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Murray State baseball gets \$1M gift from Jim & Sue Cash

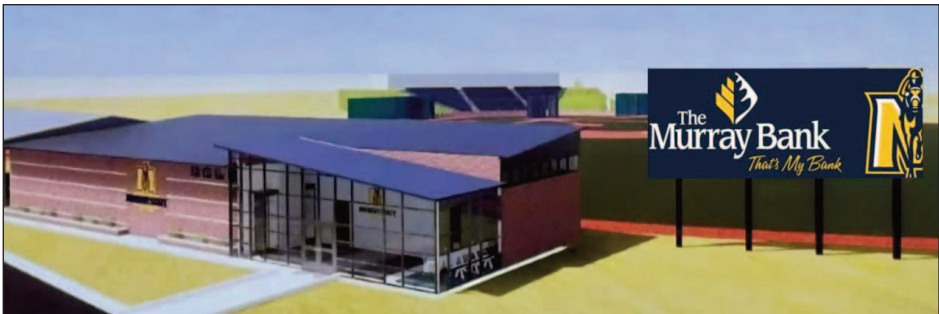
By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

Murray State Athletics has announced plans for a new home for Racers baseball with approval to build the Jim & Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse at Johnny Reagan Field. The project was approved by the Murray State University Board of Regents in December and is funded by a \$1 million gift from longtime supporters Jim and Sue Cash, who will receive naming rights to the facility.

The more than 3,000-square-foot clubhouse will be built behind the right-field wall and include a locker room,

player lounge, team meeting space and training room. It will connect to a new pitching lab and be paired with an outdoor hitting facility and bullpen, giving players easy access to training and development areas. Premium fan seating will also be added in front of the clubhouse, creating the first premium seating experience at the ballpark.

The clubhouse is part of a series of upgrades at Johnny Reagan Field, including a new scoreboard, an improved outfield wall and better field drainage. A large baseball-specific videoboard is also planned ahead of the 2026 season. The goal is to complete the clubhouse before the 2027 season.



Construction is to start after the 2026 Baseball season ends. Meeting space and a player lounge with a pitching lab, bull pen and hitting facility will be included in the Clubhouse.

Since 2022, Murray State has invested nearly eight figures in donor support for baseball, following the program's historic 2025 run to the Men's College World Series and multiple Missouri Valley Conference titles.

Bluegrass Bash raises \$75K for Western KY Pregnancy Centers

by Tessa Redmond
Kentucky Today

DAWSON SPRINGS, Ky. (KT) – Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear, an annual fundraiser supporting four pregnancy resource centers in western Kentucky, set a new record this year by raising \$74,752, surpassing its \$60,000 goal. Hosted by Jeff and Laura Smith on their property, the October event initially generated \$62,532, resulting in four equal donations of \$15,588 to Alpha Pregnancy Care Center in Hopkinsville, Door of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in

Madisonville, Pathway of Hope in Greenville, and the H.O.P.E. Clinic, which serves Benton and Eddyville.

The Smiths noted that growing community support has allowed the fundraiser to become a reliable budget item for the partner centers, especially at a time when overall donations are down and demand for services is increasing. This year, Alpha Pregnancy Care Center also reported providing abortion pill reversal services that resulted in the births of four healthy babies, including twins. Additional funding will be

distributed in the new year through the Knights of Columbus Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) Program. In 2025, 12 Kentucky Knights of Columbus councils helped raise a record \$12,400 through the program, which will be sent directly to the pregnancy centers in early 2026.

Since its founding 12 years ago, Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear has raised a total of \$307,557 for pregnancy resource centers across western Kentucky. The next event is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026.



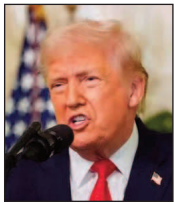
Representative members of the Knights of Columbus present a check to H.O.P.E. Clinic, a pregnancy resource center with locations in Benton, KY, and Eddyville, KY.

(Facebook photo)

Trump announces \$1,776 holiday bonus for U.S. Troops

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump delivered a prime-time address Wednesday focused heavily on economic concerns and partisan criticism, while announcing a \$1,776 Christmas bonus for U.S. service members.

Speaking from the White House as the nation heads into the holiday season, Trump placed responsibility for ongoing economic challenges on Democrats and his predecessor, arguing that his administration inherited a troubled economy and is working



toward a major turnaround. He promoted his tariff policies as a funding source for the one-time "warrior dividend," which will go

toward a major turnaround. He promoted his tariff policies as a funding source for the one-time "warrior dividend," which will go

to about 1.45 million military members.

The address came amid continued public unease over the cost of groceries, housing and utilities. Inflation has increased following the administration's import taxes, and job growth has slowed.

The consumer price index is now rising at a 3% annual rate, while unemployment has climbed to 4.6%. Monthly job gains have averaged about 17,000 since April.

Trump argued the economy is improving, pointing to rising stock

markets, lower gas prices and new factory investment commitments. He also said future tax refunds would boost consumer spending.

The speech carried political implications ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, as

public polling shows frustration with economic conditions. Trump concluded by highlighting upcoming international sporting events in the U.S., noting the nation's approaching 250th anniversary, and offering holiday greetings.

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Director named for KDA’s Division of Agricultural Economic Development

Staff Report

FRANKFORT, Ky.—Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell has announced Hunter Jones as the director of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s (KDA) Division of Agricultural Economic Development. “Creating a greater economic presence within and for our agriculture community is the goal of the Agricultural Economic Development Division,” Commissioner Shell said. “Hunter’s prior

experience and commitment to the growth of Kentucky farmers will be instrumental in the success of this Division. I am pleased to have him onboard and see where he can take Kentucky’s farming future.” The Division helps administer the Kentucky Agricultural Economic Development Board, which was established this year through Senate Bill 28. The board was created to strengthen and expand Kentucky’s agricultural



Hunter Jones

economy through strategic planning, targeted partnerships, and financial incentives. It will administer programs, such

as grants, forgivable loans, and revolving loan funds, to support infrastructure upgrades, market expansion, and value-added agricultural development. The overall goal is to attract private investment, create new economic opportunities, and uplift farming communities throughout Kentucky. The creation of this board is the result of Commissioner Shell’s vision that “Agriculture is Economic Development.” In 2024, Commissioner Shell

conducted a statewide listening tour, hosting regional meetings with farmers, business leaders, and community stakeholders. The input gathered during those meetings shaped the priorities and design of this new initiative. Jones, who is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, worked within KDA’s Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP) for two years prior to serving as Director of the Agricultural Economic

Development Division. The Kentucky Agricultural Economic Development Division operates KOAP, under the leadership of Executive Director Brandon Reed. KOAP provides staff support to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation, which together provide grants, incentives and low-interest loans to help farmers and agribusinesses innovate and grow.

Last-Minute Christmas Shopping Rush Sweeps Stores and Screens

Staff Report

With just days remaining before Christmas, shoppers across the country are racing to complete their holiday purchases, fueling one of the busiest retail periods of the season. From crowded malls and packed parking lots to surging online orders, last-minute Christmas shopping is in full

swing. Retailers report a sharp increase in foot traffic this week as consumers hunt for gifts, decorations, and festive meals. Popular items include electronics, toys, gift cards, and winter clothing, many of which are selling out quickly. Store employees say extended hours and expedited checkout options are helping

manage the rush, though long lines remain common. “I always think I’m done early, and then I realize I forgot something,” said Maria Lopez, a shopper at a downtown department store. “This year it’s stocking stuffers and gifts for coworkers.” Online shopping has also seen a significant spike, with customers relying on express

shipping and same-day delivery services to beat holiday deadlines. However, shipping cut-offs and weather-related delays have pushed some consumers back into physical stores. To accommodate demand, many retailers are promoting buy-online-pickup-in-store options and digital gift cards, which can be delivered instantly. Economists note

that last-minute spending plays a critical role in overall holiday sales, often accounting for a substantial portion of December revenue. Despite concerns about inflation and higher living costs, early data suggests shoppers are still willing to spend, though many are seeking discounts and promotions. Retail analysts

advise shoppers to plan carefully, check store hours, and consider alternatives such as gift cards or experiences to avoid stress. As Christmas approaches, one thing is certain: whether online or in-store, the last-minute shopping tradition remains a defining part of the holiday season.



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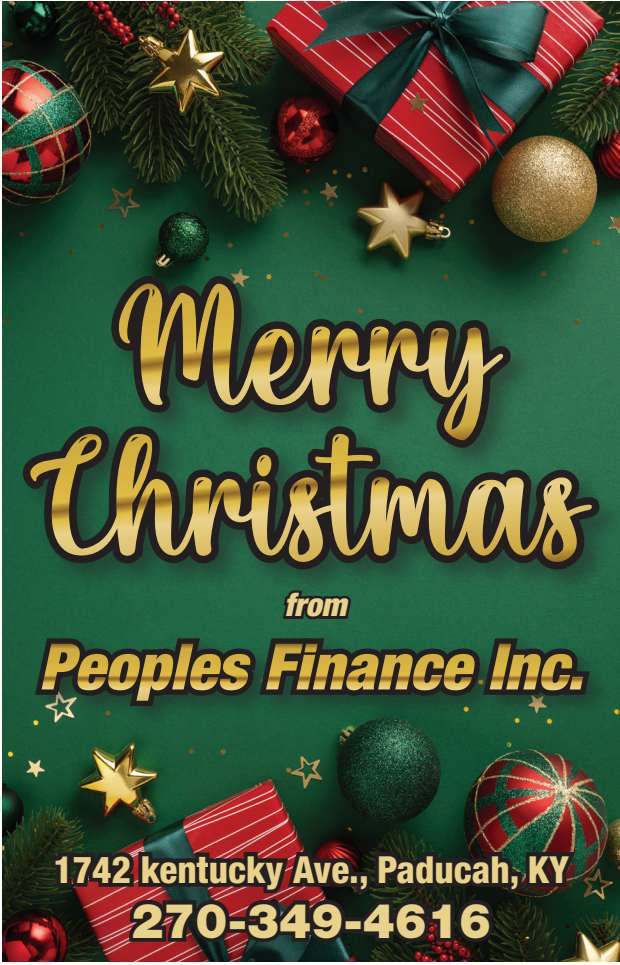
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Advance Yeoman • Carlisle County News • The Carlisle Weekly • Livingston Ledger
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Johnson receives UT Martin’s Meek Leadership Award

MARTIN, Tenn. – Faith Johnson, a fall 2025 magna cum laude graduate in business management and finance from Bartlett, is this semester’s recipient of the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Johnson pursued a double-major while working 15 to 20 hours a week to support her education. She had an internship in summer 2024 at the UT Federal Credit Union.

Outside the classroom, Johnson served as secretary for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., utilizing her organizational, communication and leadership skills. She was a member of the Student Alumni Council, National Society of Leadership and Success, Women of Excellence, Black Student Association, Financial Management Association and Flight Crew.

As a leader in the Student Alumni Council and Flight Crew, she played a role in major campus programming for the last three years, working to serve and support her fellow students.

Johnson completed several volunteer hours, including 40 hours at Caris Healthcare, 50 hours with Mid-South Food Bank and 30 hours with Quail Ridge Assisted Living and Memory Care.

In addition to her organizational leadership, Johnson demonstrated professional experience through her work at the Dungan Alumni Center, where she managed records, assisted guests and maintained data systems.

The Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities at UT Martin. Named for former Chancellor Paul Meek and his wife, Martha, the honor consists of a cash award from an endowment set up by their children.

The award is presented at the graduation ceremonies in the fall and spring semesters that the recipient is participating in. The recipients in the previous school year were Bionica Barnes and Lauryn Davis, both of Memphis, in the fall 2024 commencement and Charlie Shipman of Memphis and Isabella Walker of Bartlett in the spring 2025 commencement.

Students are nominated for the award by the professional staff within the Division of Student Affairs. The first recipients of the Meek Award were Barbara N. Johnson of Waverly and Carl G. Newby of Union City, both spring 1967 graduates.



Faith Johnson (right), a business management and finance graduate from Bartlett, was announced as the fall 2025 recipient of the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award. Johnson is shown with Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, who made the announcement at the commencement exercises Dec. 13. Students are nominated for the award by the professional staff within the Division of Student Affairs.

(Photo provided)

203 graduate from Union University

JACKSON, Tenn. - Two hundred three students graduated from Union University Dec. 13 during fall commencement services of the 201st graduating class at West Jackson Baptist Church.

Kelvin Moore, who retired in 2024 as professor of Christian studies after serving Union for 33 years, delivered the keynote address. In a culture that often prizes convenience and the path of least resistance, Moore challenged graduates to pursue a different route: the “hard path” that leads to character, integrity and life.

Drawing from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7, Moore contrasted the “wide gate” and “easy way” with the “narrow gate” and “hard way.” He warned graduates that while poor decisions are often the result of human nature or deception, the most common trap is simply choosing what is easy.

“You will be tempted in life to take the easy path,” Moore said. “Let me admonish, plead with you this morning: do not do that. ... Choose instead the hard way, and Jesus said this will lead to life.”

Located in Jackson, Tenn., Union University is a liberal arts-based university affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Founded in 1823, Union is the oldest institution relating to the Southern Baptist Convention.

UNWRAP

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West KY Sports



Paducah Tilghman High School football seniors Jarvis Strickland (University of Louisville), Ben Myers (University of Kentucky) and Hank James (Troy University) signed their National Letters of Intent during a ceremony held at PTHS on Friday, Dec. 12. (Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School)



Mayfield football players were among the student-athletes honored at the WKC Banquet earlier in the month. (Photo courtesy of Mayfield High School)



Marshall County girls' basketball head coach Aaron Beth was honored for registering his 300th career win earlier in the month. (Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School)



Senior guard Miles Woodfork was named the player of the game after McCracken County's win over DuPont Manual in the Murray Bank Ken-Tenn Classic at Calloway County on Saturday, Dec. 13. The Mustangs defeated the Crimson 75-68. (Photo courtesy of Calloway County High School)

Marshall County 74,
Northwest (Clarksville,
Tenn.) 56

Staff Report

MURRAY — Marshall County defeated Northwest (Clarksville, Tenn.) 74-56 during the Murray Bank Ken-Tenn Classic at Calloway County on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Marshals improved to 5-1 after registering the win.

