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Mayfield training strengthens water rescue readiness

(Photos by Mayfield Fire Department and Mayfield-Graves EMS)

By: Laurna Pruett
KPI Writer

The Mayfield Fire Department and Mayfield-Graves EMS hosted a four-day Swift Water Technician Training course, bringing together firefighters from Mayfield and surrounding areas to strengthen their water rescue skills.

Five members of the host agencies successfully completed the course, which focused on safely responding to emergencies and performing rescues in fast-moving water.

This training is especially important during flooding, when rising water can leave motorists stranded and residents trapped. Swift water presents serious dangers to both those needing help and emergency responders. Specialized training helps rescuers recognize hazards, coordinate their efforts and carry out rescues while reducing risks.

For residents, that preparation means having local responders better equipped to help when a routine day suddenly becomes an emergency. Water rescues can require split-second decisions, leaving little time to determine the next move. Practicing those skills beforehand helps crews respond quickly and work together to protect lives.

The Mayfield Fire Department and Mayfield-Graves EMS continue to invest in learning and training so their crews stay sharp and ready to respond. That ongoing commitment benefits the entire community when emergencies happen without warning and every second counts.

Graves County High School voting center moved; voters urged to plan ahead

By: Laurna Pruett
KPI Writer

Graves County residents who normally vote at Graves County High School need to know about an important change before heading to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Due to renovations at the high school, that Election Day voting center has been moved to Graves County Middle School, 1220 Eagles Way in Mayfield. The designated voting area is at the pull-through bus loop.

Mayfield High School remains a voting center and is separate from the location affected by the move.

Voting gives residents a voice in choosing the leaders who make decisions affecting their schools, roads, public services and communities. The right to cast a ballot is an honor secured through generations of sacrifice and effort. Taking time to vote is a meaningful way to exercise that right and help shape the community's future.

According to the county's Election Day notice, voters from all Graves County precincts may cast their ballots at any of the eight designated centers.

Along with Graves County Middle School, locations include Mayfield High School, 700 Douthitt St., Mayfield; Sedalia Elementary, 5252 State Route 97, Mayfield; Wingo Elementary, 449 Lebanon St., Wingo; and Fancy Farm Elementary, 270 State Route 339, Fancy Farm.

Other centers are Symsonia Elementary School, 11730 State Route 131, Symsonia; Community Fellowship Church, 90 State Route 408 W., Hickory; and Farmington Elementary School, 7730 State Route 121, Mayfield.

The Graves County Clerk's Office will be closed for regular business Nov. 3 while staff members assist with Election Day operations.

Residents are encouraged to make a voting plan and share the location change with family members and neighbors who normally vote at Graves County High School.

Miller Named Girls' Golf Region Coach of the Year

By Graves Co. Schools

"This award is just as much a reflection of the team and their dedication as it is of anything I have done as their coach."

First Team All Region, Region 1 Champions, Top 5 Team at Sub-State, winner of 4 tournaments in one season, lowest team tournament score in school history, a Region 1 Player of the Year…and that's just to name a few of the titles and accomplishments earned this year by the GCHS Girls Golf Team. To add to that impressive list, this week, Coach Jade Miller was named Girls' Golf Region Coach of the Year.

"Being named Coach of the Year is truly an honor, and I am incredibly humbled to receive this recognition. Coaching has never been about individual awards for me. It has always been about the girls, their growth, and helping them reach their full potential both on and off the golf course. I am fortunate to coach an amazing group of young ladies who work hard, trust the process, and represent our school and community with pride. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to be a small part of their journey."

The love for golf has been something that has developed over the years for Miller. While she loves the game and the challenges that come along with it, who she shares it with truly is where her passion ignited. Golf is a family affair for the Miller girls… and their dad, and these days some of their sweetest days take place at a golf course.

"My love for golf has grown through the years, but what has made the game even more special to me is the opportunity to share it with young athletes and my daughters. Golf is such a unique sport because it challenges you both physically and mentally. There is always something to learn, something to improve, and a reason to keep coming back. As a coach, watching my players develop that same love and appreciation for the game has only strengthened my own passion for it."

With a season full of breaking records and making history, Miller after 4 years serving as head coach, insists that her most important job is to make sure these ladies are prepared for the world…to chase their dreams…take the road less traveled… and to never settle for mediocrity.

"I truly believe golf is one of the greatest sports for teaching life lessons. It teaches patience, honesty, integrity, responsibility, perseverance, and mental toughness. In golf, you are responsible for your own actions and decisions, and you have to learn how to handle adversity without letting it define you. One bad shot doesn't have to ruin your entire round, just like one bad day doesn't have to determine your future. Golf teaches these young ladies to stay focused on what they can control, learn from their mistakes and keep moving forward. Those lessons will carry over in their education, careers, relationships, and whatever challenges life may bring. My hope is that the lessons they learn through golf will stay with them long after they have played their final round for Graves County."

As Miller looks forward to the next season, she sums up her future goals really in one sentence.

"Success is not just measured by where we finish, but by how much we grow along the way."

Congratulations, Jade Miller and the Lady Eagles Girls Golf Team on a very exciting season!

WKU receives $2 million grant from DOE

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (KT) – Western Kentucky University has received a $2 million award from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet's Office of Energy Policy, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program, to develop a resilient microgrid at the WKU Innovation Campus.

It will create a platform for research, education and disaster resilience, helping the campus support critical operations during power outages while improving everyday energy management.

According to WKU, the microgrid will integrate solar power, battery energy storage, existing backup generators and advanced controls. A microgrid is a coordinated local energy system designed to operate alongside the utility grid and, when needed, independently during an outage. It is intended to support critical facilities at the Innovation Campus during outages, including WKU's Disaster Science Operations Center (DSOC), which works alongside Kentucky Emergency Management to coordinate disaster response.

Researchers and students in the DSOC's AI Research (AIR) Lab will use the microgrid as a research platform, developing data and artificial intelligence applications that connect weather, energy use and emergency operations.

"This award gives us an opportunity to connect disaster preparedness with practical energy solutions," said Dr. Manmeet Singh, Assistant Professor in WKU's Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences within the WKU Ogden College of Science and Engineering, and the project's principal investigator. "Our goal is to build a system that helps sustain critical operations when the grid is disrupted, while creating opportunities for students to work on real challenges at the intersection of energy, data science, and community resilience."

Researchers and students in the DSOC's AI Research (AIR) Lab will use the microgrid as a research platform, developing data and artificial intelligence applications that connect weather, energy use and emergency operations.

The project includes engineering and design, equipment procurement and installation, and testing to evaluate how solar generation, stored energy and backup generators work together. WKU will work with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on engineering analysis and design review and will coordinate with Bowling Green Municipal Utilities and the Tennessee Valley Authority on interconnection requirements and potential participation in TVA's Peak Rewards demand response program.

Federal ADA settlement reached on behalf of deaf patient at dialysis center

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Kentucky has announced an agreement under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with DaVita, Inc., which operates dialysis treatment centers throughout the United States.

The action resolves a complaint brought on behalf of a patient who is deaf and uses American Sign Language (ASL) as his primary means of communication.

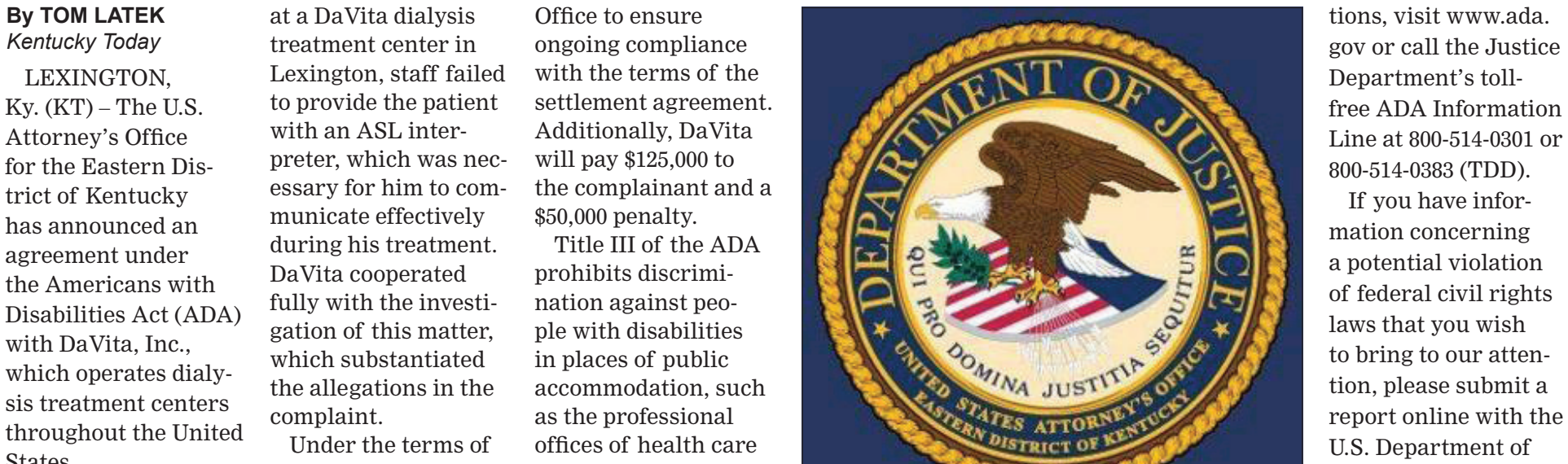
The complaint alleged that during multiple years of dialysis treatments at a DaVita dialysis treatment center in Lexington, staff failed to provide the patient with an ASL interpreter, which was necessary for him to communicate effectively during his treatment. DaVita cooperated fully with the investigation of this matter, which substantiated the allegations in the complaint.

Under the terms of the agreement, DaVita will update its policies and practices that will deal with providing effective communication and securing qualified interpreters for patients; train its staff on these policies; report any future complaints; and cooperate with the U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure ongoing compliance with the terms of the settlement agreement. Additionally, DaVita will pay $125,000 to the complainant and a $50,000 penalty.

Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in places of public accommodation, such as the professional offices of health care providers. It requires places of public accommodation to provide the necessary auxiliary aids and services to ensure that communication is effective. Such aids and services can include American Sign Language interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and must be paid for by the place of public accommodation.

The Department of Justice offers a number of publications available to assist entities in complying with the ADA, including Effective Communication and a Business Brief on Communicating with People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Hospital Settings. For more information on the ADA and to access these publications, visit www.ada.gov or call the Justice Department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TDD).

If you have information concerning a potential violation of federal civil rights laws that you wish to bring to our attention, please submit a report online with the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division by visiting https://civilrights.justice.gov/. For more information on the Office's civil rights efforts and how to report a potential violation to the Office directly, go to https://www.justice.gov/usao-edky/civil-rights.



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Study finds expanding hemp could boost Kentucky water quality and ecological diversity

By Jordan Strickler
jstrickler@uky.edu

Lexington, Ky.— Hemp has long been pitched to Kentucky farmers as a way to diversify their income. Research now suggests it could diversify the landscape itself, with measurable benefits for the state's water and wildlife.

Tyler Mark, Ph.D., an agricultural economist in the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE), co-authored the paper published in Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy alongside researchers at Mississippi State University and Central State University.

The study examined what happens to Kentucky's environment when hemp constitutes a larger share of the state's farmland. The team found that more hemp means more crop diversity, which is linked to cleaner water and a wider variety of birds.

Kentucky is one of the nation's leading hemp-producing states. According to the USDA 2026 National Hemp Report, Kentucky farmers planted 4,800 acres of industrial hemp in 2025. Now, much of the conversation around the crop has centered on markets and prices, particularly as growers in a state with deep tobacco roots look for new options. The researchers wanted to look at a less-discussed side of the equation.

"Profitability, while important, is only part of the story," Mark said. "Hemp can also impact the environment. If hemp acres are going to expand, then we also need to understand and quantify these impacts."

Landscapes planted with diverse crops tend to offer more varied habitat for wildlife and can reduce the nutrient runoff that degrades streams and lakes. When a new crop like hemp enters rotations alongside corn, soybeans, hay and tobacco, it adds to that mix.

To measure the effect, the researchers took a two-prong approach using county-level data from across the Commonwealth.

First, they ran a series of simulations in which hemp planting increased from 1% to 10% of Kentucky's total agricultural land. In every scenario, crop diversity rose steadily as hemp acreage expanded. Next, the researchers used statistical models that follow counties over time to estimate how changes in crop diversity relate to environmental conditions.

Second, to assess water quality, the authors looked at water clarity, dissolved oxygen and phosphorus levels. For wildlife, they looked at bird diversity, a common indicator of overall habitat health. Economists call these "non-market" benefits. No one is directly paid for them, but everyone downstream benefits.

By linking the two steps, the team could estimate how much a hemp-driven bump in crop diversity would shift those environmental measures.

There's a catch, though. The study found the ecological payoff depends on scale. A handful of small hemp plots scattered across the state may help individual farmers' bottom lines without making much of a difference for water or wildlife. The broader benefits occur only when hemp, and the biological diversity it brings, reaches a large enough share of the landscape.

That finding carries implications for policy. Programs aimed at small-scale farmers tend to focus on helping them turn a profit, which the authors note is a worthy goal on its own. But if policymakers also want hemp to deliver environmental returns, the researchers say practical, proactive measures will be needed to bring more smallholders into hemp production so their combined acreage adds up to real change on the land.

"Hemp has the potential to be another crop Kentucky producers can add to their crop rotation once regulatory clarity allows the market to mature," Mark said. "This would give Kentucky producers another crop, one with benefits beyond profitability."

Learn more about the Department of Agricultural Economics at Martin-Gatton CAFE at https://agecon.mgcafe.uky.edu/.

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Dawkins says Cats have 'a lot of potential'; Moreno skips on donuts

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Central Florida coach Johnny Dawkins has Kentucky high on his list of teams to watch this season.

"No one will be where we are in October compared to where we'll be in January and February and I just see that team has a lot of potential," Dawkins said following his team's 90-76 overtime loss to the Wildcats in an exhibition game Wednesday night. "It's like a fun group."

UK NOTEBOOK

After going 3-0 with wins over Arkansas Little Rock, Texas Tech and Central Florida, Kentucky coach Mark Pope said "there's a lot to be hopeful about" going into his third season as coach of the Wildcats.

Pope cited Malachi Moreno's performance against the Knights that included 16 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists. In addition to Moreno's on-court improvement, Pope said his conditioning has been a big difference between his first and second season with the Wildcats.

"We actually had somebody bring a big box of donuts by the office the other day, and Malachi came through. I'm like, hey, 'grab some donuts.' He was like, 'I don't eat sweets anymore.' He's trying to be really disciplined with his sweets. He's worked so hard on his conditioning and the game has become more fun for him because he's not fatigued and it doesn't pose an inhibiting factor for him."

Dawkins came away impressed with Moreno after seeing him in person.

"Seeing him on film and then actually playing against him, I didn't realize just how dynamic he could be," Dawkins said. "(He) is a nightmare for the opposing coaches because he's not one-dimensional. He's so versatile at what he does.

"When I was looking at him, I loved his game. Don't get me wrong, but then having to actually face him and play against him, I came away even more impressed with who he is as a player."

GONE TO THE DOGS

Pope has a theme for his team before each game and used a "two dogs, one bone" approach to motivate the Wildcats during the preseason finale against the Knights.

"We got to see that manifest itself in the very first play of overtime when we saw it a lot actually during the game, but we got to see it when Mason Williams turned the corner, lost the ball, dove on the floor, and won a 50-50 ball," Pope said.

Malachi Moreno nearly had a triple-double with 16 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists. (Photo by Les Nicholson)

Williams' hustle play set up a 3-pointer by Milan Momcilovic and set the tone for overtime. The Wildcats outscored Central Florida 19-5 in overtime to run away with the win.

"It kind of set us on a good course in the overtime," Pope said.

NOTES

Malachi Moreno and Milan Momcilovic were named to the coaches' All-SEC teams on Thursday. Momcilovic was a second-team selection, while Moreno snagged third-team honors. ... Pope doesn't have a timetable on Kam Williams' return, but he could be back next week. "We're going to continue to go really slow. He's an incredibly valuable piece to us and we're going to do everything humanly possible to be cautious and get him back healthy because it's kind of the trajectory of this team." ... "Coach Pope" will be running in the Breeders' Cup at 4:55 p.m. on Friday in race No. 9 at Churchill Downs. "That just seems so perfect," Pope said. "It's going to be a great thing. I'll be there."

Cats end exhibition season perfect following OT thriller over Central Florida

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — The next one officially counts.

Kentucky finished its three-game exhibition schedule with an exciting 90-76 overtime win over Central Florida on Wednesday night.

The No. 23 Wildcats defeated Arkansas Little Rock and Texas Tech in their two previous exhibition games and will open the regular season on Tuesday against Manhattan.

In the final tuneup, veteran Milan Momcilovic led the Wildcats with 19 points, seven of them in overtime. Momcilovic set the tone for Kentucky's dominance in the extra period, scoring the first five points, including a 3-pointer on an assist from Mason Williams.

Kentucky outscored Central Florida 19-5 in overtime and scored 12 of the last 13 points for the final margin.

"You couldn't have asked for a better Week 6 challenge — just the way the game went," Kentucky coach Mark Pope said. "We couldn't have asked for anything better. We got to face some adversity, we got to be in some pressure situations, and we got to have some different lineups on the floor. We got to deal with some foul issues and all kind of issues during the game. It could not have been scripted better for us."

Central Florida coach Johnny Dawkins came away impressed with the Wildcats.

"They have a terrific team," he said. "No one's going to be who they are in October. Looking down the road for what they can become and they are going to become a great team by what I've seen."

