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# WEST KY NEWS

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026



## Local officials promoting issues for McCracken residents in Frankfort

By **Bill Bartleman**  
Special to  
West KY News

Last week, Judge Executive Craig Clymer, Commissioner Eddie Jones, and I spent three days in Frankfort meeting with legislators, state leaders, economic development representatives, and others to promote issues important to McCracken County residents.

Over the course of our visit, Eddie and I held sit-down

meetings with six legislators and spoke with countless others in informal settings — hallways, offices, and dinner tables. These conversations gave us valuable opportunities to advocate for McCracken County and ensure our priorities remain front and center. Judge Clymer, meanwhile, was meeting with others to discuss a major economic development project.

One of our top priorities was supporting legislation

that would shift the cost of housing inmates convicted of felonies from counties to the state, where it rightfully belongs. This change could save McCracken County more than \$3 million annually. While the proposal has strong support, lawmakers are working through the challenge of its statewide cost — estimated at more than \$200 million — and are considering a phased-in funding approach.

We also backed

legislation that would give counties more flexibility in foreclosing on abandoned properties so they can be returned to productive use, particularly for much-needed housing. Current law requires each foreclosure to be litigated separately, making the process slow and expensive. The proposed bill would allow multiple foreclosures to be bundled into a single

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## IDOT to restart lane restrictions on I-24 Ohio River Bridge at KY-IL state line on Monday, March 2

PADUCAH, Ky. — The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) plans to restart work zone lane restrictions on the Interstate 24 Ohio River Bridge, which connects Paducah and Metropolis, on Monday, Mar. 2, weather permitting. Lane restrictions for Phase 2 of the \$38 million rehabilitation project are expected to continue until Oct. 13, 2026.

Phase 1, the first of three consecutive construction seasons, ran from Mar. 3 to Dec. 12, 2025. Work included deck and structural steel repairs, as well as joint replacements, to upgrade the interstate crossing over the Ohio River at the Kentucky-Illinois State Line.

During this construction season, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction. A 10-foot, 6-inch lane width restriction will be in effect.

However, following a week or two of prep work, all traffic will be shifted to the westbound lanes in a head-to-head configuration, allowing both eastbound lanes to close for construction of a new concrete deck overlay. A temporary barrier will be placed

along the center of the westbound lanes to carry two-way traffic.

Motorists should expect delays during peak hours and use extreme caution in the work zone. The posted speed limit on I-24 between mile points 7.5 and the bridge is 55 mph in both eastbound and westbound directions.

Watch for signs, obey the posted speed limits, and use caution when merging. Once the head-to-head pattern is implemented, any crash within the work zone will affect traffic in both directions.

The entire project is expected to be completed by fall 2027.

As a reminder, due to weight, height and width restrictions, large commercial vehicles and semi-trucks are prohibited from crossing the U.S. 45 Ohio River "Brookport" Bridge between Paducah and Brookport.

To get traffic advisories and alerts for KYTC District 1 counties via email, please go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/KYTC/signup/13651>. Click on the District 1 counties you regularly drive through, or on any of the specialty corridors you travel.

## Congressman Comer announces 2025 Service Academy nominations for Kentucky's 1st District

WASHINGTON— This week, Congressman James Comer (R-Ky.) announced the sixteen local high school students from Kentucky's 1st Congressional District who have received nominations for appointments to the United States

service academies.

"On behalf of Kentucky's 1st Congressional District, I am proud to congratulate these outstanding students on earning nominations to the United States service academies. These students are local leaders and will now have the opportunity to attend our nation's service academies," said Congressman Comer. "Each candidate has distinguished themselves through exceptional scholarship, leadership, and character. Their commitment to serving in our nation's armed forces is truly admirable, and I have every confidence they will continue to excel as

they advance through the appointment process."

Austin Robert Buckman, a student from Fancy Farm who attends Graves County High School, received a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Maxwell David Disney, a student from Cadiz who attends Trigg County High School, received nominations to the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Ethan Grant Gover, a student from Danville who attends Baylor School, received nominations to the United States

Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Ralph Miles Jendro, a student from Paducah who attends Community Christian Academy, received nominations to the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Naval Academy, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Timothy James Jones, a student from Danville who attends Memoria Academy, received a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Owen Thomas Lamer, a student from Campbellsville who attends Taylor

County High School, received nominations to the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Layne Patrick Mattingly, a student from Springfield who attends Washington County High School, received nominations to the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Samuel Joseph Nelson, a student from Sharon Grove who attends Nelson Home Academy, received a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

William Michael

Norris, a student from Paducah who attends St. Mary High School, received nominations to the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Scott Allan Rohrer, a student from Benton who attends Marshall County High School, received nominations to the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Naval Academy, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Talon Antonio Sanchez, a student from Ledbetter who attends Livingston

see NOMINATIONS,  
Back page

# Behind the Beans: University of Kentucky Coffee Lab introduces education certificate

By Grace Sowards  
University of Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky.— Humans crave rituals. Whether one is a student, corporate employee, parent or caretaker, a cup of morning coffee can breathe life into an otherwise monotonous schedule.

David Gonthier, associate professor in the Department of Entomology at the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and one of The Early-Career Bill Gatton Foundation Professors, understands the value in a daily cup of joe. Further, he is leading the University of Kentucky toward its first coffee education program.

Gonthier's interest in coffee started at home. His mother is from Honduras, one of the top coffee-producing countries in the world. He spent time there with his cousin, a coffee farmer, to learn the ins and outs of production and how the supply chain works.

"I'd heard so much about the challenges small coffee farmers face and wanted to go see it firsthand," Gonthier said.

Inspired from his trip, Gonthier pursued a master's and PhD, studying coffee in Southern Mexico. Throughout his learning, he was continu-



Left to right: Viktor Halmos, David Gonthier and Briana Bazile together in the UK Coffee Lab at the UK Horticulture Research Farm.

ing a small operation in Honduras. He continued his education by becoming a coffee Q-grader, or professional taster trained to score coffee quality (somewhat similar to being a wine sommelier).

Over his years in academia, Gonthier realized there are few coffee education programs at higher education institutions in the United States. Combining his love for coffee, agriculture and history, Gonthier created the first Coffee, Science and Culture Certificate for UK undergraduate students.

"The certificate offers a set of courses that casts a wide net across the industry," Gonthier said. "I want

to paint the picture of the global trade of a commodity that is very valuable but is dependent on millions of small producers that need to be supported by this trade. The goal is to balance these facts with the passion of the craft of coffee making, from roasting and brewing, to espresso based specialty drinks."

The UK Coffee Lab roastery resides on the UK Horticulture Research Farm (South Farm). Students in coffee courses come to the lab to see the roaster in action and learn about different bean varieties and how roasting impacts their complex flavors.

"I think the community is excited. There aren't many opportu-

nities to take coffee training to the next level in Eastern North America," Gonthier said. "I think trying to develop university programs that can offer at least versions of some of the standard trainings and other unique opportunities fills a gap in Kentucky for sure."

Briana Bazile is a part-time instructor at UK and graduate fellow in the Gonthier Agroecology Lab. She and Viktor Halmos, research analyst at Martin-Gatton CAFE and an alumnus of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, worked with Gonthier to create the curriculum for the Coffee, Science and Culture

Certificate and get the UK Coffee Lab off the ground.

"I met Dave when deciding if I should go to grad school," Halmos said. "We shared a cup of coffee. I have always been around food and farming. I was a chef for a little while, so I started giving some very basic notes [flavor] and Dave got really excited."

Bazile grew up in the Bay Area and has always been a proponent of healthy eating, as the region is a large organic foods producer. Her grandparents are from the Black Belt of Alabama, a region known for its rich soil

and fruitful farmland. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she spent time there and wrote her graduate thesis through the lens of her family. Her thesis won best thesis in a contest at New York University (NYU), and that is how Gonthier found her.

With this team, Gonthier has created two classes for undergraduates: Not Just Coffee, focusing on the rich history and cultural significance of coffee growing, and Coffee Sensory Science, which dives deeper into the sensory characteristics of the beverage.

"The certificate program will have something for everyone," Gonthier said. "Learning how to taste and appreciate foods and beverages totally improves the quality of life — you'll start to think more about not only coffee, but everything you're eating and drinking and where it comes from."

Pending final institutional approval, students will be able to pursue the certification starting in Fall 2026. For more information on the Coffee, Science and Culture Certificate and the UK Coffee Lab, contact David Gonthier at djgo227@g.uky.edu.

## Kentucky Coffee: A Bold Southern Tradition

Kentucky coffee is a comforting Southern classic that blends rich coffee with the warm kick of Kentucky bourbon. Known for its smooth yet spirited flavor, this drink reflects the heritage of a state famous for both its hospitality and its world-class whiskey. Traditionally served hot, Kentucky coffee combines freshly brewed dark roast coffee, a measure of bourbon, a touch of brown sugar or simple syrup, and a generous topping of lightly whipped cream.

The magic of Kentucky coffee lies in its balance. The bold bitterness of the coffee complements the caramel and vanilla notes found in bourbon, while the cream adds a silky finish. It is especially pop-

ular during colder months, at holiday gatherings, or as an after-dinner treat.

More than just a beverage, Kentucky coffee represents comfort and craftsmanship. Whether

enjoyed by a fireplace or at a festive celebration, it offers a taste of Southern warmth in every sip.

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# Beef Systems Analyzer helps producers improve management, funding access

By Jennifer Elwell  
University of Kentucky



LEXINGTON, Ky.— The University of Kentucky Beef Extension Team has enhanced its Beef Systems Analyzer, an online management tool designed to help producers strengthen their operations through targeted, research-based recommendations.

Supported by funding from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF), the Beef Systems Analyzer evaluates key management areas — such as nutrition, forage, health, genetics, reproduction and general practices — and generates customized recommendations based on producer input.

“Using logic-based modeling, the analyzer asks farmers a series of questions about their management and marketing, then uses these inputs to provide the most critical management changes to improve their operation,” said Darrh Bullock, beef Extension specialist with the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “With every recommendation, producers receive videos and fact sheets to help them implement these practices. Our goal is to improve the efficiency, productivity, profitability and safety of

beef operations across the state.”

Beginning in 2026, producers who complete the program can now earn one hour of educational credit toward the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP), making the tool more valuable than ever for farmers seeking cost-share opportunities. The platform also includes a registration system to support county agriculture and natural resources (ANR) Extension agents and improved database functionality to help manage compliance, storage and program reporting.

“Educational credits are required for recipients of CAIP funds to facilitate adoption of improved, science-based or sustainable practices that enhance farm management, production and marketing,” said Brandon Sears, ANR agent at the Madison County Extension office. “This mandato-

ry, minimum one-hour of training — covering topics like best management practices or technical skills — must be approved by a county ANR Extension agent to validate the investment of public funds.”

To receive CAIP educational credit, producers must register on the website, complete the Best Management Practices Analyzer and one additional analyzer of their choice, and watch the instructional video provided in the program.

After completion, participants may print, download or email their certificate directly from the system. County ANR Extension agents will also have access to certificates through the registration platform and must approve them before credit is awarded.

“The system is designed so that producers will not be overwhelmed with a long

list of tasks,” Bullock said. “Instead, it offers a manageable set of recommendations. Once farmers complete a set of tasks, they can resume the analyzer for additional

insights. Like most software, the best way to learn is simply to use it, and we welcome feedback that can help us continually improve the program.”

The renewed push to promote the Beef Systems Analyzer comes as UK Beef Extension encourages more producers to adopt management practices that increase operational sustainability. Though the software has been available for several years, its official use as a CAIP educational tool represents a significant new opportunity for farmers looking to access funding for improvements

on their operations.