Marshall County shot 55.6 percent (25-of-45) from the field. The Marshals shot 35.3 percent (six-of-17) from three-point range.

Marshall County shot 75.0 percent (18-of-24) from the free throw line.

Matthew Langhi led Marshall County to the win. Langhi poured in a game-high 31 points for the Marshals.

In another strong performance for Marshall County, Neyland Jezik recorded a double-double. Jezik scored 14 points and cleared out 10 rebounds for the Marshals.

Five players accounted for all of Marshall County's scoring. Rounding out Marshall County's individual scoring, Carson Lovett netted six points, and Maddox Konrad tallied two points.

Carlisle County 59,
Hickman County 33

Staff Report

CLINTON — Carlisle County defeated Hickman County 59-33 in a 1st District boys' basketball game on Friday, Dec. 12.

Following the loss, Hickman County slipped to 3-2 overall and opened 0-1 in the 1st District.

Carlisle County shot 55.3 percent (26-of-47) from the field, missing each of its two three-pointer attempts.

The Comets shot 53.8 percent (seven-of-31) from the free throw line.

Wyatt Rickard and Kasen Perez shared game-high scoring honors for Carlisle County, netting 11 points apiece.

Accompanying Rickard and Perez in double figures for the Comets, Heath McBride netted 10 points.

Carlisle County received scoring

from eight different players. The other scorers for Carlisle County were Brennan O'Neill (eight points), Jonah Bruer (eight points), Dax Garrett (seven points), Jeremiah Neeble (two points) and Gage Canary (two points).

Hickman County shot 26.0 percent (13-of-50) from the field. The Falcons shot 25.0 percent (six-of-24) from three-point range.

Limited offensively, Hickman County connected on its lone free throw line in the district game.

Nyiahez Irons paced the Falcons. Irons recorded a double-double for Hickman County, scoring 10 points and claiming 11 rebounds.

Contributing offensively, Brendan Rosas (seven points), Logan Grimmitt (six points), Brec Byassee (five points), Kaden Grubbs (three points) and Jack Byassee (two points) joined Irons in Hickman County's scoring column.



Bombers Win Close One Over CFS



By Tim Taylor
KPI Sports Writer

The Bombers have found themselves in nail-biters in their early season. After an overtime loss to St. Mary in their prior outing, it came down to another one score game against CFS. Early game jitters have put the Bombers in a hole in their first three games of the year. After getting the opening points of their game with the Eagles, CFS scored the next 8 to gain the 6 point lead. The Bombers settled in and outscored CFS 19-8 the remainder of the half to gain a 5 point lead at the halftime break. CFS battled back and reclaimed a 4 point lead with just over 2 minutes remaining in the game. Grayson Sparacio trimmed the deficit to 2 and he scored another goal off an Eagles turnover to tie the game. After CFS went back up 2 with 1:25 left, Reed Duren spotted up for a left wing trey he drained at the 59 second mark to go up two. Ballard Memorial failed to connect on 4 consecutive free throws while clinging to a 2 point lead despite Sparacio getting an offensive

rebound on one of the misses. The Eagles had a chance to tie or win the game, but the Bomber’s defense prevented CFS from getting off a shot late as Ballard Memorial picked up their first win of the season 45-43. They limited the Eagles to 27 points below their season overage in CFS’s first 6 games. Ballard Memorial then went to Livingston Central and could not connect on any field goals in the 2nd quarter. They were outscored 18-3 in the period and found themselves trailing 30-13 at the break. A more energized defensive team in the 2nd half led to some better offense in the final 16 minutes. Sparacio scored 7 of his team high 18 in the third period as the Bombers trimmed the deficit to 7. The Bombers kept plugging away with Duren hitting 4 treys in the 4th quarter and Miller’s trey with 26.9 seconds remaining left the Cardinals lead at 52-48. That would be as close as they would get as the Cardinals survived for the 56-51 win. Duren ended with 15 points and Miller added 11. The Bombers dropped to 1-3 on the season.



Lady Comets 68, Hickman County 38

Staff Report

CLINTON — Carlisle County dealt Hickman County its first loss in the 2025-26 girls’ high school basketball season, defeating the Lady Falcons 68-38 on Friday, Dec. 12.

The Lady Comets prevailed in a 1st District hoops matchup. Following the loss, Hickman County slipped to 3-1 overall and opened 0-1 in the 1st District.

Carlisle County shot 40.7 percent (24-of-59) from the field. The Lady Comets shot 33.3 percent (nine-of-27) from three-point range.

Nearly automatic in a key area, Carlisle County shot 91.7 percent (11-of-12) from the free throw line.

Carlisle County thrived outside and inside, outrebounding Hickman County 44-25.

Rylee Lemons and Macee Hogancamp shared game-high scoring honors for Carlisle County, netting 15 points apiece. Hogancamp registered a double-double, securing a game-high 13 rebounds.

Accompanying Lemons and Hogancamp in double figures for Carlisle County, Eden Bruer netted 12 points.

Nine players entered Carlisle County’s scoring column. Finishing in single digits, Ella Draper (six points), Bella Hoskins (six points), Olivia Webb (six points), Abree Warren (three points), Sara Thornsborough (three points) and Lyndee Hogancamp (two points) supplied the rest of Carlisle County’s scoring.

Hickman County shot 31.2 percent (15-of-48) from the field. The Lady Falcons made three of 13 three-point field goal attempts.

Hickman County shot 45.5 percent (five-of-11) from the free throw line.

Audrey Tucker scored a team-high 12 points for the Lady Falcons. Tucker was the only Hickman County scorer to reach double figures.

Seven different players provided scoring for the Lady Falcons. Bailey Childress (seven points), Kaylee Britton (six points), Jenna Byassee (four points), Ann White (four points), Kylie Meshew (three points) and Lakyn Wilber (two points) followed Tucker in Hickman County’s scoring column.

Britton paced Hickman County inside, claiming seven rebounds.



Lady Bombers Dominate CFS



By Tim Taylor
KPI Sports Writer

The Lady Bombers of Ballard Memorial took exception to their opening season loss to St. Mary. Possibly overlooking the young Lady Vikings team, they made sure not to duplicate that in their second outing of the season. The Lady Bombers hosted the Lady Eagles from CFS as they started fast and continued to gain momentum throughout the game. Defensively, they locked in and only allowed a single three point field goal in the entire first half of play. Ballard Memorial held the Lady Eagles scoreless in the opening quarter leading 19-0 and led 35-3 at the half. Gracee Beere hit a trey in the opening quarter and another in the 2nd quarter before Kate O’Neill hit a trio of treys in the second quarter. Ballard Memorial was limited to a single trey in their opening game and connected on 8 in their 52-14 win over CFS. Beere came off the bench to score 18 to lead all scorers

while O’Neill added 15 to even the Lady Bombers record at 1-1.

They went to Livingston Central on December 15th for their first road game of the season. The Lady Bombers once again were focused on the defensive end limiting the Lady Cardinals to 13 points in the opening half. Beere remained hot from the outside scoring 11 points in the opening 16 minutes to help Ballard Memorial grab the 9 point lead at the break. Mallie Owens and O’Neill carried the scoring in the 2nd half as they combined for 5 more treys to extend the lead to 37-20 after 3 quarters. Offensively, the Lady Bombers spread the floor in the fourth quarter. Defensively, they gave up a few open look treys as Livingston Central drained 4 long range shots in the final 8 minutes, but it was not enough as the Lady Bombers picked up the 46-35 win. O’Neill led the way with 18, Beere added 11 and Owens finished with 8. Ballard Memorial is now 2-1 following the win.

Swimming and diving nominations sought for Midway/ KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The nomination process for the Midway University/ KHSAA Male and Female Student-Athlete of the Year among swimming and diving participants for 2025-2026 is now open.

This award is based on athletic and academic achievement as well as community service and leadership. The link to the application contains additional criteria and a form to nominate one participant from each 2025-2026 team. Nominations must come from a member school, but can be submitted by an administrator, guidance counselor, or coach. Nominations may only be submitted online at [https://](https://khsaa.org/ge35-midway-university-khsaa-female-student-athlete-of-the-year-nomination-form/)

khsaa.org/ge35-midway-university-khsaa-female-student-athlete-of-the-year-nomination-form/.

The winner will be announced early in the postseason and recognized at an awards event at Midway University in early summer 2026. From the winners selected for each KHSAA championship, one student-athlete will be selected as the 2025-2026 Midway University/ KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year announced at the event. All individual winners will also receive their recognition awards at that time.

The deadline for nominations for the Midway University/ KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year in the sport of swim and dive is January 2, 2026.



McCracken County 75, DuPont Manual 68

Staff Report

MURRAY — McCracken County pulled away to defeat DuPont Manual 75-68 in the Murray Bank Kenten Classic at Calloway County on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Mustangs thrived offensively, shooting 56.5 percent (26-of-46) from the field. McCracken County shot 38.5 percent (five-of-13) from three-point range.

The Mustangs shot 75.0 percent (18-of-24) from the free throw line. Miles Woodfork led McCracken County to the win, scoring a game-high 25 points for the Mustangs. Woodford made six of seven free throw attempts.

Following Woodfork in McCrack-

en County’s scoring column, Garrett Miller netted 16 points.

Accompanying Woodfork and Miller in double figures for McCracken County, Jackson Klope tallied 15 points.

Eight different players provided scoring for the Mustangs. The additional scorers for McCracken County were Jay Martin (six points), Aaron Adams (five points), Carter Hawes (five points), Owen Grogan (two points) and Jackson Diaz (one point).

Nearly recording a double-double for McCracken County, Klope claimed nine rebounds.

McCracken County moved to 5-0 after registering the win.

Give blood or platelets and give patients time this holiday season

KENTUCKY, - Time is critical for patients this December. The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply steady over the busy holiday season. Types O positive, O negative and B negative blood donors are especially needed now and in the coming weeks.

December is National Month of Giving, and your Red Cross blood or platelet donation can bring hope and healing. Create a new holiday tradition and help spread comfort and support lifesaving care. When the unexpected happens, it's the blood products already on the shelves that matter.

Redefine the meaning of a gift bag; give something that means something and schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

For a limited time, those who come to give Dec. 8-18, 2025, will receive a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email. Those who come to give Dec. 19, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. For details on December offers, see RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts. If you're unable to give, consider making a financial donation to support our lifesaving mission at redcross.org.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 8-31, 2025:

Altona Baptist Church, 5827 US Highway 62, Calvert City, KY 42029
12/23/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Calvert City Church of Christ, 4625 US Highway 62, Calvert City, KY 42029
12/26/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

CFSB Benton Banking Center, 221 W. 5th St., Benton, KY 42025
12/22/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CFSB Mayfield, 100 Dick Castleman Bypass, Mayfield, KY 42066
12/26/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Concord United Methodist Church, 5178 Hinkleville Road, Paducah, KY 42001
12/24/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
12/29/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
12/30/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

David Taylor, 2052 US-641, Murray, KY 42071
12/22/2025: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 1601 Main St., Murray, KY 42071
12/12/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Jackson Purchase Medical Center, 1099 Medical Drive, Mayfield, KY 42066
12/8/2025: 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Mayfield Graves County YMCA, 1545 Cuba Road, Mayfield, KY 42066
12/24/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Murray First United Methodist Church, 503 Maple St., Murray, KY 42071
12/21/2025: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Paducah Blood Donation Center, 4635 Falconcrest Drive, Paducah, KY 42001
12/19/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
12/21/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
12/22/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
12/23/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
12/24/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
12/26/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
12/28/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
12/29/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
12/30/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
12/31/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Saint William Catholic Church, 860 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064
12/29/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Smithland First Baptist Church, 237 Court St., Smithland, KY 42081
12/23/2025: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 1620 W. Main St., Murray, KY 42071
12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Twin Lakes Worship Center, 4166 US-641, Benton, KY 42025
12/19/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

In addition to providing lifesaving blood products, the Red Cross mobilizes relief to families affected by disasters, trains people in lifesaving skills and provides services to active and veteran U.S. military personnel and their families. Donors can feel good knowing that by supporting the Red Cross, they can help family and friends in their communities and across the country.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Kentucky Center for Statistics breaks down September unemployment data

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Unemployment rates fell in 116 counties, rose in Clinton, Wayne and Ballard counties and stayed the same in Logan County between September 2024 and September 2025, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

Cumberland, Scott, Shelby and Woodford counties recorded the lowest jobless rates in the state at 3.7 percent each. They were followed by Fayette and Oldham counties, 3.8 percent each; and Boone, Franklin, Kenton, Spencer, Todd and Washington counties, with 3.9 percent each.

Martin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 8.5 percent. It was followed by Magoffin County, 8.1 percent; Lewis County, 7.5 percent; Elliott and Wolfe counties, 7.2 percent each; Jackson County, 6.9 percent; Harlan County, 6.7 percent; Carter and Lawrence counties, 6.6 percent each; and Knox County, 6.5 percent.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 4.5 percent for September 2025, and 4.3 percent for the nation.

KYSTATS reported earlier this month that Kentucky's seasonally adjusted September 2025 statewide unemployment rate was 4.7 percent. The September 2025 jobless rate was unchanged from August 2025 and down 0.6 percentage points from one year ago.

Statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are adjusted to observe statistical trends by removing seasonal influences such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. For more information regarding seasonal fluctuations, visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics here.

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

Note that the figures have been delayed due to the federal government shutdown.



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To all our good friends far and near, we wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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Wisconsin Judge Hannah Dugan on trial for helping immigrant does not testify

By **TODD RICHMOND**
AP

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Wisconsin judge accused of helping a Mexican immigrant evade federal authorities did not take the stand Thursday after her attorneys presented less than an hour’s worth of witnesses in her defense as she faces obstruction and concealment charges.