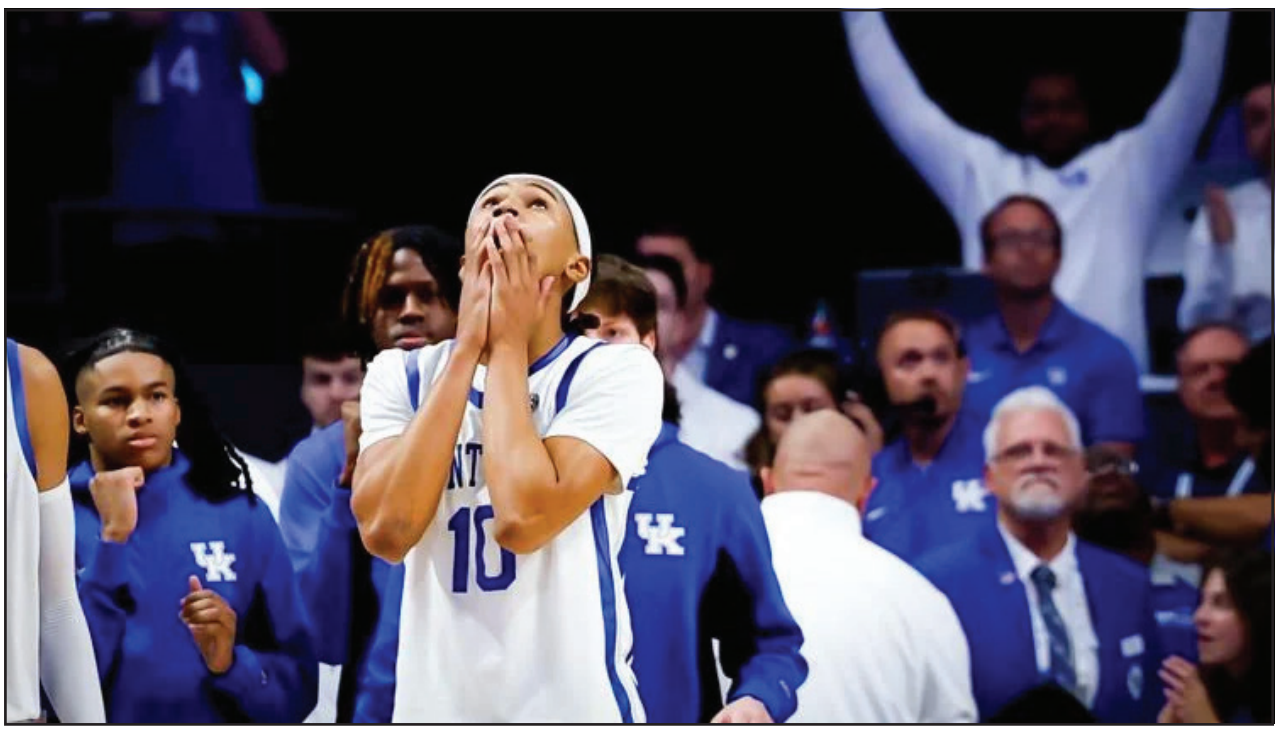
Dawkins cited the team's early chemistry and 23 assists on 32 made field goals.

"I just look at the plays they made, the chemistry and continuity they already have," he said. "They had 23 assists in this game — that's a lot of guys connecting and playing together, well-coached team, and those are things that I look at. You look at that combined with the talent, you can only see them improving from this point on going forward, like we all will."

Mason Williams finished with 18 points and provided a spark off the bench for the Wildcats. Led by Williams, Kentucky's reserves finished with 31 points and connected seven of the team's 13 3-pointers in the contest.

Malachi Moreno had a double-double with 16 points and 14 rebounds and just missed a double-double with eight assists. Moreno was happy with his numbers, but more impressed with the team's ability to overcome adversity.

"It just shows our next play mentality," he said. "It's something we preach every day in our locker room. It's just next play. We were down, we missed two free throws, but then we came back and we tied the game. We just went on a run after that. And that's just because we had that next play mentality."



Alex Wilkins watches the replay of his last-second shot that tied the game and sent the Cats to overtime where they defeated Central Florida 90-76 Wednesday night. (Photo by Les Nicholson)

Alex Wilkins had 12 points and sank a jumper in the lane as time expired to tie the score at 71-71 and force overtime.

Kentucky led by double digits throughout most of the game until the Knights stormed back and forced overtime.

Kentucky struggled early and missed its first four 3-pointers before Ousman N'diaye connected on a trey with 14:53 remaining in the first half. Overall, the Wildcats missed eight of their first 10 shots, including a pair of threes by Ndiaye.

Pope likes the direction the team is headed after three exhibition encounters.

"We feel like we're still right on schedule with this young team, but they're just growing, and it's inspiring as it goes to watch them grow," he said.

Locales with notably spooky names

North America is home to many cities and towns, plenty of which share pleasant monikers. However, numerous locations evoke a sense of mystery, eeriness or even frightening images with their unique names. Those who enjoy a good scare may want to take a fall road trip around Halloween to visit some places with creepy names. Such a trip can be a fun way to see the sights and celebrate a few tricks along the way.

• Bad Axe, Michigan: This unusual name is said to have originated from surveyors who found an old, rusty and badly damaged axe at a campsite abandoned by hunters. Such an axe certainly calls foul activities to mind.

• Cape Fear, North Carolina: Sir Richard Grenville led an expedition to present-day North Carolina in 1585, hoping to reach Roanoke Island. The ship got stuck behind the cape and the crew feared the ship would capsize, hence the name.

• Coffin Cove, Newfoundland: The name sounds ominous, but it's likely tied to something quite reasonable. It is believed this area may have been named for someone with the surname Coffin, which was prominent among English and French settlers at the time.

• Dead Women Crossing, Oklahoma: Historians believe this community gets its name from the unsolved murder of a local woman, though further details remain unclear.

• Forbidden Plateau, British Columbia: Legend says Comox people were hiding on the plateau during a raid and returned to find their women and children gone, replaced by blood-red lichen.

• Gnaw Bone, Indiana: Are there gangs of cannibals running around? No. Some historians suggest the original French settlement name of "Narbone" sounded like "Gnaw Bone" to English settlers and the name stuck.

• Hell, Michigan: No one is quite sure why this area of Michigan has such a dismal name. One theory suggests the name is derived from the hell-like conditions faced by early explorers forced to confront mosquitoes and traverse wetlands.

• Sleepy Hollow, New York: While Sleepy Hollow doesn't sound like a scary place to visit, and seems like it would be a cozy woodland retreat, Washington Irving's short story, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," gave this town an ominous feel. Visitors may hope to see the Headless Horseman, and the town dresses up for Halloween each year.

• Slaughter, Louisiana: Named for Will and Joe Slaughter, owners of the land upon which the town was built, this area may give some a creepy feeling. That's certainly the case in Slaughter Beach, Delaware, where local legend states the town gets its name from a massacre of its original settlers.

• Tombstone, Arizona: This Wild West town is famous for the gunslingers Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. Residents say there are ghosts and a haunted cemetery to discover.

People who want to add a new element to Halloween fun can visit some towns with seriously spooky names.

Keep pets safe this Halloween

Halloween is an annual celebration that many children and adults look forward to each October. From the mysterious and the macabre to the goofy and gregarious, Halloween speaks to people in many different ways. And with the opportunity to accumulate several pounds of sugary treasure after a few hours of trick-or-treating, is it any wonder celebrants love Halloween?

While Halloween hijinks may be ideal fun for plenty of ghosts and ghouls, companion animals may not be so enthusiastic come October 31. In fact, Halloween can be a source of stress and even dangerous for many pets. Here are some things pet parents should keep in mind prior to Halloween.

Costumes

Pet costumes are popular and can help owners and their pets coordinate for Halloween. Some pets may find costumes uncomfortable or frightening. For those with a mind toward creative costume coordination, introducing the costume to the pet slowly and gradually can help ease the transition. Allow the pet to sniff the costume and put treats nearby to indicate it is no threat. If the pet simply will not warm to the idea of a costume, it's best not to force the issue.

Glow sticks

Glow sticks are a safe way for children to enjoy some spooky fun on Halloween night and become more visible when the sun sets. But those glow sticks may be attractive to pets and they can bite them, ingesting the liquid. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center says typically pets experience a mild and self-limiting taste reaction to glow stick liquid. Wiping off the excess with a damp cloth to help prevent the pet from licking again and having another reaction can help.

Accessibility to candy

One of the biggest Halloween dangers for pets is the accessibility of candy, especially chocolate. Chocolate is toxic and particularly dangerous to dogs. Chocolate with high amounts of cacao is especially dangerous. Raisins and gum with the artificial sweetener xylitol also are problematic. Candy wrappers can get stuck in the intestinal tract and cause a life-threatening blockage. Lock candy away so pets can't get into it.

Nerves

Many youngsters will ring the door bell on Halloween. Anxious pets, and even those that normally aren't nervous with visitors, may be overwhelmed. Keep pets in a dark, calm room away from the door to reduce anxiety and make it less likely skittish pets will escape the home and get lost.

Understanding common Halloween dangers can help keep pets safe on this fun-filled holiday.

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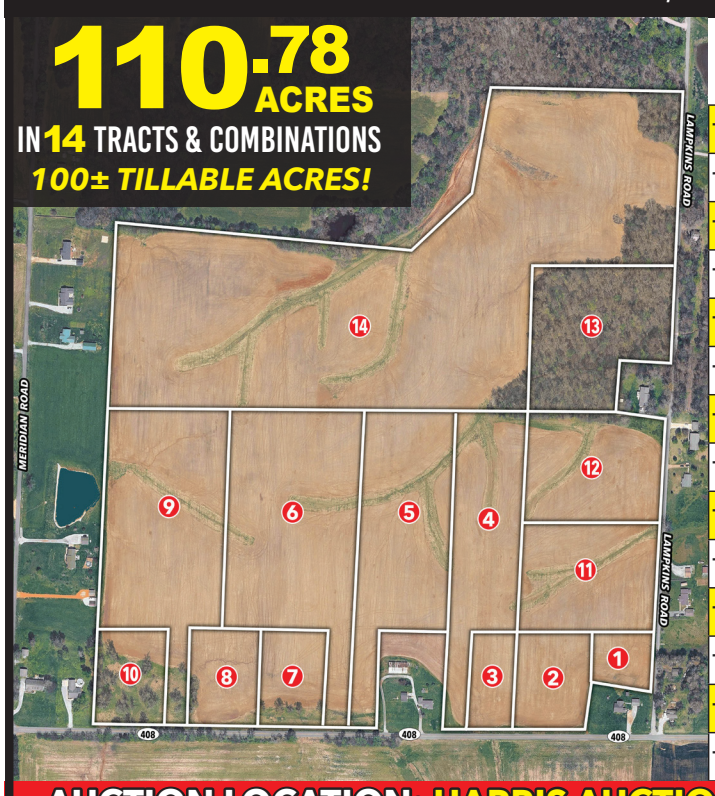

REAL ESTATE TRACTS	
Tract 1	1.22 Acres
Tract 2	2.74 Acres
Tract 3	1.68 Acres
Tract 4	6.79 Acres
Tract 5	8.67 Acres
Tract 6	11.99 Acres
Tract 7	2.45 Acres
Tract 8	2.49 Acres
Tract 9	11.27 Acres
Tract 10	2.50 Acres
Tract 11	5.72 Acres
Tract 12	5.73 Acres
Tract 13	6.89 Acres
Tract 14	40.64 Acres

AUCTION LOCATION: HARRIS AUCTION FACILITY
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Don't miss this opportunity to purchase 110.78 acres in Hickory, Kentucky, selling at Absolute Auction in 14 tracts. Featuring a desirable combination of open farmland, wooded acreage and smaller road-frontage parcels, this property offers buyers the flexibility to purchase acreage suited for farming, recreation, investment or potential building sites.

The property features expansive open fields with wooded areas providing natural diversity throughout the farm. **Tracts range from 1.22 acres to 40.64** acres, creating opportunities for buyers seeking everything from a smaller country tract to substantial agricultural acreage.

REAL ESTATE TERMS: The property will be offered in 14 individual tracts, any combination of tracts, or as a whole property. The property will be sold in the manner resulting in the highest total sale price. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 30 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. Make Inspections Prior To Date Of Sale. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. All 2026 ad valorem taxes will be prorated at closing. The property will be sold by a new survey, buyer responsible for 50% of the survey costs.

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The 7 stages of Alzheimer's disease

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive and debilitating condition that slowly robs a person of their memories and personality. Alzheimer's disease is a form of dementia that produces various symptoms that occur in stages, ultimately arriving at a point when a person can no longer live independently due to cognitive decline.

The Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation says there are seven clinical stages of Alzheimer's. Stages 1 through 3 are the pre-dementia stages, while stages 4 through 7 are the dementia stages. Here is a close look at what these stages entail, according to the Global Deterioration Scale.

Stage 1

There is no cognitive decline, nor noticeable symptoms.

Stage 2

A person may experience very mild cognitive decline. This can include one feeling like he or she is having memory lapses, but no symptoms of dementia can be detected by others, including medical professionals.

Stage 3

During stage 3, mild cognitive decline begins to become noticeable. Friends, family or coworkers begin

to notice difficulties, which may include problems coming up with the right words or names; trouble remembering names; greater difficulty performing tasks; and losing or misplacing a valuable object.

Stage 4

A careful medical interview should reveal symptoms of moderate cognitive decline. Forgetfulness of recent events; difficulty performing complex tasks like planning a meal for guests or paying bills; forgetfulness about one's own personal history; and becoming moody or withdrawn are possible.

Stage 5

Cognitive decline continues to progress to where it becomes moderately severe. Gaps in memory are noticeable and individuals likely will need help with everyday activities. Some may be unable to recall their addresses or telephone numbers, while others may be confused about the day or where they are. Stage 5 is usually the stage when a person can no longer live without assistance.

Stage 6

Very severe memory loss, loss of communication skills and inability to recognize loved ones occurs during the severe cognitive decline stage. One will need total care.

Stage 7

This is the end-stage of the disease and is marked by profound cognitive impairment. Loss of mobility and effective communication typically occurs at this stage.

It's important to note that these stages are general guidelines of what can be expected as Alzheimer's disease progresses. Symptoms may vary among different people, and not everyone with Alzheimer's will progress through these stages at the same rate.

Device usage strategies to help parents corral kids' screen time

Parents of school-aged children are likely aware of the impact of screens on modern youngsters. Screens are used extensively in many schools, and children also use devices while at home. In fact, a report on screen usage released by the U.S. Surgeon General's Office in May 2026 indicated that pre-teen and teenaged children use screens an average of four or more hours per day.

Exposure and overexposure to screens can be detrimental to children. The United States Department of Health and Human Services notes that screen use in early life is linked to poorer language outcomes. In addition, excessive screen usage among school-aged children has been linked to poor educational and health outcomes. The DHHS also notes that screen usage among teenagers may be making them vulnerable to mental health and behavioral issues that can extend beyond adolescence and into adulthood.

Despite the dangers linked to excessive screen use, data from the DHHS indicates average daily screen use increases as kids age. Parents of children growing up in the digital era know keeping kids off screens is no small task. However, some simple strategies can help parents corral kids' screen usage so it does not reach unhealthy and even harmful levels.

• Utilize parental control features. Smartphones, tablets and gaming consoles typically feature parental control management tools that allow

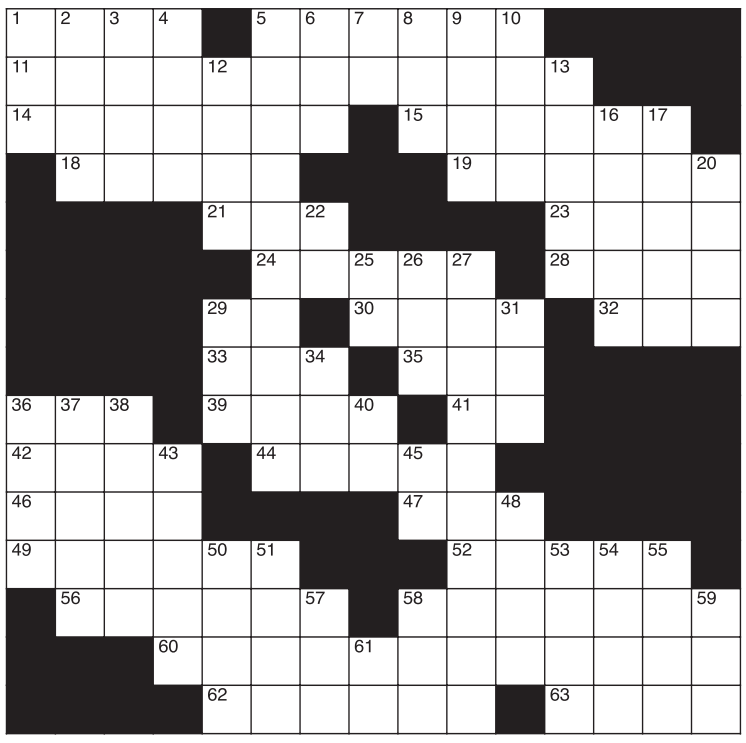
parents to set times limits on kids' screen usage. Parents are urged to speak with their child's pediatrician to identify a healthy daily screen usage limit. Once that limit is identified, parents can employ the built-in parental control functions on smartphones and tablets to ensure kids are not spending too much time on their devices.

• Provide engaging alternatives. It's crucial that parents provide reasonable alternatives to screens. In fact, the DHHS recommends parents delay screen time as long as possible. Alternatives to screens may include more frequent play dates with friends or activities that encourage kids to interact with parents and siblings. Board game nights, nightly walks after dinner and outdoor recreation in the backyard can incentivize kids to forgo their screens for fun activities that don't involve devices.

• Use your router to suspend internet access. It's easy for parents to monitor their kids' screen time while everyone is awake, but many kids now spend time they should be sleeping using their devices from bed. Kids may be chatting with friends, scrolling platforms like YouTube or scouring social media after bedtime. Parents may lament that there's little they can do when kids are behind closed bedroom doors, but administrator functions on many routers enable users to temporarily suspend internet access. Parents can use this function, which turns wireless networks off at a given time, to reduce the risks that kids will spend time on the internet after bedtime.

Screen time poses a unique challenge for parents of school-aged children. Various strategies can help parents find a balance that does not adversely affect kids' development or their mental and physical health.