“This free online tool helps producers identify practices to boost efficiency and profitability,” Bullock said. “By pairing personalized recommendations with supporting resources, the analyzer makes improvement more achievable for operations of all sizes.”

Interested producers can visit the Beef Systems Analyzer website for additional information. Assistance is also available through local ANR Extension agents. For technical support, users may contact Darrh Bullock at [dbullock@uky.edu](mailto:dbullock@uky.edu).



**Kids Movie (Pokémon)**  
**Thurs, Feb 26**  
**4pm-5:30pm**  
**Large Community Room**

Drop offs will not be permitted.

This day marks 30 years since the Japanese release of the first Pokémon games Red and Green. What better way to celebrate than eating snacks and watching the movie.

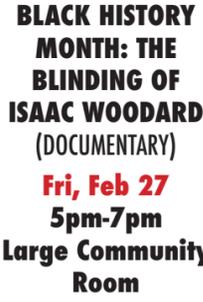


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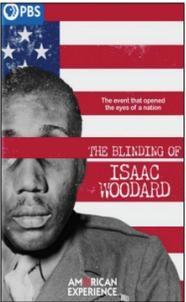


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Oh the places you will go...when you visit the library March 2nd is Dr. Seuss's birthday, and to celebrate this beloved children's author, we are having a 3 hole Sues themed minigolf experience. Can you get your ball around the truffula trees, avoid the mess from Thing 1 and Thing 2, and help Sam deliver the green egg and ham? After sinking your final put, collect a Seus themed goodie bag to remember the night.



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH: THE BLINDING OF ISAAC WOODARD (DOCUMENTARY)**



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**Large Community Room**



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# WEST KY SPORTS



## Mustang Dance Team wins the 2026 NDA National Championship



The McCracken County Dance Team won the 2026 NDA National Championship in the Medium Varsity - Game Day Division in Orlando, Fla. on Monday, Feb. 15. *(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)*

## Paducah Tilghman High School seniors sign with college football programs



Four Paducah Tilghman High School seniors signed with college football programs during a ceremony held at PTHS on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Brendan Brown (Murray State University), Stone Crowe (Lindsey Wilson University), Javin Dukes (McKendree University) and D.J. Wilson (Thomas More University) each signed during the ceremony. During their time at PTHS, the four seniors won a state championship and compiled a 46-10 overall record. *(Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School)*



## Marshall County crowns Homecoming King and Queen



Neyland Jezik and Evylee Terry were crowned the 2026 Marshall County Basketball Homecoming King and Queen.  
(Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Athletics)

## Lady Bombers Entering Final Week



(Photo by Tim Taylor)

**By Tim Taylor**  
KPI Sports Writer

Closing in on a 20-plus win season, the Lady Bombers have to execute on both ends of the floor. In their 3rd meeting of the season against St. Mary, Ballard Memorial looked to claim the season win as the teams split their prior meetings. The Lady Bombers looked to deliver the knockout punch, but they could not put the Lady Vikings away. They took a 15-9 lead before St. Mary tied the game up at 15 all. Gracee Beere's trey late in the half allowed the Lady Bombers take a 22-17 led, but St Mary closed to within 22-21 at the half. The Lady Vikings rallied to take a 33-32 lead into the 4th quarter. Ballard Memorial scored the

first 6 points of the final quarter and would not relinquish the lead the remainder of the game. St. Mary closed to within 39-38 but Ballard Memorial hit enough free throws down the stretch to win 44-41. Beere led the Lady Bombers with 14 and senior Kate O'Neill added 10 points. In another rematch, Ballard Memorial played host to Muhlenberg County. The Lady Mustangs won their earlier meeting by 17, but Lady Bombers had done much better in all their rematches throughout the season. Ballard Memorial led 20-15 before Muhlenberg went on an 11-0 run to gain control of the game. They led by as many as 10 points in the 4th quarter. Ballard Memorial closed to within 47-43 but

the Lady Mustangs scored the next 5 to go back up by 9. With 17 seconds remaining, Beere hit her 5th trey of the game to pull back to within 54-50, but Muhlenberg put the game away with a pair of free throws to win 56-50. Beere led the team with 19 points. Beere duplicated that with another 19 point and 5 trey performance in the Lady Bombers 46-36 win over Trigg County. Ali Dorman came off the bench to score 10 points and hit a pair of treys in the Lady Bombers 18th win of the season. Ballard Memorial will play at Charleson, Mo on Friday the 20th before playing Mayfield in the 3rd District semifinal game on Tuesday the 24th at 6:00 at Mayfield High School.

## Bombers Building For The Post Season Play



(Photo by Tim Taylor)

**By Tim Taylor**  
KPI Sports Writer

Ballard Memorial rallied to defeat out of state foe Vienna, IL 56-50 to pick up the teams' 7th win of the season. Vienna did a good job of driving into the lane and kicking out to open shooters to gain a 9 point first half lead. Mason Crowley scored 9 1st half points to help trim the deficit to 27-22 at the half. Vienna extended the lead back to 9 in the 3rd quarter before the Bombers gained momentum to grab the lead. A 22-7 rally gave the Bombers a 49-43 lead. Grayson Sparacio led the team with 16 points and Reed Duren added 11 in the Bombers win. The Bombers then faced a long time rival

St. Mary. The Vikings won their earlier meeting by 2 in overtime early in the season. Sparacio and Ike Miller led the Bombers with a combined 27 of the teams 29 1st half points to lead 29-27 at the halftime break. Things turned in favor toward the end of the 3rd quarter for the Vikings. St. Mary trailed 40-35 late in the 3rd quarter and then went on a 16-3 run to take command. The Vikings went on to pick up the 58-51 win. Sparacio had a team high of 21 points and 7 rebounds while Miller added 19 points and 6 rebounds. Miller also hauled in his 700th career rebound for the Bombers. Ballard Memorial begins the final week of the regular season at Trigg County. Both teams strug-

gled offensively as the Wildcats carried a 19-17 lead into the locker room. Miller got things started in the 2nd half, hitting a trey to give the Bombers their first lead of the night. That led to a 21-6 Bomber 3rd quarter advantage to give Ballard Memorial a 38-25 lead. The Bombers hit 5 treys in the 2nd half to pull away for the 54-35 win. Sparacio had 15 points and Miller added 13 points and 17 rebounds for another double-double. The Bombers will play the Mayfield Cardinals at Mayfield on Tuesday, February 24th in the 3rd District Tournament around 7:30. The winner plays on Thursday in the 3rd District Championship against Graves County.

## Senior Miles Woodfork reaches 2,000 career points



McCracken County senior Miles Woodfork scored his 2,000th career point on senior night during a game versus Calloway County on Tuesday, Feb. 17.  
(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)



McCracken County High School baseball program held its annual youth camp on Saturday, Feb. 7. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

## Ike Miller records his 700th career rebound



Ballard Memorial's Ike Miller recorded his 700th career rebound on Friday, February 13th against St. Mary. (Photo courtesy of Sherry Taylor)

## Sophomore Ava Hughes scores her 1,000th career point



McCracken County sophomore Ava Hughes was honored for scoring the 1,000th point of her high school basketball career in a game versus Owensboro Catholic on Saturday, Feb. 7. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

## Lakers fend off Falcons

### Staff Report

MURRAY — Calloway County held on to defeat Hickman County 51-46 in a non-district boys' basketball game on Thursday, Feb. 12.

The Lakers and Falcons are 1st Region counterparts.

Calloway County shot 44.2 percent (19-of-43) from the field. The Lakers shot 36.7 percent (11-of-30) from three-point range.

Calloway County shot 50.0 percent (two-of-four) from the free throw line.

Owning an advantage inside, Calloway County outrebounded Hickman County 22-15.

Luke Armstrong scored a game-high 16 points for the Lakers.

Joining Armstrong in double figures for Calloway County, Jackson Ames and Trent Jones netted 11 points apiece.

Barely missing double figures, Peyton Weatherford added nine points for the Lakers.

Following Weatherford, Acey Stricklin (two points) and Braylynn Morris (two points) supplied the rest of Calloway County's scoring.

Hickman County shot 46.9 percent (15-of-32) from the field. The Falcons shot 35.3 percent (six-of-17) from three-point range.

Hickman County shot 66.7 percent (10-of-15) from the free throw line.

Logan Grimmitt scored a game-high 16 points for the Falcons. Grimmitt drained three of four three-point field goal attempts.

Kaybrun Burton accompanied Grimmitt in double figures for Hickman County, scoring 10 points.

Narrowly missing double figures, Boston Boaz netted nine points for the Falcons.

Six players broke into Hickman County's scoring column. The additional scorers for Hickman County were Brec Byassee (five points), Brendan Rosas (four points) and Elijah Ware (two points).

## High school flag football revisions announced

### Staff Report

LEXINGTON — In its first meeting to address rules changes in the sport, the NFHS Flag Football Rules Committee approved eight changes to the initial set of rules developed last year.

All revisions recommended by the NFHS Flag Football Rules Committee were reviewed by the NFHS Rules Review Committee and subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Headlining the revisions recommended by the committee at its January 26-27 meeting was an exception to Rule 8-3-9, which will allow the team trailing in score to keep possession of the ball following a try. If it so elects, the trailing team would take possession of the ball, fourth down at its own 20-yard line.

Normally, after a try by the scoring team, the opponent receives the ball at its own 14-yard line. This opportunity to retain the ball is an attempt to mirror tackle football, which provides the scoring team the option of an onside kick to retain possession of the ball.

"Following thorough experimentation in multiple states, the committee is excited to introduce flag football's version of an onside kick," said Tyler Cerimeli, chair of the NFHS Flag Football Rules Committee and director of athletics and officials for the Arizona Interscholastic Association. "This will allow a team that is trailing the opportunity to run a high-risk play in order to retain possession and facilitate a potential comeback."

Another change approved for high school flag football in 2026-27 involves restarting play following a safety. Next year, following a safety, the team whose goal line was involved shall put the ball in play by scrimmage kick from its own 20-yard line. In the first set of rules last year, the team whose goal line was not involved put the ball in play by snap from its own 30-yard line.

Bob Colgate, NFHS director of sports and sports medicine and editor of the NFHS Flag Football Rules Committee, said the committee made this change to create a more significant field position advantage while also becoming consistent with tackle football.

Other revisions included three changes in Rule 1 – The Game, Field, Players and Equipment, two of which are by state association adoption. Beginning in 2026-27, states will have a fourth option for the size of the playing field. In addition to the existing options of 300 x 120 feet, 360 x 120 feet and 360 by 160 feet, the committee approved the additional size of 300 x 160 feet.

The other rule revision by state adoption is a note to Rule 1-3-7, which will offer states the option of instant replay during state postseason games only.

The rules committee continued

to support the seven-player game for high school flag football, but a change was made to Rule 1-1-3 stating that each team shall begin the game with seven players, but if a team has no substitutes to replace injured or disqualified players, it may play with no fewer than five.

In Rule 2-18, the committee approved a new definition of hurdling as follows: Hurdling is an attempt by a player to jump (hurdle) with one or both feet or knees foremost over an opponent who is contacting the ground with no part of their body except one or both feet.

Colgate said the committee added this definition because it was not previously defined but was listed as an illegal personal contact foul in the initial rules book last year.

The final changes include one to Rule 3-5-1, which increases the total number of charged time-outs per half from two to three, as well as a revision to Rule 9-7-4, which clarifies what cannot be done to the ball that is in player possession. Article 4 now states that a ball in player possession shall not be batted, stripped or attempted to be stripped by punching, striking or grabbing the ball by a player of either team.

