can check in at any state park to get started. Each check-in earns a unique digital badge tied to that park, with the goal of collecting all 44 badges to complete your passport.

“From hiking, activities, golf and more, our Kentucky State Parks are a great place to visit, and this free app will help make it easier for families to enjoy,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “If you haven’t visited one of our 44 Kentucky State Parks in a while, this new app and passport challenge is a great reason to plan a stay.” “We’re excited to finally have a mobile app that will give Kentuckians and visitors a better way to explore the incredible range of parks across our state,” said Kentucky State Parks Commissioner Russ Meyer. “From hiking and camp-

• BALLARD •

Martha Estelle Wood, 77, passed away on October 7, 2025, at Countryside Nursing and Rehab in Bardwell, KY. There are no services scheduled at this time.

Kimberly Anne Terrell, 65, passed away on Monday, October 6, 2025, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Center in Paducah, KY. Visitation was held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 4-8 p.m. at First Baptist Church of LaCenter. Visitation resumed until 9:00 a.m. Funeral was held Friday, October 10, 2025, at First Baptist Church of LaCenter.

John Wallace Tapp, 68, of New Concord, KY, passed away on Monday, October 13, 2025 at Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

• CALLOWAY •

Ronda Ann Black, age 71, of Murray, Kentucky, went to be with her Lord on October 5, 2025. Funeral services for Sherry will be held at 1 P.M. on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at Imes Funeral Home, 311 N. 4th Street Murray, KY 42071, with Larry Call officiating. Burial will follow at the Murray City Cemetery.

Pearl “Sue” H. Noe, 81, of Murray, passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at Spring Creek Healthcare in Murray. Per Ms. Noe’s wishes, no services are planned.

Lyndia Faye Cochran, 87, of Murray, KY, passed away on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House. Funeral services are set for 11 am on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at the Heritage Chapel of Imes Funeral Home, 1804 Highway 121 Bypass North, Murray. Boyd Smith and Jeremy Hudgin will officiate and burial will follow at Murray City Cemetery. Her family welcomes visitors from 5 pm until 8 pm on Friday, October 17, 2025 at the Heritage Chapel.

Tracy Leann Guge, 55, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at her home. Funeral services were held on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 2 P.M. at the Heritage Chapel of Imes Funeral Home, 1804 Highway 121 Bypass North. Dwayne Mathis will officiate and burial followed at Bazzell Cemetery. Her family welcomed visitors from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Heritage Chapel.

Kathy Kemper Stanczyk, 54, of Murray, KY, passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House from a hard-fought battle with Cholangiocarcinoma, a rare bile duct carcinoma. A funeral mass was held at 4 pm on Monday, October 13, 2025 at St. Leo Catholic Church, 401 N. 12th Street, Murray, KY 42071. Her family welcomed visitors from 2 pm until 4 pm at St. Leo Catholic Church.

Chris Thomas, 57, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at his home. A funeral service was held at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Visitation was held from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Mary Alice Hopkins, 95, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at the Spring Creek Healthcare in Murray, Kentucky. A funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Bro. Ben Stratton and Bro. Kendrick Lewis officiating. Burial will follow in the Temple Hill Cemetery. Visitation was held from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Macie B. Wilkerson, 89, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Friday, October 10, 2025, at her home. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, October 17, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Dr. Larry Salmon will officiate, and burial will follow in the Bazzell Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5-8p.m., Thursday, October 16, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Glenda Gale Wilson, 82, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Friday, October 10, 2025, at Spring Creek Nursing & Rehab. Visitation will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025 - 11:00am - 2:00 pm (Central time). Celebration of Life - Saturday, October 18, 2025 - 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Central time) at the J. H. Churchill Funeral Home, 201 S 3rd St, Murray, KY 42071

Joe W. Nanney, 86, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Gaither Suites assisted living facility. Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar Street, Benton, KY 42025. A graveside service will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at Hardin Baptist Church Cemetery in Hardin, KY.

• CHRISTIAN •

Bettye Stallons Broadbent, 72, of Hopkinsville, passed away on Monday, October 13, 2025, surrounded by her family at her home of natural causes. The family has chosen cremation with a graveside burial service of her cremains to be at a later date in Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

Kimberly “Kim” Sholar, 64, of LaGrange, KY (formerly of Hopkinsville, KY), passed away on Monday, October 13, 2025, at Norton Brownsboro Hospital in Louisville, KY of natural causes. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM CST on Friday, October 17, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Rev. Kim Combs officiating and burial to follow in Riverside Cemetery. Visitation was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 5:00 PM CST until 7:00 PM CST at the funeral home.

Wanda Grace, 75, of Hopkinsville, passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at Christian Health Center of natural causes. Funeral Services were held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, October 16, 2025, and Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Bro. David Harrison officiating and burial followed in Johnson’s Chapel Cemetery. Visitation was that day at the funeral home from 12:00 Noon until the service hour at 2:00 PM.

Janie Lou Murphy McGehee, 63, of Hopkinsville, passed away on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at her home of natural causes. The family has chosen cremation with a Celebration of Life Service to be held at a later date.

Nancy Mason McGuire, 86, of Hopkinsville, passed away on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at her residence of natural causes. Funeral Services were held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at Hillcrest Baptist Church with Donald Marsh officiating and Joe Bufford assisting with burial followed in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West. Visitation was held at the church on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, from 11:00 AM until the service time at 1:00 PM.

Imogene “Jean” H. Clark, 83, of Hopkinsville, passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family of natural causes. Graveside Services were held at 9:00 AM on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with burial followed.

Tommy Harris, Todd County, Kentucky resident Thomas Allan “Tommy” Harris, age 61 died Friday, October 10, 2025 in TriStar Skyline Medical Center Nashville, Tennessee. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, October 16, 2025 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. Clayton Miller officiating. Burial followed in the Harris family plot at Glenwood Cemetery in Elkton, KY. Visitation was held on Thursday from 11:00 a.m. until the funeral hour.

Deborah Jean “Deb” Fowler, 72, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her husband of 45 years, her son, and her daughter on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 9:30 p.m. Private memorial services will be held at a later date.

Vira Ann Caldwell, 73, Hopkinsville, passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, in Hopkinsville, KY.

DeSavion Blesston Guyer, Newborn, Hopkinsville,

passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in Nashville, TN.

• CRITTENDEN •

James “Pat” Patrick Jamison, 86, of Marion, Kentucky, formerly of Beardstown, Illinois, passed away on October 10, 2025, at Crittenden Health and Rehabilitation. Visitation for Pat Jamison will be held on Sunday, October, 19, 2025 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at Gilbert Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 1:00 PM at Gilbert Funeral Home with Bro. David LeNeave officiating. Burial will follow in Mapleview Cemetery.

James Dale “Jimmy” Harris, 79, of Marion passed away at his home on Tuesday, October 7, 2025. Visitation was held from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Saturday, October 11, 2025, and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at Gilbert Funeral Home. Funeral services were held on Sunday at 3:00 pm at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial followed in Fredonia Cemetery.

Margie Lou Sisco, 94, passed peacefully on October 6th, 2025, at Axiom Healthcare of Rosiclare. Visitation was held Saturday, October 11th, at Hardin County Funeral Service for family from 12:30pm-1pm, public from 1pm-2pm, followed by graveside service at Fluorine Cemetery in Rosiclare, IL.

John William Boyd, 84, passed away peacefully on October 6, 2025. Per John’s request, a private family graveside service was held.

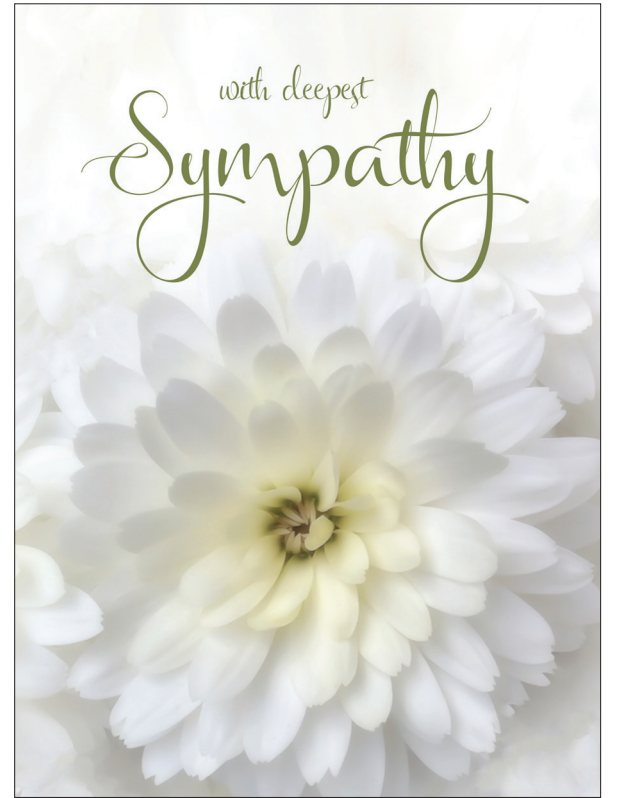
Bertha Irene Whitson, 90 of Benton, KY passed away October 2, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah. Mrs. Whitson had chosen cremation and her wishes have been honored by her family. There are no services scheduled at this time.

• GRAVES/FULTON/HICKMAN •

Johnny “Tommy” Doran, 80, of Mayfield, KY passed away Saturday, October 10, 2025 at the Mills Health and Rehab in Mayfield, KY. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

Benny Ray Cavender, 85, of Mayfield passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at Baptist Health in Paducah, KY. Graveside services for Mr. Benny Ray Cavender were held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2025 at Mayfield Memory Gardens Mausoleum. Ronnie Lear will officiate. Entombment followed.

Carolyn Gordon Garritson, 90, of Paducah, KY passed away Sunday, October 5, 2025 at her residence. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.



FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Charles M. Harrison, 895, of Lynnnville passed into eternal life on Sunday, October 5, 2025 at Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House in Murray, KY.
Funeral services for Mr. Charles M. Harrison were held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Lynnnville Community Church. Rev. Tracy Rudolph officiated. Entombment followed at Lynnnville Baptist Church Cemetery mausoleum.

Bruce Turner, 80, of the Fancy Farm Community passed away at 9:20 PM Sunday, October 12, 2025 at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield. Funeral arrangements for Bruce Turner are incomplete at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY.

Richard L. Schramer, 72, of Pryorsburg, KY passed away peacefully on Oct. 10th at 6:45 p.m. Private Family Services will be held at a later date Brown Funeral Home of Mayfield, Ky. are in charge of arrangements.

Johnny Cash Riley, 67 of Mayfield, KY passed away at 7:04 PM Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center.
Funeral Mass for Johnny was held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, October 11, 2025 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mayfield with Father Eric Riley officiating.

Norma Jean Byrd, 87, of South Fulton, TN passed away Thursday, October 8, 2025, at the Charter Assisted Living in Paris, TN. Funeral services for Ms. Norma Jean Byrd were held at 11AM Monday, October 13, 2025, in our funeral chapel with burial followed in the Peasant View Memorial Gardens. Visitation was held at the funeral home from 10AM Monday until the hour of service.

Michael “Tiny” Crittendon, 53, of South Fulton, TN passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at his residence. There will be no services held at the funeral home.

• HENDERSON •

Rebecca “Becki” Jonell Scales Cottingham, age 71, of Corydon, KY, passed away Thursday, October 9, 2025, at Select Specialty Hospital surrounded by her husband, her children, her beloved cousin and all their love.
Relatives and friends were invited to Becki’s Life Celebration from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday and again on Wednesday starting at 9:00 a.m. at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home. The funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at the funeral home with Reverend Gary Ashby officiating. Burial followed at Greenwood Cemetery in Chandler, IN.

Gregory Lynn Francis, 70, of Henderson, KY, passed away at his home, Sunday, October 5, 2025. Relatives and friends were invited to Greg’s Life Celebration from 12:00 p.m. until service time Friday at the funeral home. The funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY, with Reverend Ted Burke officiating. Burial at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY, will follow at a later date.

Herman Franklin “Frank” Owen, 90, passed away on October 12, 2025, at his home surrounded by his loving family.
Visitation will be Saturday October 18, 2025, from 12:00 PM until service time at Tomblinson Funeral Home with Greg Lindsey officiating. Funeral Service will be October 18, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Tomblinson Funeral Home.

Jean Sugg, a beloved mother, friend, and successful business owner, passed away peacefully on October 9, 2025, at the age of 89. Born on March 1, 1936, in Missouri, she lived a life filled with compassion, dedication, and service to her community.
A celebration of Jean’s remarkable life will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, October 17, at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson, Kentucky. Her son, Randy Sugg, will officiate an informal service honoring her memory. Following the service, Jean will be laid to rest at

Fairmont Cemetery, where family and friends can come together to pay their respects.

Marguerite Newman. It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Marguerite Victoria Newman, affectionately known as Vicki, on October 8, 2025. Born on December 28, 1953, in Evansville, Indiana, she lived a beautiful life filled with love, warmth, and cherished moments. Vicki made her home in Spottsville, Kentucky, where she touched the lives of many.
A memorial service to celebrate Vicki’s life was held on October 13, 2025, at Tomblinson Funeral Home, beginning at 12:00 p.m with Father Will Thompson officiating. Prior to the memorial service, visitation was held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the funeral home. A private burial will take place at a later date at St. Augustine, honoring her faith and the community she held dear.

• HOPKINS/MADISONVILLE •

Harold Ray Nole Jr., 56, of Sebree, KY passed away Sunday, October 12, 2025, at Redbank’s Colonial Terrace in Sebree, KY. Memorial services for the family will be held at a later date.

Joyce Marie Thomas., a beloved mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, and friend, gained her heavenly wings on October 6, 2025, at home surrounded by family. Visitation was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 5:00 - 7:00 pm (Central time). Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - 11:00am - 12:30 pm (Central time) at the Memorial Baptist Church, 645 Canal Street, Evansville, IN 47713. Burial was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at the Oak Hill Cemetery, 1400 East Virginia Street, Evansville, IN 47711.

Nathaniel Hawthorne Waddell., August 21, 1935 — October 6, 2025.
Visitation was pm Saturday, October 11, 2025, 11:00am - 1:00 pm (Central time) at the Cleaves Memorial CME Church, 650 Line Street, Evansville, IN 47713. Funeral Service was held on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 1:00 pm (Central time) at the Cleaves Memorial CME Church, 650 Line Street, Evansville, IN 47713

Janice “Jan” Vick Rust, 78, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A funeral service was held at 11a.m on Monday, October 13, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Phillip Cook officiating and Duane Burden assisting. Burial followed at Grapevine Cemetery in Madisonville. Visitation was held from 9 a.m. until the funeral hour on Monday at the funeral home.

Angela Kaye Childers Downing, 75, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at Ridgewood Terrace Health and Rehab in Madisonville, KY. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

Ginger Shelton Hayes, 76, of Earlington, KY, passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at Deaconess Midtown in Evansville, IN. A graveside service was held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Madisonville with Bro. Tim Vannoy officiating. A visitation was held at Noon until 2 p.m. on Sunday in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home.

• LIVINGSTON •

Ronnie “Chicago” Damron, 63, passed away Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Dawson Health and Rehabilitation in Dawson Springs, KY. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 3PM in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. Howard Jones officiating. Burial followed in Lola Cemetery. Friends visited with the family from 1PM until the funeral time in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Barbara Jean Reynolds, 686, of Smithland, KY, passed away Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at Salem Springlake Health and Rehabilitation

Center. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

• MARSHALL •

Eva Ross Swift, 78, of Benton, KY, passed away on Sunday, Oct 12th, surrounded by family and her best friend.
The funeral was a singing and worship service on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 1 pm at Collier Funeral Home, 211 West 5th Street, Benton, KY 42025, Don McBrayer and Johnny Parker officiated with Josh Herndon leading singing. It brought Eva great joy to know you came to worship Jesus in remembrance. Burial followed in Mt Carmel Cemetery in Calloway County, KY.

Edwin “Junior” Glen Newcom, Jr., 60 of Decatur, Alabama passed away Saturday, October 11, 2025 in Decatur, Alabama.
A funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home. Burial followed in the Marshall County Memory Gardens, Benton, KY.

Rebecca Albritton, 56 of Benton, KY passed away on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Baptist Health in Paducah, KY.
A Funeral service will be at 1:00 PM on Friday, October 17, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home, located at 211 West 5th St., Benton, KY 42025 with the Bro. Joel Frizzell officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday, October 17, 2025, at Collier Funeral Home.

Donald “Donnie” Gene Crass, Jr., 54 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in Benton, Kentucky.
A funeral service was held on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 11AM at the Collier Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Joe Daryl Thorn and Bro. Allen Miller officiating. Burial followed at Brewers Cemetery. Visitation was Friday, October 10, 2025 from 5PM to 8PM at Collier Funeral Home located at 211 West 5th Street Benton, KY 42025.

• McCRACKEN •

Sandra Sullivan Moore, 78, passed away peacefully at her home on October 11, 2025, surrounded by her family.
A funeral mass was held at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church with Father Gary Clark officiating.
Visitation was held from 9:30 am until 11:30 am on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Peggy Douglas, January 13, 1933 - October 11, Paducah, Kentucky, passed on to heaven on October 11, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Center, surrounded by her family. A family graveside service is planned for her at the Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Paducah, Kentucky. Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Lone Oak is in charge of arrangements.

Ray Baertschi, 95, a beloved father, grandfather, and friend, took his final journey home on October 10, 2025, in Paducah, Kentucky. A funeral service was held at 11 A.M. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Darrell Walker officiating. Visitation was at 10 A.M. at the funeral home and continue until the service starts. Burial followed at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Charles Eugene Starnes, Sr, November 28, 1929 - October 10, 2025. A man of unwavering faith and boundless love for his family, passed away peacefully on October 10, 2025, at the age of 95 in Paducah, Kentucky. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Woodlawn Memorial Garden with Rev. Rodney Cude officiating.

Rebecca Boudreaux Melton, June 8, 1973 - October 10, 2025, beloved mother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on October 10, 2025, in Paducah, Kentucky, surrounded by her

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

loving family. A celebration of Rebecca’s life was held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Homes with Pastor Trad York officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

Brian Louis Cunningham, 52, of Paducah passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at his residence. He will be cremated per his wishes.

Charles “Chuck” Eugene Webb, 72, of Paducah passed away on Thursday, October 10, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center with his family by his side. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Linda Gayle Williams, 85, of Benton passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah. She will be cremated, and no services will be held per her wishes.

Bobby D. Harris, 53 of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at his residence on Sunday, October 5, 2025. More details forthcoming.

Reverend Aaron Thomas Sr., 51 of Paducah, passed away on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025, 12:00 p.m. at Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Paducah. The family will receive friends on Saturday at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral hour.

Charles A. Binkley, 87, of Paducah passed away on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Bro. Monte Hodges officiating. Burial followed at Pell Cemetery in Brookport, IL. Visitation was held from 11:00 AM to service time Tuesday at the funeral home.

Mary Evelyn Myatt, 81, of Paducah passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation of Paducah. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Monday, October 13, 2025 at Hughes Funeral Home of Paducah with Deacon Scott Jones officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Paducah.

Daniel George Archer, 34, of Paducah passed away on Sunday, October 5, 2025 in Paducah. A celebration of life visitation will be held from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah.

James Lee Chandler, 65, passed away on October 2, 2025, at Baptist Health Hospital in Paducah. No services are scheduled at this time.

• TRIGG •

David Paul Gaffne, was born in Pekin, IL on July 18, 1974 to Paula Bosela Hardman, of VA and to the late Brian Gaffney. He passed away Thursday, October 9, 2025 at TriStar Skyline Medical Center in Nashville, TN. There will be no services for 51 year old David Paul Gaffney of Cadiz, KY.