Crossword Puzzle



Puzzle Solutions on B14

CLUES ACROSS

1. El Dorado High School
5. A sculpture representing a human or animal
11. A type of return
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Hairlike structures
19. Mark used over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular 500 car race
24. Pile up
28. Currency
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Mass of fish eggs
33. Baseball stat
35. Licensed accountant
36. Japanese classical theater
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language of Cameroon
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Strong social customs
56. Calm and dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. American DJ Rick
3. Fictional Asimov planet
4. Coughed out
5. Singing to one's lover
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. A foolish person
13. Of the wind
16. Mansion
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Business symbol
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Individually
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Japanese delicacy
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. "The Mount Rushmore State"
43. Soldier
45. Indicates position
48. Beauty treatment: __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Ballplayers' tools
54. American state
55. Clusters of a fern frond
57. Patriotic women's group
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Of I

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

Word Search

PRESCRIPTIONS WORD SEARCH

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

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

ANSWERS IN B SECTION

WORDS

AUTHORIZATION
BRANDS
COATED
COMPOUNDING
CONTRAINDICATION
COPAY
DISPENSE
FORMULARY
GENERIC
MEDICATION
MOUTH
OTC
PHARMACY
PRESCRIPTION
PRO RE NATA
REFILL
SIDE EFFECT
SIGNA
STATIM
SUBLINGUAL
TOPICAL

Sudoku Puzzle

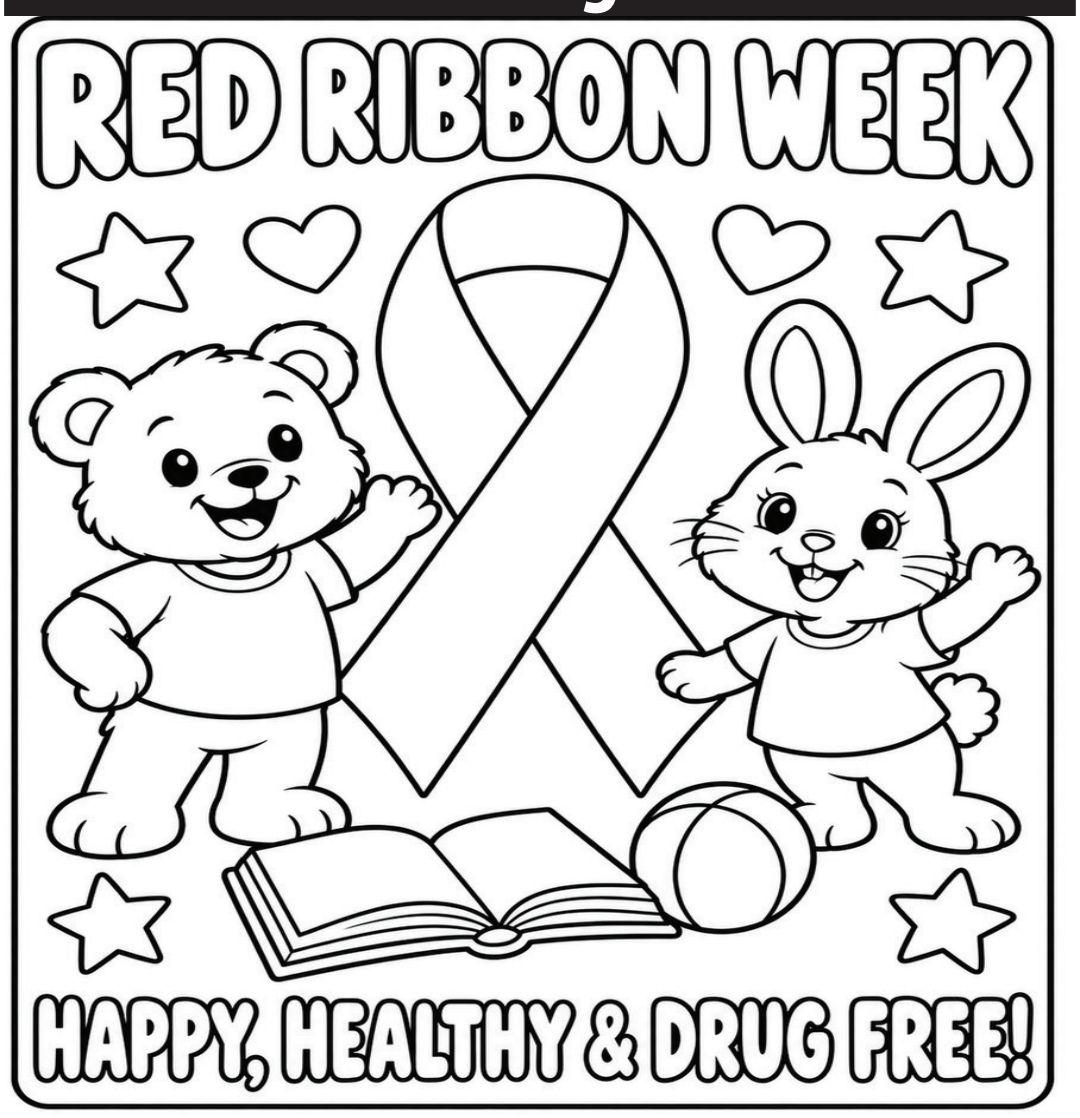
How it Works:

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

ANSWERS IN B SECTION

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

Coloring Fun



Dream Together check presentation held for Western Kentucky Pediatric Dentistry

Mayfield, KY - A check presentation was held on Wednesday, October 21st, to present DREAM Together incentive funds to Western Kentucky Pediatric Dentistry in the amount of $12,181. Western Kentucky Pediatric Dentistry took advantage of the DREAM Together partnership program offered by FNB Bank and First Kentucky Bank.

The DREAM acronym stands for Downtown Revitalization & Economic Advancement for Mayfield. Through this partnership, the two Mayfield-based banks provide incentives and low-interest loans to businesses investing in the rebuilding and revitalization of downtown Mayfield. The program's goal is to encourage economic development, support local businesses, and bring jobs and continued investment back to one of the areas hardest hit by the December 10, 2021, tornado.

Western Kentucky Pediatric Dentistry is in the same office building as Dr. Brad Mills Orthodontics, located at 212 N 7th Street in Mayfield. The office building of Mills Orthodontics was destroyed by the tornado and has since been rebuilt at the same location.

"Western Kentucky Pediatric Dentistry is so grateful to have received a grant through the Dream Incentive Program," stated Dr. Allison Higgins Mills. "We are thrilled to be able to provide a much needed service in our community that has been through so much. This grant has made a meaningful difference by helping our practice invest in essentials necessary to provide exceptional pediatric dental care. Since opening a few

weeks ago, we have already met so many wonderful children and families. We are honored to have a part in promoting healthy smiles and a brighter future for the children of Mayfield!"

Western Kentucky Pediatric Dentistry provides preventive, restorative, and emergency pediatric dental care in a setting created specifically for children. From routine dental cleanings and cavity prevention to restorative treatment and care for dental injuries, their goal is to help children build healthy smiles while creating positive, comfortable experiences at the dentist.

20 members of the Graves County FFA Chapter traveled to the 99th National FFA Convention! While there, they did a tour of Beck's Hyrbids, attended opening session, participated in leadership workshops, and explored the college and career expo! Photo by Graves County FFA

Scam Alert: AI imposters mimic loved ones' voices

By: Laurna Pruett
KPI Writer

Technology helps us stay connected, but artificial intelligence is giving scammers a frightening way to take advantage of those connections: phone calls that sound like someone we love.

A caller claiming to be a child, grandchild or friend may sound panicked, saying there has been an accident or arrest. They need money immediately, and the voice sounds familiar enough to believe.

But a familiar voice is no longer proof of identity.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, scammers can use short audio clips, including recordings posted online, and voice-cloning software to imitate a loved one.

The scam relies on fear and urgency. The caller wants you worried enough to send money before checking the story. They may insist you keep the situation secret or demand payment through gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency or payment apps.

The first defense is simple: pause.

Hang up and call the person using a number you already have saved. Do not use a number supplied by the caller. If you cannot reach your loved one, contact another trusted relative or friend to help verify what happened. Do not let a demand for secrecy stop you from checking.

Families can prepare by establishing a private "safe word" or phrase. The FBI recommends this extra step to help verify someone's identity. Choose something that would not be easily discovered through social media, and keep it private.

Talk with relatives about these calls before one happens. Agree that unexpected requests for emergency money should always be checked, even when the voice sounds convincing.

Suspected scams can be reported at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Technology offers many benefits, but its misuse can be unsettling. When a frightening call comes, taking a moment to verify the story could protect both your peace of mind and your money.

As a Full-Time Mayor, I'll Fight to Rebuild Mayfield

New Leadership. Full-Time Commitment. A Practical Plan to Move Mayfield Forward.

The people of Mayfield are ready for change.

After years of slow progress, frustration, and excuses, voters are looking for new leadership, leadership fully committed to rebuilding our town and moving Mayfield forward.

I am that candidate.

I'm not running to protect the status quo. I'm running to fight for Mayfield.

My opponent represents the same leadership circle that has guided this city for the last eight years. If you believe things are headed in the right direction, then you have that choice.
But if you believe Mayfield deserves stronger leadership, fresh ideas, and a mayor who will treat this job as a full-time commitment, then I'm asking for your vote.

As an engineer and problem-solver, I know how to develop plans, manage projects, and bring people together to get results.

This election is about the future of Mayfield.

On November 3, choose new leadership.

Fight for Mayfield.

Vote for Choate.

TIM CHOATE
FOR MAYOR

VOTE FOR CHOATE ON NOV 3

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Paid for by Tim Choate

Halloween travel safety stressed by state officials

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – To keep Kentuckians safe this Halloween, state highway safety officials are reminding drivers to plan a safe ride home if festivities include drinking, and to watch for pedestrians.

"Everyone deserves to enjoy Halloween and make it home safely at the end of the night," Gov. Andy Beshear stated. "Before you head out to celebrate, think about how you're getting home. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Make the safe choice and leave the keys behind."

According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety, last year in Kentucky, there were 4,013 highway crashes involving an impaired driver, resulting in 1,887 injuries and 136 deaths. In the week leading up to and including Halloween, 84 alcohol-involved collisions resulted in two deaths and 30 injuries.

State transportation officials are partnering with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind drivers and pedestrians that if they are under the influence of any substance, it is not safe for them to drive or walk.

"Celebrating Halloween should never come at the expense of someone's safety," said Transportation Secretary Rebecca Goodman. "If your plans include alcohol, make arrangements for a sober ride before you head out. And whether you're driving, walking or trick-or-treating, slow down, stay alert and look out for one another. A little planning can help everyone get home safely."

Follow these tips for a safe celebration:

—Plan a sober ride: Designate a sober driver, use public transportation or request a rideshare.

—Don't walk impaired alone: If you've been drinking, have a sober friend walk you home.

—Report impaired drivers: Call law enforcement and provide the vehicle's location, direction of travel and description, if possible.

—Take the keys: If someone plans to drive after drinking, help them find a safe ride home.

—Buckle up: Wear a seat belt on every trip. It can help protect you in a crash.

For more information, visit nhtsa.gov/campaign/buzzed-driving.

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impact crusher

2006 Mack CT713
dump truck

2023 Caterpillar 239D3
tracked skid steer

2007 Komatsu WA600-6
wheel loader

2013 Peterbilt 348
water truck

2019 Caterpillar 305E2 CR
mini excavator

2015 Volvo DD140B
double drum vibratory roller

1987 Peterbilt 359
semi truck

1980 Kenworth W900A
semi truck

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BIN THERE. LOVED THAT.

Community called to help Martin family after fire destroys home

By Laurna Pruett
KPI Writer

As the holidays approach, the Martin family is facing the heartbreaking loss of their home and five beloved dogs following a devastating house fire.

Ross and Devyn Martin and their children, Lane and Levi, are safe. While their immediate needs have been met, rebuilding their lives will take time, resources and the continued support of those around them.

For a family grieving so much, the coming holiday season may be especially difficult. Anyone able to help is encouraged to give in whatever way they can. A monetary donation, a gift card or needed clothing can help ease the burden as the family takes the next steps forward.

A donation account has been established in Ross and Devyn Martin's names at Citizens Deposit Bank. Cash or check donations may be made at any location, including Kevil and Wickliffe in Ballard County and Cunningham, Bardwell and Arlington in Carlisle County.

Organizers have warned that fraudulent Venmo accounts have been created in connection with the tragedy. Donors are encouraged to make monetary contributions through Citizens Deposit Bank or give donations to someone they trust to deliver the money directly to the family.

In Paducah, donated items may be dropped off at Violet Underground Salon, located in The Ritz on Broadway; Royal Oaks Chevrolet; any PBK location; or Kentucky Publishing, 1540 McCracken Blvd.

In Mayfield, donated items may be dropped off at Workman Bins, 400 Opportunity Drive. Organizers will arrange delivery to the family.

The following clothing and shoe sizes have been shared:

Levi: Adult small or medium clothing; size 8½ shoes.

Lane: Adult small or medium clothing; size 29 jeans; size 9 shoes.

Ross: XL clothing; 34-by-32 jeans; large boxer briefs; size 11 shoes.

Devyn: Small clothing; sizes 0, 2 or 4; size 10 shoes.

Tall socks and adult small boxer briefs are also requested for the boys.

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart." — Psalm 34:18, KJV

As the Martin family faces this heartbreaking loss, may they find comfort in God's presence and in the kindness of those around them. If you are able, please help in whatever way you can. If giving is not possible, please pray for their strength, peace and comfort, especially as the holidays approach. Continued love and support can remind them they do not have to face this difficult season alone.

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Friday and Monday thru Thursday 7:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm & 7:00 pm
October 30th thru November 5th

Clayface (PG-13)
Friday and Monday-Thursday 7:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm & 7:00 pm

STARTS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6TH
THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG)

Trick or Treat at McDONALD'S
KID'S WEARING A HALLOWEEN COSTUME ON OCT. 31 GET A
FREE COOKIE
LOVE FAMILY MCDONALD'S
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Grandparent scam now using AI; family code word recommended

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – The latest Scam-o-Meter update from Coveron, an identity theft and scam protection service, warns the classic grandparent scam has entered a new phase.

Criminals can now clone a loved one's voice and place a call that sounds exactly like a grandchild begging for bail money, and the tools to do it are cheap, easy to find, and increasingly sold as ready-to-use fraud products.

Recent data from NordVPN research, based on an analysis of dark web forums and Telegram channels using NordLayer Intelligence by NordStellar, found that commercial voice-cloning listings grew 7.4 times between January-July 2024 and January-July 2026. Posts advertising voice-cloning services, tools, and pricing rose 82% in 2025, then a further 75% in the first seven months of 2026 alone. Posts describing specific fraud use-cases, including family-emergency scams, are projected to triple from 2025 to 2026.

The cost of entry is shockingly low. According to NordVPN's findings, a Telegram bot that calls victims and steals banking one-time codes starts at about $30 a week, AI-voice robocalls cost $200 per 1,000 calls, and a cracked account for a legitimate voice-cloning service with unlimited cloning sells for $150. Much of what is sold is not purpose-built criminal software but stolen access to legitimate commercial tools, resold for as little as $8.

The scam is relatively simple: a criminal scrapes a short audio clip of a family member's voice from social media, feeds it into a cloning tool, and calls an elderly relative claiming to be in trouble. The story usually involves an arrest, an accident, or an urgent bill, always paired with pressure to act fast and keep the call secret. Because the voice sounds real, the usual instinct to verify gets bypassed entirely.

In a recent case reported by Fortune, a mother followed a caller's instructions for five hours and wired $5,400, never doubting that the terrified voice on the line was her daughter's. It was a clone.

To protect yourself and your family, Tomas Sinicki, managing director at Coveron, recommends agreeing on a code word with family members and asking for it on any urgent call involving money, hanging up and calling back on a number you already have, and treating urgency and secrecy as the real warning signs, not the voice itself. Attackers rely on pressure, not perfect audio.

BALLARD

Jackie Lee Beasley, age 80, passed away on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Providence Pointe Health Care in Paducah, KY due to complication of brain cancer.There will be no services at this time. Jack's family will have a memorial service at a later date. Morrow Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

CALDWELL

Marjorie Lou Phelps Carner, age 83, of Eddyville, passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at Charter Senior Living of Paducah. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, October 29th, 2026, at Morgan's Funeral Home in Princeton, KY, with Rev. Marc Bell, Rev. Curtis Franklin, and Doug Phelps officiating. Burial followed in Meeks Cemetery in Caldwell County, KY.

Mary Carolyn Glass, age 83, of Princeton, passed away Thursday, October 22, 2026, at her home. Visitation will be held from 4 pm until 8 pm Friday, October 30, 2026, at Morgan's Funeral Home and 10 am until 1 pm Saturday, October 31, 2026, at Morgan's Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1 pm Saturday, October 31, 2026, at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Brian Hacker and Bro. Roger Mitchell officiating. Burial will follow at Lance Nichols Cemetery with Bro. Mike Boyd and Mike Wright officiating.

Iva Nell Robinson, lovingly known as Iva Nell, passed away on October 21, 2026, at Princeton Health and Rehab Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 1:00 PM at Morgan's Funeral Home, with Rev. Mark Faughn officiating. Burial followed at Rock Springs Cemetery.

Harold Douglas Henderson - Nov 26, 1930 — Oct 23, 2026 - Memorial services will be Friday, October 30, 2026, at Dunn's Funeral Home in Eddyville at 2:00 pm with visitation being from 12:00 pm till 2:00 pm and burial will follow at the Rolling Hills Cemetery in Eddyville.

CALLOWAY

Tara Nicole Karpp, 46, of Murray, passed away on Monday, October 26, 2026 at her home. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory.

Victoria Pittman, 82, of Murray, passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2026 at her home. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory.

Ralph William Byerly, 66, of Murray, KY, passed away on Thursday, October 23, 2026 at Murray Calloway County Hospital. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory.

Todd S. Ramsden, 61, of Almo, KY, passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at Murray Calloway County Hospital. Per his wishes, no services are planned. Imes Funeral Home & Crematory are in charge of arrangements.

Harold F. Elkins, age 83, of the Lynn Grove Community, passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at the Patriot Health and Rehab in Paris, Tennessee. A funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Ricky Stewart officiating. Burial followed in the Murray Memorial Gardens.

Loucillia "Cillia" Nell Alexander, age 68, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, October 23, 2026, at her home. A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 31, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Bro. Shawn Hanes officiating. Burial will follow in the Kirksey Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m., – 8:00 p.m., Friday, October 30, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Glen Thomas McCuiston, age 77, of Murray, Kentucky passed away on Monday, October 26, 2026, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services. John Dale, Rev. Jim Stahler, and Steven Hunter will officiate, and burial will follow in the Hicks Cemetery. Visitation will be held prior to the funeral service from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Shirley Ellen Jenstrom, age 91, of Flower Mound, Texas, formerly of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at the Avante Rehabilitation Center in Irving, Texas. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Janice B. Casey, age 74, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, October 23, 2026, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital. J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Gary Carson passed away Sunday October 25, 2026, at his home. Friends visited with the family from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, Wednesday October 28, 2026, at Lindsey Funeral Home. With funeral Services to follow at 12 noon. The Rev. Jason Owen officiating. Interment was at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Kirksey.

CHRISTIAN

Marilyn L. Morse, age 78, of Hopkinsville, passed away from natural causes on Monday, October 26, 2026, peacefully at her home surrounded by her family. Celebration of Life Services will be at 1:00 PM on Friday, October 30, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Pastor Rob Hoffman officiating and burial to follow in Harmony Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be that day at the funeral home from 11:00 AM until the service hour at 1:00 PM. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

Patsy Ruth Taylor, age 96, of Lexington, KY formerly of Hopkinsville, passed away from natural causes on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at The Willows at Fritz Farm in Lexington, KY. Funeral Services were at 11:00 AM on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with burial to follow in Glenwood Cemetery in Elkton, KY.

JoAnn Scott Harrison, age 71, of Hopkinsville, passed away from natural causes on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at Linda E. White Hospice in Evansville, IN. Graveside Services were at 1:00 PM on Monday, October 26, 2026, at Riverside Cemetery with burial to follow. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

James Robert "Bob" Taylor, 64, died at 7:07 p.m., Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at his home in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at 12:00 p.m., Monday, October 26, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. Charlie O'Neal officiating. Burial followed in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West.

Jean L. Bick, 93, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 12:53 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at her residence. Funeral service will be 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 2, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Pastor Donna Williams officiating. Burial will follow at 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 4, 2026 in Ottawa Hills Memorial Park in Toledo, OH. Visitation is Monday from 5:00 p.m. until the service hour. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Terry Rufus Sargent, Sr., 58, Cook Court, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Friday, October 23, 2026 at his home of natural causes. Memorial services will be held at 6:00 p.m. Friday, November 6, 2026 at Lamb Funeral Home with Pastor Tim Baxter officiating. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until the service hour on Friday, November 6, 2026 at the funeral home.