A complete listing of the flag football rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on "Sports" at the top of the home page and select "Flag Football" and then "Rules." The print version of the 2026-27 Flag Football Rules Book will be available for purchase in late May at [www.NFHS.com](http://www.NFHS.com), and the digital version will be available in May via NFHS Digital at [www.NFHS.org](http://www.NFHS.org).

Currently, 17 state associations have sanctioned girls flag football, with six additional states voting on sanctioning in 2026, and 15 states are involved in independent/pilot programs at some level. States that have sanctioned the sport for girls include NFHS member associations in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington. The Louisiana High School Athletic Association will begin sanctioning the sport in 2027.

The six state associations voting in 2026 include Oregon, Kansas, North Carolina, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Maryland.

State associations with independent/pilot programs include Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

According to the 2024-25 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, a total of 68,847 girls participated in flag football in 2,736 schools nationwide.



# AG UPDATE

for Ag and Natural Resources



Tom Miller, Ballard County Ext. Agent

## Bale Grazing: A Winter Feeding Strategy That Works

Source: Greg Halich, Extension professor in agricultural economics

The winter feeding method known as bale grazing can reduce tractor use by more than 50%, keep cattle clean and out of mud and improve pasture fertility without buying fertilizer. This method will also allow livestock producers to take a worry-free winter vacation.

Many believe these benefits sound too good to be true, but they have been consistently observed on nearly 100 farms across five states over the past decade. With a small investment in portable fencing and a shift in winter management, bale grazing can transform how you feed cattle.

What is bale grazing?

Instead of delivering hay to livestock as needed, one to three months of winter hay



is placed on pasture in large batches. This is typically done in late fall or early winter, when drier ground conditions allow for tractor traffic. Bales are sectioned off by temporary electric fencing, and cattle gain access to new bales as you move the fence every few days, much like rotational grazing. When hay rings are used, they're simply rolled to the next set of bales.

Pugging damage to the soil is minimized because the cattle spend most of their time near the current set of bales. The sod they were just moved to hasn't had any animal impact for months, and that pasture will only be bale-grazed once that winter.

The biggest mindset shift? Instead of moving hay to the cattle all winter, you will be moving your cattle to

the hay. Instead of you doing the bulk of the winter feeding work, your cattle will do the bulk of the work for you.

What are the benefits of bale grazing?

Better fertility, less work. Bale grazing spreads nutrients across the pasture naturally. Many farms have seen dramatic improvements in pasture production within two to four winters. Reduced tractor use.

Hay is distributed in large batches during dry weather, eliminating the need to drive a tractor through wet winter fields. Most farms see immediate reductions in labor and fuel use, with 50% or more time savings by year two or three as confidence grows in setting out more hay at once.

Cleaner, healthier cattle. Cattle stay cleaner because they're moved onto fresh sod every few days rather than standing in accumulated mud near a single hay-feeding area. Cleaner coats mean better insulation and less energy spent navigating muddy ground.

Easier winter travel. Because you only need to move a portable fence every few days — and can even preset

moves — it's far easier to leave the farm for short periods. Helpers don't need to operate equipment; they only need to move portable fencing.

What are the challenges of bale grazing?

The biggest hurdles are planning and cattle training. You'll need to estimate winter hay needs, choose suitable pastures and plan bale layout before winter begins. Cattle must also be comfortable with temporary electric fencing. Training is simple but essential — especially when numerous bales sit behind a single crossfence. Using two fences (current and next move) adds security. And as always, avoid letting cattle get hungry enough to test a fence.

# Kentucky's Spring Forest Fire Hazard Season Underway

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

Emergency Management officials across Kentucky are reminding residents that the Spring Forest Fire Hazard Season runs from February 15 through April 30, bringing restrictions

on outdoor burning to help prevent wildfires and protect lives, property, and first responders.

State law prohibits burning within 150 feet of woodland or brushland between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Where local regulations allow, natural vege-

tation such as leaves, brush, and tree limbs may be burned only between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., when winds are typically calmer and humidity is higher. Residents should burn only when conditions are safe, with calm air and adequate moisture to prevent flames

from spreading.

Burning garbage, plastics, tires, treated wood, or other household waste is illegal at any time. Any permitted fire must be kept small, constantly attended, and fully extinguished before leaving the area. Officials also warn

that recent snow and ice brought down limbs and debris that can become dry fuel for wildfires as temperatures rise. Residents are encouraged to review local ordinances and consult air quality or waste management agencies before conducting out-

door burning. Emergency officials stress a simple but critical reminder: never leave a fire unattended. Careful adherence to seasonal burn restrictions helps protect communities across the Commonwealth.

## FARM MACHINERY AUCTION

Saturday, February 21st, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

901 State Hwy 1181 • Bardwell, KY 42023

**Warren & Diane Dunn Retirement Auction**

**HELD ONSITE & ONLINE!**

**TRACTORS**

**1998 John Deere 8300 Tractor:** Rear Tires: Michelin 480/80R46 Duals • Front Tires: Firestone 420/90R30 • Features: Quick Hitch, (10) Front Weights • Ag Leader Auto Steer • SN# RW8300P022752 • Hours: 8,863

**2012 Challenger MT655D Tractor:** Model: MT655D • Type: K30G22KR313K • SN#: B319045 • Hours: 4,852 • Monitor: Ag Leader Integra • Hydraulics: 4 Remotes • Add'l Equipment: Front Weights Included

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**HARVESTING EQUIPMENT**

**2011 Case IH 8120 Axial-Flow Combine:** Drive: 2-Speed, 4WD • Monitor: Pro 700 • Front Tires: Dual 20.8R42 • Rear Tires: 28L26R • SN#: 380/90R46 • Engine Hours: 4 784 • Separator Hours: 3,457

**2010 Drago 12-Row Corn Head:** Rows: 12 • Row Spacing: 20" • Model: S12 • Compatibility: Case IH Flagship • SN#: NMA272410

**2010 Case IH / MacDon 2162 Header:** Width: 35 ft • SN#: 2033965

**PLANTING EQUIPMENT**

**Case IH 1200 Pivot Planter:** Rows: 24 • Row Spacing: 20" • Type: Pivot Planter • SN#: CBJ036594

**APPLICATION & FERTILIZER EQUIPMENT**

**2008 John Deere 4730 Self-Propelled Sprayer:** Hours: 4,261 • Tires: 380/90R46 • Booms: 90 ft • Nozzle Spacing: 15" • Plumbing: Stainless Piping • Tank Capacity: 800 Gallon • Fill: 3" Fill • Features: Section Control, Boom Height Control, Ride Control • SN#: 4730X004649

**DMI 15-Shank Nutri-Placer Anhydrous Applicator:** Shanks: 15 • Equipped With: Yetter Shanks • Controls: Raven Controls

**Tyler 6-Ton Fertilizer Spreader:** Capacity: 6 Ton • Controls: Hydraulic Controls

**H&S Model 270 Manure Spreader:** Model: 270 • Features: Slop Gate

**TILLAGE EQUIPMENT**

**Great Plains Ultra-Till:** Model: UT3030 • Width: 30 ft • Equipped With: Gandy Orbit Air • Hydraulics: Yes

**McFarlane Dura-Reel:** Working Width: 35 ft • Models: RD-4100 / RD-4135-RB • SN#: 18484

**Reynolds 8CF Dirtpan:** that includes a drawbar that is for a 60 series John Deere tractor. SN#: 19905

**GRAIN HANDLING & CONVEYANCE**

**Killbros 1800 Grain Cart:** Features: Roll Tarp

**Convey-All Seed Cart:** Model: B45-290-SP • Conveyer Type: Belt Conveyer • Features: Scales, Roll Top • SN#: 062589 • Mounted On: 2-Axle Trailer • Trailer SN: 220306488

**Brandt Grain Belt Conveyer:** Model: 1585 • SN#: 92523

**Kinze 450 Conveyer:** Model: 450 • Conveyer Type: Belt Conveyer

**TRAILERS & TRANSPORT**

**1999 Merritt Hopper Trailer:** Length: 40 ft • Model: 41X96X68X25X2AXMGS • ID#: 1MT2P412IYH013278 • Suspension: Air Ride • Tires: 11R24.5 • Tarp: Electric

**EZ-Trail 672 Header Trailer:** Includes: (6) Stock Stoppers

**Green Unverferth Header Wagon:** Length: 42 ft

**Rawhide Company, Inc. Cattle Gooseneck:** Length: 24 ft • Type: Cattle Gooseneck Trailer

**Gooseneck Hay Hauler:** Length: 16 ft • Construction: Homemade • Capacity: Approx. 6 Round Bales

**40 ft Trailmobile Water Trailer:** Trailer Number: 763111 • Model: P3IT-OSAH • Tank Setup: (3) - 1,600 Gallon Tanks • (2) Mixing Tanks • Pump: Honda Pump

**2002 Great Dane Box Trailer:** Length: 53 ft • Axle: Single Axle • Use: Storage Only • Title: No Title Available

**TRACTORS**

**2010 New Holland T8040 Tractor** 3,003 original hours. Features SuperSteer front axle, all-new front duals 480/70/R34, rear duals 480/80/R50, 18-speed transmission with 5-speed creeper, four rear remotes, guidance, quick hitch, and Pro 700 monitor.

**TRACTOR WAS BOUGHT NEW.**

**2009 John Deere 6430 Premium Tractor** (Consigned by Neighbor) 8983 hours, equipped with 16-speed transmission, left-hand reverse, three remotes, 540/1000 PTO, front tires 380/85R24, rear tires 480/85R34, and 673 loader with joystick self-leveling loader. SN#: L06430H561729

**Case IH 7250 MFWD** (Local Consignment) 4,230 hours, 3 Remotes, Front Tires 420/85/R30, Back Tires 520/85/R42 with Duals, Quick Hitch, Front Fenders, 13 Front Weights

**COMBINE**

**2010 John Deere 5780 Combine** 945.5 separator hours and 1,325 engine hours, equipped with ProDrive transmission, chopper, PowerCast tailboard, Contour Master, and power fold extension. Equipped with 650/85R38 front dual tires and 750/65R26 rear tires. SN#: 1H05780SELT810615

**HEADERS & HEADER SUPPORT**

**2019 MacDon FD140 FlexDraper Header, 40 ft** 40-ft cutting width and John Deere S-Series hookups. SN#: 352251-19

**Horst 4-Wheel Steer Header Cart, 45 ft** Rated for headers up to 45 ft, equipped with like-new 14-ply tires. SN#: 1302515

**2014 John Deere 618C Corn Head, 18 Row, 20-inch Spacing (30 ft)** Equipped with knife rollers and new paint. SN#: 1H00618CPEX765223

**Unverferth Header Transport, 30 ft** SN#: A45060227

**Crop Sweeper for 12-Row Corn Head** Aluminum 30ft wide crop sweeper down corn attachment designed for a 12-row corn head.

**PLANTING & APPLICATION EQUIPMENT**

**Kinze 3700 Planter, 24 Row, 20-inch Spacing** Precision Corn Meters, Kinze brush meters, 48-cell and 60-cell bean plates, canola plates, no-till setup with cast closing wheels, and KPM II monitor. SN#: 750925

**Great Plains Precision Seeding System** Configured for 30-ft width with 7½-inch spacing; includes wheat and soybean plates. Model: 3N3010P

**Schaben Applicator / Side Dresser, 23 Row, 20-inch - Bought New** Equipped with Raven controls, stainless steel hydraulic pump, 1,500-gallon tank, and Goodyear 380/90R46 tires. SN#: 1093

**GRAIN CARTS & HANDLING**

**Unverferth 1310 Grain Cart** Equipped with roll tarp, Firestone 1250/45-32 tires, and hydraulic-adjust spout. SN#: B29990111

**M&W 750 Grain Cart** With Shur-Lok Roll Tarp, 800/65/32 Tires, Auger With 2-ft Extension, And 1000 Pto, Auger tube Re-Lined and Auger Re-Flighted.