Anne Richardson of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN. A Celebration of Life for 73 year old Anne Richardson of Cadiz was held Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cadiz Christian Church with Rev., Dr. Tom Martin officiating. Visitation was from 1:30 -3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at the Cadiz Christian Church. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Terry Michael Glowicki, 80, of Cadiz KY, received the crown of eternal life on October 6, 2025. A Christian Funeral was held October 16, 2025 at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church located at 2526 Whitfield Rd, Clarksville, TN at 3:00 pm. Visitation was held from 10:00-11:00 am on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at King’s Funeral Home and from 2:00-3:00 pm at the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Clarksville, TN.

Dollie Peal Stallons, 88, of Cadiz, KY, passed away on Monday, October 13, 2025, at Christian Health Center in Hopkinsville, KY. Funeral services will be at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, at 1:00 PM, Saturday, October 18, 2025, with Rev. Richard Sexton officiating. Burial will follow in Mount Pleasant Church Cemetery. Visitation will precede the service from 11:00 AM until the funeral hour.

Peggy Blankenship Oliver, 83, of Evansville, IN, formerly of Cadiz, KY, passed away on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, IN. Arrangements are being

handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz, where the family received friends from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Wednesday, October 15, 2025. Funeral service was held at 1:00 PM. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Princeton, KY.

Guy Allen Gipson, 81, most recently of Panama, passed away on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House in Murray, KY. As per Guy’s wishes, there will be no services.

• UNION •

Dr. Brian Thomas Lovell, 50, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, October 6, 2025. A Memorial Service was held at Mt. Sterling Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Sturgis, KY at 5:00pm on Tuesday, October 14, 2025. Visitation was from 2:30pm - 5:00pm. A bereavement dinner was provided immediately following the service.

• WEBSTER •

Willie Cranick, December 19, 1972 ~ October 12, 2025 (age 52), of Providence passed away at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Burial was in White Oak Cemetery.

Gladys Turner Burklow, 102, of Providence, KY passed away on Thursday October 9th, 2025 at her residence. Funeral services were held on Sunday October 12th, 2025 at 2pm at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Rev John Brumfiel will officiate. Burial was held in Little Zion Cemetery in Dixon, KY. Visitation was from 11am until service time on Sunday at the funeral home.

Max A. Dacy, 85 of Providence, KY passed away Wednesday October 8, 2025. Funeral services were held at 2 PM Saturday October 11, 2025 at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Bro. Johnnie Davis will officiated the burial in Lakeview Cemetery in Dixon, KY. Military rites were performed by Hopkins County Honor Guard at the cemetery. Visitation was held from 11 till service time on Saturday at the funeral Home.

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.

with deepest
Sympathy

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Pass Jesus to the next generation

By Teresa LeNeave
Leneave2@comcast.net

As the younger generation grows up, Christian's (especially ministers and young parents) are going to be faced with some tough questions that they better know the answer to. Questions like, "If Jesus ever lived on this earth, why isn't he written about outside the Bible?" He has been, but very few survived the times. Jesus lived in a time when political and religious leaders both wanted to squash any news of him. God preserved all we need to know and its well documented in the Bible.

More and more we hear people say, "I don't believe in God" or, "There may be a God, but I don't think there is just one." How do you answer these questions? Do you just flatly tell them, "You should believe because the Bible says you should - and that's that!" Or, do we give them an answer that will give them something to think about and to satisfy their questioning minds? Maybe it's because the Church is not

talking as loud at the world, but kids today are not going to believe everything they are told. There is just so much unbelief being thrown at them and so many things flood their minds that some kids who grew up in a Christian home are becoming doubters.

When they tell us they don't believe in God, what do we tell them? In the Bible, Paul said, "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:5-7 NKJV).

Later we read where Peter said, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15 KJV).

So, are you ready to give an answer to your son or daughter who say they don't believe? Can you give a sound, educated, answer for the reason of the hope that you believe in?



First of all, walking with Jesus is a faith walk so we'll not have all the answers. Second, we do the praying but God does the drawing. He will draw them to him.

Here are tips to discuss with doubters:

1. The biography of Jesus was written before He was born. Who else has that happened to? No one.

Old Testament prophecies predicted the city He would be born (Micah 5:2); it foretold His Name (Isaiah 7:14); and what He would do while in the world (Isaiah 61:1,2). Jesus clearly said those prophecies were about Him. He

quoted Isaiah 61:1-2 and then "closed the book, handed it to the minister, sat down and said, 'This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears'" (Luke 4:18-21).

2. Jesus actually is talked about in ancient history, which solidly backs up the Bible. Following are some ancient sources that mention Jesus:

In Book 18 of the Antiquities, 63-64, Josephus a Jewish historian who lived during Jesus' time wrote: "About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, for he was a performer of wonderful deeds, a teacher of such men

as are happy to accept the truth. He won over many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. When Pilate, at the suggestion of the leading men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those who had loved him at the first did not forsake him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct to this day." (http://www.facingthechallenge.org/josephus.php)

Tacitus - A Roman Historian wrote about Nero's hatred for the Christians. He said the name 'Christian' comes from the name of 'Christ' who is the founder of the

Christian religion. Scholars say all the details that Tacitus give matches the details in the Bible. (http://www.christian-faith.com/html/page/did_jesus_exist)

Pliny the Younger, a governor in those days, wrote that there was a new sect of people called Christians. He talks about how the Christians sang praise to their leader, Christ. Pliny the Younger, Letters 10.96 (http://www.christian-faith.com/html/page/did_jesus_exist)

The truth is, Jesus has been debated for centuries, but His name and power can't be disproved. Paul said Apollos, who was a disciple, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, debated the Jews publicly. Paul says Apollos "publicly proved by the scripture that Jesus was the Christ." (Acts 18:28).

Pass Jesus on to the next generation. He will always have a people who believe, but we want it to include our own families. So, pass him on to them.

LET GOD SORT 'EM OUT

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

He was contemptuously convicted of crimes he never committed. Witnesses stepped forward, alleging that he tried to spark a political insurrection and urged individuals to engage in tax evasion. Other witnesses accused him of terroristic threatening, stating that he vowed to demolish a local religious center and reconstruct it in three days. When the judge inquired whether the man had anything to say

in his defense, he surprisingly kept quiet. Dissatisfied with the proceedings, the judge forwarded the case to another neighborhood judge, who repeatedly pressured the man to refute the accusations against him—but there was only silence. No appeals for mercy. No assertion of innocence.

This famous trial was for the most blameless Man who ever lived, the sinless son of God (Matt. 26:57-68; 27:11-14). The Gospels teach that

Jesus remarkably refrained from defending Himself while being unjustly prosecuted (Mark 14:61). He spoke only a few words about His divine nature to the seething Sanhedrin and a probing Pilate, but never once shouted, "I have done nothing wrong!" He had no need to—the holy One had nothing to prove. But according to Peter, there was an additional reason for the Lamb's silence before His shearers: Jesus believed that the Judge of all humanity would

set the record straight and right every wrong: "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly" (1 Pet. 2:22-23).

If you have been a Christian for long, you have likely been the target of false accusations and unjust criticisms just like Jesus. Rumors, gossip,

and slander can incinerate precious relationships, put our jobs in jeopardy, and tarnish our otherwise godly reputation. And the easiest and most natural reflexes are revenge, rage, resentment, retaliation, and a refusal to forgive. But the righteous response is the one modeled by Christ: entrusting ourselves to the Defender of the oppressed and Avenger of the wronged (Psalm 9:9; 10:17-18; Nahum 1:2). The Lord knows every heart, His scales are perfectly

balanced, and He will vindicate us if we are blameless (1 Sam. 16:7; Prov. 16:11; Deut. 32:35).

Therefore, when you are unfairly condemned, do not take matters into your own hands. It is already in the hands of the God whose verdicts are always right. "The LORD loves justice" (Psalm 37:28), and has never misjudged a case—and He won't start with yours. His job is to judge, and yours is to rest in His righteous justice. Let God sort 'em out.

The beauty of being broken before God

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

Have you ever wondered if God is listening to you? One of His many divine attributes is that He is Omnipresent which means He is everywhere at the same time. His presence constantly permeates the atmosphere whether it be on earth, in heaven, or throughout the universe. This is how He knows everything that happens and every word that is said. He knows every tree that falls in the forest and every thought that has ever been imagined, as well as the motives and intentions of every heart.

I enjoy taking walks so that I can have the privacy to talk to Him. It gives me comfort and peace to know He is there, even though I do not hear Him reply in a literal voice.

Like you, I’ve discovered that it’s easy to share with Him, but difficult to hear and comprehend what He is saying. Sometimes I will just stop talking and listen for Him in the quiet. As Psalm 46:10 talks about being still and knowing that He is God, we are encouraged to stop allowing stress to make us afraid, and to learn how to rest in His presence. A key to developing a strong personal relationship with God is to have a holy reverence for who He is and this begins with being broken before Him.

Since Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” we know that hearing always precedes obedience. Faith can arise when instructions are revealed, however, if we are without the desire to understand, we are

without a vision to accomplish His will. We can obtain libraries of knowledge but the gift from heaven that changes lives is the passion to hear God’s voice. The next step is deciding just how much of our will we are going to surrender. During the Welsh Revival of the early nineteen hundreds, a song that was heard frequently by those who were seeking a closer walk with God was, “Bend me lower, lower, down at the feet of Jesus.” Yes, spiritual awakenings can become a widespread excitement, but the emphasis is on the individual entering into the holy of holies with God on their own. This spiritual metamorphosis happens through a personal conviction of the Holy Spirit who opens the eyes of the conscience and understand what it means to be saved by grace and become

a servant to Christ as Lord and King.