Lloyd Armstrong Haddock, 88, Kelly Mt. Zoar Road, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Friday, October 23, 2026 at his home of natural causes. Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 29, 2026 at Lamb Funeral Home with Rev. Phillip Brumfield officiating. Burial followed in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with full military honors.

Elsie E. Allison Brown, 76, Fruit Hill Red Bridge Road, Crofton, KY passed away Friday, October 23, 2026 at her home of natural causes. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at Lamb Funeral Home with Ben Johnson officiating. Burial followed in Cold Creek Cemetery (Wildcat Holler).

Deidra Gay Scarbrough Wilson, 70, of Hopkinsville, KY passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at her residence with her family by her side. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville is in charge of the arrangements.

Jerry "Jet" Joiner, 79 of Hopkinsville, KY died at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, October 22, 2026 at Nortons Hospital Hosparus Inpatient Care Center in Louisville, KY. Funeral service was at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville with Bro. Ethan Watson officiating.

Joe Thomas Cox transitioned Saturday October 24, 2026 at Jennie Stuart Health in Hopkinsville, Kentucky at the age of 77. Memorial Service, Friday Oct 30th at 10 am at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West.

CRITTENDEN

Shauna Kaye Newman, age 76, of Henderson, KY and formerly of Marion, KY passed away Monday, October 26, 2026, at Redbanks Skilled Nursing Center in Henderson, KY. Graveside services were held at 1:30 pm Thursday, October 29, 2026, at Mapleview Cemetery in Marion with Bro. Aaron Brown officiating. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Bertha Ann Conkle, 86, of Elizabethtown, IL passed away peacefully on October 25, 2026. A Memorial service will be held on November 7th, 2026 from 1:00 pm till 4:00pm at Hardin County Funeral Service in Rosiclare, IL

Dorothy May Hughes, 98, of Marion, KY, passed away Friday, October 23, 2026, at her home. Graveside services will be held Saturday, October 31, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Marion, KY, with Bro. Alex Kirby officiating.

GRAVES

Joyce Darszewski, age 71, of Wingo, KY passed away at 4:10 AM Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at Clinton Place Nursing Facility in Clinton, KY. A Memorial service for Joyce will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, October 30, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY with Rev. Ricky Yarbrough officiating. Friends are invited to call between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Friday, October 30, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY.

Jana Dawn Gibson, age 47, of Mayfield, KY passed away at 2:00 PM Monday, October 26, 2026 at the Vanderbilt Wison County Hospital in Lebanon, TN. Graveside services for Jana will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, October 31, 2026 at the Trace Creek Cemetery. Rev. Al Chandler will officiate. Friends are invited to call between 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM on Saturday, October 31, 2026.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

HICKMAN

Helga Ida Lovas, age 88, of South Fulton, Tennessee, passed away on Monday, October 19, 2026, at Union City Nursing and Rehabilitation in Union City, Tennessee. Funeral services for Mrs. Helga Lovas will be held at 12 Noon Saturday, October 31, 2026 at the Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Fulton with burial to follow in the Greenleaf Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 10 AM Saturday, October 31, 2026 until the hour of service.

Joyce A. Brown, age 84, of Dresden, TN, formerly of South Fulton, TN, passed away at her residence on Friday, October 23, 2026 surrounded by her loved ones. Funeral services for Ms. Joyce Brown were held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Fulton, TN. Burial followed in Obion County Memorial Gardens.

LIVINGSTON

Carolyn "Sue" Ringstaff, 83, walked through the gates of Heaven and into the arms of her Lord and Savior on the afternoon of October 25, 2026. Funeral services were on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 2 PM in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. David Davis and Bro. Josh Bumpus officiating.

Mary Griselda Ortegon Brown Randolph, 78, of Salem, KY, greeted her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Crittenden County Convalescent Center in Marion, KY, while under hospice care. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. Arrangements are in the care of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

David Hinkle, 66, of Smithland, passed away on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hinkle family. Online condolences may be left at www.lindseyfuneral.com.

Terry Wayne Cobb - September 18, 1949 - October 25, 2026 - There will be no service or visitation. You may leave a message of sympathy or light a memorial candle at www.hughesfuneral.com.

LYON

Harold Douglas Henderson - November 26, 1930 - October 23, 2026 - Memorial services will be Friday, October 30, 2026 at Dunn's Funeral Home in Eddyville at 2:00 pm with visitation being from 12:00 pm til 2:00 pm and burial will follow at the Rolling Hills Cemetery in Eddyville.

Mary Louise Bryson, 82, of Arnold MO, passed away peacefully on hospice at her residence on Monday, October 26, 2026, with her beloved husband by her side. Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home in Eddyville, KY. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm, Saturday, October 31, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home with Rev. Jim Lantrip officiating. Burial will follow at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Lyon County.

MARSHALL

Jeremy D. Meredith, 48, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2026, in Nashville, Tennessee, with his mother and stepfather by his side. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar Street, Benton, KY 42025. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann.

Norma D. Nimmo, 86, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Oakview Nursing Home in Calverty City. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at the Lifeed at Fairdealing Cemetery.

Clayton Ray Crouse, 72, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on October 24, 2026. A funeral service was held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, with Bro. Don Wilson officiating.

Eleanor "Ellie" Mainstruck, 83, of Benton, passed away on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling the arrangements. There are no services scheduled at this time.

Candy L. Greene, 70, of Calvert City passed away on Monday, October 26, 2026, at Calvert City Convalescent Center. A funeral service will be held at Crossroads Methodist Church on Friday, October 30, 2026, at 11:00 AM with Chris Lewis officiating. Burial will follow in Calvert City Cemetery.

Jeffery "Jeff" Lee Tynes, age 64 of Calvert City, Kentucky passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at his home. A Funeral service was at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at Collier Funeral Chapel with John Boyd officiating. Interment was in Hillcrest Cemetery, Benton, KY.

Edward Knue, 88, of Benton passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at his residence. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Collier Funeral Home and Cremation Services has been entrusted by the family to provide services.

Dennis Adams, age 87, of Hardin passed away on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Murray-Calloway Co. Hospital in Murray, Kentucky. There will be no public services. Collier Funeral Home and Cremation Services has been entrusted by the family to provide services.

McCRACKEN

Mason Fugate, age 51, of Smithland, Kentucky, passed away on October 26, 2026, at his residence. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, October 30, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Rev. Jack Russell and Rev. Rodney Cude officiating.

Diane Case, 64, of Kevil, passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at Life Care Center of La Center, KY. A funeral service was held at 2:00 pm on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Chaplain Chris Wooley officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Kenton Cemetery in Paducah.

Jeremy Jean Crouch, 43, of West Paducah, passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. A funeral service was held at 1:00 pm on Monday, October 26, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Pastor Boogie Butler officiating.

Mitchell W. Hunt, Jr., affectionately known to family and friends as "Weasel," age 72, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on October 24, 2026, at his residence. A Graveside Service was held, Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Oak Grove Cemetery, 1613 Park Ave, Paducah, KY 42001. Bro. Richard Beck and Bro. Bobby Waldridge will be officiating, with burial to follow.

Janice Rae Ellis, age 81, of Mayfield, passed away on October 25, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Center in Paducah. Funeral services were at 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Rev. Darrick Holloman officiating. Entombment followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Paducah.

Anita Diane Hargrove, born on August 22, 1946, in Pensacola, Florida, passed away on October 25, 2026, at Southgate Nursing and Rehab in Metropolis, Illinois. Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Minister Paul Wingfield officiating. Graveside services were held following the service at 2:00 p.m. at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

Martha Ann Garland, 92, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital. Funeral services were held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at the Woodlawn Memorial Gardens Chapel with Rev. Bob Martin officiating.

Pamela Moehlenh of found eternal peace on Oct. 23, 2026, surrounded by family, at Vanderbilt hospital. Waiting for her, along with our Heavenly Father, were her parents Moxene and Jack Kinder, and niece, Christy Beauchamp.

Freda Peyton Walker, age 93, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on October 23, 2026, at Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Funeral services were on Monday, October 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Minister Dustin Campbell officiating. Burial followed the service at Maplelawn Park Cemetery.

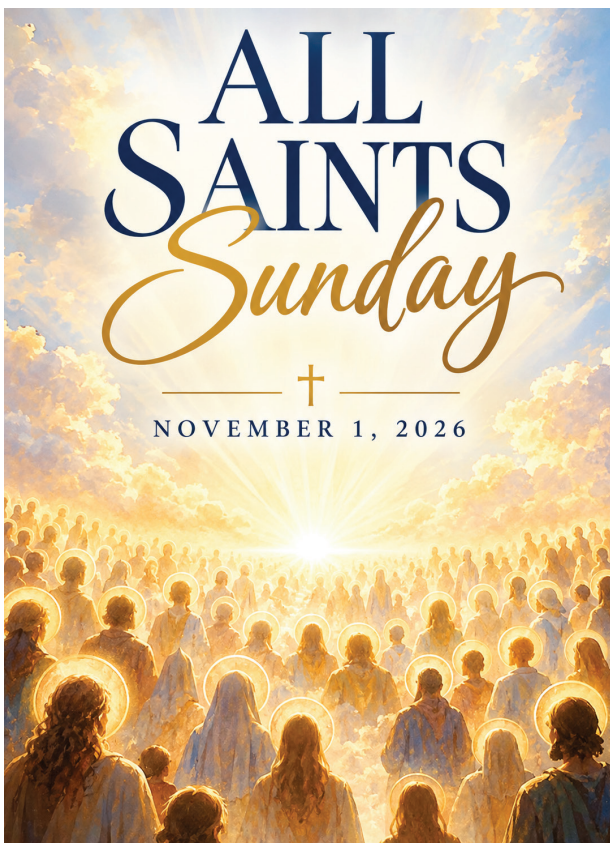
Yvonne K. Riley, age 73, passed away on January 14, 2026, at her home in Ocala, Florida. A memorial service will be held at 5:30 pm on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Pastor Mark Delaney officiating. Visitation will be held from 4:00 pm to service time Sunday at the funeral home.

TRIGG

Charles E. Kennedy - March 16, 1965 - October 24, 2026 - Funeral services for 61 year old Charles E. Kennedy of Cadiz were held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at King's Funeral Home with Bro. Darrell Dakin officiating and a Eulogy by Roger Kennedy. Burial followed in the Kennedy Family Cemetery.

Cathy Keller Francis, age 56, of Gracey, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. There will be no services at this time. Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, is in care of the arrangements.

Jimmy D. "Jim" Gosnell, age 93, of Cadiz, Kentucky, formerly of Kirkwood, Missouri, passed away on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at his home in Cadiz. A memorial service was held at 1 p.m., Monday, October 26, 2026, at Cadiz Methodist Church, 482 Lakota Drive, Cadiz, Kentucky. September 22, 2026 with her son, Bro. Robert Futrell officiating. Burial will follow at Futrell - Skinner Cemetery in Trigg County, Kentucky.



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.

WEST KY SPORTS

Kentucky High School Football Media Poll

CLASS 6A RANKINGS

School	Record	Pts
1. Trinity (16)	9-1	160
2. Frederick Douglass	9-0	142
3. Manual	8-1	129
4. South Warren	7-2	107
5. Madison Central	8-1	99
6. St. Xavier	4-5	73
7. Bullitt East	7-2	66
8. Male	5-4	38
9. McCracken County	6-3	27
10. Bryan Station	4-5	18

Others receiving votes: Others receiving votes: Lafayette 13, Paul Dunbar 3, Oldham County 2, Eastern 1, North Hardin 1, Simon Kenton 1.

CLASS 5A RANKINGS

School	Record	Pts
1. Pulaski County (16)	9-0	160
2. Woodford County	8-1	133
3. Owensboro	7-2	131
4. Atherton	8-1	95
5. Scott County	7-3	94
6. West Jessamine	9-0	76
7. Cooper	7-2	75
8. Bowling Green	5-4	44
9. North Hopkins	7-2	33
10. Collins	7-3	28

Others receiving votes: Fairdale 10, South Laurel 1.

CLASS 4A RANKINGS

School	Record	Pts
1. Highlands (14)	8-2	158
2. Boyle County	8-1	142
3. Paducah Tilghman	9-0	131
4. Ashland Blazer	9-0	106
5. Corbin	7-2	94
6. Covington Catholic	6-4	83
7. North Oldham	8-1	57
8. Logan County	7-2	34
9. Spencer County	7-2	31
10. Nelson County	8-1	15

Others receiving votes: Elizabethtown 11, Franklin County 5, Greenup County 5, Boyd County 4, Johnson Central 4.

CLASS 3A RANKINGS

School	Record	Pts
1. Christian Academy	9-0	160
2. Lexington Catholic	7-2	135
3. Murray	8-1	129
4. Glasgow	8-1	88
5. Rockcastle County	9-0	86
6. LaRue County	9-0	81
7. Lloyd Memorial	8-1	65
8. Lawrence County	7-1	63
9. Bourbon County	8-1	48
10. Bardstown	6-3	13

Others receiving votes: Russell 10, Central 1, Estill County 1.

CLASS 2A RANKINGS

School	Record	Pts
1. Beechwood	9-0	159
2. Owensboro Catholic	8-1	142
3. Lexington Christian	7-2	122
4. Mayfield	8-1	107
5. Belfry	8-1	103
6. Somerset	8-1	78
7. Danville	8-1	58
8. Breathitt County	8-1	42
9. Prestonsburg	8-1	34
10. Caldwell County	8-1	23

Others receiving votes: DuBois 9, Walton-Verona 2, Martin County 1.

CLASS 1A RANKINGS

School	Record	Pts
1. Pikeville (16)	8-1	160
2. Sayre	9-0	137
3. Raceland	7-2	127
4. Middlesboro	9-0	106
5. KY Country Day	7-2	92
6. Paintsville	8-1	78
7. Bethlehem	8-1	69
8. Louisville HC	6-3	52
9. Eminence	7-2	18
10. Williamsburg	6-2	12

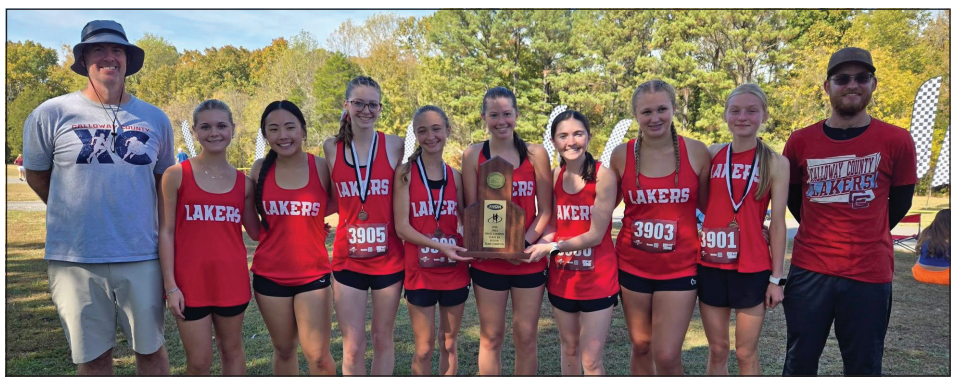
Others receiving votes: Covington Holy Cross 12, Dayton 6, Newport Central Catholic 5, Bishop Brossart 1, Nicholas County 1.

The West Kentucky Stars are competing in the 2026-27 men's college basketball season. The Stars are the men's basketball team of the West Kentucky Community & Technical College.

(Photo Courtesy of West Kentucky Community & Technical College)

The McCracken County Middle School softball team excelled throughout its latest season. The Lady Mustangs are pictured after winning a tournament in Hickman County in September.

(Photo Courtesy of McCracken County Middle School)



Calloway County won its seventh straight KHSAA Class 2A, Region 1 Girls' Cross Country Championship on Saturday, Oct. 24.

(Photo courtesy of Calloway County High School)

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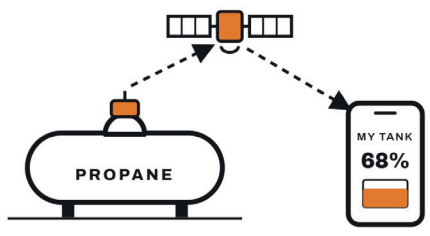

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Marshall County wins 25th 1st Region title

Marshall County claimed its 25th 1st Region girls' soccer championship on Wednesday, Oct. 21. *(Photo Courtesy of Marshall County High School)*

Staff Report

PADUCAH — Marshall County has won its 25th 1st Region girls' soccer title.

Determined Marshall County outlasted Calloway County 1-0 in the 1st Region Girls' Soccer Tournament championship match at Jetton Field on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Briley Cathey scored off an assist from Addison Peterson to lift Marshall County to the region championship-clinching win.

Many players were instrumental in Marshall County's victory. The additional players who contributed to Marshall County's victory were Maeci Moryl, Emma Knoth, Candice Gunn, Scarlett Perry, Kendall Duckett, Claire Moore, Ella VanHorn, Harper Smith, Claire Childress, Kaomi Lunsford, Kylee Spears, Avery Lyles, Beau Morgan and Lyla Thorn.

Mustangs capture 1st Region title

McCracken County captured the 1st Region Boys' Soccer Championship on Thursday, Oct. 22. *(Photo Courtesy of McCracken County High School)*

Staff Report

PADUCAH — McCracken County shut out Marshall County 3-0 in the 1st Region Boys' Soccer Tournament championship match on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Kaden McKenzie (two goals, one assist) and William O'Neill (one goal, two assists) provided McCracken County's offense in the region championship match.

Several players aided McCracken County in its region championship-clinching win. The additional players who contributed for McCracken County were Braxton Freeman, Grey Vessels, Johnny Mendoza, Joseph Rodriguez, Aiden Mendoza, Tate Shoulta, Griffin Strout, Maks Hazel, Eli Riley, Carson Crane, JP Gallagher, Zaven Branch and Landen Driver.

New videoboard to elevate experience at Owens Family Field

Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray State Athletics continues to invest in the future of Racer Softball with the addition of a donor-funded, state-of-the-art videoboard at Owens Family Field, marking another significant step forward in the department's commitment to making strategic investments into the program.

Measuring 18-feet tall by 33-feet wide and featuring a 10-millimeter pixel pitch, the videoboard will transform the game day environment at Owens Family Field with live video, real-time statistics and engaging content designed to bring Racer Nation closer to the action.

"The addition of this impressive videoboard at Owens Family Field will create an exciting new experience for our fans while providing meaningful benefits for our current and future softball student-athletes," Murray State University President Dr. Ron Patterson said. "Investments like these reinforce our commitment to providing championship-level resources and positioning our programs for long-term success."

The installation further demonstrates Murray State Athletics' commitment to building upon the momentum of the softball program through strategic facility enhancements that support student-athlete development, competitive excellence and an exceptional game day experience.

"Investments like this are critical to the continued growth and success of our softball program and our commitment to providing a best-in-class experience for our student-athletes and fans," Vice President & Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. "The addition of this videoboard will transform the atmosphere at Owens Family Field and strengthen our recruiting efforts as we continue to compete for and win championships."