**TILLAGE EQUIPMENT**

**2014 Kelly Diamond Harrow, 45 ft** SN#: 11505

**Unverferth 1225 Rolling Harrow, 32.5 ft**

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**Phoenix H11 Rolling Harrow, 25 ft** 25-ft working width; good pasture renovator.

**DMI Eco-Tiger 730 Ripper** Equipped w/hydraulic-adjust coulters & 7 shanks

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**Amco Offset Disc, 14 ft** 14-ft working width with 21-inch blades.

**TRUCK, TRAILERS & BED**

**2003 International 9200I Day Cab Truck** Detroit Diesel Series 60 (430 HP), 10-speed transmission, air ride, like-new 11R22.5 rubber, 541,882 original miles. VIN: 2HSCAMR93C051305

**2006 Single Hopper Bottom Trailer, 30 ft** Shur-Lok tarp, air-operated clam doors, aluminum wheels, like-new General 11R22.5 tires. VIN: 1W9H30296M011024

**1998 Single Hopper Bottom Trailer, 28.5 ft** Like-new General 11R22.5 tires, Shur-Lok tarp, air doors, aluminum wheels.

**Omaha Standard Truck Bed - 12 ft**

**SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & PARTS**

**2013 Palmer Fiberglass Fertilizer Tank, 20,000 Gallons** Measures 12 ft x 24 ft. Tank will be empty. SN#: G24769

**6,000-Gallon Fuel Tank with Pump** Equipped with 35-GPM Bluffton pump and 1-inch hose.

**2 - 3,200-Bushel Hopper Bottom Grain Bins** 1 w/unloading Auger and 1 w/aeration tube

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Thursday, February 26th, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Ronald Smith Farms Retirement Auction

**28 Vann Pitt Road • Benton, KY 42025**

**HELD ONSITE & ONLINE!**

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**HOMES - FARMLAND**  
**ESTATES - WATERFRONT**

**MICHAEL HARRIS**

PRINCIPAL BROKER  
PRINCIPAL AUCTIONEER  
KL# 252972 | KY Broker# 198374

Phone: 270-247-3253 Toll Free: 800-380-4318 [harrisauctions.com](http://harrisauctions.com)

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# Western Kentucky Distillery Earns Global Honors

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

In a remarkable season of achievement, Jackson Purchase Distillery and its leadership have earned prestigious recognition at both the state and international levels, bringing pride not only to Fulton County but to all of Western Kentucky.

Head Distiller Terry Ballard was recently named 2026 Distillery Manager of the Year at the renowned World Whiskies Awards—one of the spirits industry's most respected global competitions.

In his role, Ballard oversees the day-to-day operations at the Hickman distillery, manages staff and leads efforts to connect the distillery with the Fulton County community. The honor reflects his leadership, operational excellence and dedication to the team, recognizing the people and craftsmanship behind the barrels as much as the bourbon itself.

Adding to the historic recognition,



Master Distiller Craig Beam was inducted into the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame in 2025. A seventh-generation distiller, Beam's career represents decades of influence

and craftsmanship within Kentucky's signature industry, making his induction a milestone for both the distillery and the broader bourbon tradition.

The honors extend

beyond individual achievement. Jackson Purchase Distillery also received the 2025 Environmental Sustainability Award, highlighting a commitment to responsible production practices and long-term stewardship of the region's natural resources.

Since opening in 2021, the distillery has rapidly grown into a major contract producer and recently celebrated filling its 100,000th barrel—an achievement signaling strong momentum and con-

fidence in Western Kentucky's expanding role in the future of bourbon.

Together, these recognitions tell a powerful story of heritage, leadership and forward progress. They affirm that world-class excellence is thriving in Hickman and stand as a shared honor for communities across Western Kentucky, whose tradition of hard work and pride continues to shape Kentucky's global bourbon legacy.

## KEA retired teachers hold meeting

By Charlotte Benton  
KEAR

FD KEAR met February 17th at 12 Noon at The Hub. Glenda Barkley gave the devotional and blessing. Boxed lunches were served by The Steam. Dr. Anton Reese, WKCTC President presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Opportunities for learning and Showcasing high national rankings of Paducah's two year college, WKCTC. Legislative issues were discussed which



Dr. Anton Reese, WKCTC President

related to retirees. Door prizes were awarded. Next meeting is scheduled for May 11th, 12 Noon, place to be determined.

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## First Baptist Barlow honors the life and legacy of Patty Rich

By: Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

Recently, the congregation of First Baptist Church in Barlow paused to honor and remember the life of Ms. Patty L. Rich, a faithful and beloved member who passed away on Monday, February 9, 2026. Church members wore special hats during the morning service as a simple but heartfelt tribute to a woman whose kindness and

warmth touched countless lives. Patty retired as Deputy Clerk from the Ballard County Court Clerk's Office, where she greeted nearly everyone with a welcoming smile and friendly conversation. Her genuine care for others extended far beyond her workplace and into the heart of the community she loved. In retirement, Patty enjoyed peaceful moments on her front porch,

always ready to welcome friends and family for fellowship. The Ballard County community's steady love, support, and everyday kindness serve as a true breath of fresh air—something Patty both experienced and shared with others. Her life left a lasting impact not only within her church, but across the entire county, where she will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

## Ballard Fiscal Court reviews bridge project, staffing and grants

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

The Ballard County Fiscal Court met Feb. 3, 2026, at 5 p.m. with Judge-Executive Todd Cooper and magistrates Ryan Hedrick, Jody Brown, Stonnie Dennis, Nathan Whipple and Chip Bisson in attendance. The court approved the Jan. 20 meeting minutes without a public reading.

Much of the discussion focused on road department business. Magistrates unanimously accepted a \$348,998.14 bid from Jim Smith Construction for the Morning Meadows Bridge replacement. The court also approved use of a private roadway owned by JK Reeves for public travel during

construction, allowing the county to haul gravel, spread it and maintain the road as needed. In a separate vote, magistrates approved extended warranty coverage through June 30, 2026, for Diamond Mowers equipment after earlier mechanical issues. Court members also thanked road crews and local farmers who helped clear county roads during the recent winter weather.

Several personnel actions were approved, including hiring for the ambulance service, re-hiring a jail employee and promoting another to full-time status. Later in the meeting, the court voted to suspend a jail employee without pay or benefits pending the outcome of an Illinois criminal case.

Sheriff Ronnie Giles met with the court in executive session. After returning to open session, magistrates approved a \$37,000 loan agreement with the Sheriff's Department for an employee contract buyout, to be repaid by Jan. 31, 2027.

911 Dispatch Director Larry Fraser reported progress toward Next Generation 911, with a projected start date of March 26, 2026, and noted the closing of a Homeland Security grant tied to dispatch consolidation.

The court also approved budget amendments, routine payments and resolutions connected to grant funding for a proposed 30-acre riverfront development site near Wickliffe before adjourning.

## MinistrySafe offering free webinars

MinistrySafe, which equips churches and ministry programs to better protect children from sexual abuse, is offering a free once-a-month webinar series starting Feb. 26.

The webinar series will equip ministry leaders with practical, actionable guidance for strengthening child protection efforts.

MinistrySafe was founded by legal professionals and sexual abuse experts, Gregory Love and Kimberlee Norris. Through their litigation practice representing victims of child sexual abuse, they recognized the vital need to equip churches and ministry programs to

better protect children from sexual abuse. The risk is real, and it's preventable. Prevention starts with awareness.

The Journey to a Safer Ministry Webinar Series is a monthly, one-hour series led by the husband-wife team of Love and Norris. Drawing from their sexual abuse legal work and advising organizations on prevention, each session is designed to help ministry leaders take steady, practical steps toward stronger child protection. Topics range from their most frequently requested areas, such as guidance on reporting, to more nuanced risks that

are often overlooked, including peer-to-peer abuse and how to prevent it.

Each session equips participants to:

Understand how sexual abuse risk presents in ministry settings

Implement practical steps that can be applied immediately

Strengthen a team's ability to protect children in their care

The series is free to attend and open to both current MinistrySafe members and non-members. Special thanks to Tithely for sponsoring this Journey in 2026.

For more information, visit [MinistrySafe.com/webinars](http://MinistrySafe.com/webinars)



La Center City and Rural Fire Chief Tyler Powell presents Jerry Beasley a plaque as he retires after being on the department since 1989. Thank you Jerry for your service. Remember if serving your community in this much needed way REMEMBER the Fire departments in your area Need You!

Photo by Karen Hargrove

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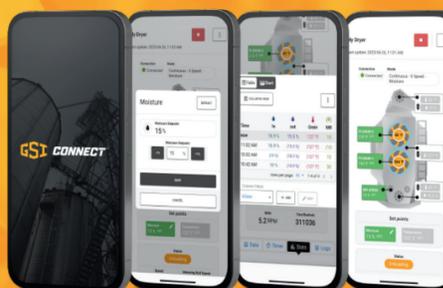
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# OCTC Workforce Solutions to host TechX information sessions

By Hailey Pickle

OWENSBORO, KY —Owensboro Community & Technical College (OCTC) will host two upcoming TechX (Technician Express) information sessions for individuals interested in fast-track training for high-demand manufacturing and industrial careers.

The sessions will be held on March 3 at 5:30 p.m. and April 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the Industry Innovation Center (IIC) Lobby on OCTC's main campus, located at 4800 New Hartford Rd.

TechX is an accelerated training program designed to help students earn

industry-recognized credentials in as little as two semesters through hands-on, industry-driven instruction. Participants train with experienced instructors while building practical technical skills aligned with workforce needs.

The program offers an employer-driven evening track that allows many students to continue working while completing their training. Credentials earned through TechX may also be stacked toward an Associate in Applied Science degree.

During the information sessions, attendees will learn about

program structure, scheduling, credential opportunities, degree pathways, and available support services.

The TechX Info Sessions are open to current and prospective students, as well as community members interested in exploring career advancement

opportunities in advanced manufacturing.

For more information about TechX, visit: <https://owensboro.kctcs.edu/education-training/program-finder/tech-x.aspx>.

RSVP for the information sessions by emailing [alicyn.rodgers@kctcs.edu](mailto:alicyn.rodgers@kctcs.edu) or calling 270-686-4641.



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**NOMINATIONS,**  
from front page

County High School, received a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Daniel Gunner Stiner, a student from Cadiz who attends Lyon County High School, received a nomination to the United States Air Force Academy.

Luke Michael Toothaker, a student from Frankfort who attends Air Force Academy Prep School, received a nomination to the United States Air Force Academy.

Luke William Turner, a student from Benton who attends Marshall County High School, received a nomination to the United States Air Force Academy.

Anna Jane Watson, a student from Danville who attends Danville High School, received nominations to the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Kylee Lane White, a student from Princeton who attends Caldwell County High School, received nominations to the United States Military Academy at West Point, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Naval Academy.

# Comer announces 2026 Congressional Art Competition for 1st District high school students

WASHINGTON—Congressman James Comer (R-Ky.) is inviting all high school students in Kentucky's 1st Congressional District to participate in the 2026 Congressional Art Competition. The annual competition provides local students with an opportunity to showcase their creativity and compete for national recognition. The winning artwork from Kentucky's 1st District will be displayed for

one year in the U.S. Capitol as part of a national exhibit featuring artwork from congressional districts across the United States.

"I encourage every high school student in Kentucky's 1st District with an interest in art to participate in this year's competition," said Congressman Comer. "The Congressional Art Competition is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their talent, gain



national recognition, and represent Kentucky in the United States Capitol. I look forward to seeing the incredible creativity this year."