The greatest need in Christendom today is not necessarily more religious seminars, programs, or conferences. It is for men and women to be broken before God and to realize their great need to be focused on His constant presence. Once broken we will be empowered with divine supernatural energy, wisdom, and the anointing from heaven will be overwhelmingly evident. The fragrance from Mary’s alabaster box could not be released until it was broken. To accomplish His desires, we will need to allow the Lord to break us so the inner fragrance of His presence can be released. It is then we will have revival in our souls and be able to relay and express His compassion to others.

I heard a story years ago from a minister who said one morning he climbed a mountain and was sitting on a boulder contemplating the majesty of God, when nature revealed a profound message about the Christian life. He noticed something very interesting about the grass with fresh dew on it. The blades that stood tall and extended to the sky had no droplets of refreshing water, but the blades that were bent to the ground had several droplets on them. The bent grass reminds us that seasons of spiritual refreshing often come when we bow before Him in a state of gratitude and humility. It’s the attitude of descending that enables us to experience the reality of His majesty.

Psalm 51 is one of my favorite chapters and verses 16-17

declare, “For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” The life that stands tall and arrogant is not in the spiritual position to bask in the presence of His glorious presence. When the dew drops of heaven fall upon the heart that is calloused and distant, they roll off leaving that soul to remain dry and discontent.

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



By Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org

What I do requires me to travel. I’m not sure how many days I’m gone from home, but it’s quite a few. If my trip is ten hours or less, I prefer to drive. Driving lets me pack my truck with as much gear as possible. When these trips don’t involve a hunt, I can load plenty of the stuff that is associated with my ministry. When the trips include hunting, I can pack bows or guns as well as all the gear I need. I really like doing it this way. Planes limit me unless I pay an

extra expensive fee. And while taking weapons on a plane is doable, it can also be a hassle. So, when I fly and hunt, I usually borrow a friend’s gun. This also gives me an excuse if my hunt is unsuccessful. I can (and do) blame the gun I was given. I actually blame the guy who let me borrow his gun, because I firmly believe he gave me one with a crooked barrel. (looking at you John and Jason) Being able to borrow anything from a friend is a

great benefit. It fills a need when our own is unavailable, broken, or simply something we don’t have. Borrowing is a temporary exchange that allows one person’s supply to meet another person’s need. It is using someone else’s plenty in the presence of someone else’s lack. There are times in each of our lives when what we are lacking, or what is broken, or what is absent is our faith. Not our religion, but our trust. Our faith in God. There are

times when our own beliefs have been damaged so much, we don’t trust them to take us much further. It’s like an old truck that we have patched and patched so much that it’s good for a few miles, but we just don’t trust it on a long haul. If I can bring this home, I would say it this way. We’ve prayed, and we’re tired of praying. We’ve sought God, and we’re tired of seeking. We’ve forced gratitude, and we’re tired of faking it. We’ve confessed and promised until we’ve exhausted every word we know. And if we’re just being honest (and

God loves honesty) our faith is not taking us anywhere, and the only words we can conjure up to God, is, “God, I got nothin’.” And if that’s where you are, that’s okay. You can borrow faith from those who still have it. Be open and honest. Let someone know -- let several know-- you have crippled faith- you are unable to bring yourself to Jesus – you are unable to muster up even a mustard seed of faith. And what they will do for you, is break through a crowd, bust a hole in a roof, and lower you to Jesus. And when Jesus sees their faith, your healing

will come. Because borrowed faith still moves mountains. I’ll talk about this article on Tuesday at 7:30 am eastern time, on Zoom. Email me for the link. Gary Miller gary@outdoortruths.org Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men’s events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org



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The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued orders on July 7, 2025, scheduling a hearing to be held on November 3, 2025, at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sowerm Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky for Case Nos. 2025-00113 and 2025-00114. This is an examination of the Electronic Applications of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company for adjustment of its electric and gas rates and approval of certain regulatory and accounting treatments.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

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

Word Search Answers

Paducah Head Start Director Appointed to State Early Childhood Advisory Council

PADUCAH, Ky. — Paducah Public Schools announced that Kristy Lewis, director of Paducah Head Start, has been appointed to the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). Lewis will represent Head Start programs across the state in this important leadership role.

The ECAC, supported by the Kentucky Governor’s Office of Early Childhood, works to unify and strengthen early childhood programs, services, and agencies across the Commonwealth. The council plays a key role



Kristy Lewis

in shaping statewide early childhood policy and ensuring that Kentucky’s youngest learners and their families have access to high-quality educational

and developmental opportunities. The council coordinates efforts among more than 30 state agencies, including the Cabinet for Health and Family

Services, the Education and Labor Cabinet, and the Kentucky Department of Education. By bringing these agencies together, the ECAC aims to align resources and improve outcomes

for children from birth to age five. Paducah Public Schools officials congratulated Lewis on her appointment, noting that her leadership and experience in early

childhood education will help advance the mission of both the ECAC and the Head Start community statewide. For more information, visit kyecac.ky.gov.

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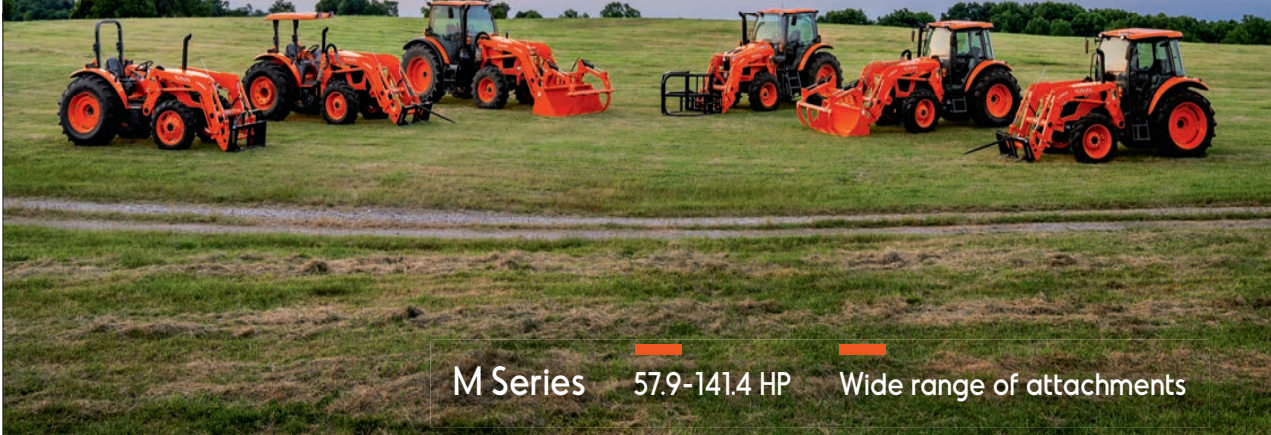
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Hispanic Heritage contines from front page

originally from Zacatecas, Mexico, grew up in Mayfield, Kentucky. She learned English at a young age and takes pride in blending her Mexican heritage with her American upbringing. Her greatest accom-

plishment, she says, is her family, which she cherishes deeply. The Foreign Language Club aims to recognize and celebrate the diversity within Mayfield High School's student body and faculty, empha-

sizing the importance of cultural awareness and inclusion. Graves County is proud to have such a vibrant blend of cultures represented within its school system—where every student, educator,

and family has a voice. Events like the Hispanic Heritage Month Festival remind the community that while traditions may differ, shared respect and pride bring everyone together as one.



All PHOTOS from Mayfield High School facebook page, taken by JOSEPH "PEE WEE" PETTY

DNA Confirms Human Remains in Hickman as Missing Man

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

Forensic experts have confirmed that bones discovered in a rural area of Hickman on September 14, 2025, belong to Nicky Avent, who had been reported missing earlier this year.

The remains were found by a local resident riding an ATV. Upon their discovery, the Hickman Police Department and the Fulton County Coro-

ner's Office immediately began an investigation. The Coroner's Office conducted a detailed forensic examination, collecting DNA samples for analysis. Officials have reported no indications of foul play related to the remains.

Avent, a longtime resident of Hickman, was reported missing on February 23, 2025. According to the police, he left his home early that morning and did not return. Investiga-

tors believe he may have been seen at a local gas station a few days later, although his whereabouts during the intervening period remain unclear.

Police are currently focusing on reconstructing the events leading up to Avent's disappearance in hopes of better understanding what occurred in the months following his last confirmed sighting. Authorities are urging anyone with informa-

tion—no matter how small—to contact Lead Investigator James Blakney at 270-206-2529.

The discovery and subsequent confirmation of Avent's identity have deeply affected his family, who have been notified and requested privacy during this difficult time. Police and community leaders are asking the public to respect the family's wishes and keep them in their thoughts and

prayers as they navigate this heartbreaking loss.

This case also highlights the ongoing efforts of local law enforcement and forensic experts in the area. The collaboration between the Hickman Police Department and the Fulton County Coroner's Office was crucial in confirming Avent's identity and ensuring that his family received answers after months of uncertainty.

While the exact circumstances surrounding Avent's death remain under investigation, officials emphasize the importance of community cooperation in helping bring clarity to cases like this. Anyone with relevant information is strongly encouraged to come forward, as even small details can provide valuable leads in piecing together the events that led to Avent's disappearance.

Mayfield Graves County Chamber Launches New Member to Member Program

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

The Mayfield Graves County Chamber of Commerce has officially launched its new Member-to-Member Perk Program. This program is a great way for chamber members to support each other while enjoying exclusive savings and

special offers. If you are a participating business, you can offer discounts or incentives to other Chamber members, which will encourage more local connections and collaboration within the community.