Owens Family Field will also be receiving newly-branded outfield wall padding, a significant upgrade for the facility.

The facility recently celebrated the naming of Owens Family Field in recognition of the generous support and transformational leadership of Leon Owens and the Owens Family, while the Racers also broke ground on the Sandra Hartmann Press Box at the facility.

The press box will feature a main media area and additional auxiliary space, all of which will be ground level to make Owens Family Field tournament-host ready. Grandstands will be fixed to the top of the facility, providing a spectacular vantage point for fans to enjoy the game.

Other investments into the softball program have included revenue share money for student-athletes, the new indoor hitting facility in Rudolph Family Field at Roy Stewart Stadium, updates to the weight room and training room, and more.

"It's an incredibly exciting time for Murray State Softball, and the continued investment in our program speaks volumes about the commitment to building something special here at Murray State," head coach Kara Amundson said. "The addition of the new videoboard at Owens Family Field is another tremendous step forward for us. We are extremely grateful to Nico Yantko and the athletics administration, Dr. Ron Patterson and the Board of Regents, and everyone who continues to believe in our program and invest in its future."

Murray State Athletics has raised $60 million dollars in support of new facilities, initiatives and championship resources as part of the department's bold, comprehensive $100 million fundraising campaign, Leading The Pack, which was created to further position itself for the future by investing in student-athlete success and wellness, revenue share and competitive resources and world-class facilities.

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After 50 years in business, Don and Sharon are retiring and selling their boat shop inventory, equipment and personal property. This is a partial listing.

BOATS: Skeeter Sportfisherman; Winner 1850CC center console with Honda 130 hp; 2001 Odyssey 180 DS bass boat; 1992 Forrester pontoon; 1993 Bayliner Capri; 1986 Bayliner 2150 with Volvo inboard; StarCraft Jon boat and two aluminum canoes. Several trailers included.

BOAT MOTORS: Large selection of outboard motors, including Mercury, Johnson, Evinrude, Honda, Yamaha, Nissan, Mariner, Force and Tohatsu, plus inboard engines and lower units.

EQUIPMENT & PRECISION TOOLS: Industrial lathes and milling machines, electric forklift, diesel air compressor, pallet mover, floor scrubber, boat lifts and dollies, precision marine tools, engine testers, diagnostic equipment and shop cabinets, America Pace Maker Lathe 16x30, Milwaukee No. 2 Standard Plain Kearney & Trecker, Honda HS50 snow blower in the box, Big Joe electric forklift, Tennant 5' ride-on propane floor scrubber, 22x25 carport.

TRAILERS & VEHICLES: 2016 Cenergy 24-foot car hauler; 16-foot enclosed trailer; 32-foot boat trailer; two 20-foot flatbed trailers; 1997 Chevrolet 3500 HD flatbed truck; 1983 Airstream camper.

TRACTORS: Zetor 9741 Forterra 100-hp cab tractor with loader and bucket; Zetor 5211 cab tractor; Clark forklift; King Kutter mowers and blades.

BOAT PARTS & SUPPLIES: Extensive inventory of OEM marine parts and manuals, propellers, fuel tanks, gauges, cables, bearings, trailer parts, life jackets, ropes, lubricants, chemicals, signs and accessories.

REAL ESTATE: Two tracts offered, Parcel ID 07-07-14-400-012. 2025 property taxes: $3,577.10, prorated at closing. Terms: 5% down on sale day, balance due upon delivery of merchantable title.

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Red Ribbon Week: Awareness and Compassion Matter at Every Age

By Laurna Pruett
KPI Writer

Red Ribbon Week, observed Oct. 23-31, encourages conversations about drug prevention and safety. Although often associated with school activities, its message matters for everyone, including parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

It is easy to think, "That would never happen to someone I love." However, substance-related emergencies can affect any family. They do not always involve intentional drug use, and an unexpected reaction should never automatically lead to assumptions about addiction.

Accidental exposure and unknowingly consuming a substance deserve attention, too. At any age, be cautious about accepting open drinks, sharing beverages or consuming something when you are unsure

what it contains. Keep your drink in sight, remain aware of your surroundings and seek help if something feels wrong.

These conversations belong around every family table. Talk with children about accepting drinks from others, but remind adults that personal safety matters for them as well. Looking out for one another is everyone's responsibility.

If someone suddenly becomes confused, unusually drowsy or unwell, take the situation seriously. Focus on getting help rather than assigning blame. If the person cannot be awakened or has slow or stopped breathing, call 911 immediately. Give naloxone if available when an opioid overdose is suspected, and follow emergency instructions.

When ongoing substance use is a concern, approach the person calmly. Listen without humiliating them, avoid dismissing the problem and encourage professional medical care. Addiction is treatable, and recovery is possible with appropriate treatment and support.

A person's struggle does not erase their worth. Neither an accidental exposure nor a substance use disorder should become a reason to shame someone.

Red Ribbon Week is a reminder to stay informed, speak openly and act with compassion. Whatever the circumstances, the priority is safety, appropriate care and helping people move toward better health. Everyone deserves that chance, regardless of age or background.

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VICTORIOUS Living ...in a troubled world

GOD SHALL FIGHT FOR YOU

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Moses told the people, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart (that's something you feel inside, a total awareness of God) and with all your soul (thoughts, desires, inner being), and with all your might (your energy; your full strength; the best you have to give). Deut. 6:5. He's someone you want in your life every day.

Moses said doing so would ensure a blessed life and that each person had the responsibility for passing the love of God to the next generation.

You know, make it perpetual; make sure the flame never dies. God's plan is: when one generation dies, the next generation keeps it burning. If God is to be a perpetual God, EACH generation has the responsibility to pass the knowledge of God to the next generation. He told the Israelites to pay attention and watch themselves closely so they wouldn't forget what God had done for them. They were to tell their children, and their grandchildren, about God and His protection. Deut. 4:7-9.

God is serious about us loving Him with all our heart, soul and might. He wants us to teach, and talk about the blessings and benefits that come with

obedience and love.

In Deuteronomy eleven, God said the people had a choice. Blessing or cursing. That was their two options. If they chose to love and obey God there would be many benefits. Specifically, "He (God) Shall Fight For You" (Deuteronomy 1:30). I don't know about you, but I've needed God to fight a few battles for me. Sometimes, no earthly person can fix it. You can give all you've got and you still can't fix it. God can.

Moses said, "When you are in tribulation, and all these things (the curses) are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if you turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them" (Deut. 4:30-31).

That's the message every generation must pass to the next generation. He told them to teach their children about God, to talk to them about God in their homes; when they are outside taking a walk; when they go to bed at night and again in the morning. Keep God in front of their eyes so their minds don't forget who He is.

When Moses finished reciting all these words to the nation of Israel, he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you; they are your life" (Deut. 32:45-47).

May we all take Moses' solemn warning to heart: they are not just idle words for you; they are your life. Deut. 32:45-47.

OUTDOOR Truths

By Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org

THE LOAD

I've always considered myself a prepared hunter – some would say over prepared. I very rarely go into the woods without my backpack. During the colder months this is especially true. Since I'm never absolutely sure as to what the weather will bring, I take just about everything. My backpack is over three-thousand cubic inches. I strategically place additional clothes in it or strapped to it. I carry additional socks, gloves, headgear, and even an extra base-layer shirt just in case I sweat too much while getting to the stand. The nooks and crannies are stuffed full of other things like snacks, a drink, reading glasses, a book, paper, pen, and my phone. And there's also my umbrella and rain gear. In addition to all of this I carry a fanny pack as well; full of calls, scents, rope, compass, trimmers, and anything else that suits my fancy. Now some of you are already laughing at my overkill. You're not the first. I've never weighed my gear, but I figure it really doesn't matter because the burden of the load is a small price to pay in order to be a more prepared, and even satisfied, hunter. Sometimes the weight is cumbersome. Walking the hills most assuredly puts a toll on my legs, but as the season progresses it eventually becomes almost unnoticeable.

Some of you, right now, are carrying a load of a different kind. It's a burden that weighs on your heart and mind. It may be one you have caused or one you had nothing to do with. These burdens come through all sorts of circumstances from sickness, the concern over a child, the loss of a job, divorce, or a host of other things. Your mind is questioning the purpose of such a burden and the devil is quick to answer your question by casting the guilt squarely in your lap and telling you, "If you had only (fill in the blank) this would have never happened, and now God will abandon you to suffer the consequences alone."

The Bible is clear about the devil and his ways. It says he is the father of lies and his purpose is to destroy your faith by causing you to doubt and disbelieve the Word of God.

The truth of the scriptures assures us of several things. They tell us we are loved by God, He will never leave us, and that He has promised to bring good to our lives even in the midst of our burdens. He has also promised us peace. Having peace, many times, doesn't come from the burden being taken away but by changing our mind concerning it. My backpack was not a burden because I knew in my mind it would make me better prepared. The weight was the same, but my mind counted it worthwhile. What you may need right now is not your burden removed but only to see it from the perspective of God. It is not bigger than He. In fact, it is simply a tool in His hands to prepare you for what He is making you to be. Ask God to give you peace in your trial. The Bible says He will give it in such a way that it will surprise even you.

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 24 years.

He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org

Salvation is as easy as ABC

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

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

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

Waiting does not mean God is saying no

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

Life has its ups and downs, and no one is exempt from struggling every now and then. We've heard that how we react to situations is based on how much spiritual peace we can maintain, and I certainly believe this is true. In order to hear God's still small voice, we need to be very close to Him. How many have experienced the agony of trying to be patient while waiting on God to move? Some of you might be going through this today. No doubt, it's difficult to be calm when we are hurting. It seems we cannot think of anything else other than how we feel. Nonetheless, it's possible to not only use these dark times of the soul as a ladder to help us climb out of our pit of discouragement, but to actually rise to a higher level of personal peace and contentment. It's possible to learn how to transform our worries into confidence.

In the Song of Solomon chapter two, the Shulamite woman and the king are in love, and their dialogue is a beautiful expression of romance. In verse 15, she mentions how the little foxes damage the grapevines by chewing on them and eventually hinder the ability to make wine. To make a long story short, the foxes represent attacks of frustration and anxiety, while the vines are symbolic of our relationships, especially with God. She is trying to warn her future husband about the importance of keeping their emotions in check by being aware of negative forces that will attempt to ruin their marriage. This story reminds us to remain focused on God's promises and not allow impatience and negative distractions that tempt us to let go of our faith. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" Romans 12:12.

We have become spoiled in an age of instant gratification, and this can unfortunately bleed over into our spiritual thinking. We have a tendency to make a decree, say a short prayer, and then expect immediate results, and when we do not have an answer by the end of the day, we move on to something else. Let us consider: this is not always how the Lord works. Have you ever experienced a stressful trial, and as you were searching for answers, it seemed that God was silent? Maybe He was quiet for a reason, and then it could be that we were just not listening to His future plans. Remember that Abraham and Sarah were told by God they would have a special child, but it was decades later until Issac was born. Hannah also prayed for a child, but it was years later that she gave birth to Samuel. Job had to endure suffering and wait before God responded to deliver him. Moses prayed for the Israelites, but the Lord did not respond until after a long period of wandering. Daniel interceded intensely, but his answer did not come until 21 days later. These are just a few of many instances that emphasize patience. Just because we do not see immediate miracles from our prayers does not mean that God is saying no. Heaven is not a vending machine where we just push a button and instantly receive our request.

Our heavenly Father is completely aware of our situation, and within His blueprint is for us to submit to His perfect will. Knowing Him is all about trusting Him even when it seems that no one understands or cares. In the book of Ephesians, we are given an explanation about our spiritual armor, and if we notice, the helmet and breastplate is given to protect our mind and heart from the dangerous arrows of outside influences. The enemy of our soul loves to use words against us because he knows how much damage they can inflict. When we are confronted with negative circumstances, we are tempted to absorb and agree, which in turn triggers our response mechanism to unleash a flood of harmful reactions. Unfortunately, anger, sadness, and self-pity have ruined many people's lives because they let go of hope. Remember, hold on a little longer as Hebrews 11:6 declares that without faith it is impossible to please God. Whatever you are waiting for today, realize that God wants the best for you. Guard and protect your conscience from the attacks of depression and despair and embrace the absolute reality of His truth. If you know what He has promised, stand strong in your faith and know it's going to happen.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and Christian author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com.

A TREAT THAT TRICKS

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

If you're a jelly bean eater, prepare to spit them out for good. According to numerous sources, their glossy and crunchy coating is actually made from resin secreted by the female "lac bug" after it drinks the sap of trees. The chemical is released by the lac bug onto twigs and branches, where it is collected and later processed into flakes that are sprayed on candies like jelly beans, candy corn, and chocolate-covered mint patties. Because these treats appear delectable and delicious, you'd never suspect you were eating insect excrement. Now, that's a treat that tricks!

Sin is also a "treat" that tricks. Sin always appears shiny, satisfying, and sugar-coated. It's tantalizing appearance captures the eyes of our flesh, and its abominable aroma whets our sinful appetite (cf. Gen. 3:6; James 1:14-15). But in reality, sin is not a treat at all. It is the object of God's hate, the source of man's grief, and the root of all the world's troubles (Psalm 5:4; Job 15:20-35).

Moreover, sin only tastes sweet for a fleeting moment (cf. Heb. 11:25). Sin's cunning coating of enjoyment wears off quickly, and it always leaves a foul taste in the mouth. As Job's friend Zophar observed, "Though evil is sweet in his mouth, though he hides it under his tongue, though he is loath to let it go and holds it in his mouth, yet his food is turned in his stomach; it is the venom of cobras within him" (Job 20:12-14). Sin is bitter like wormwood and sour like unripe grapes to those who consume it (Deut. 29:18-19; Jer. 31:30). Those who relish every bite of sin will find sin biting them back (cf. Jer. 2:19).

What is truly sweet is experiencing the grace and goodness of the Lord God. For this reason, the psalmist urges, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalm 34:8). At His right hand are "pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11). Furthermore, doing His will is always sweetly satisfying, and it never leads to bitter guilt or sour regret (John 4:34). The satisfaction He gives is not a trick—it is as real as it gets: "For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things" (Psalm 107:9).

Note: My latest book, Bible Gleanings Volume III, contains 100 daily devotionals just like the ones you read here each weekend. It is available in paperback on Amazon.com.

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

718 Marina Village Dr., Grand Rivers, Kentucky • $599,900 – MLS # 130701. Beautiful Custom Built 3

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

643 Whitney Dr., Paducah, Kentucky • $415,000.00 - MLS # 137569. Unique 3 bedroom 3 full bath West End home located in the desirable Pines Subdivision loaded with captivating character! Impressive living room features gas log fireplace , very tall valuted ceiling & large stylish windows for plenty of light. Kitchen has plenty of cabinets, island, breakfast area, and pantry. Excellent primary bedroom with spacious bath, jacuzzi tub, double vanity, walk-in closet, surround sound, balcony overlooking deck & backyard. Ample storage space throughout the home. New refrigerator & microwave in 2026. Massive deck perfect for entertaining! Beautiful yard, trees and landscaping. Well insulated home so utility bills are low. Convenient to the mall area, I-24 and downtown Paducah. Underground Dog fence. CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty 270-519-9000

1875 St Rt 384 Mayfield, Ky $308,000.00. MLS#: 26019260. Beautiful Absolutely Private home on 2.5 impressive acres with 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths! Extremely well built ! Only 5 miles to I-69 and Mayfield. Large updated kitchen with gorgeous tile, corian countertops and abundant cabinetry. Quality bar stools stay plus all appliances. All 3 full baths are updated with extra nice tile and countertops. There are 2 large living areas. Kitchen open to Living room. Utility room. Primary bedroom and bath separate from other bedrooms ! NEW paint , blinds and appliances since 2019. NEW roof in 2020. 2 car attached carport and 2 car detached garage. Large metal barn 80 x 32 great for any animals, hay, equipment storage, RV and more! It does have a few stalls in it. Door is 11 FT 7 in tall. Land is rolling and lays pretty. Plenty of road frontage. Paved driveway. Geothermal HVAC. Appraisal done in March of 2026 available upon request. Seller is providing a one year home warranty at closing ~~ APHW.com Utility room or Guest bath would make great storm shelter! CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty 270-519-9000

606 Tortuga Dr. $210,000 MLS # 26024150 CALL Jennifer Palmer Realty 270-519-9000

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

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

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

1114 Broadway, Paducah, KY. MLS #132732. Excellent opportunity for a client in need of a nice office building in midtown Paducah, centrally located in the heart of Paducah's business district with high traffic location. Dual access from Broadway and Kentucky Avenue. Current tenants are expected to move by late fall. $459,900. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

For Sale By Owner! 20 acres in Calloway County, Ky 000 Hale Road, Murray, KY 42071. 5 miles northwest of Murray, Ky. 50 miles from Paducah, near Kentucky and Barkley Lakes. Minutes away from Murray State University. Easy access to hwy 80. All tillable, currently in crops. WKRECC Electric, Natural gas available. Call or Text 270-293-2064.
Price $350,000.00

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

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

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

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

Beautifully and totally renovated condo in exciting Lower Town, Paducah, KY. Stainless steel and granite kitchen, original wood floors, two master suites with attached baths. Carport with storage. 2/3 -2,140 sq. ft. $247,500. (972) 816-8766 (tfn)

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

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

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

6,970 sq. ft. Commercial Retail lot with a 3,400 sq. ft. Building. 50' x 140' Lot Size. Built in 1983. 409 Court Street, Wickliffe, KY. MLS #: 26017434. $149,000. The building was recently a pharmacy. Across for the courthouse one way, across from FCB Bank the other way. Great location! Shelving can stay or seller will remove. For more info call Betty Higdon Century 21 Service Realty at 279-519-6991 (TFN)

FARM FOR RENT

For rent pasture grazing for cattle in McCracken County, available now. 270-519-3567

CAMPERS FOR SALE

2021 JAYCO JayFlight SLX, 195 RB Travel Trailer (21-foot) Never been lived in. Bath tub - Shower combo. Closet, Queen size bed, Refrigerator, Microwave, 2-Burner Stove, Electric Awning, Radio & TV Hookup, Fold-Out stairs, Storage, 2-Water Tanks. KEVIL AREA. Asking $18,000 Call 270-349-4962

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

BOATS FOR SALE

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

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

AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1991 Chevyrolet Silverado 350 V8, 4 speed transmission, long wheel base, 2 door, garage kept, excellent shape, 206,000 miles. $11,000.00 OBO call Margaret A. Moore 270-875-3126

AUTO MISC.

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

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

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

FARM & LAWN EQUPMENT

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

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

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

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

MISC. FOR SALE

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

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

Roofing supplies left over a job. GAF shingles, under lay, edging, nails. Retail value $700. Your cost for lot $250 cash and carry. 270-559-8467

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

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

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Search Answers

Puzzle Page in A Section

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

As families prepare for Halloween, a few simple precautions can help keep trick-or-treaters safe.

Choose properly fitting costumes and use reflective tape, glow sticks or flashlights to improve visibility after dark. Face paint is often safer than masks that can block vision.