Each spring, Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

sponsor a nationwide high school arts competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent from across the country. The competition is open to all high school students residing in Kentucky's 1st

Congressional District. Artwork may be mailed to or dropped off at Congressman Comer's District Offices. All entries must be received no later than Monday, April 20, 2026.

For more information about the Congressional Art Competition, including official rules for students and teachers, please visit Congressman Comer's website or contact his office.

**ISSUES,**  
from front page

lawsuit. It has broad support and is expected to pass this year.

In addition, we were briefed on a bill to offer incentives for developing new residential subdivisions — a high priority in McCracken County. Under the proposal, developers would receive temporary tax breaks to help offset infrastructure costs such as roads and utilities, making it easier to create the housing our community needs.

A representative from a company planning a major economic development project in Paducah requested a meeting with Eddie and me, while Judge Clymer met with legislators, state officials, and

a private company about another project. All of these meetings were productive and helped highlight the opportunities emerging in McCracken County.

Our time in the Capitol Annex office complex also allowed us to connect with legislators, state, and community leaders from across Kentucky. These "hallway visits" gave us the chance to discuss shared challenges, promote important issues, and answer the frequent question, "What's going on in McCracken County?" Many had already heard about our economic development announcements, the sports park, and other positive developments.

The visit ended with the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Chamber Day and West Kentucky Night

reception. The 70-plus community leaders advocated for a long list of priorities. Speakers included three state cabinet secretaries, Gov. Andy Beshear and Rep. James Comer.

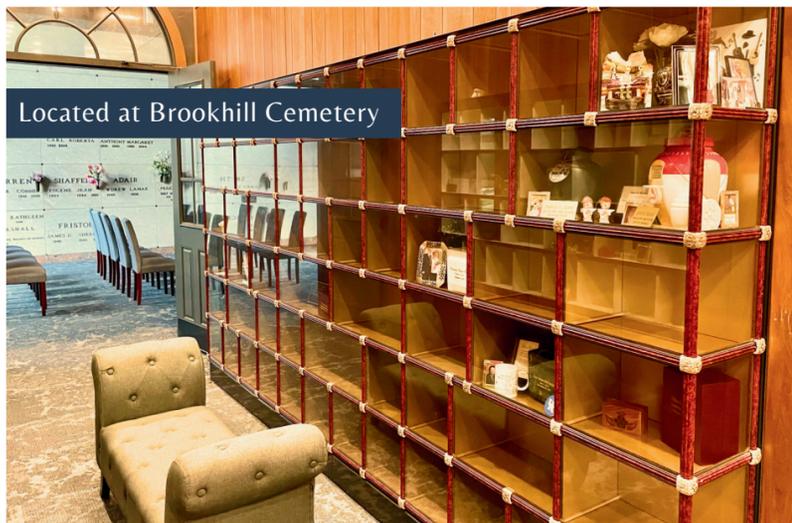
The meetings in Frankfort provided a great opportunity to serve as ambassadors for our community and the region. We reminded others that Kentucky doesn't end at I-65 and that significant economic development success is happening outside the Golden Triangle. Increasingly, major development is shifting toward what we'll proudly call the Golden Jewell -- McCracken County and western Kentucky.

(Bill Bartleman is a former reporter for the Paducah Sun and has served three terms as McCracken County's 1st District commissioner.)



Black History Month has a lengthy history that dates back more than a century. According to History.com, historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in September 1915. Promoting the achievements of Black Americans was among the various missions of the ASNLH. One of

the ways the ASNLH sought to achieve that mission was through the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Organizers chose the second week of February for the event because that week happened to be when Abraham Lincoln (1809) and Frederick Douglass (1818) were born. Lincoln and Douglass played pivotal roles in the abolition of slavery in the United States. After the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926, more and more cities began to celebrate it. History.com notes that by the 1960s Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on college campuses, eventually leading to formal recognition of the event by American president Gerald Ford in 1976.



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# McConnell secures \$2.6 billion to Kentucky for fiscal year

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

WASHINGTON (KT) – U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Louisville, announced Tuesday he brought home nearly \$2.6 billion to Kentucky in the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process.

This is a single-year record for the state and for McConnell, through the regular appropriations process. The total number of federal dollars the senior senator from Kentucky has been able to secure for his home state throughout his 40-plus year career in the Senate is more than \$65 billion.

“This year’s federal funding for Kentucky will help stimulate economic growth in many different sectors including defense, law enforcement, medical research, science, national parks and recreation,” he said in a press release.

The projects include:

More than \$230 million will go to post-secondary educational institutions including the University of Louisville, the University of Kentucky, Morehead State University, Campbellsville University and Madisonville Community College. These schools will see an increase in



Sen. Mitch McConnell has secured \$2.9 billion for Kentucky in Fiscal Year 2026 through the appropriations process.

(Photo by Kentucky Today)

funding for research spanning sectors of agriculture, defense, medicine, and science and the enhancement of degree programs in mental health and aviation.

He secured over \$1.7 billion for Kentucky’s defense and military

construction priorities. Over \$994 million will go to Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), helping ensure the site’s future as a center for the manufacture of critical energetic materials for our military.

\$634 million will go

toward strengthening the defense industrial base in Kentucky. \$73 million will go to Ft. Knox to help build, replace, and modernize facilities and \$56 million will go to Ft. Campbell for a new air traffic control tower and new hangars.

Another \$36 million will update airport facilities, including Louisville International Airport (SDF), Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), Elizabethtown Regional Airport (EKX), Blue Grass Airport (LEX), and Barkley Regional Airport (PAH).

\$30 million in transportation funding will go to Kentucky’s

interstates and highways including the I-69 Ohio River Crossing project in Henderson and the Hal Rogers Parkway, to widen the thoroughfare.

McConnell also secured more than \$402 million in the appropriations bill for energy and water related projects. This funding will go to the Department of Energy’s Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) and Rough River Dam. The bill also includes investments for a continued erosion study at Columbus-Belmont State Park.

McConnell will retire from the Senate at the end of the year.



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# FIRST-PERSON: An open letter to Governor Andy Beshear

By **SETH CARTER**  
Pastor FBC Paintsville

Dear Governor Beshear,  
I write to you as a Baptist pastor here in the commonwealth, as one who prays regularly for you in obedience to 1 Timothy 2:1-2, and as a fellow citizen concerned not merely for public policy, but for the integrity of Christian witness in our state.

Recently, you stated:

“Especially in a world with social media where everyone’s looking for the next authentic thing, for me, that’s my faith... Most of the decisions I make are based on that golden rule that says we love our neighbor as ourself, and that parable, the good Samaritan, that says everyone is our neighbor. And so, when I’ve taken actions like vetoing the nastiest piece of anti-LGBTQ legislation that ever came through my state, I described it in those terms. I said, ‘my faith teaches me that all children are children of God,’ and I didn’t want people picking on those kids.”

Governor, I want to respond carefully and truthfully—because when Christ’s name is invoked publicly, clarity matters.

First, I commend your instinct to root moral reasoning in Scripture rather than mere political calculation. It is good to speak of loving one’s neighbor. It is good to reference the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). It is good to reject cruelty or mockery toward any child made in the image of God.

But there is a profound difference between appealing to “my faith” and appealing to “the faith once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

Christianity is not an individualized moral framework shaped by personal conscience or cultural moment. It is a revealed faith—grounded in the authoritative Word of God, historically confessed by the church, and objectively defined by the teaching of Christ and His apostles. When public leaders say “my

faith teaches me,” the question must be asked: Is this “faith” anchored in the plain meaning of Scripture, or is it a private reinterpretation shaped by contemporary social pressures?

The danger of emphasizing “my faith” is that it subtly shifts authority from Scripture to self. It moves from “Thus says the Lord” to “This is how I understand love.” Yet, biblical love is not self-defined. The Golden Rule—“whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them” (Matt 7:12)—appears in a sermon where Jesus simultaneously affirms God’s moral law and calls for repentance and obedience (Matt 5-7). The command to love one’s neighbor is never severed from the prior command to love the Lord your God with all your heart (Matt 22:37-40). Love in Scripture does not mean affirming every self-conception; it means seeking a person’s ultimate good in submission to God’s design.

The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches that compassion crosses ethnic and social boundaries. It rebukes prejudice and indifference. But it does not redefine God’s created order, nor does it nullify biblical teaching on sexuality. To apply that parable as justification for affirming moral frameworks Scripture calls sin (Rom 1:26-27; 1 Cor 6:9-11) is to stretch it beyond its God-given intent.

You also stated that “all children are children of God.” Here we must be especially precise. In one sense, all people are God’s creatures and bear His image (Gen 1:27). In that sense, every child possesses inherent dignity and must never be mistreated. But in the New Testament, to be a “child of God” in the redemptive sense is not universal; it is the result of new birth through exclusive faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:12-13). When theological language is used loosely in public discourse, it can unintentionally blur the gospel itself. I fear that is what you have done.

Governor, no faithful



Seth Carter is senior pastor of Paintsville First Baptist Church.

Christian wants children “picked on.” As a father, I have experienced firsthand the difficulty of parenting a bullied child. Bullying, cruelty, or hatred are sins against God and neighbor. However, disagreement-grounded in biblical conviction is not hatred. Laws or policies shaped by a belief in the created order are not automatically acts of malice. A Christian may sincerely believe that affirming certain identity claims is spiritually harmful while still treating every individual with kindness and respect.

The deeper issue is authority. Does our understanding of love reshape Scripture? Or does Scripture reshape

our understanding of love?

The historic Christian faith—confessed across centuries and traditions—has consistently affirmed that God created humanity male and female (Gen 1:27), that marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:4-6), and that sexual expression is reserved for that covenant. These are not isolated proof-texts; they are woven into the fabric of redemptive history and humanity itself. When a public official claims that support for LGBTQ ideology flows from Christian faith, that claim stands in tension with the church’s historic and biblical teaching.

Governor, invoking

the name of Christ while promoting policies contrary to Scripture places you in spiritual danger. That is why I write to you, not as a partisan adversary, but as a pastor who believes that leaders, like all men, will give an account to God (Heb 4:13).

Governor, authenticity is admirable. But authenticity is not the same as orthodoxy. Sincerity is not the same as submission. “My faith” must be continually corrected and conformed by “the faith”—the objective revelation God has given in His Word.

I urge you, respectfully and earnestly, to reexamine whether the positions you attribute to Christian conviction truly align

with the teaching of Christ. Seek counsel not from those who will baptize cultural trends with biblical language, but from those who tremble at God’s Word (Isa 66:2).

I assure you of my prayers—for your leadership, for your family, and for your soul. May the Lord grant you humility before His Word, courage before men, wisdom in leadership, and clarity about the difference between personal conviction and the once-delivered faith of the saints.

In Christ,

Seth Carter

Pastor, First Baptist Church of Paintsville, Ky

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## BALLARD

**Martha Ann Dike**, age 96, of Barlow, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at Oakview Nursing and Rehabilitation in Calvert City, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at 12:00 pm on Friday, February 13, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Wickliffe with Bro. Billie Prince officiating. Burial will follow at Wickliffe City Cemetery.

**Patty L. Rich** passed away on Monday, February 9, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY, now resting with her Lord and Savior. Born May 11, 1940, in Wickliffe, KY, she was the daughter of the late Jim “Odie” Bailey and Iretta (Anderson) Munster. Visitation was held Friday, February 13, 2026, at Barlow Baptist Church in Barlow, KY, beginning at 11:00 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 1:00 p.m. officiated by Rev. Scott Fickes. Interment will follow at Barlow Cemetery.