The case against Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan was expected to head to the jury later Thursday after closing arguments.

The highly unusual charges against a sitting judge are an extraordinary consequence of President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown. Dugan’s supporters say Trump is looking to make an example of her to blunt judicial opposition to immigration arrests.

Prosecutors have tried to show that Dugan intentionally in-

terfered with members of a federal immigration task force’s efforts to arrest 31-year-old Eduardo Flores-Ruiz at the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

Dugan’s team filed a motion late Wednesday asking U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman, who is presiding over the case, to find Dugan not guilty without asking jurors to deliberate. Adelman did not immediately rule Thursday on the motion, which is common after prosecutors present their case.

Dugan argued in her motion that she may have inconvenienced the arrest team but she didn’t intentionally try to conceal Flores-Ruiz, noting that although he left through a private door, he still emerged into the public hallway where two officers saw him.

Dugan also insisted that long-standing legal precedent prevents civil arrests of people coming or going from courthouses and

immigration removal proceedings are civil actions.

Her attorneys called only four witnesses Thursday morning, including a public defender who took photographs of the arrest team in the hallway and two judges who testified that the draft policy was in flux in the weeks before Flores-Ruiz’s arrest.

The last witness was former Milwaukee mayor and Democratic congressman Tom Barrett, who testified that he’s known Dugan since high school and described her as “extremely honest.” He told jurors under cross-examination that he wasn’t at the courthouse on the day of the arrest and was only testifying about her character.

Officers who came to arrest Flores-Ruiz testified that they learned he was in the country illegally after he was arrested in Milwaukee on state battery

charges. Flores-Ruiz was scheduled to appear for a hearing in front of Dugan on April 18. Six agents and officers staked out Dugan’s courtroom that morning, ready to arrest him when he emerged from the hearing.

They testified that Dugan and another judge, Kristela Cervera, stepped into the hallway wearing their robes. Dugan angrily told four members of the team to report to the chief judge’s office.

As Cervera led them to the office, Dugan returned to her courtroom and led Flores-Ruiz out a private door into the hallway. Prosecutors produced transcripts of audio recordings from microphones in her courtroom that show Dugan told her court reporter that she’d take “the heat” for showing Flores-Ruiz out the private door.

Two agents Dugan missed during her confrontations with the team followed Flores-Ruiz outside, and a foot chase through traffic ensued before he was finally arrested. Members of the team testified that Dugan divided them and forced them out of position, leaving them too short-handed to make a safe arrest in the hallway.

Cervera, for her part, testified that she was

uncomfortable backing up Dugan during her confrontations with the arrest team. She said she was shocked when she heard Dugan led Flores-Ruiz out a private door, adding that judges shouldn’t help defendants evade arrest. Cervera also testified that Dugan told her three days after the incident that Dugan was “in the doghouse” with the chief judge, Carl Ashley, because she “tried to help that guy.”

Dugan’s attorneys have countered during cross-examinations that Dugan didn’t

intend to obstruct the arrest team and was trying to follow a draft courthouse policy from Ashley that called for court employees to refer immigration agents looking to make an arrest in the courthouse to supervisors.

They’ve also argued that the arrest team could have apprehended Flores-Ruiz at any point after he emerged from the courtroom and Dugan shouldn’t be blamed for their decision to wait until he got outside.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Peoples Finance Inc. of Paducah, KY is now accepting sealed bids on the following repossession:

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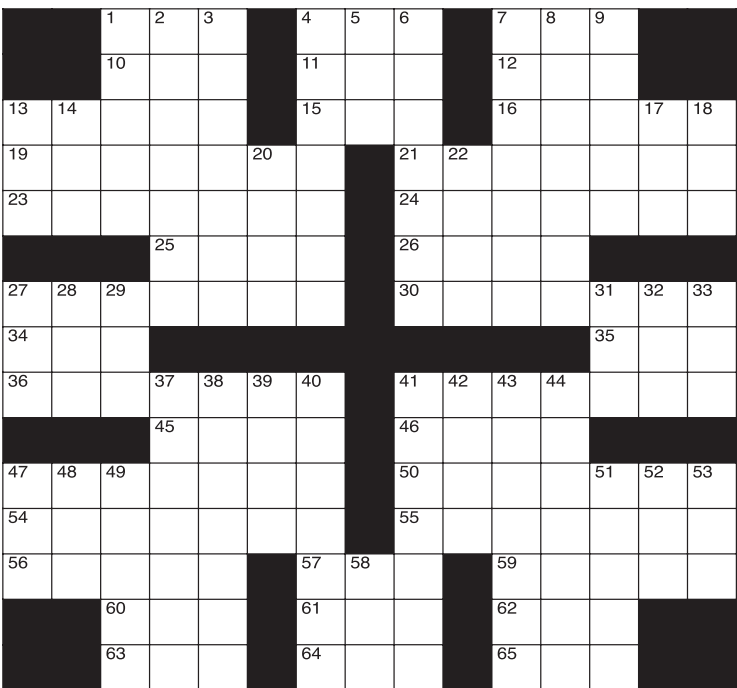
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Crossword Puzzle



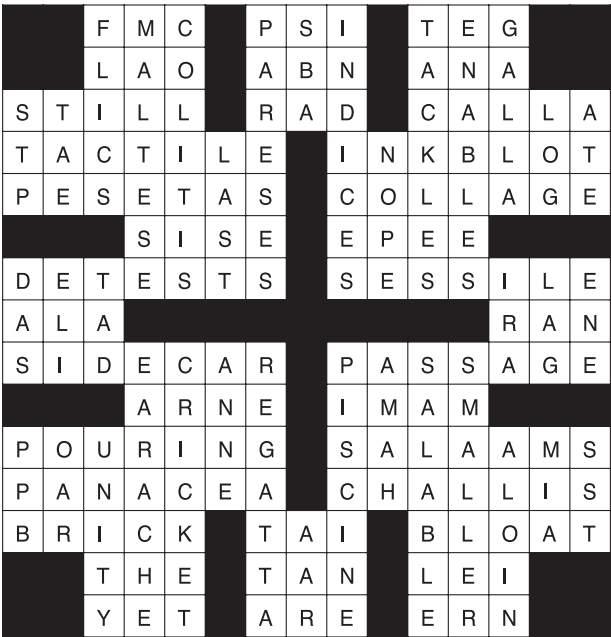
CLUES ACROSS

1. American automotive titan
4. Tire term
7. Two-year-old sheep
10. Indigenous people of Thailand
11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
12. Actress de Armas
13. Not moving
15. Cool!
16. Plants of the arum family
19. Connected with touch
21. Pen stain
23. Monetary units
24. School kids’ art project
25. Early Bell Canada executive
26. Sword
27. Hates
30. Fixed in one place
34. Pie __ mode
35. Moved swiftly on foot
36. Carrier on vehicle
41. A path to get through
45. “Rule, Britannia” composer
46. Spiritual leader
47. Flowing
50. Respectful compliments
54. Cure
55. Soft, lightweight fabric
56. Building material
57. Japanese delicacy
59. A way to cause to be swollen
60. One and only
61. You might get one in summer
62. Wreath
63. Thus far
64. They __
65. Employee reference number

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)
2. Toy dog
3. Intestinal condition
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Helps little firms
6. Alphabetical lists
7. Takes down
8. Facilitates
9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
13. Engine additive
14. Explorers group
17. Written account
18. Consumed
20. Opposite of first
22. No (slang)
27. Government lawyers
28. NY Giants great
29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Head pain
38. Wildly popular sport
39. “Princess Diaries” actress Hathaway
40. Boat race
41. About fish
42. Nursemaid
43. Able to be marketed
44. Not as large
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Paddle
49. Oneness
51. Bitter chemical
52. Not around
53. Very fast airplane
58. Main tributary of the Rhine

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to food service.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 26 = E)

- A. 22 26 17 4 26 17
Clue: Waiter/waitress
- B. 24 23 13 19 25 26 11
Clue: Cooking room
- C. 17 26 22 13 9 12 17 9 11 13
Clue: Place to dine
- D. 19 25 26 19 24
Clue: Restaurant bill

Answers: A. server B. kitchen C. restaurant D. check

Word Search

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH



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

ANSWERS IN B SECTION

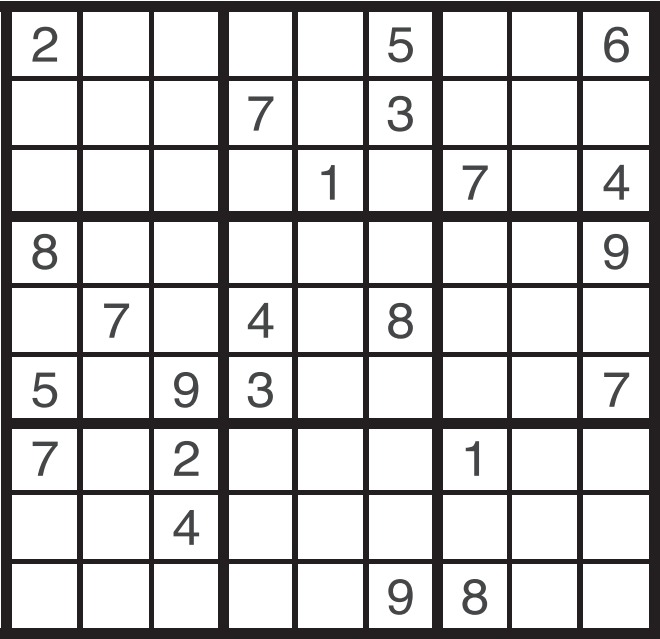
WORDS

- A LA CARTE
ALLERGENS
BUSSER
CHAFING
COMPLIMENTARY
COST
COVER
EXPEDITER
GRIDDLE
GUEST
HOUSE
MENU
PANTRY
RESTAURANT
RUNNER
SALE
SEATING
SERVICE
SOMMELIER
TABLE
TIP
TURN OVER
WALK-IN
YIELD

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

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



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.

TCIDRE



Answer: Credit

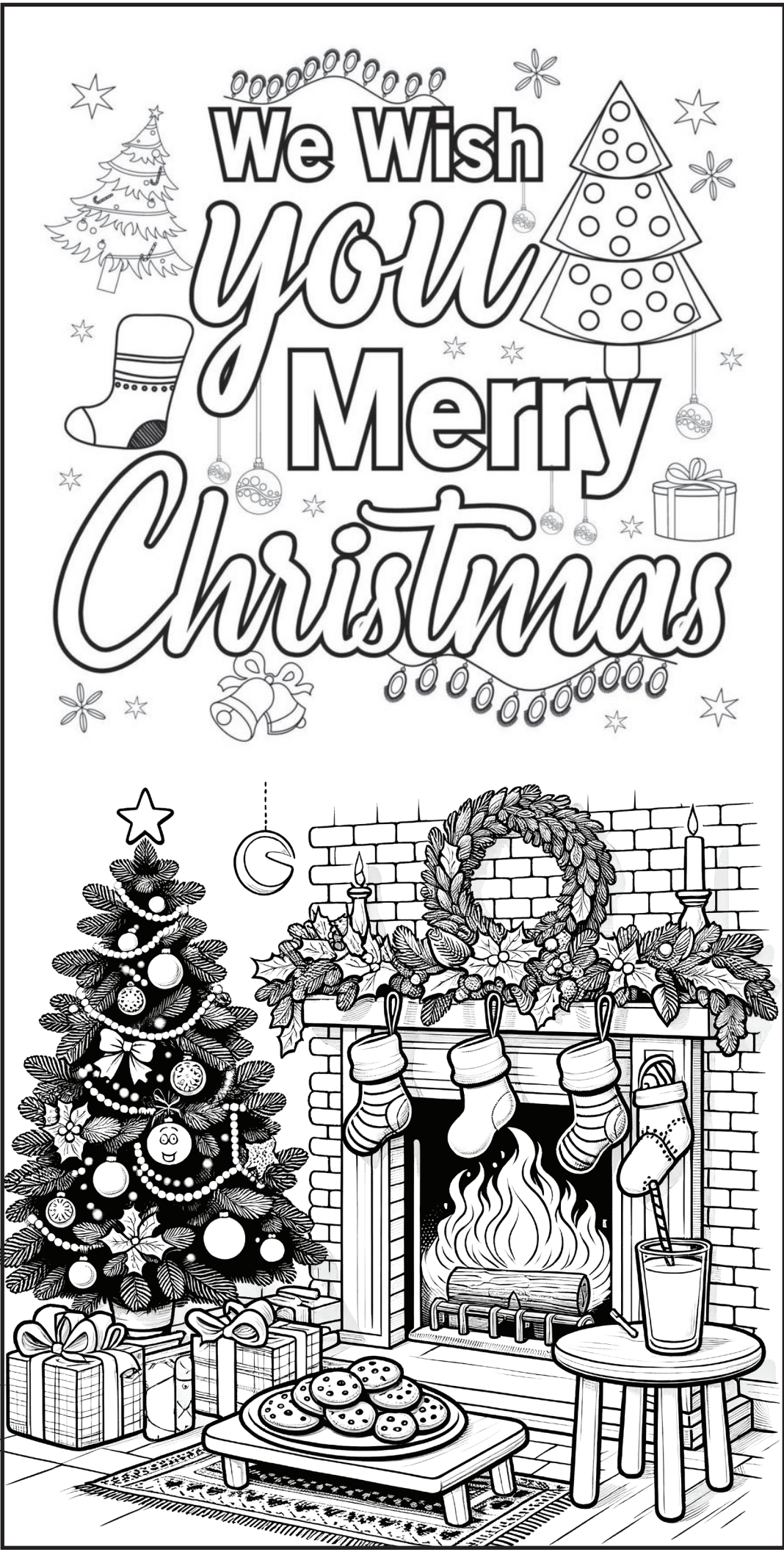
Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in New York on December 19, 1972. I began acting at age 8 after landing a role on a national tour of “Annie.” I rose to fame as a teen on a television show about a male housekeeper. I later starred alongside two other “sisters” on a magical show.