Parents should accompany young children and remind older children to stay in groups, use sidewalks and cross streets safely.

Motorists should slow down in residential neighborhoods and watch carefully for children.

Before eating Halloween treats, parents should inspect candy and discard unwrapped or suspicious items. Children should never enter strangers' homes or vehicles.

With planning and awareness, families can enjoy a fun and safe Halloween.

Pet of the Week

Meet Willie, he is this week's Pet of the Week. Willie is a 2 year old Lab Mix. As you can see from the photos, Willie has had one of his eyes removed. He came to us with the eye removed so we do not know the cause of the removal. This minor setback has not slowed Willie down. He is still an energetic and playful fellow. He would make a great addition to a home with children. He is neutered, microchipped and up to date on his vaccinations. Please come in and meet Willie.

For more information please contact: McCracken County Humane Society 4000 Coleman Road, Paducah, KY 42001 - (270)443-5923

ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION

Thursday, November 12th, 2026 | 6:00 PM CST

AUCTION HELD AT THE YATES EVENT CENTER

72.18± ACRES IN 9 TRACTS & COMBINATIONS

Property Location: 2053 Butterworth Rd, Murray, KY 42071

SELLING ABSOLUTE – REGARDLESS OF PRICE!

Harris Real Estate & Auction is pleased to present an outstanding opportunity to purchase 72.18± acres in Calloway County, Kentucky, selling at Absolute Auction in 9 tracts and combinations!

Located along Butterworth Road just outside Murray, Kentucky, this property offers a desirable combination of open farmland, wooded acreage, hunting and recreational land, and an existing country home situated on 2.80± acres.

Featuring nine individual tracts ranging from 1.28± acres to 27.17± acres, this auction offers opportunities for farmers, homeowners, hunters, recreational land buyers, investors, and those looking to expand their existing property holdings.

Whether you're searching for a country home, additional farmland, a potential building site, hunting property, or a larger rural acreage investment, this auction offers the flexibility to purchase individual tracts, adjoining combinations, or the entire property.

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

- 72.18± total acres selling in 9 tracts and combinations
- Country home situated on Tract 6 with 2.80± acres
- Multiple tracts featuring open, cleared farmland
- Larger wooded acreage offering hunting and recreational opportunities
- Smaller acreage parcels offering potential country homesites
- Road frontage along Butterworth Road on multiple tracts
- Opportunities for agricultural use, recreation, and land investment
- Convenient rural location near Murray, Kentucky
- Flexibility to purchase individual tracts or combinations
- Selling at Absolute Auction, regardless of price

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

HARRIS Real Estate & Auction
HOMES - FARMLAND
ESTATES - WATERFRONT
MICHAEL HARRIS
PRINCIPAL BROKER
PRINCIPAL AUCTIONEER
KL# 252972 | KY BROKER# 198374
Phone: 270-247-3253 Toll Free: 800-380-4318
harrisauctions.com

ABSOLUTE ONLINE ONLY REAL ESTATE AUCTION

4182 State Route 121 S, Mayfield, KY 42066

BIDDING OPEN NOW!

BIDDING ENDS: Tues., Nov. 3rd, 2026 @ 10 AM CST

Acreage, an existing building, and a convenient Mayfield location!

ALL SELLING AT ONLINE AUCTION!

Harris Real Estate & Auction is pleased to offer this **3.08± acre property featuring a 30' x 40' building** located at **4182 State Route 121 S in Mayfield, Kentucky**.

The property offers approximately 1,200 square feet of building space along with over three acres of land, providing buyers with plenty of flexibility. The existing building features a metal roof and offers space that could be well suited for **storage, equipment, vehicles, hobbies, or other uses**.

Outside, the property offers a combination of **open and wooded acreage** with established access from State Route 121 S. Whether you're looking for additional space, land for future plans, an investment opportunity, or simply a versatile property with an existing structure already in place, this property is worth a look.

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

- 3.08± acres
- 30' x 40' building
- Approximately 1,200 sq. ft.
- Metal roof
- Open and wooded acreage
- Convenient access to Mayfield
- Located on State Route 121 S
- Space for storage, equipment, vehicles or hobbies
- Versatile property with room for future possibilities
- Online bidding is open now

REAL ESTATE TERMS: This is an Online Only Absolute Real Estate Auction. The property will be offered as one individual tract and will sell to the highest bidder regardless of price. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. A 15% down payment is required on the day of the auction, with the remaining balance due within 30 days of the auction. BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. Make Inspections Prior To Date Of Sale. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. All 2026 ad valorem taxes will be prorated at closing. The property will be sold according to the current deed.

HARRIS Real Estate & Auction
HOMES - FARMLAND
ESTATES - WATERFRONT
MICHAEL HARRIS
PRINCIPAL BROKER
PRINCIPAL AUCTIONEER
KL# 252972 | KY BROKER# 198374
Phone: 270-247-3253 Toll Free: 800-380-4318
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Kentucky Farmland Values Climb Significantly Over the Past Decade

Kentucky farmland has become considerably more valuable over the past decade, reflecting rising demand for agricultural land, higher production costs and growing interest in farmland as a long-term investment.

U.S. Department of Agriculture land-value estimates indicate that the average value of farm real estate in Kentucky has increased from roughly $3,300 per acre in 2015 to approximately $5,000 per acre in recent years. That represents an increase of about 50%, although values vary by location, soil quality and intended use.

Several factors have contributed to the increase. Strong demand for productive cropland, changes in commodity prices, development pressure and limited availability of farmland have helped push prices upward. Land with good access, reliable water sources and productive soil can command premium prices.

Farmland also remains attractive to investors seeking tangible assets that may appreciate over time. In western Kentucky, agricultural land supports important industries, including corn, soybean, wheat and livestock production.

However, rising land values present challenges for farmers looking to expand their operations or for younger generations hoping to enter agriculture. Higher purchase prices can make it more difficult to acquire acreage, particularly for beginning farmers who do not already own land.

Existing landowners may benefit from increased property values, but higher valuations can also affect property taxes, insurance costs and the expense of transferring farms to family members.

Despite these challenges, farmland remains a critical part of Kentucky's rural economy. Land values will continue to depend on agricultural profitability, interest rates, development activity and demand from buyers.

For farmers and landowners, understanding local market conditions is increasingly important when making decisions about purchasing, selling or passing farmland to the next generation.

Drew Williams Campaigns for U.S. House District One

John "Drew" Williams is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in Kentucky's First Congressional District in the November 3 election. Williams is focusing his campaign on transparency, local issues and getting people involved in addressing the challenges facing their communities.

A graduate of Murray State University, Williams has spent 34 years in business. He and his brother work as contractors building docks throughout the lakes region. His business experience and involvement in community activities have helped shape his approach to public service.

Williams believes in a neighbor-to-neighbor campaign, relying on volunteers to share information and connect with voters across the district. He wants to encourage grassroots organizing and mutual aid while giving residents a greater voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Williams has also worked on three different gubernatorial campaigns, gaining experience in the political process. Williams wants to fight against dark money in politics, enact term limits, and work to bring down cost of living. He says one of the best parts of his current campaign has been meeting people throughout the community, participating in civic action and learning more about the policy issues affecting local residents.

Outside of his campaign and business, Williams is involved in community traditions, including the annual Tater Day celebration in Benton. His wife is a teacher with Kentucky Virtual Academy.

Williams hopes to build a campaign that brings people together, encourages participation and keeps the focus on the needs of the First Congressional District.

Residents interested in learning more about his campaign, platform and priorities can visit www.williamsforky.com or call 270-205-2727.

ONLINE LAND AUCTION
Wednesday, November 4th, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Property Location: Near State Route 301, Hickory, KY

50 ACRES OF WESTERN KENTUCKY LAND

Harris Real Estate & Auction is pleased to offer 50 acres of land in Graves County, Kentucky, selling through an Online-Only Land Auction!

Located near Hickory, Kentucky, this 50-acre tract offers an opportunity to acquire a sizable piece of Western Kentucky acreage. Whether you're looking to expand your land holdings or invest in rural property, this auction presents an opportunity to purchase land in Graves County.

The property has been surveyed, with a boundary survey dated August 26, 2026, available for review.

REAL ESTATE TERMS: The property will be offered in one tract. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. A 15% down payment is required on the day of the auction, with the remaining balance due within 30 days of the auction. Earnest money will be deposited into the Harris Auction Escrow Account or into an escrow account maintained by an attorney or title company selected by Harris Real Estate & Auction, in accordance with the purchase contract. YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. Make Inspections Prior To Date Of Sale. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. All 2026 ad valorem taxes will be prorated at closing. The property will be sold by a new survey. Buyer is responsible for 50%.

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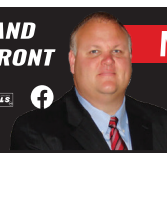

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WILLIAMS
FOR U.S. HOUSE KY-01

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ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 3

(270) 205 - 2727
PO Box 77
Benton, KY 42025
williamsforky.com

Paid for by the Williams For Kentucky Campaign.

B SECTION

Western Kentucky Business Journal

October 30, 2026

★ ★★ RIVER & BARGE • FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT ★★ ★

Paducah receives $40 million federal grant for Riverport West Project

Congressman James Comer announced a $40 million federal grant to expand its public port through the Riverport West Project.

By TOM LATEK,
Kentucky Today

WASHINGTON (KT) — The Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority has received a $40 million federal grant to expand its public port through the Riverport West Project, U.S. Rep. James Comer announced Monday.

The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration through its Port Infrastructure Development Program.

Comer, R-Tompkinsville, sent a letter supporting the funding to Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and spoke with Maritime Administrator Steve Carmel about the project's importance to Kentucky's transportation network and economy.

"This new funding will expand our region's shipping capacity, strengthen critical transportation infrastructure, and help attract new businesses and good-paying jobs," Comer said. "I was proud to support the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority's work to secure this investment, and I commend its leaders and community partners for their ongoing efforts to get this project across the finish line. I will continue working with federal and local leaders to strengthen Kentucky's economy and create new opportunities for our communities."

see **GRANT,** page 16

Baptist Health Medical Group neurosurgeons Lee Titsworth, MD, and Thomas Gruber, MD, and their surgical team after completing the 500th case.

Baptist Health Paducah neurosurgeons reach 500 robotic guided spine procedures with Mazor X Stealth Edition™

[PADUCAH, KY] — Baptist Health Medical Group neurosurgeons Lee Titsworth, MD, and Thomas Gruber, MD, have successfully completed 500 successful spine procedures using the Mazor X Stealth Edition™ Robotic-Guidance Platform.

"Reaching this milestone is exciting for both our team and our patients," said Dr. Titsworth. "Robotic guidance allows us to plan each procedure with incredible accuracy and execute that plan with confidence. Ultimately, it helps us provide safer procedures and better outcomes for our patients."

This achievement highlights the continued

see **ROBOTIC,** page 5

Warrior Contracting Builds Success in Honor of a Young Warrior

EDDYVILLE, Ky. — For Jennifer Matthews, majority owner of Warrior Contracting in Eddyville, building a successful business is about more than contracts, projects and growth. It is also about honoring the memory of her son, Owen Matthews.

Warrior Contracting, located at 96 Bennett Road in Eddyville, was established in December 2020. Since its beginning, the company has exceeded expectations and experienced growth each year. According to Matthews, 2026 is shaping up to be a banner year for the company.

Jennifer's father, Roy Waters, serves as CEO, while her brother, Tim Waters, serves as COO. Jennifer's day-to-day

see **WARRIOR,** page 2

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WARRIOR,
from page 1

responsibilities include handling finances and business matters, as well as bidding on upcoming jobs.

The company currently employs 15 people and works with other contractors on a variety of projects throughout the region. Warrior Contracting has completed considerable work along I-24 and the Western Kentucky Parkway, among other projects.

The name Warrior Contracting carries a deeply personal meaning for the Matthews family. Jennifer's son, Owen, passed away at the age of 11. The family considered Owen a "young warrior," and they chose the company name as a lasting tribute to him.

For Jennifer and her family, one of the greatest rewards comes when customers and other contractors recognize the quality of their work.

"Every time someone tells us how exceptional the quality of our work is, it is the greatest blessing," Jennifer said. To the family, those compliments are a testament to Owen and the spirit behind Warrior Contracting.

Looking ahead, the company continues to pursue new opportunities. One of the next major events on the calendar will be Tim's trip to Las Vegas to attend the World of Concrete Expo, where he will explore new products, equipment and developments within the construction industry.

Jennifer Matthews can be reached at 270-625-2719 or by email at jennifer@warriorcontractinginc.com.

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- Debra Roberts

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Common hurdles faced by small businesses

Small businesses are the lifeblood of the country. There are 36.2 million small businesses in the United States, according to data from the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy. Canada has approximately 1.1 million small businesses, making up about 98.2 percent of all employer businesses in the country, says Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

Small businesses are vital to economic innovation. However, keeping a small business moving along can be challenging. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that roughly 20 percent to 22 percent of new private-sector businesses fail within their first year. By the five-year mark, nearly half close their doors. Understanding the potential obstacles that small businesses face can help guide aspiring entrepreneurs.

Cash shortages

One of the biggests threats to a young business is a shortage of liquid capital. According to research from the SBA and SCORE, poor cash flow management plays a role in more than 80 percent of small business failures. Delays in client payments or unexpected expenses quickly can drain operational funds. Also, rising costs of materials and labor and additional expenses can put pressure on profit margins.

Hiring issues

Small businesses may be competing with larger corporations for skilled workers, and larger firms might be able to offer more attractive benefits. That can pose challenges in regard to keeping operations staffed with quality employees. As a result, small business owners often wear many hats and juggle responsibilities, which can lead to burnout, says Walden University.

Market demand

A CB Insights analysis found that 42 percent of failed startups attributed their collapse to a lack of market need. Entrepreneurs need to determine if consumers are willing to pay for a solution before investing substantial capital into a company.

Customer retention

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says keeping a steady stream of returning buyers often requires adapting to changing consumer trends and ongoing effort on the part of business owners. But limited advertising budgets can make it harder for small businesses to compete with big brands for customer attention. Also, with business owners often putting out small fires each day, it may leave little time for long-term customer retention planning.

Small businesses face many common hurdles. While challenging, these obstacles can be overcome.

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Reasons to stay local when shopping this holiday season

Holiday shoppers have no shortage of retailers competing for their dollars come December. The National Retail Federation estimated 2025 holiday spending exceeded $1 trillion, and there's little reason to suspect 2026 spending will not match or exceed that amount.

With so much money being spent, retailers have much to gain from attracting holiday shoppers. While big box stores and online retailers may beckon shoppers louder than anyone this December, there's plenty of reasons to look local when buying gifts for loved ones during the holiday season.

• **Buying local pays you back.** Communities benefit when shoppers spend their money at locally owned businesses. According to the Local Business Institute, $48 of every $100 spent at a locally owned business ultimately recirculates in the community. That means supporting one business in your community indirectly leads to supporting others. And residents should know that a thriving local business sector is great for property values, as buyers tend to be willing to pay more to live in locations with successful shops, cafes and restaurants.

• **Buying local encourages additional investment.** New Jersey-based Spencer Savings Bank notes the appeal of already thriving business sectors on other entrepreneurs seeking to open their businesses.

By supporting existing local businesses now, residents are helping to establish a foundation for future economic growth within their communities. The holiday season is a particularly lucrative time for businesses of all sizes, so that makes it a perfect time for locals to support the establishments in their community.

• **Buying local offers more chances to find something unique.** Buying local also pays more immediate dividends come the holiday season. Big box stores and online retailers sell the same items to people regardless of where they live, whereas independently owned local businesses tend to feature more unique items that can only be found in their stores. Shoppers looking for unique gifts for their loved ones need look no further than Main Street to find such items.

• **Buying local benefits the environment.** Eco-conscious holiday shoppers should know that buying local is often beneficial for the environment. Locally crafted and purchased items will not require as much packaging as items purchased from big box stores or online retailers that must protect products from the wear and tear of long distance travel. And that travel also has a negative impact on the environment, as the longer distance it takes to get a product from a warehouse to a consumer's home, the more harmful the transaction typically is on the environment.

The holiday season is a lucrative time of year for retailers, and there are numerous reasons why shoppers should focus their buying power on local businesses this year and in the years to come.

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ROBOTIC,

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advancement of surgical technology at Baptist Health Paducah and reflects the team's commitment to improving precision, outcomes and patient care through innovative treatment options. Drs. Titsworth and Gruber are the region's only providers utilizing this advanced robotic spine technology, offering patients access to specialized care close to home.

"Having this level of advanced surgical technology available in Paducah means patients don't have to travel far to receive high-quality, specialized spine care," said Dr. Gruber. "It allows us to treat complex conditions with greater precision while helping patients get back to their daily lives more quickly."

The Mazor X Stealth Edition™ Robotic-Guidance Platform, developed by Medtronic, supports spine surgeons by providing advanced planning tools and detailed visualization prior to surgery. Using this technology, surgeons can map out each procedure based on a patient's unique anatomy before entering the operating room.

During surgery, the system combines navigation technology and robotic guidance to assist in the precise placement of spinal implants. This level of accuracy can help improve surgical outcomes, enhance safety and support a more efficient surgical process.

Introduced at Baptist Health Paducah in July 2021 the robotic platform integrates preoperative planning software with real-time navigation and robotic assistance, allowing surgeons to perform complex spine procedures with greater precision.

By offering robotic-guided spine surgery, Baptist Health Paducah continues to expand access to advanced surgical care for patients across western Kentucky, providing innovative options close to home.

Baptist Health Medical Group Neurosurgery includes Jeffrey Jones, DO, Thomas Gruber, MD, and Lee Titsworth, MD, who work collaboratively to provide comprehensive neurosurgical care for patients.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Baptist Health Medical Group Neurosurgery, call 270.443.6472.

About Baptist Health Paducah

Baptist Health Paducah is a regional medical and referral center serving about 220,000 patients a year from four states. With more than 1,500 employees and 370 physicians, it offers 42 points of care with a full range of services, including cardiac and cancer care, diagnostic imaging, women's and children's services, surgery, emergency treatment, rehabilitation, and more. It has the region's first heart center and only accredited chest pain center and certified stroke center with 24/7 neurohospitalist coverage, as well as Paducah's only comprehensive cancer center and Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care unit. Baptist Health Paducah has a network of healthcare providers for patients in western Kentucky and southern Illinois — from Baptist Health Medical Group physician offices to Baptist Health Urgent Care and Occupational Medicine locations.

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

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Kentucky Farming Trends for the remainder of 2026:

Harvests, dry conditions and financial challenges

As Kentucky farmers move through the final months of 2026, agriculture across the Commonwealth is experiencing a mixture of encouraging crop yields, changing weather conditions and continued financial pressure. While many grain producers are reporting a productive harvest, livestock producers are watching pasture conditions and hay supplies as they prepare for winter. Meanwhile, higher operating expenses and fluctuating commodity prices continue to influence farm management decisions.