## CALDWELL

**Dustin Ray DeBoe**, age 54 of Princeton, devoted family man and passionate bricklayer, passed away peacefully at his home on February 16, 2026, at the age of 54. The family has scheduled graveside services to be held Monday, February 23, 2026, at 1:00 pm at Cedar Hill Cemetery. Goodman Funeral Home is honored to serve the DeBoe family.

**Hazel Doom Guess**, 88, of Fredonia, KY, passed away Friday, February 13, 2026 at her home. Funeral Services will Monday February 23, 2026, at 11AM, in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial will Follow at the Asbridge Cemetery.

## CALLOWAY

**Aija Black**, 54, of Murray, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2026 at Murray Calloway County Hospital. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

**Martha Lyle Pitman**, age 93, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2026, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky surrounded by her family. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 20, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Gary Vacca and Kerry Lambert officiating. Burial will follow in the Murray City Cemetery.

**Michael Lynn Tabb**, 75, of New Concord, KY, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at Murray Calloway County Hospital. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

**Elva Jane Walker**, 87 of Murray, KY, passed away, Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Spring Creek Healthcare, Murray, KY.

Arrangements are forthcoming at the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Murray, KY.

## CARLISLE

**Luda Mae Arnold**, 92, of Bardwell, Kentucky, passed away on February 14, 2026, at Henry Ford Hospital in Flint, Michigan. A funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Bardwell, with Bro. Shawn Redford officiating. Burial will follow at Roselawn Cemetery in Bardwell, Kentucky. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the service time of 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Bardwell.

**Eric Scott Bottoms**, age 65, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at Countryside Center in Bardwell, Kentucky. There will be no local services at this time. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Bardwell is in charge of arrangements.

**Helen O'Neill** age 90 of Arlington, KY passed away at 3:50 AM on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Center in Paducah. Funeral service was held on February

12th at 3:00 PM Sunday at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Rev. Ronnie Stinson Sr. and Rev Glen Stewart officiating. Burial will follow in the Milburn Cemetery.

## CHRISTIAN

**Jay McGuire**, age 90, of Hopkinsville, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at Bradford Heights Nursing and Rehab of natural causes. The family has chosen cremation with a Private Family Burial Service to be held at a later date in Illinois. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Greg Hester**, 79, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 11:50 a.m. Sunday, February 15, 2026 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, February 20, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. David Harrison officiating. Burial will follow in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West. Visitation will be Friday from 9:00 a.m. until the funeral hour. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Denzila (Dennie) Barker Burke**, Hopkinsville, Ky., passed away at 3:45 p.m. , Sunday, February 15, 2026 at the Linda E. White Hospice House in Evansville, IN. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, February 24th, from 12pm to 2pm, followed by a Celebration of Life at 2pm at her beloved Hopkinsville First United Methodist Church. The service will be officiated by Rev. Dan Huck. Hughart, Beard, and Giles will be handling the arrangements.

**Wanda Sue Wood Stevenson**, 78, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 5:03 p.m. Saturday, February 14, 2026 at her son's home surrounded by her family. Memorial services were held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. Mike Humphries officiating. Visitation will be Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until the service hour. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Shirley Groves**, 90, E. 20th Street, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Thursday, February 12, 2026 at Christian Health Center, Hopkinsville, KY of natural causes. A graveside service was held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with Bro. McKinley Moore officiating. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

**Thelma Brake Knight**, 101, Sterling Drive, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at Christian Health Center, Hopkinsville, KY of natural causes. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, February 16, 2026 at Lamb Funeral Home with Rev. Jim Gifford officiating. Burial will follow in Riverside Cemetery.

**Wilbert Ray West**, 87, of Hopkinsville, passed away on February 15, 2026, in Hopkinsville, KY. Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 21st from 10:00 - 12:00 pm with Funeral service to follow at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 801 East 4th St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

**Imogene “Jean” Jones Dulin**, 82, of Hopkinsville, KY passed away Thursday, February 12, 2026, at her residence with her family beside her. A funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 16, 2026, at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Crofton with Reverend Ron Hicks officiating the service. Burial followed in Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Bobby Boley**, 87, of Hopkinsville, KY passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at his residence.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville is assisting with arrangements.

## CRITTENDEN

**Steven Roy Damron** ,48, passed away Thursday, February 12, 2026 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. Cremation was chosen by the family.

## FULTON

**Billy Rex Lawson**, age 90, of Fulton, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at his residence on Saturday, February 14, 2026. Funeral services for Mr. Lawson were held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, Hornbeak Funeral Home in the chapel, with burial to follow at Union Cemetery.

**Lora Mae James**, age 83, of South Fulton, Tennessee, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Clinton Place in Clinton, Kentucky. Funeral services for Mrs. James were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026, Hornbeak Funeral Home in the chapel, with burial to follow at Obion County Memorial Gardens.

**Linda Gail Ratachie**, age 76, of Fulton, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2026, at West Tennessee Healthcare Volunteer Community Hospital Emergency Room in Martin, Tennessee. Funeral services for Ms. Ratachie will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026, in the Hornbeak funeral home chapel, with burial to follow at Shady Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday from 12:00 noon until the hour of service at the Hornbeak funeral home.

## GRAVES

**Maria Cruz Cortez Paramo**, age 55, of Mayfield passed away on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at her residence. Funeral services for Mrs. Maria Cruz Cortez Paramo will be 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mayfield, KY. Father Eric Riley will officiate. Interment will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery.

**Mary L. Tallent**, age 95, of Mayfield passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2026 at Mills Health and Rehab in Mayfield, KY. Funeral services for Mrs. Mary L. Tallent were on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Ronnie Stinson, Jr. will officiate. Interment will follow at North Mt. Zion Cemetery.

**Marcos Rodriguez** age 71 of Mayfield passed away at 3:17 AM Monday February 16, 2026 at his daughter's residence. He was a member of the Juan 3:16 church in Mayfield and a retired painter. There will be no services. Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield incharge of arrangements.

**Dorothy “Dottie” Phillips Conner Craig** , age 95 of Mayfield, passed away Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at Baptist Health in Paducah, KY. Funeral services for Dottie were conducted at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, Feb. 14th at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Rev. Danny Ferrell officiating. Interment will follow in the Highland Park Cemetery.

## HENDERSON

**Douglas George Schussler**, 86, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away at his home on February 12, 2026. At this time there are no services scheduled. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Tomblinson Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**Thomas Willis Reed “Tom” Forshee**, passed away February 12, 2026, at the age of 66 at his home. Funeral Services were held at 1:00 PM Wednesday February 18, 2026 at McFarland-Troutman-Proffitt Funeral Home in Mt. Washington, Kentucky with Deacon Dean Giulitto officiating. Burial followed at Resthaven Memorial Park.

**Robert “Bob” L. Mulcahy**, 94, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, Indiana, following a brief illness. Memorial services will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 12:00 noon, with visitation to follow in the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Father Benjamin J. Newland will officiate.

## FUNERAL NOTICES continued

## HICKMAN

**Nedra Dean Mullins Ward**, age 91 of South Fulton, TN, passed away Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at Volunteer Hospital in Martin. Graveside services for Nedra were held Monday, February 16, 2026 at 1:00 PM at the Clinton Cemetery with Rev. David Gossum officiating. Friends are asked to meet at the cemetery at the service time. Brown Funeral Home in Clinton is in charge of arrangements.

**JoAnn Mathis Pharis**, age 79, of Clinton, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at her residence on Monday, February 16, 2026. Funeral services for Mrs. JoAnn Pharis will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2026, in the funeral home chapel. A private graveside service will follow in the Pleasant View Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday and from 11:00 a.m. on Saturday until the hour of service.

**Tina Elliott**, age 53, of the Cayce community, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union City. Memorial services will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026, at Cayce Baptist Church. Visitation will be held at the church from 4:00 p.m. until the hour of service.

## HOPKINS

**Randall "Randy" Lee Workman**, 74, of Hanson, KY, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A gathering of friends and family will be held from 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. Saturday, February 21st, 2026 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home in Madisonville. A memorial service will be held privately for the family at a later date.

**Linda Sue Day**, age 82, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2026. Services for the family will be held privately with Barnett-Strother Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

**Jerry O'Neal Butler**, 70, of Madisonville, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, TN. Funeral services were held at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Bro. Mark Partin officiating. Burial took place at Odd Fellows Cemetery.

**Joy Marlene Wilderman**, 93, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Redbanks Colonial Terrace Nursing Home in Sebree, KY. Funeral services were held at 2:00 P.M. Monday, February 16, 2026, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home - Madisonville Chapel with Father Steve Hohman officiating. Burial will follow in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

**Beverly Allison Rorer**, age 80, of Owensboro, Kentucky, formerly of Madisonville, Kentucky, made her transition into eternal rest on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at her home with her daughter by her side. Beverly loved music and dancing, often smiling and joyfully declaring her famous line, "I still got it!" Her vibrant personality, warmth, and laughter will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 21st from 9 am - 11 am with Funeral Service to follow from 11 am - 12 pm at The Salvation Army, 805 McCoy Ave., Madisonville, KY 42431.

**Lawanna Davette Woolfolk Fellows**, 62, of Evansville, Indiana, formerly of Cairo, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at 5:10 a.m. Wednesday February 11, 2026 at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville with her family by her bedside. On Friday February 20th, the life of Lawanna Woolfolk Fellows will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. at Memorial Baptist Church in Evansville. The Reverend and Dr. Adrian M. Brooks Sr. will be eulogist. Entombment will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery Mausoleum in Evansville.

**Jona Leroy Dixon**, 65 of Nortonville passed away Saturday, February 14, 2026, at his home. Service was held Thursday at 1:00pm at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville with Pastor Dan Bradshaw. Burial to follow at Love United Baptist Church Cemetery in Madisonville.

**Delores "Jean" Babb Pharris**, 83, of Slaughters, KY, passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026, at Olive Branch Church, 400 Olive Branch Church Road in Hanson, KY with Pastor Gary Taylor officiating and Bro. Bobby Gibson assisting. Burial to follow at Olive Branch Church Cemetery in Hanson. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Thursday in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home and from 11 a.m. until the funeral hour on Friday at Olive Branch Church.

**Elizabeth "Betty" Rothgerber Knepp**, 86, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A memorial service will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Madisonville Church of the Nazarene, 1107 McLeod Lane, Madisonville, KY 42431. Burial will be held at a later date at St. Marys Catholic Cemetery in Tell City, IN. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the service hour on Saturday at the church. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care. Memorial contributions may be made in Betty's memory to The Door of Hope, 1805 South Main Street, Madisonville, KY 42431.

**Gwendolyn Sue Maddox Franklin**, 86, of Dawson Springs, KY, passed away on Friday, February 13, 2026, at her home. A graveside service was held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at Silent Run Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Nebo, KY with Bro. Jim Lantrip officiating. Harris Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Bonnie Henderson Wiles**, 101, of Madisonville, KY passed away on February 13, 2026, at Ridgewood Terrace Health and Rehabilitation in Madisonville. The funeral service was held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville with Bro. Jim Logan officiating and Bro. Timothy Wiles assisting. Burial to follow at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville.

## Funeral Notice

Paid obituary furnished to KPI Newspaper Group

## Summer (Dudley) Willis

Summer worked at Rose of The Lakes Bed & Breakfast in Grand Rivers. Summer enjoyed spending time with her family and shopping. She was of the Christian faith.

Surviving are her two daughters, Paige (Bailey) Mayhugh of Benton and Payton Dudley of Benton; her mother, Shannon Willis of Grand Rivers; her father, Terry Willis of Smithland; one brother, Wesley Willis of Grand Rivers; three nieces, Brooke Willis of Grand Rivers, Sydney

Willis of Grand Rivers, Hallie Wills of Grand Rivers; and one nephew, Caleb Willis of Grand Rivers.