Answer: Alyssa Milano

COLORING FUN



Winter Jokes

- What do you call a vampire with a snowman?
Frostbite!
- What kind of math do Snow Owls do best?
Owlgebra
- What fish do you catch in the winter?
Frozen fish sticks

AG UPDATE

for Ag and Natural Resources

Tom Miller,
Ballard County Ext. Agent

Christmas and Agriculture

Christmas has become the major holiday in the United States and much of the world over the last 100 years. Besides being the major holiday for the Christian religion, it has become the major sales season for retailers with the gift giving tradition. I think the best parts of the Christmas season are the family gatherings and all the food.

Whatever your beliefs, no one can argue that the Christmas season has grown almost out of control. Store displays and products come out earlier and earlier each year, now before Halloween. Christmas carols start on the radio earlier and earlier. Black Friday, a fairly recent marketing ploy, has turned into a week or more with “cyber Monday” also lasting much longer than the Monday after thanksgiving.

If we take the marketing out of Christmas, it is a holiday originally timed with the winter solstice on December 21, meaning our days are finally getting longer and spring is coming. Historically, in Kentucky, it was the time that farmers finally got paid for all their work on the tobacco crop throughout the year.

Here are a few off-the-wall facts about agriculture and Christmas. I pulled them from several sources on the internet so I won’t swear that all of them are correct but if they are not, they will not cause much harm.

There are about 15,000 Christmas tree farms in the US. It takes from 4 years to up to 15 years to get a marketable size tree and between 25 million and 30 million trees are sold each Christmas season. Imagine the number before artificial trees became popular.

It takes about 30 million trees to produce the amount of wrapping paper used each year. I can remember as a kid when we had to be careful and save the wrapping paper.

The average sheep produces enough wool for 6 sweaters. 318 million pounds of ham are consumed during the holiday season. I remember looking for a ham in late summer and no grocery store had any, they were being stockpiled for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

There are 250 mint farmers in the US and they supply 70% of the world’s production.

Eating KFC is one of the more popular Christmas traditions in Japan.

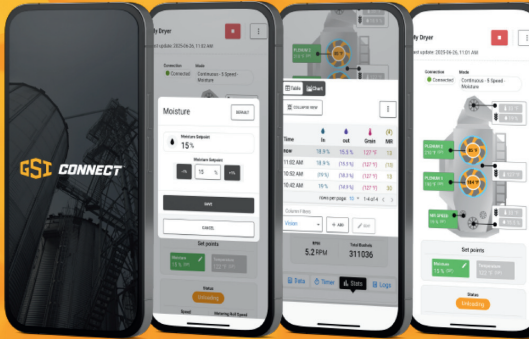
You would get 364 gifts in total if you followed the “12 days of Christmas song”

Only female reindeer still have antlers during the Christmas season as the males drop theirs earlier in the year.

That’s probably enough, enjoy the holiday season.

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Biondo named first general manager in UK football history

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today
Special to West KY News

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — For the first time in school history, Kentucky will have a general manager to oversee its football operations.

Stein has hired Pat Biondo to serve as the program's general manager, while Pete Nochta will serve as assistant general manager under Stein. Biondo served the previous four seasons as director of football recruiting strategy at Oregon and oversaw the program's success on the recruiting trail.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Pat as our new general manager," Stein said. "He has a relentless work ethic and a clear vision for what it takes to build a team and a successful



program. His ability to connect with people and bring out the best in those around him makes him a perfect fit."

Biondo also served in a similar recruiting capacity at Texas A&M before moving on to Oregon. "I'm incredibly grateful to be named the general manager for Kentucky

football," Biondo said. "Each of my previous stops had helped prepare me for this role by giving me a broad perspective on roster management, recruiting, and building a sustainable program. Kentucky has a strong foundation and a clear vision, and I'm excited to work alongside Coach

Stein and our staff to help build a roster that reflects the culture of Kentucky Football."

Nochta join's Stein's staff after 10 seasons at Louisville as director of recruiting.

"I've known Pete a long time and he's an outstanding addition to our program," Stein said.

said. "I know his heart, his character, the person he is, and how much he cares about people. He's also the ultimate competitor, and he instills confidence in everyone around him."

"Another reason I'm excited to be back is so I can be closer to my parents, and they can see their grandson grow up. Having the chance to come home, where I grew up, and be a part of what Will is building is so special and something I couldn't pass up. To leave a place I've been for 10 years, tells you how much I believe in Will Stein."

Stein retained Josh Pruitt as the program's director of operations. Pruitt will enter his 14th season in the program, including the past six as director of operations.

Stein adds Jay Bateman as Cats' defensive coordinator

By KEITH TAYLOR,
Kentucky Today
Special to West KY News

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — It's been a busy week for Kentucky football coach Will Stein.

Stein, who has been juggling staff hires while preparing for Oregon's contest against James Madison in the College Football Playoffs on Saturday, added defensive coordinator Jay Bateman to his first staff at Kentucky on Wednesday.

Bateman currently is the defensive

coordinator at Texas A&M and is preparing for the Aggies' playoff run that begins Saturday against Miami.

"Jay Bateman is one of the most respected defensive minds in college football," Stein said. "His ability to develop players, create disruptive defenses, and consistently compete at a high level has stood out everywhere he's been. Jay brings energy, experience and a clear vision for how we want to play defense, and we're excited to welcome him to Kentucky."

Bateman, who has also coached at Florida, recalled a loss to the Wildcats at Kroger Field in 2023.

"We came up to Kentucky, and they beat the brakes off of us," Bateman said. "I remember thinking, 'Wow! This is an incredible place.' With Will Stein being one of the brightest young stars in the profession, it was a major reason I would leave Texas A&M. I'm excited to work with one of the sharpest head coaches in the country."

Bateman has also served as defensive coordinator at North Carolina, Army, Ball State and Elon College and was a head coach for three seasons at Sienna College.



Moss eager for Boca Bowl

Brohm addresses opt-outs, portal



Louisville quarterback Miller Moss (7) prepares to hand the ball off to running back Braxton Jennings (46) during the second half of an NCAA college football game in Louisville, Ky., Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025.
(AP Newsroom Photo/Timothy D. Easley)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) — Louisville quarterback Miller Moss confirmed he will play in Tuesday's Boca Raton Bowl against Toledo, ending any speculation after missing the SMU game with a foot injury. Moss returned to lead a 41-0 win over Kentucky in the regular-season finale and said he's fully healthy and eager to finish the season with his teammates.

Coach Jeff Brohm said the Cardinals remain uncertain at running back. Freshman Jamarice Wilder is out with a knee injury, while Isaac Brown, Duke Watson and Keyjuan Brown are questionable and likely game-time decisions. If needed, walk-on Braxton Jennings and Shaun Boykins proved capable in the Kentucky win, each topping 100 rushing yards.

Brohm also acknowledged expected roster movement following the season. Defensive linemen Rene Konga and Wesley Bailey have opted out of the bowl, while quarterback Brady Allen and defensive back Daeh McCullough plan to enter the transfer portal when it opens Jan. 2. Brohm said the staff is prepared for changes and remains focused on honest communication with players.

**University of Louisville's
2026 ACC Schedule**
(Opponents Only)
*Under the **nine-game ACC format**, the Cardinals avoid several league heavyweights and will play five conference games at home.*

Home Games	Away Games
Florida State	Georgia Tech
Pittsburgh	NC State
SMU	North Carolina
Stanford	Syracuse
Wake Forest	

Louisville will open the 2026 season against Ole Miss in Nashville, host Villanova in nonconference play, and close the regular season at Kentucky.

Merry Christmas!

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Town Food Service recalling saucepans

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Town Food Service Equipment Co., Inc. of Brooklyn, NY is recalling aluminum saucepans sold in Kentucky and more than 30 other states, because it has the potential to be contaminated with lead which may leach into food.

Lead is toxic to humans and can affect people of any age or health status, and there is no known safe level of exposure to lead. Even low levels of lead exposure can cause serious health problems, particularly in children and fetuses. Consuming food with elevated lead levels can contribute

to elevated levels of lead in the blood.

Children and babies are more susceptible to lead toxicity due to their smaller body size, metabolism, and rapid growth. At low levels, children may not have obvious symptoms but can still experience trouble learning, low IQ, and behavior changes. At higher levels of lead exposure, people may experience fatigue, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, or neurologic changes.

The saucepans being recalled were distributed in Kentucky, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI,



SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, Puerto Rico and Quebec City, Canada through its network of authorized food service equipment dealers, which include retailers, between January 1, 2023 and Nov. 30, 2025.

The four sizes of aluminum saucepans being recalled have capacities ranging from 1 quart to 3 quarts, have indented graduations on the interior, and a plated steel handle riveted to the body.

No illnesses have been reported to date. The recall was the result of a sampling program by the FDA which revealed that the finished products contained leachable lead. Town Food has ceased production and

distribution of the product as the FDA and Town Food continue their investigation.

Consumers who have purchased and are in possession of any of the items are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact Town Food at 718-388-5650 Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM EST or email their recall coordinators at recall@townfood.com. Updates on the recall will be posted on their recall webpage: <https://townfood.com/recall-alum/> External Link Disclaimer



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AUCTIONS



DEC 31

DU0262 '22 CAT D8T dozer



DEC 30

DT4589 '17 John Deere 8370R 4WD tractor



DEC 31

DU0261 '22 CAT 336 excavator



DEC 30

DT4704 '21 Trebro AS3 sod harvester



DEC 31

EA7000 '18 NorAm 65E Turbo motor grader



DEC 31

ET6678 '18 Case IH Steiger 540S 4WD tractor



DEC 30

DW7323 '12 Case IH 6130 RWA combine



DEC 31

DU0257 '00 Peterbilt 378 grapple crane truck



DEC 30

DT4643 '13 John Deere 9460R 4WD tractor



DEC 30

DT4700 '19 Apache AS640 sprayer



DEC 30

DT4645 '16 John Deere 7210R MFWD tractor



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What Americans think about giving cash as holiday gifts, according to a new AP-NORC poll

NEW YORK (AP) — Welcome to exhausted America 2025: Most adults are more than a little fine with doling out cash as gifts, and many plan to be asleep before midnight on New Year’s Eve, according to a new AP-NORC poll.

About 6 in 10 Americans say cash or gift cards are “very” acceptable as holiday presents, but they’re much less likely to say that about a gift that was purchased secondhand or re-gifted, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

“Cash is OK for the grandkids I guess,” said Nancy Wyant, 73, in rural central Iowa. “But I’m a gift giver.”

Come New Year’s Eve, she’ll be fast asleep before 2026 rolls around. “At our age, we don’t do anything,” the retired bus driver said with a laugh of herself and her live-in partner. “He’s set in his ways.”

They’ll be joined by the 44% of Americans who say they won’t stay up to greet 2026, according to the poll. About half of U.S. adults age 45 or older won’t make it to midnight, compared with around one-third of adults under age 45.

Consider 23-year-old Otis Phillips in Seattle, an outlier for his age. He, too, will turn in early. “It’s one of the holidays that doesn’t really feel special to me,” said the master’s student.

Most say cash makes an acceptable holiday gift

Cash is a safer gift for younger adults. The poll found about two-thirds of Americans under 45 say cash is a “very” acceptable holiday gift, compared

with 55% of adults age 45 or older.

“Everything’s too expensive nowadays. And I don’t want to go buy a gift for somebody and then it turns out they don’t like it. So cash,” said Gabriel Antonucci, 26, a ski resort cook in Alaska, about an hour outside of Anchorage.

Most people at least grudgingly accept various gift types, with about 9 in 10 saying cash or gift cards are at least “somewhat” acceptable and about 6 in 10 saying the same for secondhand gifts and re-gifted items.

Teresa Pedroza, a 55-year-old mom of two adult sons in central Florida, is mostly not on board.

“I don’t like it when kids say they want cash, or I should get teenagers gift cards,” she said. “It kind of takes some of the charm away from gift giving.” But she acknowledged reaching for cards a time or two out of convenience.

About three-quarters of adults under age 45 say secondhand gifts are at least “somewhat” acceptable, compared with about 6 in 10 adults age 45 or older. About 4 in 10 adults age 45 or older say secondhand gifts are “somewhat” or “very” unacceptable.

Many keep holiday decor up beyond the new year

It’s not just your pesky neighbors who leave their holiday decorations up into January. About one-third of U.S. adults say they’ll leave them up after New Year’s Day.

It’s more common for people to leave their decorations up after the holiday season than to put them up early, according to the poll. About 2 in 10 Americans say they

put up holiday decorations before Thanksgiving.

“I just had my husband bring down the bins. If we weren’t expecting company, I wouldn’t even bother to decorate, honestly. I’m tired of doing that,” said Pedroza, the Florida mom of two.

Many will celebrate Christmas Day with sports

About one-quarter of U.S. adults say they’re planning to watch sports on Christmas Day, while only 5% will head for a movie theater.

Men are much likelier than women to say they’ll watch sports on Christmas, and older Americans are much more likely than younger Americans to tune in. About 2 in 10 adults under age 45 say they plan to watch sports on Christmas, compared with about 3 in 10 adults age 45 or older.

Phillips does plan to break out his red sweater with the green Christmas tree that one of his grandmothers knitted for him a couple of years ago.

“She made all kinds of things for me growing up,” he said. “This is by far my favorite.” Phillips has it in rotation for his part-time job as a grocery check-out clerk.

He’s the outlier once again. Women are much likelier than men to say they’ll wear a holiday sweater or accessories.

Gifts for pets and Elf on the Shelf

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults say they will give a gift to their pet this year.

In Iowa, Wyant’s nearly 3-year-old boxer-Great Dane mix named Indy is among them.

“She’s a very spoiled dog,” Wyant said.