Recent observations from the University of Kentucky's Kentucky Farm Business Management Program, published October 26, offer an updated look at the conditions affecting farms as the year draws to a close. The report points to strong corn and full-season soybean yields in many areas, but it also highlights concerns about farm profitability, transportation expenses and the availability of winter feed.

Corn and Soybean Harvests Bring Encouraging Results

One of the most positive developments for Kentucky agriculture this fall has been the performance of the state's major grain crops.

According to Kentucky Farm Business Management specialists, corn harvest was nearly complete by mid-October, with many producers reporting yields above their historical averages. Some farmers reported corn yields exceeding 250 bushels per acre, although results varied by location and growing conditions. Full-season soybeans also produced encouraging yields across much of the state.

Kentucky's early planting season helped establish the foundation for a productive year. Favorable conditions allowed many farmers to get into their fields earlier than usual, giving crops additional time to develop.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2026 Kentucky agricultural overview, updated October 27, estimated a statewide corn grain yield of 193 bushels per acre and a soybean yield of 54 bushels per acre. These figures provide a snapshot of the season's production outlook, although final results may change as official estimates are updated.

For the remainder of the year, farmers will concentrate on completing soybean harvest, evaluating final yields and deciding when to sell or store their grain. Strong production can be encouraging, but a large harvest does not automatically translate into higher profits. When supplies increase, prices can face pressure, making marketing decisions especially important.

Dry Fall Weather Raises Concerns for Livestock Producers

Although dry weather helped crops mature and allowed combines to move efficiently through fields, the lack of rainfall has created challenges for some livestock operations.

Kentucky Farm Business Management specialists reported that September was among the state's driest and hottest Septembers on record. Dry conditions raised concerns about pasture health and hay availability, particularly in areas where livestock producers had already started feeding hay before autumn was over.

As winter approaches, farmers will need to evaluate the amount of hay available, the condition of their pastures and the expected needs of their herds. Producers with limited supplies may need to consider additional feed purchases or adjustments to grazing and feeding plans.

Hay production and storage remain essential parts of Kentucky's livestock industry. Protecting stored hay from moisture, checking feed supplies and maintaining access to clean water are important considerations as temperatures fall.

Rainfall over the coming weeks will influence how much pasture growth occurs before winter dormancy. Farmers should continue monitoring local conditions rather than assuming that recent dry weather will affect every county in the same way.

Cattle Markets and Winter Farm Management

Kentucky's cattle industry remains an important part of the state's agricultural economy. Livestock producers are balancing market opportunities against the cost of maintaining their herds.

University of Kentucky agricultural economists previously projected strong livestock sales for 2025, supported by cattle, poultry and equine markets, while warning that grain producers faced pressure from lower crop prices. That imbalance remains an important backdrop for understanding farm finances in 2026.

Some Kentucky cattle producers are retaining younger female cattle while removing older cows from their herds. Such decisions can influence future herd size, feed requirements and long-term breeding plans. Producers must weigh the potential benefits of retaining animals against the expense of keeping them through winter.

Feed costs, pasture

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conditions and available working capital will be central considerations as farmers prepare year-end budgets. Keeping accurate records of expenses, livestock sales and feed inventories can help producers determine which management decisions are financially sustainable.

Grain Prices, Transportation and Operating Costs

Even when harvest yields are favorable, the financial outlook can remain uncertain.

Kentucky Farm Business Management specialists reported that grain prices had declined following earlier improvements. In far western Kentucky, low river levels were also creating concerns for grain transportation. Reduced barge loads can increase transportation costs, potentially affecting the cash prices farmers receive for their crops.

Fuel costs add another concern during a season that requires harvesting, hauling and storing crops. Farmers must consider the cost of moving grain to market alongside local cash prices, storage expenses and potential future price changes.

Some producers with adequate storage capacity may choose to hold grain rather than sell immediately. However, storage is not a guarantee of better returns. Farmers must evaluate market conditions, cash-flow needs and storage costs before deciding when to sell.

Careful financial planning will remain important through December, particularly for operations facing higher expenses or reduced profit margins.

Federal Assistance and Important December Deadlines

Federal agricultural programs are another important consideration before the end of 2026.

On October 16, the USDA Farm Service Agency announced approximately $259.4 million in farm safety-net and conservation program payments for Kentucky farmers, ranchers and landowners. The announcement included support through Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage and Conservation Reserve Program payments.

Farmers enrolled in eligible programs should check their payment status and confirm any outstanding requirements with their local Farm Service Agency office.

The USDA also announced that the enrollment period for the 2026 crop year under ARC and PLC runs through December 11, 2026. Producers should verify their eligibility, enrollment information and applicable deadlines rather than assuming that participation automatically carries forward.

These programs can provide a measure of financial protection, but producers should incorporate any expected assistance into their plans only after confirming eligibility and payment details.

Looking Ahead to the End of the Year

As Kentucky agriculture enters November and December, farmers will focus on finishing harvest, preparing equipment for winter, protecting stored crops and securing adequate feed for livestock.

The season's strong grain yields provide reasons for optimism, but weather-related challenges and tight farm budgets remain important concerns. Farmers will also begin evaluating what worked well in 2026 and what adjustments may be needed for the next growing season.

For Kentucky's agricultural community, the final months of the year will be about more than bringing crops out of the fields. They will be a time to review finances, plan for winter and prepare for another year of changing markets and unpredictable weather.

With careful management, informed marketing decisions and attention to livestock and soil conditions, Kentucky farmers can use the lessons of 2026 to strengthen their operations heading into 2027.

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UK researcher explores innovative treatments for bacterial infections causing pregnancy loss in mares

At the University of Kentucky, new research will support innovative therapeutic alternatives to traditional antibiotics that could help protect pregnant mares and their foals while addressing the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance.

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— A University of Kentucky researcher is developing a new approach to protect pregnant mares from bacterial infections that can cause foal loss. The research could help horse breeders prevent reproductive losses while addressing growing concerns about antibiotic resistance.

Yosra Helmy, Ph.D., an associate professor of veterinary science at the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE), has received funding from the American Quarter Horse Foundation (AQHF) to investigate whether specially developed chemical compounds, known as small molecules, can control bacteria responsible for abortions in mares.

The project, titled "Development of Novel Small-Molecule Therapeutics to Control Pathogens Causing Abortion in Mares," will focus on finding alternatives to conventional antibiotics, which do not always successfully treat these infections.

"In many cases, losing a pregnancy represents the loss of an entire breeding season, substantial veterinary and management expenses and uncertainty about a mare's future reproductive performance," Helmy said. "Our research is driven by the need to develop new therapeutic approaches that could help veterinarians protect both the mare and her developing foal."

One of the project's primary targets is Streptococcus equi subspecies zooepidemicus, commonly called Streptococcus zooepidemicus. The bacterium can normally be found in horses without causing illness, but under certain conditions, it can enter the reproductive tract and cause serious infections. Other bacteria, including Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Klebsiella pneumoniae, can cause similar reproductive problems.

These bacteria can cause a serious infection called ascending placentitis. The infection happens when bacteria enter the mare's reproductive tract and spread to the placenta, which provides oxygen and nutrients to the developing foal. When the placenta becomes infected and inflamed, the foal may not receive everything it needs to grow and stay healthy. This can lead to premature birth or cause the mare to lose her foal before it is born.

New research hopes to cut down on the number of mare pregnancy loss.
Photo by Martin-Gatton CAFE.

"Veterinarians commonly rely on antibiotics to treat bacterial infections in pregnant mares," Helmy said. "Although these treatments can be effective, they do not always eliminate infections, particularly when bacteria become resistant to the medications being used."

Antibiotics can also affect microbial communities, raising additional questions about their broader effects on reproductive health. Furthermore, bacterial biofilms that contribute to persistent infections and difficulties achieving effective drug concentrations at the site of infection can complicate treatment and contribute to persistent infections.

"The goal is to find treatments that can control the infection and potentially reduce reliance on conventional antibiotics while limiting the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance," Helmy said.

Searching for the next generation of treatments

The researchers aim to identify compounds that effectively target harmful bacteria while assessing their effects on host cells, their potential impact on beneficial microorganisms and their ability to reduce reliance on conventional antibiotics.

The research will evaluate the most promising candidates for activity against antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains, biofilm prevention or disruption and potential toxicity to mammalian cells. These studies are essential steps toward identifying compounds that may be suitable for future therapeutic development.

The project will draw on the expertise and resources of the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) for Translational Chemical Biology to search for new ways to fight bacterial infections in horses. Researchers will work with Helmy's laboratory to identify and test promising compounds, including those found in nature, that could stop harmful bacteria from growing or spreading. They will also study whether these compounds can prevent bacteria from forming biofilms. The goal is to find potential new treatments for bacterial infections that affect horses' reproductive health.

The work is still in its early stages, and researchers must evaluate the compounds before determining whether they could become safe, effective treatments for pregnant mares. If successful, the work could eventually give veterinarians another option for managing reproductive infections, help breeders reduce foal losses and support efforts to limit antibiotic resistance.

"For the equine industry, even modest improvements in preventing infectious abortions could have meaningful benefits," Helmy said. "Protecting a pregnancy means more than saving a potential foal; it can also help preserve a mare's reproductive health and protect the investments breeders make in future generations of horses."

The research reported in this article was made possible in part by a grant from the American Quarter Horse Foundation. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the American Quarter Horse Foundation.

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Learn more about the Martin-Gatton CAFE Department of Veterinary Science at vetsci.mgcafe.uky.edu.

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AG NEWS

By Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell

By Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell

Thanksgiving is a holiday built around food, family, and gratitude. Every year, we gather around tables filled with familiar dishes – turkey, stuffing, potatoes and other vegetables, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and other family favorites. This year, consider adding one more ingredient to the celebration: local food.

Buying locally grown and produced food is a simple way to support Kentucky farmers, growers, bakers, and small food businesses that help make our communities vibrant. And Thanksgiving provides the perfect opportunity to seek out ingredients that were grown, raised, or made close to home.

Your local Thanksgiving menu might include produce in season in November in Kentucky, such as apples, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, assorted greens (collards, kale, lettuce, and spinach), pears, root vegetables (beets, carrots, radishes, and turnips), winter squash (acorn, butternut, and spaghetti varieties), and sweet potatoes.

Even when an entire Thanksgiving meal can't be sourced locally, replacing just a few ingredients can make a meaningful difference. You can search for food grown or raised by local producers near you at www.KyProud.com.

Consider starting with the centerpiece of the meal. If locally raised turkey is available, purchase one directly from the farm. Many local farms offer other proteins such as beef, chicken, eggs, or pork that can become part of your holiday meal.

Don't overlook side dishes and desserts. A farmers' market visit can inspire a menu based on what's actually available in your community. Sweet potatoes roasted with local herbs, a salad made with seasonal greens, homemade bread from a neighborhood bakery, or dessert made with apples or pears from a nearby orchard can give your meal a distinctly local character.

Shopping locally keeps more money circulating within the community. When consumers purchase directly from farmers and small food producers, they are supporting local businesses and the people whose work helps maintain the region's agricultural landscape.

There is another benefit that can't be measured in dollars: connection. Visiting a farmers' market gives us an opportunity to meet the people behind our food. We can ask questions, learn about growing seasons, and discover foods we might not otherwise put on our shopping lists.

Local food doesn't have to mean complicated food. Thanksgiving is already a busy holiday. There is no need to reinvent the entire menu, so start small. Buy one local ingredient for your family recipe. Pick up a pie from a local baker. Add locally produced honey to the dessert table. Choose a seasonal vegetable grown by a nearby farmer. These small choices can become traditions of their own.

Before making your Thanksgiving shopping list, take a look around your community. Visit your local farmers' market, farm stand, or nearby food business and see what's available.

A local Thanksgiving doesn't have to be perfect or entirely homegrown. It simply has to reflect a little appreciation for the place we call home and the people who help put food on our tables.

Thanksgiving asks us to think about what we are grateful for. This year, as we sit down around the table with family and friends, let's remember the people who work throughout the year to grow, raise, and produce the food that nourishes us and our communities.

MARES,
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Tips to winterize a home as cold weather approaches

It's not uncommon to spend a lot of time out of the house when the weather outside is warm. The popularity of outdoor living spaces has made it easier than ever to enjoy nature without leaving home, which can generally be done from late spring to mid-fall each year in many regions. But as fall creeps toward winter and temperatures drop, it's time to head back indoors.

As millions prepare to go back inside with winter approaching, it can be beneficial to winterize a home so interior spaces are more comfortable and exterior spaces are better able to withstand potentially harsh winter weather.

• **Check your carbon monoxide detectors.** Fall is a great season to open the windows in many regions that feature prototypical autumn air. But the crisp air of fall will eventually give way to much colder air, at which time the windows will be closed and likely remain shut for months to come. The Minnesota Department of Health notes that carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that cannot be detected by the senses. When windows remain closed for long periods of time, such as in winter, the buildup of CO, which can come from sources like water heaters, gas stoves, fireplaces, and clothes dryers, can poison residents over time. CO detectors are a safety net against such a fate, but they must be operating at peak capacity in order to be effective. As fall winds down, check all CO detectors to make sure they're working properly and replace any that are not.

• **Check for drafts.** Check around windows and doors throughout the home to see if there are any gaps that are allowing air from outside to enter the home. If daytime temperatures are mild well into the fall, then it can be difficult to see if there are any drafts before the sun goes down. Conduct this check in the evenings when temperatures are a little more chilly and leaks are easier to detect. If drafts are detected, apply weather stripping around doors and windows that do not require replacement. If there's drafts around aging windows and doors, consider replacing them.

• **Call a chimney sweeping service.** Cozying up beside a fire can make anyone forget the cold weather outside. But fireplaces should be subjected to a thorough cleaning by a skilled professional before each winter. Animals might have nested in the chimney since the fireplace was last used, and you will want any nests cleared prior to lighting your first fire of the season. In addition, the tar-like substance creosote, which forms when wood is burned in a fireplace, can build up and harden over time. That's a dangerous prospect, as creosote is highly flammable, which can lead to chimney fires. Creosote also can block the flow of air through a chimney, and that can trap gasses, including CO, in a home.

• **Reverse your fans.** It's a simple step but one people may not even realize they can make. In homes with ceiling fans, residents can reverse the fans so the blades spin clockwise. This simple step pushes trapped warm air hovering around the ceiling into the living space below. This can make home interiors warmer without requiring residents to turn up the thermostat and increase their energy bill.

• **Replace your HVAC air filter.** Replacing the air filter on your HVAC prior to winter can make the unit operate more efficiently, which can help reduce your wintertime energy bill. Replacing the filter prior to winter also improves indoor air quality, which is a notable benefit during a time of year when the windows typically remain closed for months.

Winterizing a home is not a significant undertaking, but it can be very effective at making homes healthier and more comfortable once windows are closed for the season.

Simple ways to curb heating costs

As fall gives way to winter, air conditioners typically get turned off and heaters get turned on. Home heating costs can quickly add up for homeowners. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, heating a space is the single largest energy expense for American households, accounting for roughly 42 percent of total residential energy consumption. However, individuals can implement certain strategies to cut down on heating costs and optimize energy efficiency.

Manage the thermostat

Managing a home thermostat is a cost-effective and simple adjustment. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, turning a thermostat back by 7° to 10° F from its normal setting for eight hours a day can save up to 10 percent a year on heating bills. Utilizing the automated scheduling capabilities on programmable or smart thermostats enables people to program a lower baseline temperature when out at work or school and while sleeping.

Seal up the home

Warm air from indoors can easily escape through unsealed gaps in a home. Similarly, cold air from outdoors can infiltrate through the same spots. This causes heating units to work overtime. Studies from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy indicate combining window upgrades with high-efficiency heating systems can cut heating demands considerably. Also, applying weatherstripping and caulking can prevent drafts, while ensuring adequate attic insulation will create a tight thermal barrier.

Change the heat delivery

Upgrading a heating system to a more efficient one can save homeowners money. According to research by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, replacing traditional fossil-fuel furnaces with electric heat pumps can drastically reduce energy expenditures. Modern heat pumps deliver more thermal energy than the electrical energy they consume.

Homeowners have different options that may help them reduce their heating and energy bills.

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River & Barge Updates

Lower Mississippi Water Levels Expected to Fall

A report published October 22 by agricultural weather service DTN warned that water levels on the Lower Mississippi River could approach low-water thresholds in early November. The outlook was linked to developing drought conditions across parts of the south-central United States, where rainfall has been limited.

The report identified the Mississippi River at Hickman as an important monitoring point, with forecasts indicating the river could approach low-water levels during the first days of November. Lower water levels farther downstream could affect barge transportation toward Memphis and the Port of New Orleans.

When water levels fall, barges may have to carry lighter loads to maintain adequate clearance above the riverbed. Moving the same amount of grain or other freight may then require additional barges, increasing transportation expenses.

For Kentucky grain producers, these conditions could influence the cost of shipping corn and soybeans to domestic and export markets. Transportation expenses can also affect local grain basis, which is the difference between a local cash price and the corresponding futures price.

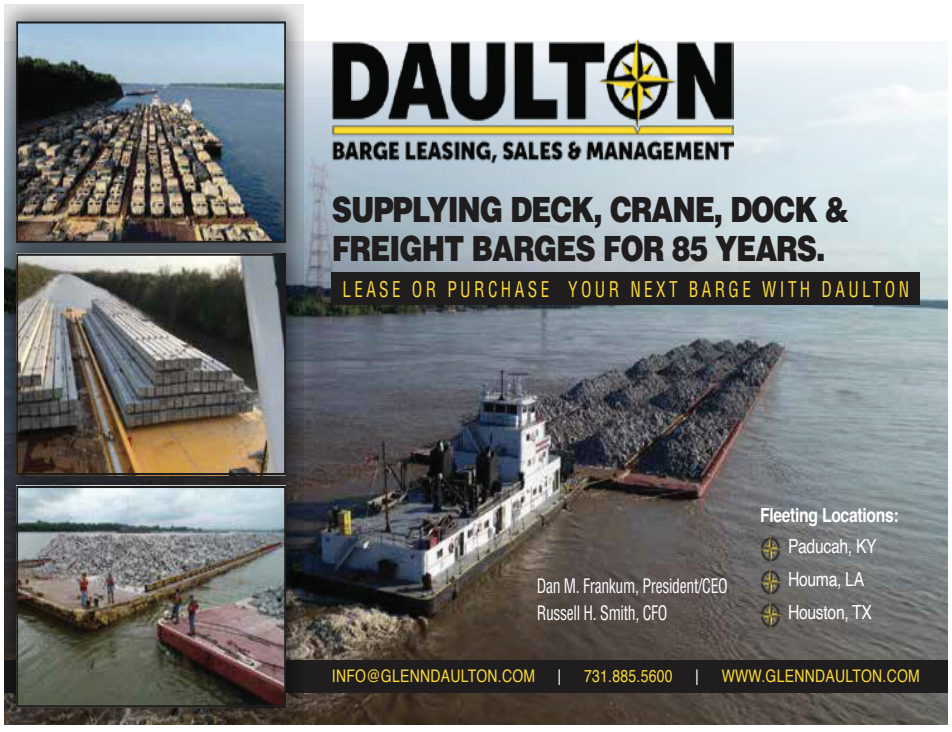
Ohio River Conditions and Lock Operations

The Ohio River provides another important transportation route for Western Kentucky agriculture and industry.