Funeral services will be at 1:00pm on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Smith Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Wayne Jones officiating. Burial will follow at Cothran Cemetery.

Friends may visit the family from 11:00am to service hour on Monday at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be left at [www.smithfc.com](http://www.smithfc.com)



**Smith Funeral Chapel**  
is honored to serve the Willis family.

## LIVINGSTON

**Billy Joe Joiner**, age 88, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at his residence. He was born July 8, 1937, in Smithland to William and Gertrude Barnes Joiner. Billy Joe was a man of few words, but you knew that when he spoke, you listened. He either had strong, sound advice, a funny joke, or a story from his life that you almost couldn't believe to be true. No one ever had to wonder where they stood with him, as he was quick to tell you, and you can bet it was with his crooked pointer finger out in front of him. There are no services scheduled at this time.

**Stevie Kimbro**, 56 of Grand Rivers, Kentucky passed away Thursday February 12, 2026 at Baptist Health in Paducah. Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Monday February 16, 2026 at Iuka Cemetery in Iuka Kentucky. With Bro. Phillip McKee officiating. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Kimbro family.

**Verna "Gayle" Hammonds**, 75, of Calvert City, KY, died February 12, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Center in Paducah, KY. Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Lakeland Funeral Home with Bro. Johnny Coffenberry officiating. Burial will follow in Dixon Cemetery in Grand Rivers.

## LYON

**Raul Timoteo Villanueva**, age 63, of Kuttawa, passed away February 14, 2026 at his home surrounded by his loved ones. A memorial visitation will be held from 10:30 am until 1:00 pm Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home. A memorial mass service will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home.

**Martha "Marcie" Jane Smith**, 75, of Eddyville, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health in Paducah. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. Lakeland Funeral Home and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

**Rodney M. Polk**, age 78, of Kuttawa, passed away Monday, February 9, 2026 at his home surrounded by loved ones. Visitation will be held from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm Friday, February 13, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home and again Saturday, February 14, 2026 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Saturday, February 14, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home with Bro. Dan Smith and Bro. Marty Robertson officiating. Burial will follow in Chestnut Oak Cemetery with military honors.

**Thomas E. Ausenbaugh**, age 65 of Kuttawa, born on March 27, 1959, in Indiana, passed away peacefully at his residence on February 16, 2026. Thomas will be remembered not just for his professionalism and dedication in his career, but also for the love he had for his family, his loyal companionship with his pets, and his adventurous spirit. His warmth and kindness have left an indelible mark on those he leaves behind. There are no services scheduled at this time. Goodman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Ausenbaugh family.

## MARSHALL

**Verna "Gayle" Hammonds**, 75, of Calvert City, KY, died February 12, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Center in Paducah, KY. Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Lakeland Funeral Home with Bro. Johnny Coffenberry officiating. Burial will follow in Dixon Cemetery in Grand Rivers.

**Jackie Ray Bragg**, 87, of Marshall County, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House in Murray. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Joe Angle and Gary Bloomingburg officiating. Burial followed at Everett Gray Cemetery.

**Charles Ray Edmonds**, 88, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at his home surrounded by loved ones. Funeral services were held at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Pastor Richie Clendenen officiating. Burial followed at Marshall County Memory Gardens.

**Carol D. Vogle**, age 56, of Benton, KY, passed away Sunday, February 15, 2026, at her home. There are no services scheduled at this time. Arrangements are being handled by Collier Funeral Home, Benton, KY.

**David Bloodworth**, 70 of Hardinsburg, Kentucky passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Lake Barkley Health & Rehab in Kuttawa, Kentucky. A visitation will be held on Friday, February 20, 2026 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Collier Funeral Home located at 211 West 5th Street Benton, KY 42025. 270-527-3141. Arrangements are being handled by Collier

**FUNERAL NOTICES** continued

Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

**McCRACKEN**

**Gary William Hutchison**, 79, of Ledbetter passed away on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Mercy Health Lourdes in Paducah. There will be a private family graveside service held at a later date. Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah is in charge of arrangements.

**Dedra “Rebel” Barnes**, aged 61, of Paducah, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital. No services are scheduled at this time. Keeling & Goodman Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Barnes family.

**Shirley Gollon** passed away on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Vanderbilt Hospital. A graveside service were held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, with Deacon Scott Jones officiating. Prayers will be said at 9:30 a.m., with visitation to follow until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home.

**Brandon Alvin Davidson**, age 37, of West Paducah, passed away on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Friends may visit the family from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on Monday, February 23, 2026, at Lindsey Funeral Home.

**Jimmy Adams** - Lifetime resident of West Paducah, KY and proud Winter Texan of Pharr, TX, 84-year-old Jimmy Adams gained his eternal reward on Monday, January 12, 2026 in the sunny Rio Grande Valley on a day that reached 78 degrees, as he would proudly tell you. This was his way of not-so-subtly relishing in his escape from the frigid winter climate of Western KY. Please join the family and friends to celebrate a well-lived life of service. Visitation will be held Friday, February 20, 2026 from 4pm until 8pm and funeral services Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 11am with Rev. Jonathan Althoff officiating at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, 120 Memorial Drive, Paducah, KY 42001, followed by interment at Palestine Cemetery in West Paducah.

**Richard Guill Jr.**, 73, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Southgate Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Metropolis, Illinois. Visitation was held from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

**Linda Swift Reeder** - May 12, 1931 - February 13, 2026 - Linda Helen Swift Reeder was born in Calloway County near Kirksey, Kentucky, on May 12, 1931. Her parents were the late Lala Helen Roberts Swift and Lurwin L. Swift. She is survived by her husband, Robert L. Reeder; her son, Robert Alan Reeder; and her daughter, Linda Kaye Reeder Pryor (Wesley); and several nieces and nephews. Private family graveside services will be held at Mt. Kenton Cemetery with Rick Reeder officiating.

**Mary Jo Moore**, age 83, passed away on Friday, February 13, 2026, at Jackson Purchase Medical Center, surrounded by her family. She was lovingly known by her grandchildren as “Sugar.” A funeral service was held at 1 P.M. on Wednesday, February 18th, 2026, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Rev. Bob Martin officiating. Burial will follow at the Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

**Mina L. Mitchell**, 91, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, February 13, 2026, at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation in Paducah. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. James Wright and Rev. Tommy Tucker officiating. Burial followed at Old Salem Baptist Church Cemetery in Salem, Kentucky.

**Michael “Mike” E. Thomasson**, age 70, passed away peacefully on February 12, 2026, in his hometown of Paducah, KY, where he was born on September 7, 1955. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Jason

Logsdon officiating. Burial followed at Maplelawn Park Cemetery with Firefighter Rights.

**Ruby Elizabeth Hayden Gibson**, age 98, of Melber, Kentucky, passed into eternal life on February 11, 2026. Funeral services were held on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home with Father Jude Okeoma officiating. Burial will follow the service at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

**Billy Joe Powell**, 80, of Paducah, Kentucky passed away at 7:36 a.m. February 16, 2026, at Baptist Hospital. Visitation will be held on Friday February 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Lindsey Funeral Home in Paducah, Ky. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, February 20, 2026, at Lindsey Funeral Home with his son Michael Powell officiating the service.

**Ove H. Riisberg**, 82, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at Baptist Health Paducah. He was the owner of the Filling Station restaurant in Lexington, IL. He will be cremated per his wishes. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Riisberg family.

**William “Bill” Harvey Williams**, 87, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed from this life to the next on February 9, 2026. We believe he is now truly at home and rejoicing with his Lord and Savior – a merciful answer to our prayers. Though our hearts ache, we do not grieve without hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). Even as we mourn, we celebrate Bill’s life, and we look forward with hope to our reunion with him in the world to come. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Williams family.

**Tammy Knight**, 58, of Paducah, Kentucky, Passed away on the evening of February 9, 2026, at her home. Following a courageous and defiant battle with cancer, Tammy passed with the same grit and grace that defined her entire life. Funeral Service was held Friday February 13th, 2026, at 1 pm at Lindsey Funeral Home in Paducah, Ky with Dr. James Wright officiating the service.

**Vincent Edward Lynn**, age 54, of Paducah, passed away at Baptist Health Hospital at 2:04 p.m., Thursday, February 12, 2026. A Memorial Service has been scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2026, at 12:00 Noon (CST) at Harrison Street Missionary Baptist Church, with Reverend Dr. James L. Hudson officiating.

**Mahaska (Ivy) Hughes Cooper**, 97, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 5:45 AM. Mahaska was a homemaker and a member of Rosebower Baptist Church of Paducah. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Bro. Bud Russell officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Paducah.

**Kenneth Galusha**, 62, of Fredonia, passed away Saturday, February 14, 2026, at his home. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Patrick Yates officiating and Bro. Phillip Whitaker assisting. Burial will follow in Fredonia Cemetery.

**TRIGG**

**Carolyn D. Croft** - January 2, 1948 - February 17, 2026 - A Celebration of Life for 78 year old Carolyn D. Croft of Gracey will be held Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Gracey Volunteer Fire Department, 50 Railroad St., Gracey, KY. Visitation will be from 11:00-1:00 at the Gracey Volunteer Fire Department. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Christina Anne White** - June 27, 1973 - February 17, 2026 - A Private Celebration of Life for 52 year old Christina Anne White of Oak Grove will be held at a later date. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Harry O. Todd** - November 9, 1938 - February 13, 2026 - Funeral Services for 87 year old Harry O. Todd of Cadiz were held Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 12:00 noon at King’s Funeral Home with Rev., Dr. Scott Wilson and Dr. Dwayne Driskill officiating. Burial followed in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville, KY with military

honors.

**Gail Prescott Pryor**, age 85, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away Monday, February 16, 2026, at her home in Hopkinsville. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz where the family received friends from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM Thursday, February 19, 2026. A funeral service was held at the Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc. at 2:00 PM, Thursday, February 19, 2026 with the Rev. Justin Latham officiating. Burial followed at Trigg Memory Acres in Cadiz.

**Mischelle Ambrose Cothran**, age 65, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away Monday, February 16, 2026, at Saint Thomas West Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz, where the family will receive friends from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Friday, February 20, 2026. A graveside funeral service will follow the visitation on Friday at Hurricane Baptist Church Cemetery, 4153 Hurricane Road, in Cadiz at 11:30 AM with the Dr. Tom Martin officiating.

**Elsie Grigsby Tyler**, age 79, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at Murray Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM, Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, with Rev. Jamus Redd officiating. Burial will follow in Bethel Church Cemetery.

**UNION**

**Charles “Tom” Durbin** age 87, of Wheatcroft formally of Caseyville, KY passed away at the Lucy Smith King Care Center surround by his family on Saturday February 14, 2026. Memorial Service was held February 18th at 1PM on Wednesday at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Bro. Jeff Paris will officiate. Burial was at Caseyville Cemetery in Sturgis, KY with Full Military Rites.

**Joy Forker**, age 93 of Sturgis, KY passed away Friday, February 13, 2026 at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. The service was held at 1PM on Tuesday 2/17/2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis. Pastor. Carl Nelson will officiate. Visitation will be 10AM until service time at the funeral home. The burial was in Slaughters Cemetery.

**Alice Houston**, age 94 of Waverly, KY passed away Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at Morganfield Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Morganfield, KY. Funeral service was held at 11 AM Monday, February 15th at St. Peter’s Catholic Church in Waverly, KY. Fr. Dave Johnson will officiate. Burial was in St. Peter’s Cemetery in Waverly, KY.

**WEBSTER**

**Mary Ann Hoagland**, 77, of Slaughters, KY passed away on Saturday January 17, 2026, in Clarksville, TN. Memorial services for Mrs. Hoagland will be held later. Lewis Funeral Home LLC in Providence was entrusted with her arrangements.