“She’s got too many toys, so she’s getting treats this year. She loves her treats.”

And the red felt elf that parents move around the house every

night as a Santa spy to see which kids have been naughty or nice? Only about 1 in 10 U.S. adults say they’ll do Elf on the Shelf.

“Noooo,” Pedroza

said when asked if she’d ever done the elf for her kids. “My younger son was very well-behaved. I didn’t have to use any kind of tactics.”

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- **2003 Volvo Semi Truck** - Day Cab, Cummins ISX 10 Speed, Air Ride, High Flow Wet Kit for Bulk Tank Transport, Serial: 4V4RC9T654N366317
- **1999 Freightliner Semi Truck** - Day Cab, Cummins N14, 10 Speed, Air Ride, 2 Line High Flow Wet Kit

HOPPER BOTTOMS, TANK & SEMI TRAILERS

- **39' 1995 Wheeler Hopper Bottom**, Serial: 1W9FNGR28TM01
- **2005 Jet Hopper Bottom**, Roll Tarp, Rubber 11R24.5, Serial: 5JNGS382-4-5H00462
- **40' CPS Hopper Bottom Trailer**

MFWD TRACTORS

- **2014 John Deere 8370R Tractor**, IVT Trans., ILS Frontend, JD Guidance, 5 Remotes, Quick Hitch, Weights, Front 420/85R34, Rear 480/80R50, Serial: 1RW8370RCED100554, SF2RTK Antenna (Tanks to be Removed)
- **2011 John Deere 8360R Tractor**, IVT Trans., ILS Frontend, 5 Remotes, 22 Weights, JD Guidance, 3,793 Hours, Front Rubber 380/80R38, Rear 480/80R50, Quick Hitch, Serial: 1RW8360RJBD048127

COMBINE, HEADERS & HEADER CART

- **2012 Case IH 6088 Combine**, Pro 700 Outback Guidance, 4WD,

Chopper, Field Tracker, 2 Speed Hydro, Precision Mapping (screen), Yield Monitoring, Engine Hours: 2,862, Separator Hours 2,028, Front Rubber 20.8R42 Duals Rear 18.4/26

- **2012 30' Case IH 2162 Draper Header**, Gauge Wheels, Serial: YCZN34555
- **Case IH 2408 - 8 Row Corn Header** - 30" Row, Serial: CBJ032665
- **30' Unverferth Header Cart**

PLANTER & PLANTING SUPPORT

- **Kinze 3600 12/23 Planter**, Precision Planting Hyd. Down Pressure Corn Rows, V set Meters, All 23 rows, Air Pressure Furrow Closure on Corn Rower, 2x2, Spike closure on Bean Rows, Row Cleaners
- **360 Yield Center**, 350 Gallon Saddle Tanks

TILLAGE, RIPPERS & CULTIVATORS

- **24' 3-Point Lemken Tillage Unit**, Hyd. Fold
- **445 Agco Disc Chisel**, 19 Shank, Serial: 3335
- **3 Point Noble Cultivator**, 6 Row
- **7 Shank Disc Ripper** - Unverferth, Rolling Basket On Rear, S/N A51130278
- **30' Sunflower 6630 Disc Harrow**, Serial: AGCS66300BZVRT066
- **Case IH 12 Row Danish Tine Cultivator**, Hyd. Flat Fold
- **Kuhn 8' Tiller**, Model: EL122

FERTILIZER & LIQUID APPLICATION

- **1000 Gallon Nurse Poly Tank Wagon**
- **Case IH Liquid Applicator**, 11 Shank, John Blue Ground Driven Pump, Hyd. Fold, 1000 Gallon, Rubber 320/85R38

GRAIN HANDLING & AUGERS

- **Unverferth 7000 Grain Cart**, New Augers
- **10' Grain King**, Swing Away 81', Serial: S-3381

MANURE HANDLING EQUIPMENT

- **1984 Fruehauf Liquid & Bulk Tank**, Rubber 11R22.5, Hyd. Control w/ Remote, Serial: 4NE026302
- **1992 Fruehauf Liquid & Bulk Tank**, Rubber 11R22.5, Hyd. Control w/ Remote, Serial: 4NE026302
- **8000 Nuhn Magnum Liquid Manure Spreader** (w/ Flotation Tires), Kronhne & Raven 660 Flow Meter, 8 Injectors, Model: M0016, Serial: 17622
- **Nuhn Manure Pump**, 8' Length, 8' in Dia.
- **Nuhn Honey Shoot**

WAGONS & FARM TRAILERS

- **LMC Fuel Trailer**, 7 Compartment, 735 Gal., DEF Tank, Elec. Pump
- **4 Wheel Farm Wagon**
- **Dual Tandem Cotton Wagon**
- **2017 Parker Gooseneck 25' Flat x 5'Dovetail**

SHOP & SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

- **John Deere Weld Air Generator** w/ Honda 6x 690

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BALLARD

David Porter - Barlow, KY, We honor the life of our brother, David James Porter, who left this earth peacefully on December 12, 2025. Visitation was held at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY, on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. until funeral time beginning at 1:00 p.m., with Rev. Scott Fickes officiating. Interment followed at Barlow Cemetery in Barlow, KY.

Wilbur Dunker, age 86, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Pastor Brad Dunker, Rev. Nate Hillebrand and Rev. Keith Tilford officiating.

Deborah Williams, age 61, passed away on December 5, 2025 at Baptist Health Louisville. Funeral Services were held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter at 12:00 p.m. with Pastor Michael Pryor officiating. Interment followed at LaCenter Cemetery in LaCenter, KY.

CARLISLE

Linda Rose Holt, of Bardwell, Kentucky, passed away on December 11, 2025, at the Parkview Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center at the remarkable age of 88.
A funeral service was held at 1 P.M. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Bardwell with Bro. Stan Durrett officiating. Burial followed at the Roselawn Cemetery in Bardwell.

Penny Sue O’Toole, 64, of Arlington, Kentucky, passed away on December 9, 2025, at her residence. A funeral service was at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington. Burial will follow at Arlington City Cemetery.

CALDWELL

Charles “Red” Howton, beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Caldwell Medical Center. A memorial visitation will be held from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm Saturday, January 10, 2025 at Ogden Memorial United Methodist Church. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, January 10, 2025 at Ogden Memorial United Methodist Church with Bro. Bryan Martin officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

William L. “Bill” Holloway, age 95, passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 12, 2025 at Rivers Bend Retirement Community in Kuttawa, Kentucky.
Visitation was held Wednesday, December 17, 2025, from 4-7 pm at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 1pm. Rev. David Royalty will be officiating the service. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Princeton, KY.

Elmer Lee Gibson, 93 of Kuttawa, Kentucky, returned home to be with his Lord and Savior on December 14th, 2025, peacefully in his home surrounded by his loving wife & family. Expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of flowers or in lieu of flowers, donations to The Salvation Army or St. Jude’s Children’s hospital would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Jeff B. Wilcox, 57, born on November 16, 1968, in Caldwell County, passed away peacefully on December 12, 2025. A Celebration of Life will be scheduled at a later date.

Ronnie “Ron” Turner, I, a husband, father, brother, and grandfather, passed away on December 12, 2025, at the age of 75 in Marion, Kentucky. Visitation was held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 from 11:00 to 1:00 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at Morgan’s Funeral Home.

Lisa Hughes of Fredonia passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. She will be laid to rest with her beloved dog, Mia. Private services were held. Morgan’s Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

William Burton Strong, age 94, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2025, in Madisonville, Kentucky. Funeral Services were held Monday, December 15, 2025 at 1:00 with Rev. Pressley Lamm officiating. Burial followed in the McGregor Cemetery.

CALLOWAY

Charles Aaron Jensen Jr., 65, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on December 15, 2025, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital. At this time, there are no services planned.

Edward Grant Clark, age 80, of Dover, Tennessee, formerly of Kirksey, Kentucky, passed away, Friday, December 12, 2025, at his home. A graveside service will be held at 12:30 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Pace Cemetery in Hardin, Kentucky with Russ Crosswhite officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Shirley (Geurin) Enoch Caylor, age 89, of Olive Branch, MS, formerly of Paris, TN and Murray, KY, passed away on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Providence Assisted Living in Senatobia, MS. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 22, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Murray, KY. Pastor Leonard Castleman will officiate, and burial will follow in the Murray Memorial Gardens in Murray, KY. Visitation will be held prior to the funeral service on Monday, December 22, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Patty Kimbro, age 71, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Charles R. Baringer, 86, of Mayfield, KY, passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 in Beulaville, NC. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

Jerry Don Barrett, age 81, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on December 11, 2025, at his home. A funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 15, 2025, in the chapel of the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Rev. Kenny Locke and Rev. Tim Palmer will officiate with burial to follow in the West Fork Cemetery.

Edward Grant Clark, age 80, of Dover, Tennessee, formerly of Kirksey, Kentucky, passed away, Friday, December 12, 2025, at his home. A graveside service will be held at 12:30 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Pace Cemetery in Hardin, Kentucky with Russ Crosswhite officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Paul Vernon Lamb, age 53, of Hardin, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Murray – Calloway County Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Rev. Tim Palmer officiating. Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Edna Mae Bogard McClarty, age 80, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on December 10, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House in Murray, Kentucky. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, 1959 State Route 94 West, Murray, Kentucky 42071 with Rev. Kerry Lambert officiating. Visitation will be held

from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, 1959 State Route 94 West, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

Shirley (Geurin) Enoch Caylor, age 89, of South Haven, Mississippi, formerly of Paris, Tennessee and Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Providence Assisted Living in Senatobia, Mississippi. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Murray, Kentucky.

Gwendolyn Outland, age 91, of Murray, Kentucky passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Passion and Purpose Homecare Assisted Living in Murray. A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Bro. Clint Gentry officiating. Burial followed in the Elm Grove Cemetery.

CHRISTIAN

Ada Marie Anderson, 86, Highpoint Drive, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Bradford Heights Nursing & Rehabilitation, Hopkinsville, KY of natural causes. A memorial visitation was held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home.

J.D. McKee, 97, Seminole Drive, Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Christian Health Center of natural causes. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 19, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home with Cecilia Tucker officiating. Burial will follow in Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from noon until the service hour on Friday, December 19, 2025 at the funeral home.

Anthony Myers, 58, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky passed away Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5:28 p.m. at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Crofton is assisting with arrangements.

Betty Clark Radford, age 93, of Culleoka, TN, formerly of Hopkinsville, passed away peacefully with her daughter by her side on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at her daughter’s home of natural causes. Funeral Services were held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Rev. Bill Crick officiating and burial to follow in Riverside Cemetery.

Helen Sue West, age 84, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family of natural causes. Funeral Services were on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Home at 1:00 PM with Gerald Johnson officiating and burial to follow in George West Family Cemetery.

James Massey Majors, 69, Hopkinsville, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, in Hopkinsville, KY. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 17th at 12 pm at the Edgefield Baptist Church on Pembroke Rd. In Pembroke, KY. Burial at Caves Springs Cemetery.

CRITTENDEN

Densiel L. Maraman, 74, of Marion, KY passed away December 9, 2025 at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, IN. A memorial visitation was held from 5-8 PM Friday December 12, 2025 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY.

FULTON

Michael Milner of Fulton passed away Thursday morning at his residence. Memorial services for Mr. Michael Milner will be held at 12 Noon Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the First Baptist Church in Fulton with inurnment to follow in the Enon Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the First Baptist Church from 10 AM Saturday, December 20, 2025, until the hour of service.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Quentin Charles Klinkefus, age 81, of South Fulton, passed away early Thursday, December 11, 2025, at his residence. There will be no services held at the funeral home. A celebration of life service will be held in Boone, Iowa, at a later date.

Rosie Lawan “Wannie” Speight, age 89, of Fulton, KY, passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025, at Lifecare Nursing Facility in Centerville, TN. Funeral services for Mrs. Rosie Lawan “Wannie” Speight were held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2025, in our funeral chapel, with burial to follow in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

GRAVES

Patsy Lou Heath, age 76 of Wingo, KY passed away at 2:58 AM Sunday, December 14, 2025 at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center. Graveside Services were held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at the Little Obion Cemetery with her cousin- Gary Heath officiating. The Brown Funeral Home in Wingo is in charge of the arrangements.

Linda S. Allen, age 81, of Farmington went to be with her savior on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Mills Health and Rehab Center in Mayfield, KY. Visitation for Mrs. Linda S. Allen will be 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. There are no other services scheduled.

Hal C. Stephens, age 89, of Mayfield passed away on Friday, December 12, 2025 at his residence. Funeral services for Mr. Hal C. Stephens will be 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Mark Stephens and Gary Dick will officiate. Interment will follow at Mayfield Memory Gardens. Military graveside rites will be conducted by American Legion Post #26.

J.B. Lamb, age 72 of the Sedalia Community passed away on Friday, December 12, 2025 at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, TN. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at Byrn Funeral Home.

Glynn McClain, 94 years old and a 52-year school bus driver for the Graves County School District, passed away peacefully December 12, 2025, at the Spring Creek Nursing Center in Murray, KY. Funeral services for Mr. Glynn McClain were held at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Dustin McClain (grandson) and Derek Hopperton (grandson-in-law) will officiate. Entombment will follow at Murray Memorial Gardens Mausoleum located at 3223 US-641 S., Murray, KY 42071.

Stella Grey Newsome Drew, age 94, of Mayfield passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 in Sikeston, MO. Graveside services for Mrs. Stella Grey Newsome Drew were held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at New Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Duane Fields will officiate. Interment will follow.

Donna Gough, age 86 of Mayfield, KY passed away at 6:00 PM Thursday, December 11, 2025 at the Clinton Place Nursing Facility. Funeral Services were held at 2PM Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY with her grandson- Chase Gough officiating. Burial will follow in the Highland Park Cemetery.