One perk for the new member to member program is that it is free to all May-

field-Graves County Chamber members. All discount offers will be posted on the Chamber's website at www.mayfieldgraveschamber.com in the "Member to Member" section. The discounts will be in a classified advertising style of publication so when you fill out your application you will need to

describe your discount in 30 words or less and it must include a discount off your product or service that is to be listed. If you are a professional firm, you may offer 30 minutes to 1 hour of free consultation time. Make sure to include all your contact info, including website links and

email addresses. Also, the discount that you offer, should be valid for at least 90 days; it is also the responsibility of the member to contact the Chamber when they want to change or delete their discount program. For more information, you can contact Kerri Beth Sutla at the Chamber at 270-247-6101 or

email kerribeth@mayfieldgraveschamber.com You can complete the form on the Mayfield Graves County Chamber of Commerce website which is <http://www.mayfieldgraveschamber.com/member-to-member-perk-program>

Mayfield Teacher Receives KY High School Teacher of the Year Award

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

Kara Byrn Dowdy, a Mayfield High School English teacher has been named the 2026 Kentucky High School Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Dowdy was previously recognized as one of nine statewide recipients for the Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award, and has advanced as a finalist for the overall 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year honor. The Kentucky Department of

Education announced the divisional winners during a ceremony on October 7, 2025 in Frankfort, Ky.

Dowdy is a Mayfield High School alumna and has spent more than 20 years in education. She also serves as the school's longtime

cheer coach. She was named Distinguished Educator of the Year for grades 6-12 by the West Kentucky Community and Technical College in 2023. However, beyond the classroom, Dowdy organizes an annual T-shirt sale and dodgeball

tournament to benefit special needs programs as well as coordinates a yearly book drive which started back in December 2021 after the tornado tore through the community. The 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year will be selected from

among the state's elementary, middle, and high school winners and will go on to represent Kentucky in the National Teacher of the Year competition. Congratulations to Kara Byrn Dowdy on this accomplishment.



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History of the Thin Blue Line

The “thin blue line” is a term that typically refers to the concept of the police as the line between law-and-order and chaos in society. The “blue” in “thin blue line” refers to the blue color of the uniforms of many police departments.

The phrase originated as an allusion to the Thin Red Line incident during the Crimean War in 1854, wherein a Scottish regiment—wearing red uniforms—famously held off an Imperial Russian Army cavalry charge. Its use referring specifically to the police was popularized by Los Angeles Police Department Chief William H. Parker during the 1950s; author and police officer Joseph Wambaugh in the 1970s, by which time “thin blue line” was used across the United States; and Errol Morris’s documentary *The Thin Blue Line* (1988). In recent years, the symbol has also been used by the Blue Lives Matter movement in the United States.

which aims to show solidarity with the police, and a number of far-right movements in the U.S., particularly after the Unite the Right rally in 2017.

History

The term is adapted from The Thin Red Line, an incident of the 1854 Battle of Balaclava during the Crimean War where troops the 93rd Regiment of Foot successfully stood their ground against a Imperial Russian Army cavalry charge. This action was widely publicized by the British press and depicted in several artworks, becoming one of the most famous episodes of the entire conflict. The name is now used for firefighters today.

In the book *Lawtalk*, James Clapp and Elizabeth Thornburg say the term spread to other professions, e.g., a “thin white line of bishops.”

An early known use of the phrase “thin blue line” is from a 1911 poem by Nels Dickmann Anderson, titled “The Thin Blue

Line.” In the poem, the phrase is used to refer to the United States Army, alluding both to the Thin Red Line and to the fact that US Army soldiers wore blue uniforms from the eighteenth century through the nineteenth century.

First used to refer to police when New York police commissioner Richard Enright used the phrase in 1922. In the 1950s, Los Angeles Police Chief Bill Parker often used the term in speeches, and he also lent the phrase to the department-produced television show *The Thin Blue Line*. Parker used the term “thin blue line” to further reinforce the role of the LAPD. As Parker explained, the thin blue line, representing the LAPD, was the barrier between law and order and social and civil anarchy.

The Oxford English Dictionary records its use in 1962 by The Sunday Times referring to police presence at an anti-nuclear demonstration. The phrase is also

documented in a 1965 pamphlet by the Massachusetts government, referring to its state police force, and in even earlier police reports of the NYPD. By the early 1970s, the term had spread to police departments across the United States. Author and police officer Joseph Wambaugh helped to further popularize the phrase with his police novels throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

The term was used for the title of Errol Morris's 1988 documentary film *The Thin Blue Line* about the murder of the Dallas Police officer Robert W. Wood. Judge Don Metcalfe, who presided over the trial of Randall Adams, states in the film that prosecutor "Doug Mulder's final argument was one I'd never heard before: about the 'thin blue line' of police that separate the public from anarchy." The judge admitted to being deeply moved by the prosecutor's words, though the trial resulted in a wrongful conviction and death sentence.

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12 facts about law enforcement

Law enforcement professionals are in the business of keeping people safe and secure. Statista reports that, in 2022, there were 70,566 police officers across Canada and 708,001 officer employed in the United States.

People from all walks of life work in law enforcement, where careers include dispatchers, crime scene technicians and police chiefs. The law enforcement field is vast and interesting, and the following are 14 facts about those who protect and serve, courtesy of Fact Retriever, Kiddle, the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, and the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund.

1. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police provide police services to every province in

Canada except Quebec and Ontario.

2. In 1916, Georgia Ann Robinson became the first African American police woman.

3. Law enforcement agencies are still staffed primarily with men. However, about 12 percent of sworn law enforcement officers in the U.S. are women.

4. The deadliest day in law enforcement history was on September 11, 2001. Seventy-two officers were killed while responding to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and other locations.

5. Police are trained in first aid and rescue because they usually are the first to arrive on the scene of an emergency.

6. The police are known by different names in other countries. In Ireland, for example, they are known as the Garda.

7. Around 90 percent of London's police officers do not carry firearms.

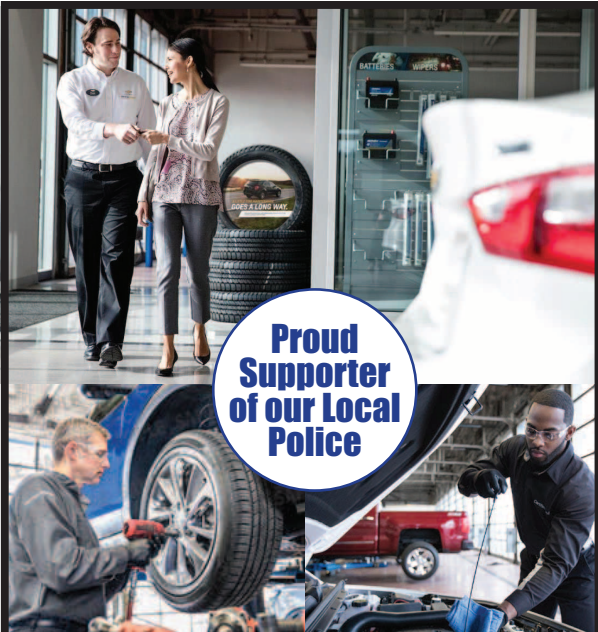
8. Police in the United States cannot make an arrest without probable cause and the intent to prosecute.

9. The vast majority of Americans (71 percent) are satisfied with local police.

10. Most cops (95 percent) never fire their service weapons on duty during their entire careers.

11. 99.9 percent of police calls are resolved peacefully.

12. In colonial America, law enforcement officers had less authority and personnel and were not effective at apprehending criminals. The church congregation would hold trials to "catch" criminals.



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Sheriff Jon Hayden focuses on Community, Teamwork, and Continuous Improvement

By: Laurna Todd
Scene Writer

Graves County Sheriff Jon Hayden shared insights about his service, staff, and goals for the department in a recent interview.

Sheriff Hayden brings decades of law enforcement experience to his role. He served three terms as McCracken County Sheriff,

completing a 27-year career there in 2018, before returning to his home county. “My wife and I are both from Graves County originally, and most of our families live here,” he said. “Being elected sheriff in Graves County in 2019—and re-elected in 2022—means a lot to me. It’s an honor to serve the county where I was born and raised.”

This year, the department welcomed three new deputies. One is currently attending the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy, another is slated to begin this fall, and the third is a lateral transfer from the McCracken County Sheriff’s Office. The latter brought valuable experience from both the Paducah Police Department and McCracken County, and he and his family are longtime Graves County residents.

Sheriff Hayden praised the department’s culture. “Our staff works well together, and most of us genuinely look at one another as family. What stands out is their willingness to jump in and help each other without being asked. It makes the office stronger and the community safer.”

Looking forward, Hayden



Graves County Sheriff
Jon Hayden

emphasized continuous improvement. “Our ongoing goal is to become better each day in the jobs we perform for the community. We strive to be an agency that the residents of Mayfield and Graves County can depend on—transparent, ethical, and always acting in their best interest.”

Under Sheriff Hayden’s leadership, the Graves County Sheriff’s Office continues to prioritize community trust, staff cohesion, and excellence in public service.





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Many skilled professionals work in police departments

Each and every day, communities rely on law enforcement agencies to keep their cities and towns orderly and safe. Uniformed patrol officers may be the most visible employees of police departments, but there are many individuals who work in concert to keep communities safe and precincts running smoothly. The following are some of the essential personnel who serve in local police departments across the country.

- **Dispatcher/telecommunicator:** This may be the first person individuals speak with during an emergency situation. Dispatchers typically work on the phone in police departments or from remote call centers. They patch information through to law enforcement so that officers can respond to situations.
- **Investigators:** Some departments employ civilian detectives to strengthen their investigative services. They work primarily from desks within the police department. These investigators will look into a wide range of low-level crimes like traffic incidents, burglaries and financial crimes. Sworn officers are able to devote their time elsewhere in the field as a result.
- **Police technician:** A technician is an entry-level position who assists sworn

personnel in follow-up investigations. Technicians also may perform other tasks, including working on paperwork or filing incident reports.

- **Officer/detective:** The broadest rank in the police department belongs to those who are police officers, patrol officers and police detectives. These people respond to emergencies and non-emergency calls, patrol areas, obtain warrants, and perform many other duties, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- **Information technology specialists:** Those with IT experience can work in police departments with video surveillance, in-car mobile data terminals, wireless communications, and global mapping technology to assist with crime prevention. Some IT professionals enter cybercrime detective units to help solve crimes related to computers and the internet.
- **Victim advocates:** These people help victims of crime cope with trauma and may work in the services department of a police force. They typically inform victims of their legal rights, including their right to protection.
- **Sheriff:** According to Indeed, a sheriff is an elected official authorized by the state to enforce laws at a county level. They



cover areas that are wider than those covered by local police departments. Sheriffs also may manage local jails and ensure security in these areas.