According to Ingram Barge Company's October 28 operating update, Ohio River water levels were holding relatively steady throughout the river system, while levels on the Lower Mississippi continued to decline. The company reported no active tow-size restrictions at the time of its update. Conditions can change quickly, however, and the absence of restrictions does not guarantee that they will remain absent.

Maintenance work is also affecting navigation near the Ohio-Mississippi junction. Ingram reported that the river chamber at Olmsted Locks and Dam was scheduled to remain closed through November

see **UPDATES**, page 13



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13 for dewatering and miter-gate repairs. Commercial traffic is being directed through the facility's land chamber during the work.

The repair work is an important consideration for barge operators planning trips through this busy transportation corridor. Shippers should verify current lock conditions and potential delays before scheduling time-sensitive deliveries.

Latest River Monitoring

The National Weather Service office in Paducah issued a regional hydrologic summary on October 28. The report listed the Ohio River at Paducah at 15.8 feet, while the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, stood at 14.1 feet. These readings are gauge stages, not measurements of the river's total depth or the water available beneath a barge.

River stages vary from one location to another, and navigation decisions depend on more than a single gauge reading. Channel depth, current conditions, forecasts, vessel draft and official navigation restrictions all influence commercial traffic.

What It Means for Western Kentucky

The coming weeks will be important for farmers, grain elevators, barge operators and other businesses that depend on reliable river transportation.

If dry weather continues, falling water levels could increase shipping costs and place additional pressure on agricultural commodity prices. Significant rainfall could improve conditions, although the timing and location of precipitation will determine how much relief reaches the river system.

For now, Western Kentucky's river industry is monitoring both water levels and navigation notices as the fall shipping season continues. Businesses moving freight along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers should keep checking current river forecasts, lock notices and carrier updates as conditions develop.

For continuing updates: The National Weather Service's Paducah office publishes regional river summaries and forecasts, while Ingram Barge Company's River Conditions and Lock Delays page provides operating information for commercial navigation.

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Holiday Business Trends for 2026:

What Retailers and Consumers Can Expect This Season

As the holiday season approaches, businesses across the country are preparing for one of the most important shopping periods of the year. From small-town boutiques and family-owned shops to national retailers and online marketplaces, merchants are adjusting their strategies to meet changing consumer expectations, attract shoppers and make the most of year-end sales.

The 2026 holiday season is expected to bring continued retail growth, but businesses will need to balance consumer enthusiasm with concerns about inflation, household budgets and rising operating costs. Shoppers still want to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and other winter holidays, but many are being more deliberate about where, when and how they spend their money.

According to the National Retail Federation, holiday retail sales in November and December 2026 are forecast to increase 4.2% over 2025, reaching approximately $1.013 trillion. While the outlook suggests a strong season, businesses must understand that overall sales growth does not necessarily mean every retailer will experience the same results.

Value and Affordability Remain Top Priorities

One of the biggest trends shaping holiday shopping this year is the search for value. Consumers are paying closer attention to prices, comparing products and looking for promotions before making purchases. Even shoppers who plan to spend generously may be more selective about which items make it into their carts.

A National Retail Federation survey released in October found that 56% of holiday shoppers expect the state of the economy to affect their spending plans. Among those consumers, many intend to seek out more sales, compare prices online and use coupons to stretch their budgets.

For businesses, this means promotional pricing, special offers and clearly communicated value will be especially important. Retailers can attract attention with holiday bundles, loyalty rewards, limited-time discounts and gift packages at several price points.

However, offering value does not always mean having the lowest price. Customers also consider product quality, convenience, customer service and the overall shopping experience. Businesses that explain what makes their products worthwhile may be better positioned to build trust and encourage repeat purchases.

Small businesses can also compete by offering locally made merchandise, distinctive gifts and personalized service that shoppers may not find at larger chain stores.

Online Shopping and In-Store Experiences Work Together

Online shopping continues to play a major role in holiday retail, giving consumers the ability to browse products, compare prices and purchase gifts without leaving home. Retail forecasts from several organizations anticipate continued growth in e-commerce sales during the 2026 holiday season.

This creates an opportunity for businesses to connect online convenience with traditional retail service.

A small retailer does not necessarily need an elaborate online store to benefit. A current website, active social media pages, clear business hours, updated product photographs and accurate contact information can help customers discover what is available.

Businesses may also consider offering curbside pickup, local delivery or online ordering with in-store collection when practical. These options allow customers to research products from home while still supporting local merchants.

For stores with limited resources, keeping online information accurate and responding promptly to customer questions can make a meaningful difference.

Holiday Shopping May Begin Earlier, but Major Sales Still Matter

Holiday shopping patterns continue to reflect two types of consumers: those who begin purchasing early to spread out expenses and those who wait for major promotional events.

According to the National Retail Federation's October survey, 43% of shoppers planned to begin browsing or buying before November. At the same time, 64% said they were likely to wait until Thanksgiving weekend to complete most of their holiday shopping.

For retailers, this creates a longer period in which to reach potential customers. Holiday promotions no longer need to be concentrated in December. Early gift guides, seasonal merchandise previews and November advertising can help businesses connect with shoppers before the busiest weeks arrive.

Thanksgiving weekend, including Black Friday and Cyber Monday, will remain important opportunities to attract customers. Businesses should plan promotions carefully, ensuring that advertised products are available and employees are prepared for increased demand.

Smaller retailers may benefit from emphasizing unique merchandise and personalized shopping rather than attempting to match every discount offered by national chains.

Gift Experiences and Personalized Presents Gain Attention

Another notable trend is the growing interest in giving experiences instead of traditional physical gifts.

The National Retail Federation reports that 27% of holiday shoppers plan to give an experience this year, up from 19% five years ago. Experiences may include tickets to entertainment, special outings, classes, recreational activities or meals shared with family and friends.

This trend offers opportunities beyond traditional retail stores. Restaurants, attractions, entertainment venues, salons, local tourism businesses and service providers can promote gift certificates, seasonal packages and experiences that families or friends can enjoy together.

Small businesses can also create personalized gift options. Gift baskets featuring local products, custom gift boxes, handmade items and packages tailored to specific interests can appeal to shoppers looking for something more meaningful than a mass-produced present.

For local communities, these purchases can keep holiday spending circulating among area businesses while introducing customers to services they may continue using throughout the year.

Continued Growth in Digital Marketing and Artificial Intelligence

Digital marketing remains an important tool for reaching customers during the holiday season. Social media posts, email newsletters, online advertisements and short videos allow businesses to showcase merchandise, announce sales and remind customers about seasonal offerings.

Artificial intelligence is also becoming a more visible part of the shopping process. Consumers increasingly have access to digital tools that help them discover products, compare options and narrow their choices. Retailers are exploring ways to use similar technology to organize product information, assist with customer inquiries and create marketing materials.

For small businesses, these tools may help save time when preparing promotional calendars, writing product descriptions or planning social media content. However, technology works best when paired with accurate information, a clear brand identity and genuine customer service.

Businesses should review any AI-generated material before publishing it and protect customers' personal information when using digital services. A helpful online presence should make shopping easier, not leave customers confused about prices, availability or store policies.

Seasonal Hiring and Customer Service

The holiday season can bring increased workloads for retailers, restaurants, delivery services and other businesses. Some employers will hire temporary workers to help with stocking, sales, customer service, packing and order fulfillment.

The National Retail Federation expects retailers to hire between 325,000 and 375,000 seasonal workers in 2026. The forecast reflects a measured approach to hiring as businesses weigh expected demand against operating expenses.

Businesses that anticipate a busy season should evaluate staffing needs early. Training employees before peak shopping days can help prevent long waits, reduce mistakes and improve customer satisfaction.

For smaller businesses unable to hire additional workers, planning ahead is equally important. Adjusting schedules, organizing inventory, preparing gift packaging in advance and establishing clear procedures for returns and special orders can help existing staff manage demand.

Customer service may be one of the most important ways a business distinguishes itself from competitors. A friendly greeting, knowledgeable employee or prompt response to a question can encourage customers to return after the holidays.

Inventory Planning and Reliable Delivery

Managing inventory will be another important challenge for businesses this holiday season. Ordering too much merchandise can leave retailers with unsold products after Christmas, while ordering too little can mean missed sales opportunities.

Retailers should review previous holiday sales, monitor current customer interest and pay attention to products that are selling quickly. Maintaining a selection of popular gifts while avoiding excessive purchases of slow-moving items can help businesses manage costs.

Delivery and fulfillment also deserve attention. Customers increasingly expect clear shipping information, realistic delivery estimates and timely updates about their orders. Businesses should communicate shipping deadlines early and provide alternatives when delivery before Christmas cannot be guaranteed.

Local pickup and in-store shopping may offer practical solutions for customers making last-minute purchases. Businesses that clearly explain these options can reduce confusion and help customers complete their holiday shopping with confidence.

Supporting Local Businesses Strengthens Communities

The holiday season provides an important opportunity for communities to support locally owned businesses. Independent retailers, restaurants, service providers and family-owned companies contribute to local employment and help give communities their distinctive character.

Shopping locally can also introduce customers to businesses they may overlook during the rest of the year. Community shopping events, holiday open houses, downtown celebrations and seasonal markets can encourage residents to explore local stores while enjoying the holiday atmosphere.

Business owners can work together to promote these opportunities. A coordinated holiday shopping guide, shared social media campaign, local gift directory or community-wide shopping event can help customers discover multiple businesses in one trip.

Newspaper advertising, community publications and local event calendars can complement digital marketing by reaching residents who want to know what is happening in their area. Consistent advertising before and throughout the holiday season can help businesses remain visible when customers are deciding where to shop.

The benefits can extend beyond December. A customer who discovers a favorite local shop while searching for Christmas gifts may return for birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions throughout the year.

A Strong Season Requires Careful Planning

Despite positive sales forecasts, retailers should not assume that higher overall spending will guarantee success for every business. Consumer budgets remain uneven, and higher operating, transportation and merchandise costs can affect profitability.

Businesses can prepare by setting realistic sales goals, reviewing expenses, tracking which promotions produce results and maintaining sufficient cash flow to cover bills. Clear return policies, secure payment options and honest communication can also help protect both customers and merchants during the busy season.

For consumers, thoughtful budgeting and early planning can make holiday shopping less stressful. Comparing prices, checking return policies and purchasing from reputable sellers can help shoppers make informed decisions.

Ultimately, the 2026 holiday season is expected to offer opportunities for businesses willing to adapt to changing shopping habits. Value, convenience, personalized service, digital marketing and community connections will all play important roles.

While technology and online shopping continue to reshape retail, the central purpose of the holiday season remains familiar: finding meaningful ways to celebrate and connect with others. Businesses that combine competitive offerings with dependable service and a welcoming shopping experience will be better positioned to make the most of the season.

For local merchants, success may not depend on having the biggest advertising budget or the deepest discounts. It may come from understanding customers, offering something distinctive and reminding the community that every purchase can be an opportunity to support a local business.

As shoppers prepare their gift lists and businesses decorate their storefronts, the holiday season offers more than a chance to increase sales. It provides an opportunity to strengthen customer relationships, build community pride and establish connections that continue long after the decorations come down.

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SAT. NOV. 28TH. 2026 @ 9:30AM

TRACTORS: 1998 John Deere 9100-Hrs. Showing 8,061, GoodYear 520/85R42 tires, 4 hydraulic remotes; 1995 John Deere 8970- Hrs. Showing 2,982, 4 hydraulic remotes, 20.8R42 Tires; 1990 John Deere 8760- Hrs. Showing 6,186, Firestone 18.4R42 tires, 3 point hitch, 3 hydraulic remotes; 1983 John Deere 4250-hrs meter showing 2,663, (meter broken) actual believed to have approx. 3,000hrs) 2nd. Owner, Powershift trans, 18.4R38 tires, 2 hydraulic remotes, 540/1000 PTO, 3 point hitch; 1981 John Deere 4440- Hr meter showing 7,143, 8spd. Powershift trans, 2 hydraulic remotes, 540/1000 PTO, 3 point hitch; **COMBINE & HEADS:** John Deere 9560STS-4,227eng. Hrs. 2,322Sep. hrs. Bin extensions, Firestone 900/60R32 tires; 2005 John Deere 630F HydraFlex Flex Head, 30ft. Cutting Width, *DAMAGED* Full-Finger Auger, Hyd. Fore/Aft Reel, Single-Point Hookup, Poly Skid Plates, S/N H00630F712360; John Deere 606C Corn Head, 6 Row, 30" Spacing, Poly Snouts, Single-Point Hookup, Gathering Chains, Knife Rolls;Unverferth HT30 Header Transport, 30' Capacity, Green, 4-Wheel Running Gear, Front Steering, Adjustable Header Supports, Lights, Reflective Marking, Pin Hitch; **SEMI & TRAILER, GRAIN TRUCK:** 2007 Volvo VNL Day Cab Truck Tractor, Volvo D12 12.1L Diesel, 465 HP, Eaton Fuller 10-Spd Manual Trans, Tandem Axle, 6x4, 12,000 lb Front Axle, Aluminum Wheels, Air Ride, Dual Fuel Tanks, VIN 4V4NC9GH27N462168; 2011 Timpte Aluminum Hopper Bottom Grain Trailer, Tandem Axle, Air Ride Suspension, Dual Hoppers, Shur-Co 4500HD Electric Roll Tarp, Aluminum Construction, Rear Ladder, LED Lights; 2000 Freightliner FL80 Tandem-Axle Grain Truck: Approx. 19 ft. Scott aluminum grain dump bed, Shur-Lok roll tarp, rear grain gate, Eaton Fuller automated transmission, air brakes, aluminum wheels, rear hitch with electrical hookup, and air-ride driver's seat. Dash replacement noted at 212,934 miles; total mileage unverified; **GRAIN CART & TENDER:** 2020 J&M SpeedTender C450 Seed Tender, S/N 2062038, 4-Box Capacity, 22' x 8" Belt Conveyor, Hyd. Swing & Raise/Lower, 13 HP Honda Gas Engine w/ Electric Start, Tandem Axle, Electric Brakes; 2004 Brent 1080 Grain Cart, 1,080 Bu. Capacity, 20" Corner Auger, Hyd. Adjustable Spout, Roll Tarp, Scale System, 1000 PTO, Large Flotation Tires, S/N B20920127; **PLANTERS & DRILLS:** 2014 Kinze 3600 16/32 Row, Bulk fill, Air Seed delivery, fill auger, markers, row cleaners, No-till coulters, 1 spiked & 1 rubber closing wheel, seed firmers, Center pivot frame; John Deere 7000 Planter, 6 Row, 30" Spacing, Pull-Type, Fiberglass Seed Boxes, Mechanical Ground Drive, Double-Disc Openers, Rubber Closing Wheels, Hyd. Lift, Row Markers; 1994 John Deere 750 No-Till Grain Drill, 15' Working Width, 7.5" Spacing, 24 Openers, Single-Disc No-Till Openers, Press Wheels, Hyd. Lift, Hyd. Row Markers, Grain Box, Pull-Type, S/N N00750X013918; **TILLAGE EQUIP:** 2014 Kent by Great Plains 6541 Series VII Field Cultivator, 41ft. Working Width, 71 Shank; DMI 40ft. Crumbler with hydraulic double fold; 2011 Sunflower 6630 Vertical Tillage Tool, Hyd. Fold, Walking Tandems, Wing Gauge Wheels, Single-Point Depth Control, Serrated SoilRazor Blades, Rear Rolling Baskets, S/N AGCS66300BZVRT025; **SPRAYER & TENDER:** Case IH Patriot SPX3150 Self-Propelled Sprayer, 90ft. Boom, 750 Gal Poly Tank, Hydrostatic 4WD; **AUGERS:** Sudenga Portable Grain Auger, Approx. 6" x 31', Electric Drive, Galvanized Tube, Manual Cable/Wheel Lift, Transport Wheels, Discharge Spout w/ Flex Downspout; Hutchinson/Mayrath 10" x Approx. 72' Swing-Away Grain Auger, S/N 953131, 540 PTO, Swing-Away Hopper, Hyd. Lift, Galvanized Tube, Cable-Truss Support, Transport Wheels; **GRAIN BINS & GRAIN HANDLING EQUIPMENT:** 30 ft. Grain Bin: 7 rings tall, drying floor, grain spreader, stirring system, roof vents, side access door, Hutchinson vertical unload auger with 7.5 hp Baldor motor, and GSI centrifugal drying fan with 15 hp Baldor motor and gas-fired heater; Approx. 24 ft. Columbian Red Top Grain Bin: 6½ rings tall, drying floor, grain spreader, sweep auger, Hutchinson inclined unload auger with electric motor, aeration fan, side access door, and exterior ladder; Approx. 18 ft. Columbian Red Top Grain Bin: 6½ rings tall, drying floor, grain spreader, horizontal unload auger with electric motor, aeration fan, side access door, and interior and exterior ladders; Approx. 24 ft. Columbian Red Top Grain Bin: 6½ rings tall, drying floor, stirring system, Hutchinson inclined unload auger with 2 hp Baldor motor, side access door, and interior and exterior ladders; **This is a partial listing only! Check back for more info!**

***TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Online bidder fees apply. EVERYTHING SELLS AS IS WHERE IS W/ NO GUARANTEES. ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE EQUIPMENTFACTS.COM & PROXIBIDCOM & NEXTLOT.*

Alan & Denise HANSBARGER FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION

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Stebbins Farms RETIREMENT AUCTION

TUESDAY- DEC. 8TH. 2026 @ 10:00AM

ERIC LAUX FARMS RETIREMENT AUCTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

NOTE: After years of dedicated farming, Eric Laux has made the decision to retire from production agriculture. We're honored to offer the Laux Farm equipment at public auction. Laux Seed Solutions will continue serving it's customers with the same responsive support and trusted service. Thank you to our customers, neighbors, and friends for the support over the years.

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GRANT,
from page 1

Comer said he and his staff have supported the project since it was first presented to transportation officials, including arranging a meeting between senior department officials and Paducah leaders.

The project will expand the port's capacity, improve access to inland waterways and support the movement of manufactured goods and agricultural products throughout the region.

In July, Comer announced a separate $24 million Transportation Department grant for the project through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development program.

Jim Garrett, the riverport authority's executive director, said the federal funding, combined with matching state grants, will help complete construction.

"We thank Congressman Comer for his continued support in the development and federal funding of Riverport West. His advocacy, along with that of Senators McConnell and Paul, has been instrumental in helping us secure the PIDP grant funds necessary to complete construction of Riverport West. These federal funds, combined with matching state grant funds, will allow for a seamless and cost-effective construction schedule. This PIDP grant award is the next step in positioning Riverport West as a catalyst for economic growth across Western Kentucky."

Photos courtesy of Glenn Hall Photography