Gail F. Roberts, age 88, of Dukedom in Graves County, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025 at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House in Murray, Kentucky. Funeral took place at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 10 at the Brown Funeral Home in Wingo, Kentucky.

HENDERSON

Richard Lynn “Rick” Satterfield, age 68, of Henderson, KY, passed away on December 13, 2025, at his home under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice. Arrangements entrusted to Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, A Life Celebration® Home, online condolences may be made at www.bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com.

Marc Edward Crafton, age 59, of Spottsville, KY, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Lucy Smith King Care Center under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice after a short battle with cancer. Relatives and friends are invited to Marc’s Life Celebration from 2:30 p.m. until service time on Friday, December 19, 2025 at Community Baptist Church in Henderson. A memorial service will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Friday at the church with friends Andy Fisher and Keith Buckman officiating.

Roby D. Moody left this world for his next adventure on Dec. 10, 2025 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Those who loved Roby will forever carry his strength, his warmth, and his unforgettable spirit. His journey here may have ended, but his love remains-steady, deep, and lasting.

Christopher “Little Bo” Kelley, 41 of Thebes, IL, and formerly of Sebree, KY, passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, in New Orleans, LA, as a result of an accident. A memorial visitation were held on Wednesday, December 17th, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Sebree, KY.

Maurice Forker, 82 of Sebree, KY passed away Tuesday December 9, 2025 at Deaconess Gateway in Newburgh, IN. Services were held at 11:00 AM Saturday December 13, 2025 at Tomblinson Funeral Home Sebree Chapel. Brother Dylan Zahn will officiate. Burial will follow in Shady Grove Cemetery in Poole, KY.

Wayne Cosby Critser, born on May 14, 1938, in Henderson, Kentucky, joyfully departed this life on December 9, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice. Funeral services celebrating Wayne’s life were held on Friday December 12, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Tomblinson Funeral Home Henderson Chapel with Bro. Tim Shockley officiating. Wayne will be laid to rest in Fairmont Cemetery with military honors conducted by the American Legion Worsham Post 40 Honor Guard.

Dennis “Denny” Dale Harrell, 91, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and a life lived with purpose. Services were held at 1 p.m. Friday, December 12, 2025, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. The Reverend Greg Shannon will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

Mary Ann Hamilton Thrasher, 93, of Henderson, Kentucky, died on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, surrounded by her beloved family. Services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church. Father Richard Meredith will officiate. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery.

HICKMAN

Tommy Smith - It is with deep love and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Tommy Smith age 76 of Murray and formerly of Columbus, KY on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Memorial Services were held 1 PM Saturday, December 13, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton, KY with Father Mike Clark officiating. Memorial Visitation were held from 11-1 PM on Saturday at the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton.

HOPKINS

Ann Tichenor, 86, of Owensboro, KY, formerly of Madisonville, KY, passed away, Monday, December 15, 2025, at Heartford House in Owensboro. Funeral services will be 1:00 P.M. Friday, December 19, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Bro. Brent Waltrip officiating. Burial will follow in East Lawn Cemetery in Hanson, KY.

Lance Robert Millard, 69, of Madisonville, passed away Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Funeral services were held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel, with Bro. Lon Lorton officiating. Burial will follow at Odd Fellows

Cemetery.

Mary June Hulsey, 100, of Madisonville passed away Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. Funeral services were held at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel with Andy Couch officiating. Burial will follow at Grapevine Cemetery.

Ty Gaston, 48, of Madisonville, KY passed away, Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Deaconess Midtown in Evansville, IN. Funeral services were held at 1:00 P.M. Monday, December 15, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel with Tommy Basham officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Earlington.

Charlotte Stanford Wyatt, age 87, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Wednesday December 10, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Services for the family will be handled privately for the family by Barnett-Strother Funeral Home. Burial will take place at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville.

Anthony Young, Jr., a cherished member of the Evansville community, passed away on December 9, 2025, in his hometown, where he was born on August 30, 1964. As we remember Anthony, we celebrate a life characterized by love, laughter, and a commitment to family. His presence will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him. There will be no service.

Darrell Berry passed away on December 14, 2025, at home with his wife and daughter by his side. A home-going celebration was held at Bandy Funeral Home, Nortonville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, with visitation from 11:00 a.m. until the funeral at 1:00 p.m. Burial to follow at Salem Cemetery in Mortons Gap.

Linda Fay Rodgers, 59 of Nortonville passed away Friday, December 12, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess. Service were held Wednesday, December 17th at 1:00pm at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville with Bro. Eddie Rodgers officiating. Burial followed at New Salem Cemetery in Nortonville.

Margaret Lou Thornberry, 82, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at her home. A private memorial service will be held. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

Joanne Lawson Sneed Crawford, 85, of Owensboro, KY, formerly of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Wellington Parc Nursing and Rehabilitation. Visitation was from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville, KY. A private burial will follow.

MARSHALL

Carolyn Griggs, age 83, died peacefully after a long illness on December 16, 2025. Funeral services will be at 11:00am on December 20 at Collier Funeral Home, 211 W. 5th St., Benton, KY, Pastor Jim Ewing presiding. Interment will follow in the New Hope Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on December 19 and Saturday for 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Collier Funeral Home.

Larry Dale Sullivan, 71, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Baptist Health in Paducah, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Jim Capps officiating. Private family burial will follow at Calvert City Cemetery.

Frank Gerald Story, 78, of Albany, Georgia, passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Phoebe Putney Hospital. Graveside Funeral Service with Military Rites will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2025 at Marshall County Memory Gardens, Benton, KY.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Kal “Rickie” Castleberry, 65, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling the arrangements. There are no services scheduled.

Jack Kenneth Evink, age 61 of Benton, KY died on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at his home. A service will be scheduled at a later date in Michigan.

Amy Peal, age 55, of Calvert City, Kentucky went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Thursday, December 11, 2025. A funeral service was held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home with Bro. Charles Frazier officiating. Burial will follow at Paradise Cemetery in Land Between the Lakes.

Anna Gay, 89 of Hardin, Kentucky passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Marshall Co. Hospital in Benton, Kentucky. A funeral service was held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home with David Smith officiating. Interment will follow at Pace Cemetery, Hardin, KY.

Helen Elizabeth (Beth) King, 74, of Benton, was born December 5, 1951 in Memphis, Tennessee and died December 9, 2025 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. There will be no services per her request.

McCRACKEN

B. Lou (Watson) Williams, affectionately known as Lou by her loved ones, passed away on December 13, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah at the remarkable age of 80 years old. A funeral service will be held at 12 P.M. on Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Bro. Stan Durrett officiating. Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. and continue until the service starts at 12:00 P.M.

Stephanie Lauren Stacey, aged 31, of Paducah, passed away on December 13, 2025. Born on August 8, 1994, she leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and infectious enthusiasm that touched the hearts of all who knew her. Funeral services were held at 2:00 pm on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah. Burial will follow at Maplelawn Park Cemetery.

Hattie Tipton, 75, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah. A Celebration of Life

was held from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Paul D. Browning, 69, of Paducah passed away on Friday, December 12, 2025, at his residence with his family by his side. Memorial services will be at 1:00 pm on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Salt & Light Community Church with the Rev. Jeff Russell officiating. Friends may visit the family from 11:00 am to service hour on Saturday at the church.

Johnna Sparks Gomez, 62, of West Paducah passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Mercy-Health Lourdes in Paducah. She will be cremated per her wishes.

James Wayne Blackman, 92, of Paducah died on Monday, December 8, 2025, at his residence. Memorial services were at 11:00 am on Friday, December, 12, 2025 at Lindsey Funeral Home with the Rev. Jeff Wallace officiating. Burial will follow at Hill Crest Cemetery in Blandville, KY. Friends may visit the family from 10:00 am to service hour on Friday at the funeral home.

Kenneth Allen Edwards, aged 85, of Boaz, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on December 12, 2025, at Baptist Health of Paducah. A graveside service was held on December 16, 2025, at Hardmoney Baptist Church Cemetery in Boaz, Kentucky, starting at 11:00 AM, with interment to follow. Bro. Bob Whitter will be officiating. Kenneth’s warm heart and indomitable spirit will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

TRIGG

Alene Pitt, age 85, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 12, 2025, in her hometown of Cadiz. Funeral Services will be held Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at King’s Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Trigg Memory Acres. Visitation will be on Saturday, December 20, 2025 from 11:00 – 1:00 at King’s Funeral Home.

Matilda “Tilly” Marquess, age 75, of Cadiz, KY, passed away Friday, December 12, 2025, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz, KY where the family received friends after 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Funeral services will be at Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc. at 12:00 PM Friday, December 19, 2025 with the Bro. Richard Sexton officiating. Burial will follow at East End Cemetery in Cadiz.

Larry Bigger, age 68, passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at his home in Cadiz, Kentucky. A memorial service to honor Larry’s life will be held

on Saturday, January 3rd, 2026, from 12:00-4:00 PM, at White Fence Farm, 1376 Joliet Road, Romeoville, Illinois.

UNION

Anne Marie Devlin, age of Corydon, KY passed away Tuesday Dec 16, 2025 at her home. Services will be at a later date.

Charlotte Ann Beaven Bradford, age 84 of Morganfield, KY died Monday Dec 15, 2025 at her home. Graveside service and burial was held at 3PM Wednesday December 17th at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield, KY.

Jonathan “JR” Collins - May 5, 1957 - December 12, 2025 - Funeral service was held at 12 PM Wednesday Dec 17, 2025 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Keith Lovell will officiate.

WEBSTER

Shelia Faye Hill, 86 of Clay passed away Monday, December 15, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Graveside services were held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Oddfellows Cemetery in Clay with Brother Jeff McMcain officiating. Visitation was on Wednesday 12:00 PM till 1:45 PM at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay.

Anna Jean Turner, 66, of Henderson, KY, formerly of Providence, passed away on Friday December 12, 2025, at her home in Henderson. Funeral services for Mrs. Turner were held at 1:00PM on Thursday December 18, 2025, in the Lucille Melton Memorial Chapel at Lewis Funeral Home LLC with Bro. Jeff Graham officiating. Burial will follow in White Oak Cemetery near Clay.

Richard Allen “Dickie” Harris, 68, passed away Saturday December 13, 2025 at his home in Providence, KY. Funeral service was at 1 PM Wednesday December 17, 2025 at Providence General Baptist Church in Providence, KY. Bro. Barry Cullen will officiate with burial to follow at Big Hill Cemetery in Providence, KY.

Stewart Randall Herald, 86, formerly of Webster County, KY passed away Thursday December 11, 2025. A memorial service were held Sunday December 14, 2025 at Townsend Funeral in Dixon, KY at 6PM.

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.



If you looked at most of my hunting and fishing trips from the standpoint of harvesting game, you would conclude I was unsuccessful. Most of the time, I leave home with great expectations, only to return with the reality of an unfilled tag or an empty live well. I remember a

commercial where a man’s wife watched her husband leave each Saturday morning with his fishing rod and Labrador, only to come back home that afternoon, with just his fishing rod and his faithful companion. She wondered why he continued to go. I

can also remember, the days when my children were young, that I would return home from a hunting trip and would be faced by three children with the same question: “Did you get anything?” They got so used to the same answer; they began not to ask. (I’m sure glad that our sustenance was not based on me bringing home the meat) But, what I found out over the years was that I did not become a better hunter or fisherman on days that the harvest was easy, but I became better, most of the time, on

the days I came home empty-handed. Let’s face it; it doesn’t take much know-how to go out and catch fish when they are biting everything that comes in front of them. Nor is much knowledge gained when that deer meanders by your tree stand 10 minutes after daylight. Knowledge to become a better outdoorsman is gained through the tough times. It happens when we shoot high on that doe or don’t set the hook on that bass. It’s those times that we come home better than when we left, whether we have

something to show for it or not. And even though we want to fill a tag, it’s better to come home better. This is also the way God works. God is not interested as much in what we do, or what we “harvest” at the expense of what we are becoming. He is interested in us being better. Better husbands or wives, better fathers or mothers, and better followers of Christ. Not because these things make Him love us more, but because they make our lives “better.” And most of the time, this doesn’t happen during the easy days

but during the days when there is nothing in our hands to show for our effort except the calluses of being faithful.

Gary Miller
gary@outdoortruths.org

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men’s events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org

VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

Had I not believed to see God’s goodness

By Teresa LeNeave
Leneave2@comcast.net

David answered it this way, “I would have despaired, had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord...” (Ps 27:13 AMP). I would have become desperate. I would have fallen apart in fear. I would have lost all hope...except that I remembered the goodness of the Lord.

Where would I be if my parents had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when I was five years old and the doctors looked at my lung x-rays, immediately scheduling surgery just three days out to remove the top half of my left lung? What would my life be like with just half of my lung?

When I was 27-years-old, and totally paralyzed from my neck down, where would I be if I had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord? Would

I be confined to a wheelchair or in a nursing facility depending on nurses to feed me, bath me, change my clothes and take me to the bathroom? Like David in the Bible, I would have despaired had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord. Thank God, I was healed and in just a week, I had recovered. Doctors thought it was Spinal Meningitis, but later ruled it out. Whatever it was, I completely recovered.

Where would the world be if Abraham had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when he put his oldest servant in charge of all his possessions and made him promise to find a suitable wife for his son, Isaac? What if the old servant had decided it was too much trouble to go all the way back to Nahor and expect God to find the perfect wife for Isaac? What if the

old servant had gotten ahead of God and chose just any woman? What if he had not believed to see the goodness of God?

Rebecca, the chosen woman, also had a part in believing. When God put it in her heart to go to the well, so she would arrive at the precise time the old servant arrived, she could have said, “I’m not going to the well right now. I think I’ll wait until later in the afternoon when it’s cooler. There will be dozens of shepherds waiting for water at the well, so I’ll go later.” But that didn’t happen. She didn’t procrastinate. When the nudge occurred in her heart to go, she went. Where would Isaac have ended up if Abraham’s reliable servant had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord?