- **Evidence custodian:** This is the person who oversees evidence and is responsible for cataloging and securing it safely in storage.
- **Crime scene technician:** The technician is a forensic expert who works with law enforcement to collect evidence found at crime scenes to help solve crimes.

- **Additional officials:** Police departments follow a hierarchy of rank advancement. Above officers one will find corporals, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, a deputy police chief, and a chief of police. Higher ranks may manage other officers, monitor budgets and programs, enforce policies, and serve as the public face of local police departments.

Various professionals work at police departments across the country.

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Carlisle County Sheriff outlines plans, recognizes staff excellence

By: Laurna Todd
Scene Writer

Carlisle County Sheriff Eric Perry recently shared his perspective on serving the community, recognizing staff, and future goals for the department.

Sheriff Perry has served as Carlisle County’s Sheriff for approximately 1.5 years. He was appointed in June 2024 and elected in a special election that November. “I was born and raised in this county and have served as Deputy and then Chief Deputy for the last 15 years,”

he said. “This community and county is who I love to serve. I try to give back to better our way of life and keep our families safe.”

This year, the department added two new deputies. Austin Rathman joined as a full-time Deputy and completed his training at the DOCJT Academy, graduating in June 2025. Additionally, certified part-time Deputy Jeff Hartman was hired to help relieve workload pressures for Sheriff Perry and Chief Deputy Ben Green.

Sheriff Perry praised the dedication of his staff. “The

staff I have in place were here under the former Sheriff and they know their jobs, which makes office life easier. My office manager and her assistant are the best at what they do—I could not be more proud to have them on board.”

Looking ahead, Perry is excited about upcoming initiatives. “I am looking forward to getting our Task Force off the ground. We are still in the beginning stages and preparing for the upcoming election year.”

Under Sheriff Perry’s leadership, the Carlisle County Sheriff’s Office continues to focus on safety, efficiency, and service to the local community.



Carlisle County Sheriff
Eric Perry



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Sheriff Ryan Norman Highlights Staff, New Hires, and Department Goals

By: Laurna Todd
Scene Writer

McCracken County Sheriff Ryan Norman recently shared insights about his role, his team, and plans for the Sheriff's Office. Norman has served as Sheriff for three years. "Being the Sheriff, to me, means that I get to have a lasting effect on our county and hopefully continue to make it a great place to live," he said. "The Sheriff's Office has a great team that truly cares for our community. It is exciting to help shape the culture here as well as the future of our county, our home."

This year, the department welcomed eight new staff members: four deputies—Caleb Cope, Ashley Copeland, Daniel Griggs, and Jon Wentworth—and four court security officers—Madyson Coil, Tina Raper, Tyler Steele, and Theresita Vasquez.

Norman noted that all the deputies were already certified and had prior experience, with Deputy Copeland also serving in the Army National Guard. Norman praised the dedication of his staff. "From our office personnel to our deputies, they are all committed to helping our community. They spend countless hours training, working overtime, and participating in programs like our Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy. Many sacrifice family time and other activities to fill gaps and assist us. These qualities are hard to find."

Looking ahead, Norman shared ambitious plans for the department. "We are working towards accreditation by the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, which is a multiyear process. Our standing goals are to constantly improve through monthly training. Even minor skills can make a law enforcement



officer great, and we strive to improve each one. The Sheriff's Foundation also purchased a 3D scanner for \$70,000 earlier this year, which has already helped our team tremendously and will continue to do so in the future."

Sheriff Norman's focus on community, staff excellence, and innovation highlights the ongoing dedication of McCracken County law enforcement to keeping residents safe and supported.

McCracken County Jailer discusses daily challenges, staff dedication, and future initiatives

By: Laurna Todd
Scene Writer

PADUCAH — McCracken County Jailer Stephen Carter has served the county for 16 years and recently took on the role of Jailer two months ago. "Working in this role is deeply meaningful to me because it allows me to make a positive impact on both the facility and the lives of those entrusted to our care," he said. "I take great pride in leading a dedicated team and building a safe, secure, and rehabilitative environment."

The jail operates 24/7, with staff overseeing inmate movement, medical care, meals, security checks, and rehabilitation programs. "[Working closely with inmates] requires patience,

professionalism, and empathy," Carter explained. "It can be demanding, but it's rewarding to see individuals make positive changes."

While most inmates come from McCracken County, the jail also houses individuals from surrounding counties and occasionally from state or federal agencies. This diversity adds complexity, but the staff maintains strong coordination with other jurisdictions to ensure smooth operations.

Carter praised his team's dedication and professionalism. "What truly sets our staff apart is their commitment to safety, fairness, and supporting one another. They handle challenges with integrity and take pride in contributing to rehabilitation."

Looking ahead, the jail is focusing on improving reentry programs. A new initiative provides inmates within 90 days of release with state-issued IDs and birth certificates, helping remove barriers to employment and essential services. Ongoing professional development and

training opportunities for staff are also priorities. "Our staff is the backbone of this facility," Carter said. "Investing in their growth and well-being is key to our continued success."



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Inside Calloway County Jail: Jailer shares challenges, achievements, and staff dedication

By: Laurna Todd
Scene Writer

Ken Claud, the elected Jailer for Calloway County, has served in this role for eleven years, following a 27-year career in law enforcement that included six years as Chief of Police for the City of Murray. As jailer, Claud oversees the overall management and security of the facility, assisted by a staff of 32 deputy jailers and two non-sworn positions. “The jail operates 24/7,” Claud said. “Our staff must be present every day, regardless of weather or holidays. I am extremely proud of their dedication and professionalism.”

Dealing with inmates can be challenging, Claud noted, but he believes respect produces better outcomes. The main



**Ken Claud,
Calloway County Jailer**

jail has a rated capacity of 129 beds, with an additional 34-bed restricted custody center. The population typically ranges around 140, with about half being state inmates after felony convictions. The county receives

a per diem payment for housing state inmates, which helps offset operating costs.

Claud highlighted several rehabilitative programs offered at the jail, including work contracts with local entities such as the City of Murray, the Kentucky Department of Transportation, and Murray Electric System. Inmates also have access to evidence-based classes covering topics like anger management, parenting, and moral reconation therapy, as well as the opportunity to earn a GED through a partnership with the Kentucky Department of Adult Education.

Technology upgrades have also improved safety and security, including a body scanner, digital radios, handheld devices for cell checks and headcounts, and

upgraded surveillance cameras. While the jail, now nearly 30 years old, faces ongoing infrastructure challenges, Claud emphasized continual maintenance and equipment replacement, including the kitchen and laundry areas.

Staffing has historically been a challenge due to the demands of corrections work. However, a recent salary study by the Calloway County Fiscal Court raised deputy jailer starting pay from \$14 to \$17.45 per hour, aiming to stabilize the workforce and reduce turnover.

Claud reflected, “The county jail is a major part of the criminal justice system. It has been my honor to lead this institution for the last eleven years. We also welcome tours for appropriate groups to educate the public about the work we do.”

“We stand united with our law enforcement heroes. Thank you for your service, courage, and sacrifice.”

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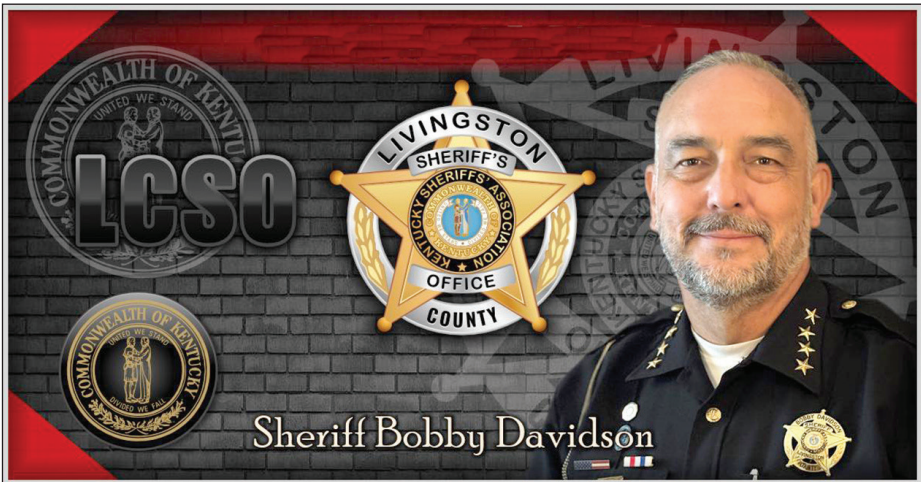
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Leadership, Loyalty, and Service: Sheriff Davidson reflects on his role

By: Laurna Todd
Scene Writer

Livingston County Sheriff Bobby Davidson, elected in November 2010, recently reflected on his years of service, the strength of his department, and the deep connection he feels with the community he proudly serves. “Being Sheriff is not something I take lightly,” Davidson said. “In fact, it means more to me than words can fully express. It’s not just a title — it’s a promise: a promise to serve, to protect, and to lead with integrity.” For Davidson, the role of sheriff is rooted in both duty and personal connection. “This isn’t just where I work — it’s where I live, where I raise



my family, and where I share a deep bond with each and every one of you.” He emphasized that law enforcement goes beyond enforcing the law; it’s about building trust with residents

and being present in their daily lives. “It’s about showing up, not just in moments of crisis, but in everyday life — at community events, in our schools, and on the front steps of homes when someone needs help.” Under Davidson’s leadership, the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office has launched and expanded numerous outreach initiatives, including the implementation of School Resource Officers (SROs) in schools to ensure the safety of children, as well as programs like Cram the Cruiser, Santa Cop, and DARE — all aimed at supporting youth and fostering positive relationships within the community. “We’ve lowered

crime rates and expanded outreach,” he stated. “But I know there’s still more to be done. I’m committed — not just as a law enforcement officer, but as your neighbor — to doing the hard work necessary to keep improving.” While Davidson did not highlight individual new hires this year, he offered high praise for the entire team serving under him. “I want to recognize the dedicated deputies who wear the badge in this department, along with the court security officers up front. They put their lives on the line each day with courage, professionalism, and a sense of duty that inspires me. They are the backbone of this office, and I’m proud to lead them.” Maintaining law and order is a foundational responsibility for the department, ensuring safety, accountability, and peace of mind for county residents. Sheriff Davidson expressed gratitude that there are still individuals willing to step up and accept this responsibility with pride and purpose. As he looks to the year ahead, Davidson is focused on continuing to grow the department’s impact through both innovation and community partnership.