Very often we don’t see it, but God is working in our lives all the time.

It is “truth of God” that is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet. The truth is God is love and he is watching over you. David said, “I would have despaired (fallen apart in fear), had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (right here on earth) (Ps 27:13, AMP emphasis added).

I’m asking the reader of this

article to take just a moment to think about the things in your own life and ask yourself, “Where would I be if I had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord?” Or, ask: “Where would I be if I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord?” How would your life be different?

It is the truth of God that is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet (Ps

119:105). David knew he’d despair, and not survive, if he had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when he was faced with trouble. The next verse, Psalm 27:14 tells how to believe to see God’s goodness awaits us: “Wait for and confidently expect the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage: yes, wait for and confidently expect the Lord.” (Amplified version).

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I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

Most people have read or at least heard of a man named Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). He was a literary giant in his lifetime and is still known today in many circles as “The Children’s Poet” as several schools around our nation are named in his honor. You may remember some of His original works, which include Paul Revere’s Ride, The Song of Hiawatha, and Evangeline, and was also the first American to completely translate Dante Alighieri’s Comedy. As one of the fireside writers from New England, he is regarded as the most popular poet of the nineteenth century.

On July 9, 1861, tragedy struck the Longfellow home. His wife, Fanny, was near an open window, placing locks of her daughter’s hair in a packet, using hot sealing wax to secure it. It was never known whether a spark from a match or the sealing wax was the cause, but suddenly her dress caught fire, and she was engulfed in flames. Henry was sleeping and was suddenly awakened by her screams

for help. He ran into the room and immediately tried to smother the flames as best he could, first with a rug and then his own body, but the damage from the burns was very severe. She died the next morning.

Henry’s burns were so extensive on his face and hands that he was unable to attend his wife’s funeral. The scars on his face made shaving nearly impossible, so he allowed his beard to grow, which became associated with his image. The anguish within his soul was beyond what anyone could fathom. His family could see his suffering in his eyes, and they observed his long periods of silence. At times, he feared that he would be sent to an asylum on account of his sorrow.

A couple of years later, in 1863, there was another crisis when his son Charles Longfellow, without telling his family, boarded a train headed for Washington, D.C. to join President Lincoln’s Union army to fight in the Civil War. On the first day of that December, Henry was dining alone at his home when a telegram

arrived with the news that Charley had been shot and was being transferred to the Rapidan River. Henry immediately set out to search for his son and arrived by train on December 5th. He was alarmed when informed by the army surgeon that his son’s wound was very serious and that Charles would most likely be paralyzed. Longfellow, as a 57-year-old widowed father of six children, was not only witnessing his country fight a war against itself, but his oldest son had been struck down on the battlefield.

Although he was admired for his gift of communicating the human experience, Longfellow still yearned for divine peace, which only God can give. On that Christmas Day in 1863, he heard the Christmas bells ringing in Cambridge and the singing of “Peace On Earth,” but he considered the division and violence in his country to be in direct contradiction with a joyous holiday. He sat down and desperately tried to reflect on the joys of knowing that God is not dead or sleeping, and that He is the only one who can heal,

save, and give hope to the soul. He was never considered a hymn writer; however, the poem he wrote on that day expresses the agony about the dark condition of a nation, and was later set to music by Englishman John Calkin. The result is one of our most beloved Christmas carols, “I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day.”

There is a theme of passion and determination within the poem, that expresses how an attitude of confidence and trust in the Lord, can overcome fear and

hopelessness even in the midst of bleak despair. The Civil War was in full swing, and the devastation from the battle of Gettysburg still gripped the nation in a state of trauma. He must have asked himself how we can have peace on Earth and goodwill toward men in this war-torn land, where brother fights against brother and father against son? Yes, the days were grievous, but he includes in one of the stanzas, “The wrong shall fail, the right prevail!” Within these words, we sense a man crying out to God in prayer, just like many of us today who are praying for this world, to please stop the hatred and the evil, and may all people be unified with God’s forgiveness and love. This reminds us that eternal peace and harmony shall one day be established when the Prince of Peace shall reign forever.

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



Good news of great joy

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

Good news is hard to come by when you live in a bad-news world. You rarely hear a positive story on the evening news nowadays. Reports of natural disasters, political conflicts, or higher prices dominate the headlines. And because bad news is so prevalent, more and more people are cutting cable or ditching their televisions entirely. It would be encouraging to hear some good news every now and then.

The Jews living during the time of Jesus’ birth felt the same way, too. Israel was no longer on top of the world, and Rome was on top of them. And they had waited so long for the coming of the Messiah that holding onto hope grew harder every day. That is when God broke the news cycle by announcing through heavenly messengers that the long-awaited Messiah and Savior had come to earth. Finally, some good news—the greatest news: “Fear not,

for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

There are four features of the good news announced by the angel. (1) First, the good news calms fear. The shepherds were understandably terrified by the visit of a heavenly being. But they had no reason to fear, as the angel assured them, “Fear not.” The good news of

Christ’s coming eliminates fear. Because of His finished work, you do not need to fear the future, judgment, or death. Christ is the Lord—He controls the future, He delivers you from judgment, and He conquered death.

(2) Second, the good news produces joy. The heart of every saved sinner should leap with bliss and glee when considering all the benefits of His saving work. As Peter said, “Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you

do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory” (1 Peter 1:8).

(3) Finally, the good news is for all. The good news of Jesus’ coming is for “all the people.” The free offer of grace is for every tongue, race, and culture. God doesn’t pass you by because of how you look or where you come from. Furthermore, He doesn’t hold the gospel back because of your sinfulness or supposed saint-

liness. God wants you to be saved whether you spend your weekends at the bar or your Sundays at church. The gospel is for those who believe they are too bad to be saved, as well as those who believe they are too good to be saved. Good news like this is worthy of belief and proclamation. Do you believe it? If you do, have you published it to someone who doesn’t?

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135 Allegheny Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky • \$1,399,900

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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

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27 Paradise Point Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky \$369,000

135Allighany ----Unique Custom Built 2015 property. Stunningly Luxurious with Captivating Elegance across the road 1000 yards from Ky Dam Village State Park, Dam, Marina ,Restaurant/ Lodge. 2000 yards to Golf course! Less than 2 miles to Aviation Airfield, & I-24/69. 5 total bedrooms, 4 full baths,2 half baths, 2 laundry areas & 3 gas log fireplaces! Vaulted & Cathedral ceilings, detailed woodwork, polished marble, with unique characteristics! Primary suite offers custom tiled bath, heated floor & walk-n closet! Kitchen island & beautiful cabinetry! Music room, sun room & office! Basement has family room, kitchen, bedroom, storage room & bath. Covered patio with wood burning FP. In-ground pool ,privacy fence, & gated concrete

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Search Answers

Q	X	X	M	E	O	N	I	L	V	E	S	X	E	J	A	L	M	X	H	
S	D	Q	H	H	T	B	N	S	S	S	S	E	F	D	Q	S	T	Q	S	
d	M	V	S	S	A	A	A	Q	W	O	E	I	V	O	I	W	N	K	B	
7	7	O	N	I	J	A	H	Q	O	D	S	N	A	O	A	B	X			
M	M	L	L	X	d	X	X	V	7	3	N	O	3	9	N	R	d	e		
M	L	X	V	M	E	I	R	V	C	V	T	V	B	R	9	9	3	A		
H	A	L	K	F	X	B	I	R	F	W	C	N	I	K	T	V	M	R	S	
I	T	R	D	S	I	R	S	I	V	N	R	V	N	I	S	C	J	I	d	
E	H	R	V	W	O	I	V	L	M	X	3	T	V	V	N	d	O	F	R	
O	9	N	H	L	K	A	V	3	S	d	A	d	3	B	C	S	B	S		
I	9	3	I	E	N	N	H	S	N	C	J	O	A	9	N	A	X	O	M	V
G	I	I	W	H	3	S	3	N	T	A	R	L	3	9	I	3	I	E	I	T
A	N	W	A	d	9	V	W	I	E	7	3	9	9	0	d	X	A	N	3	
R	O	H	X	d	O	N	N	I	E	7	3	9	9	3	d	L	I	H	A	
S	R	3	T	I	R	A	A	N	T	A	J	9	N	3	S	L	J	R	C	
B	A	N	C	R	N	T	X	W	d	N	W	d	O	N	I	S	C	O	X	H
A	A	O	N	9	H	d	M	N	X	N	I	S	H	3	S	I	C	H		
E	S	d	B	N	V	B	9	9	0	d	L	O	J	R	S	R	d	A	W	
L	H	L	R	d	3	N	C	W	R	3	T	d	C	X	N	S	R	T	A	
N	O	I	9	0	L	R	B	S	R	T	I	S	N	d	V	N	I	R	A	

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2909 James Sanders BlvdPaducah, KY 42001 • Commercial/Industrial MLS Number 124836 • 7,560 sq. ft. The price is \$25.74 psf annually Located in Western Kentucky's largest

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7151 US HWY 4 • PADUCAH MLS #123564 19+ acres with much potential. Could be used as commercial site, subdivision, or residential estate. Consists of 2 tracts of land. 12+ acres on Hwy 25 and 6+ on Englert for a total of 19.18. Entrance to both on US Hwy 45. Sold as one parcel. A well was installed about 10 yrs ago but has never run on a continuous basis. Has electricity on property. \$189,900 Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

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

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New look for spay or neuter special license plate

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – More than 20 years after it was first introduced, Kentucky’s Spay or Neuter special license plate has a new look, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell announced on Wednesday.

“Practicing responsible pet ownership and the need to reduce the stray and homeless pet population are the messages surrounding this new eye-catching plate design,” said Shell. “Kentucky has 411 animal shelters and animal welfare organizations making it obvious we,

as a society, need to do more to control the pet population. This plate reminds us of that in a beautiful new way.”

The new design, which was crafted by Lexington graphic artist Hayli Strickland, features peek-a-boo images of a kitten and dog on a green background. The bottom features the words “Spay or neuter your pets” with a red paw-print in the shape of a heart overlapping the words.

“I wanted to create something playful that would make people smile while they were waiting in traffic,” Strickland stated. “I loved the idea of



‘breaking the third wall’ by having the cat and dog interact with the driver behind them, peeking from the top and bottom of the plate in a fun, lighthearted way. My hope was simply to

spread a bit of joy.”

The new license plate raises awareness of the need to reduce the population of stray and homeless animals in Kentucky. During its lifetime, sales have equated to more than

\$600,000 in grants being awarded to organizations, resulting in more than 17,200 cats and dogs being spayed or neutered.

Proceeds from the sales of the license plates go to the Animal Control and Care Fund, which is administered by the Animal Control Advisory Board. The Board was established in 1998 by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly. The duties of the Board include

making recommendations to the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture relating to animal control issues and evaluating applications for spay and neuter grants to Kentucky counties and municipalities.

The new plate, which can be personalized, is available for purchase at County Clerk offices across the state or on the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s website.

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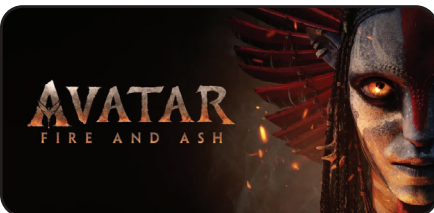
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Keeping Christ in Christmas this year

By Wilbur Jackson
KPI Writer

As December arrives, homes glow with lights, stores echo with festive music, and calendars quickly fill with parties and preparations. Christmas is a season many look forward to with joy, generosity, and togetherness. Yet amid the celebrations, it is easy to lose sight of the central reason for the season: the birth of Jesus Christ. Keeping Christ in Christmas requires intentional reflection, meaningful traditions, and a renewed focus on faith.

At its heart, Christmas celebrates God’s gift to the world—Jesus, born humbly in a manger in Bethlehem.

This event represents hope, love, and redemption, reminding believers that God entered human history to bring light into a broken world. When the season becomes dominated by shopping lists, decorations, and social obligations, the deeper spiritual message can fade into the background. Re-centering Christmas on Christ helps restore its true purpose and lasting significance.

One way to keep Christ in Christmas is through worship and prayer. Attending church services, especially on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, allows individuals and families to reflect on the Nativity story and its meaning. Reading

Scripture passages such as Luke 2 or Matthew 1 at home can also be a powerful way to focus hearts on Christ. Prayer during the season—thanking God for His gift and asking for a spirit of humility and gratitude—helps ground celebrations in faith.

Another meaningful approach is to emphasize Christ-like values. Jesus’ birth reminds believers of love, generosity, compassion, and service. Practicing these values by helping those in need, donating to charities, or volunteering time reflects the heart of Christ more than any wrapped gift. Teaching children that giving is as important as receiving helps

them understand that Christmas is about love, not just presents.

Family traditions can also reinforce the spiritual focus of the season. Setting up a Nativity scene, lighting Advent candles, or sharing devotional readings together can become cherished rituals that point back to

Christ year after year. These moments create opportunities for conversation, reflection, and shared faith.

Ultimately, keeping Christ in Christmas is not about rejecting celebration, but about enriching it. When Christ remains at the center, Christmas becomes more than a

holiday—it becomes a reminder of God’s enduring love and the hope that entered the world on that holy night. By focusing on faith, service, and gratitude, the true joy of Christmas shines brighter than any decoration ever could.

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The Christ of Christmas

By Teresa LeNeave

We can buy the presents, trim the trees and bake the candy, but let's not miss the big picture. The Christ of Christmas is far deeper and more meaningful than all our kids coming home for Christmas, sparkling Christmas lights and wonderful gifts.

The Christ of Christmas can change your life entirely. He can restore your home and heal your body.

The Bible tells us he is a healer of broken bodies, broken lives and broken hearts. Jesus said he came to heal the broken hearted and to set the captive free.

That little baby in a manger that you display at Christmas time came to save the world from its own destruction. He was born to bring peace to

a troubled soul. When he was born the first response was heavenly hosts singing, "Glory to God in the highest. And peace on earth. Good will toward men" (Luke 2: 13-15).