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Marshall County Sheriff Matt Hillbrecht highlights staff, new hires, and department goals

By: Laurna Todd
Scene Writer

Marshall County Sheriff Matt Hillbrecht has dedicated more than two decades to serving his community, sharing a deep connection to the county he calls home.

Sheriff Hillbrecht has served as Marshall County Sheriff since January 2023, but his career in law enforcement spans 26 years. “Marshall County is my home, where my children were raised, and now where my grandchildren are being raised,” he said. “It means everything to me to serve in a capacity to help make Marshall County a safer place to live and raise our families. It has been a privilege to serve the citizens of Marshall County over the course of my career, and I hope to continue for several more years.”

This year, the Sheriff’s Office welcomed several new team

members, including Deputies Dustin Bevil, Patrick Kelly, and Trevin Green; School Resource Officers Nathan Maxlow, Caleb Curtner, Benny Kauffman, John Lancaster, and Greg Reynolds; and Court Security Officers Darvin Stom and Mike Frensley. Hillbrecht praised their contributions, saying each has played a vital role in the success of the office.

Sheriff Hillbrecht also praised his staff for their dedication and courage. “In a world where law enforcement is often scrutinized, these deputies continue to serve with pride, integrity, and bravery every single day. They put on their uniform knowing the risks, protecting strangers, and making the community safer. Their commitment is what truly makes a great team, and I am honored to serve alongside these heroes.”

Looking ahead, Hillbrecht outlined several goals and initiatives for 2025. One key

accomplishment is the expansion of the Peer Support Team, in collaboration with neighboring police departments, providing mental health services to officers after traumatic events. Another upcoming initiative is a Police Clergy Alliance, designed to offer spiritual and emotional support to victims and their families during crises.

The department is also advancing in technology and safety, implementing a drone program, updating mobile data terminals in cruisers, and pursuing grants to obtain additional ballistic shields, helmets, and protective gear for deputies.

Sheriff Hillbrecht’s focus on community, staff excellence, and innovative programs underscores the ongoing dedication of



**Marshall County Sheriff
Matt Hillbrecht**

Marshall County law enforcement to keeping residents safe and supported.



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Backing the Blue in Washington

In 2022 Congressman Sam Graves of Missouri wrote:

I’ve heard a lot of bad ideas over the years. But one of them, this notion that we should “defund the police,” really takes the cake.

There’s no substitute for the brave law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. When you call 911, and I pray that day never comes for you, you expect an armed police officer to respond, not a social worker. But that’s exactly what some of the out-of-touch liberals want to happen.

They want to defund our police departments and send unarmed social workers to do the job of law enforcement professionals. That’s a recipe for disaster. You don’t stop rising crime by sending social workers to do the job of cops and letting criminals off the hook. You stop rising crime by supporting our police officers and cracking down on violent criminals. That seems fairly easy to understand.

This isn’t some harmless, obscure political debate. These kinds of ideas and policies are having real impacts on our communities. The Biden Administration’s decision to turn their backs on law-enforcement agents at the border has allowed deadly fentanyl to flood into our communities at an unpredicted rate.

I don’t just mean border towns in Texas and Arizona. Almost every other day, I see a new story of a teen or toddler stolen from us



too soon—in places like Kansas City and Chillicothe. None of this nonsense has done anything to fight back against the crime plaguing our country. In fact, it’s only emboldened criminals to attack and target our law

enforcement officers.

In May, the FBI released data showing that the number of law-enforcement officers intentionally killed in the line of duty reached the highest level our country has seen since September 11, 2001. That’s completely unacceptable.

I cosponsored the Protect and Serve Act to enhance penalties for the cowardly criminals that target our police officers. It’s time we got serious about cracking down on violent criminals. Back the blue shouldn’t just be a catchy slogan. It should be something we all try to live up to—to fight back against all these attacks on our police officers and this “defund the police” nonsense.

Sincerely,
Sam Graves

Op-ed by 4 House Republicans

This op-ed from May 2025 with Reps. Pete Stauber, Troy Nehls, Clay Higgins, and Congressman Gabe Evans shares how House Republicans have backed the blue.

During National Police Week, our nation remembers those who bravely served our communities in uniform and who made the ultimate sacrifice upholding the law.

Despite these sacrifices, President Joe Biden and Democrats turned their backs on law enforcement officers across America for the last four years. By allowing millions of illegal immigrants into our country and by passing soft-on-crime policies, the radical Left put local law enforcement officers’ lives in danger.

Now, with President Donald Trump in the White House and with Republicans in control of Congress, America’s law enforcement can rest assured knowing we will always back the blue.

As former law enforcement officers now serving in Congress, we are dedicated to enacting legislation to better the lives of our fellow officers.

We’ve already passed numerous measures to help law enforcement officers do their jobs, like the HALT Fentanyl Act and the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act.

The HALT Fentanyl Act would equip law enforcement officials with the power to go after fentanyl traffickers by permanently classifying fentanyl analogs as a Schedule I substance. And the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act would enact harsher penalties for those who evade law enforcement near the border and prevent illegal immigrants who flee Border Patrol from ever being admitted to the United States. Both bills could help prevent future tragedies from happening again.

In case it wasn’t clear, the days of lawmakers turning their backs on law enforcement officers are over. House Republicans are

working with President Trump to honor and protect those who put their lives on the line.

America’s laws are being upheld again. The Thin Blue Line protects our families and communities. It’s only right that we have their backs.

Reps. Pete Stauber, Troy Nehls, Clay Higgins, and Gabe Evans are Republican members of Congress. All four served their communities in law enforcement roles before their time in office.



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Criminal Justice Training announce 22 Officers Graduate

Program sharpens investigative skills of Kentucky’s law enforcement officers

Gov. Andy Beshear and the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) announced that 22 crime scene investigators (CSIs) from across the commonwealth have graduated from the 2025 Kentucky Criminalistics Academy (KCA) Crime Scene Technician Course Class 10.

“Crime scene investigators are vital in supporting our law enforcement and providing justice for victims across our commonwealth,” Gov. Beshear said. “You have answered a call that will help build a safer New Kentucky Home, and for that, all of Kentucky thanks you.”

KCA is made up of two five-week, 200-hour courses for full-time and newly appointed CSIs and patrol officers who serve as CSIs for their agencies. In addition to sworn officers, KCA is open to civilian CSIs who work for law enforcement agencies.

“Your skills as law enforcement officers have been enhanced by completing this

academy,” DOCJT Commissioner Mike Bosse said. “It reflects your dedication to the field. I wish you all the best as you continue your careers.”

KCA certification includes training in:

- Digital photography
- Advanced latent print development
- Evidence collection and documentation
- Latent fingerprint recognition and identification
- Shooting scene reconstruction
- Bloodstain pattern recognition and documentation
- Post blast investigation
- Forensic mapping
- Computer crimes investigations
- Forensic anthropological recovery course (University of Tennessee)

DOCJT provides basic training for city and county police officers, sheriff’s deputies, university police and airport police throughout the state, only excluding

the Louisville Metro Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Bowling Green Police Department, Owensboro Police Department and Kentucky State Police, each of which have independent academies.

THE KCA CLASS NO. 10 GRADUATES AND THEIR AGENCIES ARE:

1. **Jeffery Bessinger**, Scottsville Police Department
2. **Christopher Boone**, Hillview Police Department
3. **Chase Bowman**, Nicholasville Police Department
4. **Emma Burbrink**, Louisville Metro Police Department
5. **Allyson L. Cook**, Hardin County Sheriff’s Office
6. **Travis Davis**, Todd County Sheriff’s Office
7. **Scott Evelyn**, Lexington Police Department
8. **Evan B. Guilfoyle**, Erlanger Police Department
9. **Dalton T. Hayes**, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office
10. **James C. Hobson**, Pikeville Police Department
11. **Brad Holloman**, Kentucky State Police
12. **Ryan W. Kilmer**, Florence Police Department
13. **Ethan Manley**, Florence Police Department
14. **Tai Nguyen**, Lexington Police Department
15. **Nicholas R. Paton**, Frankfort Police Department
16. **Kelsey Skaggs**, Daviess County Sheriff’s Office
17. **David R. Thompson**, Bourbon County Sheriff’s Office
18. **Brandon S. Vance**, Ft. Thomas Police Department
19. **Zachary L. Vance**, Highland Heights Police Department
20. **Cheryl Vice**, Louisville Metro Police Department
21. **Benjamin E. Williams**, Bowling Green Police Department
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You can support law enforcement through various actions, including providing direct appreciation like sending thank-you letters or food, and engaging with your local police department by volunteering, following their social media, or attending community events. Supporting their work also involves advocating for policies that provide adequate funding,

training, and resources for officers.

Show personal appreciation

Write a letter: Send a formal letter to your local police department, praising specific actions you have witnessed.

Say thank you: A simple greeting and a verbal “thank you” to officers you see in the community can make a difference.

Bring food: Drop off gift cards, coffee, or meals at the local precinct for officers

to enjoy.

Pay it forward: Buy an officer’s coffee or lunch when you are at a restaurant with them.