The Christ of Christmas came to deliver us from sin and all its destructive habits. He came to give us hope for a better life. He said this about himself: "I came that you might have life and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

He came to take away your sorrow. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:11). Paul said Jesus gives us peace that passes all understanding.

And that peace will keep your hearts and



your minds. " And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

That baby you display in a manger had, and still has, a purpose. His purpose

is to fill us with the fullness of his goodness.

He's the great I Am. Always present in the time of need. An on time God.

What I want to share with you this Christmas season is hope. In Christ

our hope of eternal life is real, but he's also the hope of the nations. Resting our hope on Christ won't disappoint.

When we trust Christ, he's the stabilizer of our lives. Peter said this about him, "He has not given

us the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

That's the Christ of Christmas. He's your friend when all others are gone.

He's your light in the darkness. He's your peace in the middle.

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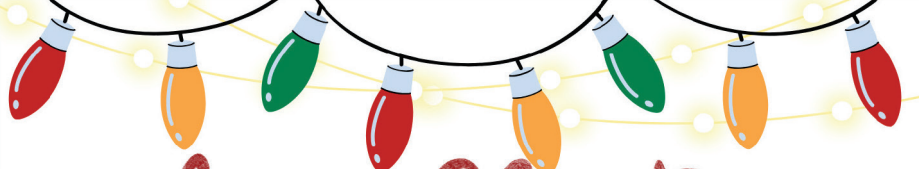
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The Christmas story

Luke 2:1-20 KJV

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



It's a season for reflection, hope and gratitude too, and we hope the warmth of its spirit touches each and every one of you.

With our thanks and best wishes,

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Jesus is the reason for the season



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For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11 KJV

Merry Christmas from



Look for the "G"

The earthly parents of the Son of God

Dr. Billy Holland
billyhollandministries.com

This is the time of year when we display our nativity sets and it's common to see depictions on the front of Christmas cards that have Mary and Joseph in a stable with the baby Jesus who is lying in a feeding trough commonly referred to as a manger. The word nativity comes from the Latin term, which simply means born. Technically, we've all experienced a nativity, but in today's world, the term is primarily used in connection with the birth of Jesus Christ the Redeemer.

We also hear the word incarnation at this time of year and within the Christian faith, this is referring to the Son of God and how He willingly came down from heaven and took on the human form of a man to save us from our sin. He is Emmanuel which means "God with us" as His mission was to rescue and restore us and because of His sacrifice we can now have an eternal relationship with Him.

There are several interesting details

about the earthly parents of Jesus and of course, His mother Mary becoming pregnant with Him while still being a virgin is a great place to begin.

Our heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus to earth, but as we know, Christ also had an earthly dad by the name of Joseph. History reveals it was common in those days for an older man to be engaged to a younger woman and many scholars are convinced that Mary was much younger than Joseph, probably being in her early teens. Being betrothed means the couple was to be celibate until they were married.

However, when Joseph discovered she was pregnant, he did not want to publicly disgrace her but rather decided to just privately cancel the marriage. We can only imagine the agony and disappointment he was feeling as he realized she had been unfaithful. As he was making plans to deal with the situation, an angel appeared to him in a dream saying, "Joseph son of David,

do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" Matthew 1:20-21.

We know that Mary is adored and rightfully so, but we must consider this was also a huge step of faith for Joseph and he is seldom given the respect he deserves.

There is not much information given about Joseph except that he was a carpenter and an honest man who upheld the law. We notice he was present when Jesus was found teaching in the temple at 12-years-old, but it's presumed he had passed away when Christ was crucified as Jesus asked John from the cross to take care of His mother.

We've all seen the images of Mary riding a donkey into Bethlehem as the scriptures reveal they were on their way to register with the tax collectors. When they arrived, Mary immediately needed to find a place to deliver the baby

as Luke chapter two describes the scene. "And Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be taxed with Mary his promised wife, being great with child.

And so, it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son,

and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Imagine a young girl being approached by the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and given a mission that would shape the course of human history. Humbly submitting to give birth to the Savior of the world?

So, why did The Almighty choose her for the task of raising the Son of God? Because He knew she would

hold strong in her faith. And what about those today who still declare they have no room for Jesus or the individuals who only celebrate the most significant event of all time during the Christmas season?

He is still patiently waiting. Never before or since have the heavens declared the glory of God with more hope and excitement than when the Lamb of God was born and willingly gave His life as a ransom for all who would believe in Him.



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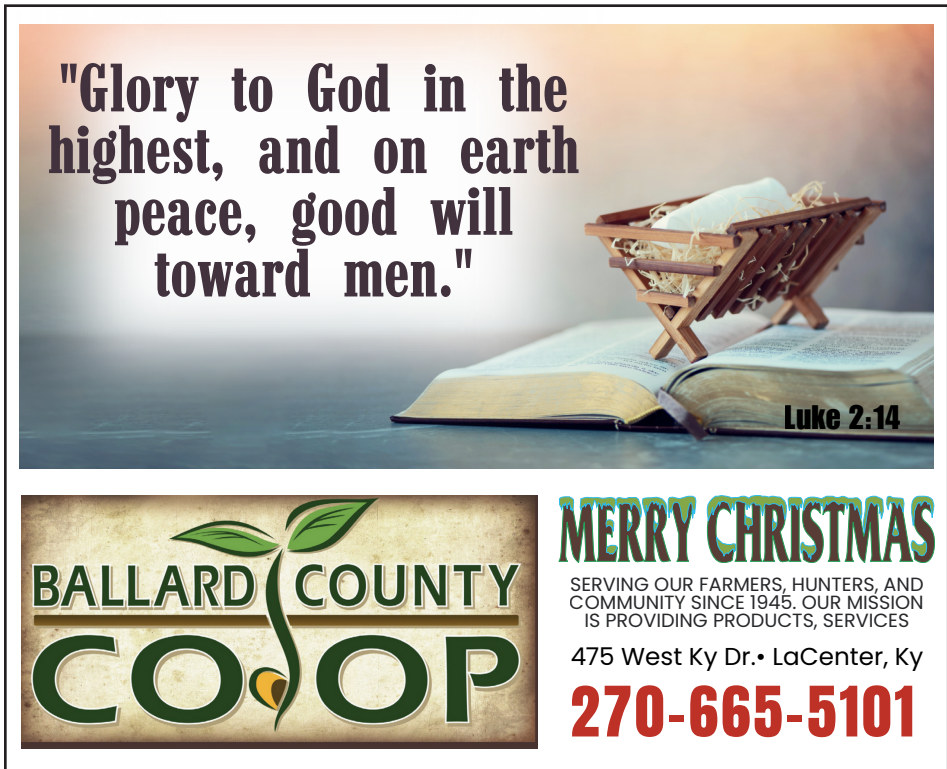


"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel."

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Luke 2:14

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10 ways to keep Christ in Christmas

1. Study Scriptures About Christ
The best way to keep Christ in Christmas is to go to the source the scriptures- and learn about Christ: his birth, life, death, and teachings. Studying the life of Jesus Christ, especially on a daily basis, will bring Christ into your life, especially at Christmas time.

2. Pray in the Name of Christ
Another way to keep Christ in Christmas is through prayer. Praying is an act of humility, a necessary attribute to bring us closer to Christ. As we pray with sincerity we will open ourselves to God's love and peace. Start by increasing how

often you pray, at least once per day, and your thoughts will be more focused on Christ during Christmas.

3. Focus Decorations on Christ
Decorate your home with pictures of Christ, from both His birth and life. You can put up decorations that feature the birth of Christ including a nativity scene and Christmas advent calendar. Be creative as you decorate for the holiday. Hang up words and sayings about Christ and Christmas such as, "Christ - The Reason for the Season" and "Christ = Christmas." If you can't find Christ centered decorations you can make your own.

4. Listen to Christmas Songs About Christ
Listening to hymns and Christmas songs about Christ will more easily bring the true spirit of Christmas into your heart and home. While you listen to the music focus on the words that you hear. What are they saying? Do you believe the words? How do you feel about Jesus Christ?

5. Focus Your Entertainment Around Christ
To help keep Christ in Christmas, focus your downtime on those things that will remind you of Christ. Read books and stories about Christ. Watch movies and plays about Christ. Play games with your family that are centered around Christ. Here are some excellent Christ-centered resources: 21 Days Closer to Christ; The Continuous Atonement by Brad Wilcox; Reflections of Christ by Mark Mabry; Family Game

6. Repeat Christmas Scriptures and Quotes
An excellent way to focus your thoughts upon Christ during the Christmas season is to repeat scriptures, quotes, and other sayings about Christ throughout the day. Jot down some Christmas scriptures or Christmas quotes in a mini notebook or on some index cards and then carry them with you wherever you go. During those moments when you're not doing anything

(standing in line, stopped in traffic, on break, etc.) pull out your notebook and read your affirmations about Christ and Christmas. Such a small act has great power to keep Christ in Christmas.

7. Keep a Christmas Journal
A simple, yet effective way to focus your thoughts upon Christ during Christmas is to keep a journal and write your thoughts about Him in it. All you need is a little notebook and a pen/pencil to get you started. Write down what you're thankful for, how you feel, and what hopes you have for the Christmas season. Write about past experiences, including those at Christmas time, and how you've seen the hand of God in your life. Share those Christmas traditions that remind you of Christ.

8. Talk About Christ with Others
Talk about Him with others. When appropriate share your love for Christ with your family, friends, children, and those who come your way. In turn ask them what they think about Christ. You can respect those who don't believe in Him by just sharing your faith in Christ and how thinking about Christ during Christmas makes you feel.

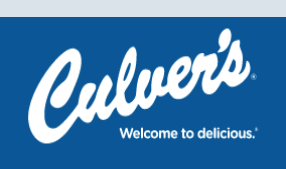
9. Serve Others with Charity
Charity, the pure love of Christ, means to love others unconditionally. Serving others with love is one of the ultimate ways to keep Christ in Christmas because that is what Christmas is all about. Through the Atonement, Christ served each of us on a level we cannot fully understand, but which we can emulate by serving others.

10. Give a Spiritual Gift to Christ
The Christmas season is so focused on buying, giving, and getting gifts, but if Christ is our focus what would He have us do? What kind of gift could we give the Savior? See this list of 10 spiritual gifts to give the Savior to help find and choose what you could do for Christ this year.



Wishing You a Season of Heartfelt Joy & Abundant Blessings

May the grace and beauty of this holy time inspire and uplift you, and may God bless you and your loved ones at Christmas and always.



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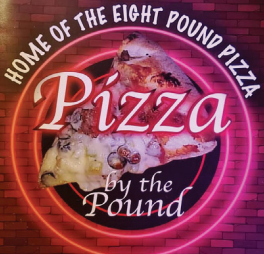
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3 Ingredient Swirl Fudge

Ingredients

1 bag (12 oz) white vanilla baking chips (2 cups)
1 container vanilla frosting
Green and red gel food colors



Directions

Line 8-inch square pan with foil, leaving foil overhanging at 2 opposite sides of pan; spray foil with cooking spray.
In large microwavable bowl, microwave white chips uncovered on High 1 minute. Spoon frosting over chips. Microwave on High 30 seconds; stir. If necessary, continue to microwave in 15-second increments until mixture can be stirred smooth.
Place 3/4 cup fudge mixture into each of 2 small bowls, leaving remaining untinted fudge mixture in bowl. Tint 1 bowl green and 1 bowl red by stirring in each food color to desired color.
Drop heaping tablespoons of green, red and white fudge mixture in bottom of pan to create random pattern. Pull table knife through layers for marbled design. Refrigerate uncovered until set, about 1 hour.
Remove from pan by lifting foil; peel foil away. Cut into 8 rows by 8 rows. Store covered in refrigerator.

*Thank You
for the Gift
of Your
Friendship*

May the celestial light
of this miraculous
season guide you
toward happiness, joy
and fulfillment.

*Merry
Christmas
to All!*

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*Warmth and
Peace to You
and Yours*

May this sacred season
be filled with the warmth
of faith, family and
friends.

We're so grateful
for your partnership
and trust in us.

**We look forward to
serving you in the
new year.**

Melinda A. Humphries
**Christian County Clerk
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

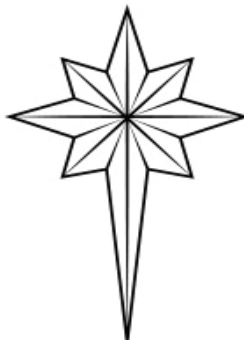
Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas season with the usual family and friends and good times!

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Christmas Nativity Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

4. _____ watched their flocks by night.

7. Mary and Joseph brought _____ as a sacrifice to the temple.

8. Angels brought good tidings of great _____.

9. There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the _____.

10. Jesus lay in a _____.

DOWN

1. The wise men brought gold, frankincense, and _____.

2. The _____ appeared in the East.

3. Mary and Joseph traveled to _____ to be taxed.

5. Jesus was wrapped in _____ clothing.

6. The _____ of the Lord shone down on the shepherds.

Bethlehem

inn

manger

Shepherds

swaddling

glory

joy

myrrh

star

turtledoves



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“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” - Isaiah 7:14



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.....

Christmas is a time for gratitude, and we appreciate all of the goodness you have brought to our year. Thank you!



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Hope Your Christmas Is Meaningful & Merry

May the warmth of God's love illuminate your days and nights, and make your spirits bright all season.

Thank you for bringing so much purpose and meaning to our year. We're truly grateful to be here.



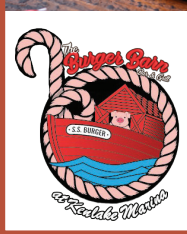
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ENJOY the Season

Any way you slice it, we owe our success to this community, and we thank you for your continued support.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes!



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May your holidays be blessed with warmth and cheer!

With deep gratitude, we wish all of our neighbors, customers, associates and friends a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous new year!



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Merry Christmas!

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