Engage with your local police

Volunteer: Join the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program or other local volunteer opportunities, which can include administrative work, community outreach, and other support tasks.

Follow on

social media: Stay informed about local events, crime alerts, and traffic updates by following your police department’s social media accounts.

Attend community events: Look for and attend events organized by or for your local police department.

Support non-profits: Donate to or support non-profit organizations that help law enforcement officers and their families, or those that

assist in breaking the stigma around mental health for officers.

Advocate for systemic support

Advocate for funding: Support policies that provide adequate funding for law enforcement agencies.

Support training and resources: Encourage the allocation of resources for officer training and mental health support, such as counseling and peer support

programs.

Encourage reform: Support police reform measures that aim to improve the institution while acknowledging the need for a police presence in the community.

Support the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum: Support the museum and memorial to honor fallen officers and their families.

Law Enforcement support includes other programs

Law enforcement support includes federal programs like the Department of Defense’s 1033 Program and the Department of Justice’s grant systems, which provide funding and equipment. Community support can be shown through participation in community policing programs and attendance at community meetings. The Department of Homeland Security’s Office for State and Local Law Enforcement acts as a liaison and resource for state, local, and tribal law enforcement.

Federal and state support programs

Department of Justice (DOJ) Grants: Provides funding, training, and technical assistance for public safety and criminal justice

activities through the Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO): The Defense Logistics Agency program that transfers excess Department of Defense property, such as vehicles, tools, and supplies, to law enforcement agencies.

DHS Office for State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE): Serves as a liaison and resource for state, local, and tribal law enforcement within the Department of Homeland Security.

Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) : Located within Immigration and Customs Enforcement, it is a national point-of-contact for sharing information and providing assistance to law enforcement

partners.

FinCEN Support: The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network provides financial intelligence support, including access to Bank Secrecy Act data and participation in a global network of financial intelligence units.

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA): Part of the Office of Justice Programs, it provides grants, training, and technical assistance to strengthen the criminal justice system.

Community and individual support

Participate in community policing programs: These programs allow for direct communication and collaboration between citizens and police to address community issues.

Attend community

meetings: This provides a platform to communicate directly with police representatives and help solve local problems, fostering a positive relationship.

Support law enforcement organizations: You can support organizations

dedicated to providing resources, training, and assistance to law enforcement officers.

Provide feedback and information: Citizens can provide information to law enforcement about crimes or neighborhood concerns.

Report issues: You can report concerns about police misconduct to the appropriate oversight or internal affairs departments.

Be a supportive bystander: Respect law enforcement officers’ actions, and avoid interfering with their work.

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From President DONALD J. TRUMP in April 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose and Policy. Safe communities rely on the backbone and heroism of a tough and well-equipped police force. My Administration is steadfastly committed to empowering State and local law enforcement to firmly police dangerous criminal behavior and protect innocent citizens.

When local leaders demonize law enforcement and impose legal and political handcuffs that make aggressively enforcing the law impossible, crime thrives and innocent citizens and small business owners suffer. My Administration will therefore: establish best practices at the State and local level for cities to unleash high-impact local police forces; protect and defend law enforcement officers wrongly accused and abused by State or local officials; and surge resources to officers in need. My Administration will work to ensure that law enforcement officers across America focus on ending crime, not pursuing harmful, illegal race- and sex-based “equity” policies.

The result will be a law-abiding society in which tenacious law enforcement officers protect the innocent, violations of law are not tolerated, and American communities are safely enjoyed by all their citizens again.

Sec. 2. Legal Defense of Law Enforcement Officers. The Attorney General shall take all

appropriate action to create a mechanism to provide legal resources and indemnification to law enforcement officers who unjustly incur expenses and liabilities for actions taken during the performance of their official duties to enforce the law. This mechanism shall include the use of private-sector pro bono assistance for such law enforcement officers.

Sec. 3. Empowering State and Local Law Enforcement. (a) The Attorney General and other appropriate heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall take all appropriate action to maximize the use of Federal resources to:

- (i) provide new best practices to State and local law enforcement to aggressively police communities against all crimes;
- (ii) expand access and improve the quality of training available to State and local law enforcement;
- (iii) increase pay and benefits for law enforcement officers;
- (iv) strengthen and expand legal protections for law enforcement officers;
- (v) seek enhanced sentences for crimes against law enforcement officers;
- (vi) promote investment in the security and capacity of prisons; and
- (vii) increase the investment in and collection, distribution, and uniformity of crime data across jurisdictions.

(b) Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Attorney General shall review all ongoing Federal consent decrees, out-of-court agreements, and post-judgment orders to which a State or local law enforcement agency is a party and modify, rescind, or move to conclude

such measures that unduly impede the performance of law enforcement functions.

Sec. 4. Using National Security Assets for Law and Order. (a) Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of agencies as appropriate, shall increase the provision of excess military and national security assets in local jurisdictions to assist State and local law enforcement.

(b) Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall determine how military and national security assets, training, non-lethal capabilities, and personnel can most effectively be utilized to prevent crime.

Sec. 5. Holding State and Local Officials Accountable. The

Attorney General shall pursue all necessary legal remedies and enforcement measures to enforce the rights of Americans impacted by crime and shall prioritize prosecution of any applicable violations of Federal criminal law with respect to State and local jurisdictions whose officials:

- (a) willfully and unlawfully direct the obstruction of criminal law, including by directly and unlawfully prohibiting law enforcement officers from carrying out duties necessary for public safety and law enforcement; or
- (b) unlawfully engage in discrimination or civil-rights violations under the guise of “diversity, equity, and inclusion” initiatives that restrict law enforcement activity or endanger citizens.

Sec. 6. Use of Homeland Security Task Forces. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the Homeland Security

Task Forces (HSTFs) formed in accordance with Executive Order 14159 of January 20, 2025 (Protecting the American People Against Invasion) to coordinate and advance the objectives of this order.

Sec. 7. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- i. the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- ii. the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by

any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The Department of Justice shall provide funding for this order’s publication in the Federal Register.

Does your community have a neighborhood watch group? If so, join your neighbors to talk about safety. If your neighborhood doesn't have a group, consider starting one. Talk to your local law enforcement agency to find out how.



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What is the biggest issue in law enforcement?

The biggest challenges facing police officers today are staffing shortages, driven by difficulties in recruitment and retention, and the subsequent increased workload and officer burnout. Other significant challenges include building trust and community relations, adapting to evolving crime trends and technology, and managing officer morale and mental health amid high stress and negative public sentiment.

Recruitment and Retention Challenges

High Attrition: A significant number of officers are leaving the profession due to retirement, burnout, and changing generational preferences for work-life balance.

Declining Interest: Law enforcement careers are becoming less appealing to younger generations who may prioritize different

work conditions, compensation, and a desire for more flexibility.

Increased Workload: The shortage of officers leads to higher workloads, fatigue, and decreased efficiency for the remaining officers, impacting their well-being and the quality of community service.

Community Relations and Trust

Eroded Trust: High-profile incidents and negative public perception have strained relationships between police and the communities they serve.

Lack of Engagement: Staffing shortages limit opportunities for officers to engage in proactive community programs and build positive relationships, making it harder to foster trust.

Operational and Evolving Demands

Complex

Crimes: Police are increasingly tasked with handling complex crimes like cybercrime and cross-border criminal activities, which require specialized knowledge and coordination.

Technological Demands: Keeping pace with rapid technological advancements and effectively using new tools is a constant challenge, with tight budgets sometimes hindering necessary training and equipment.

Broadening Responsibilities: Officers are expected to handle a wider range of issues, including mental health crises and school security, in addition to traditional policing duties.

Officer Well-being

Burnout and Stress: High workloads, stress from complex situations, and the pressures of community relations

contribute to significant rates of burnout and mental health issues among officers.

Morale and Support: Chiefs face the difficult task of maintaining high morale and creating supportive environments for officers who are experiencing high levels of stress and fatigue.

To all of the police officers out there...

We see you.
We support you.
We pray for you.
We thank you for your service.



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“Proud to support our law enforcement families — your dedication keeps us safe.”

The National Police Association endorses the Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act

Releasing criminal suspects pre-trial without the safeguards provided by cash bail serves no valid purpose, and in fact only rewards lawlessness. These cashless bail policies have driven a violent crime surge that is claiming innocent victims and destroying communities. The Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act (S. 2705 / H.R. 5213), introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Marsha Blackburn (TN) and in the House by Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY-21), would help put an end to this madness. This bill, endorsed by the National Police Association (NPA), prohibits funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program from being distributed to state and local governments that limit or prohibit cash bail. The text for the Senate bill is here, and the House bill is here.

Specifically, the Attorney General would be prohibited from awarding JAG grants to jurisdictions that restrict cash bail for suspects charged with offenses that place the citizenry in imminent danger. Violent offenses like murder, rape, and carjacking would be covered under this bill, as would public disorder offenses like looting and rioting.

The Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act codifies two Executive Orders that President Trump signed to protect law-abiding citizens from the devastation of cashless bail policies. “Police officers are fulfilling their constitutional obligations. They’re conducting investigations, making arrests, and placing their own lives at risk to remove the worst offenders from our streets. Cashless bail policies undermine this lifesaving work while emboldening criminal offenders and placing all of us at risk,” said Paula Fitzsimmons, Legislative Director, National Police Association. “By risking the loss of coveted JAG grant funding, the Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act would compel prosecutors and judges to use cash bail to keep violent offenders off our streets,” Fitzsimmons added.

The NPA extends its gratitude to Sen. Blackburn and Rep. Stefanik for introducing the Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act. We believe this bill will save lives, help restore trust in the justice system, and enable police agencies to utilize their resources more effectively. We encourage Congress to prioritize this bill.

To support this and future anti-crime, pro-police legislation, join the NPA’s Call to Action team. Receive email alerts on bills, including which lawmakers to contact.

About: The National Police Association (NPA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting law enforcement through advocacy, education, and the courts. For more information, visit NationalPolice.org.

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