**Cheryl B. Vandiver** 80, of Cairo, KY passed away on Friday February 13th, 2026 at the Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson, KY. Memorial services will be held at Cairo Methodist Church 13510 US Hwy 41 A Henderson, KY 42420 at 12 pm on Friday February 20th, 2026. Rev. Cameron Edwards will officiate. Burial will be at a later date in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY. Visitation will be from 10am until service time on Friday at the church. Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon is handling the arrangements. Thursday and from 8am until service time on Friday.

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

# VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

## What can an ant possibly teach a human?

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

What can an ant (that no one wants around) possibly teach a human being? Solomon thought they had something to teach us because in Proverbs 6:6 he said, "Go to the ant, you sluggard (slacker) ... consider its ways and be wise". From what I can tell, they love, they accept, they work, they prepare for the future and they serve.

We have this instruction: love one another: "This is my commandment, that you love one another". How can we posture ourselves to do that? For one, we can DO things that build up others just like the ant does. Remember the story of the Samaritan that helped the injured man who was beaten up and left to die on the roadside? Jesus said, "A Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the (injured) man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own

donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him" (Luke 10:33 NIV).

What other action postures us to take a bit of wisdom from the ant? Why not try accepting one another without trying to make them like ourselves? When we accept one another, as Christ accepts us, we bring praise to God. Show respect to everyone you come in contact with. A good example is the story of a Samaritan woman and Jesus at the well. This is a very good example of Jesus living out the principal of accepting others. She wasn't worthy. Her reputation was questionable ... but Jesus accepted her and offered to change her life. She accepted the invitation and won an entire city to Christ. Accepting is NOT approving of wrong, but it's being willing to reach out, without condemnation and with understanding. It's sharing Jesus and offering an opportunity to others to share in the blessings of redemption.

What about serving like the ants



serve? The Bible says, "By love serve one another". Do unto others AS you want them to do to you. Just as Jesus humbled Himself to wash the disciples' feet, we must keep in perspective that we are all of the same God and no one is loved, by God, above another.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus said, "The one who is greatest among you, will be the servant?" Though there are many reasons, I believe, when you are helpful (without

complaining), people enjoy being around you and they are more willing to hear the Gospel. People have many motives for being helpful, but when helpfulness comes from the heart, people know it. It shows. Ants help each other and it shows.

Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer (Prov. 30:25). They plan ahead and leave nothing to chance. They can carry up to 20 times their weight. Some can

carry up to 50 times their weight. How is that for "little strength?"

Ants know all about caring for each other. They are social insects. They are almost always with other ants. They always live in a community. They always look after the community. Ants always share what they have. When an ant finds food, he doesn't keep it to himself. He leaves a scent trail that directs other ants to the food.

They cover, and

take up the slack, for other ants. If a catastrophe occurs, ants respond by quickly adapting their duties to overcome the problem. If a food item is too heavy, other ants come to their rescue to help them carry the load. They are not lazy. They are workers.

They love, they accept, they work and they serve. I guess that's a good reason to learn from ants as Solomon instructed.

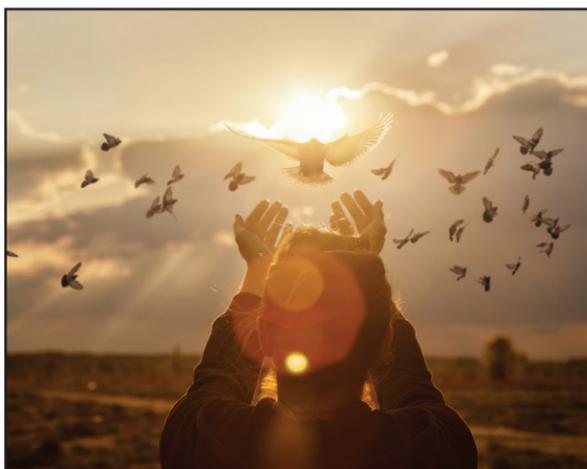
## THE STING OF CONVICTION

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett  
Bandana Baptist Church

The truck accelerated down the road toward our little beagle, who was sniffing garbage someone hurled out their window, and her life was saved by a teensy zap of electricity administered by her shock collar. An agitated bobcat hissed at our English shepherd during an evening hike, and a quick jolt from his electric collar yanked him away from the furious feline and back toward me. And, until the day when

our Jack Russell first wore her shock collar, she would race beside the tires of passing vehicles in an attempt to outrun them.

Using shock collars may be considered cruel by some, but they have saved our dogs from danger and even death on numerous occasions. Of course, neither we nor the dogs enjoy using them as a means of discipline, but there are times when a sudden sting is the only method to warn them of imminent danger and correct their course.



There are times when the Spirit of God "shocks" us with a zap of conviction to warn us that we are headed for spir-

itual danger. The Holy Spirit stings our conscience when we drift too close to sin's deadly road. It certainly burns when He

jabs our heart with a prick of reproof, but it is required for us to flee spiritual peril and return to God. Each time He arrests our heart through the sting of admonition, He is saying, "Come, let us return to the LORD" (Hosea 6:1).

He executes conviction for the first time at your conversion, when you realize that you have offended a holy God by your sin. Jesus said, "And when he comes, he [the Holy Spirit] will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and

judgment" (John 16:8). But He continues to alert you of your need to repent, and He will alarm you of potential spiritual danger when it is present. He will poke at your conscience all-day long if you have unconfessed sin in your life (Psalm 32:3-5). And because He guides you into all truth, He will send a spark of correction to your mind when you drift into theological error (John 16:13). Embrace the Spirit's occasional sting of conviction—God is using it to save your life.

# OUTDOOR Truths

By Gary Miller  
Outdoortruths.org



Over the years of traveling, I have stayed in so many homes and hotels. So many, I can't remember them all. I do remember one stint in Texas where I stayed in five different places, over a 16-day period. Sometimes you wake up in the morning, and before you get out of bed, you have to think about where you are. There are also those times when you get up in the middle of the night, head to the bathroom, only to find out the door you opened didn't lead to the bathroom, but

to the hallway of the hotel. And now you know why I try to get fully awake in the morning, before I bust any moves that might expose my Hanes. Yes, it's all different, except my storm. My storm is what I take with me everywhere I go. It puts me to sleep at night and wakes me up in the morning with its surety. My storm is the nature sound on my phone app. Some listen to brown or white noise, but mine is this soft thunderstorm. And why me of all people would be calmed by a

thunderstorm, I have no idea. But I am. My wife started this habit years ago. Back then, it was a CD that she let play through the night. I also remember deer hunting with my friend Jason. At night he slept with a hair dryer running. True story. I know it was his wife's because Jason was nearly bald. (love you, Jason) Some of you like a fan running. I like that too. There are a lot of sounds that people find comforting. But my go-to nighttime sound is my thunderstorm. And here's

what I've noticed. No matter where I am, most of the time, I sleep pretty well. And I believe it's because no matter where I go, and no matter where I stay, I have something that is consistent, ever-present, and never changing. I'm sure you can see where I'm going with this

While my storm is a soothing sound that helps me sleep, what my storm cannot do is calm the internal storms I may lay down with each night. The ones that race through my mind. The ones that can cause

anxiety, worry, and dread. These storms crash louder than the ones on my app. Their realness drowns out the manufactured versions. And they can be just as frightening at home. The truth is our ability to sleep doesn't come from what we hear from some created sound. It does, however, come from what we hear. When those internal storms have threatened my sleep at night, here is what I have listened to. "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in

You." (Isaiah 26:3) My thunderstorm helps me fall asleep. God's promised peace is what keeps me there.

*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*

## Do this in remembrance of me

By William F Holland Jr.  
billyhollandministries.com

Last week, we touched on the subject of baptism, and this week I thought we could follow up with a chat about communion. For those who are Christians, the church ordinance of communion is a sacred and spiritually personal event. In some circles, the Lord's Supper is referred to as a sacrament, while others call it an ordinance, depending on the theological tradition. However, regardless of the term, within Christian churches, it is seen as a means of grace and an integral part of obedience and worship, established by Christ Himself. A time of sacred reflection on Christ's death and resurrection. Where does it come from? It's a recorded true event that is told in each of

the four Gospels, along with the Apostle Paul, who also discusses it in 1 Corinthians 11:23-29. Verse 26 declares, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Most have seen the images of what is called the "Last Supper," where Jesus and His disciples are sitting around a large table eating and drinking at what was called the Passover celebration. We read in all four gospels about this true account, and how Jesus wanted His followers to remember Him as the promised Lamb of God. In Luke 22:19-21, we read, "Jesus took a loaf of bread and gave thanks to God. As He broke it and gave it to His disciples, He said, this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after

the supper he took the cup, saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you." Matthew 26:30 reveals that He concluded the meal by singing a hymn, then they walked out into the night to the Mount of Olives. As they entered the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told them to rest while he took some time to pray. It was there that, as predicted, Jesus was betrayed by Judas. The following day, He was crucified.

Jesus declared that the bread spoke of His body that would be broken, as Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 describe that He would be so brutally and violently tortured that it was hardly recognizable. The wine spoke of His blood, with Him indicating the terrible death He would soon experience. It is agreed that most likely He literally bled to death. Christ, the per-

fect Lamb, the Son of God, became the fulfillment of the countless Old Testament prophecies concerning a Redeemer. Genesis 3:15, often called the protoevangelium or first gospel, is an amazing biblical prophecy where God reveals that at the crucifixion, the serpent will bruise the heel of Jesus the seed of the woman, but in the resurrection, Christ the Son of God will crush the serpent's head, establishing the Lord as the ultimate power and authority in the cosmic struggle between good and evil. In my view, the communion does not literally transform into the blood and flesh of Jesus, which is called transubstantiation. Since it is symbolic, I do see the point. It's simply about keeping the sacrifice of His great love fresh within our hearts and minds.

So, as we partake of

the unleavened bread and wine or grape juice, the elements serve as a covenant symbol of Christ's body and blood, and how we grieve as He willingly suffered. He gave the supreme sacrifice of love that can redeem us. Now we can have spiritual hope and faith, as we celebrate this sign of unity and truth among believers, anticipating His return. I've served communion in churches, prisons, and correctional facilities throughout the years, and I currently work with a jail ministry preaching the gospel, baptizing, and serving communion, where I remind everyone how serious this is. First Corinthians chapter 11 says that whoever receives these elements unworthily will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. They absorbed damnation to themselves, and some

have literally died. Never allow the ceremony to become a dead and formal ritual, or come to the Lord's table with unconfessed sin. Personally, when I take communion, I embrace this as entering into the holy presence of God. A sacred time and place of repentance, asking forgiveness, being cleansed, and made presentable to become one with Him. I imagine Jesus hanging on the cross, and what great love that caused Him to willingly die to save me. It's a deeply meaningful moment of remembering and appreciating.

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

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suites with attached baths. Carport with storage. 2/3 -2,140 sq. ft. \$247,500. (972) 816-8766 (tfn)

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

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

**CAMPERS FOR SALE**

2019 Shasta Oasis 30ft Camper One slide out. Good Condition. \$13,000.00. 270-827-9482. Or 270-827-8139

Camper For Sale. 2019 Heritage Glen 26.5 ft

**BOATS FOR SALE**

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

**AUTOS FOR SALE**

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

2015 Mercedes E-350 104,000 miles, Light grey Real nice vehicle, drives

real nice. \$13,000 OBO call 270-493-2176

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

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

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

1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme Conv. Texas car Extra Clean. Collector Quality 109000 miles. \$6900.00. Contact Rocky Massey Motors at 270-575-4999

2010 Dodge Challenger R/T (Local Car) 65PO-Hemi. 49000 miles \$18900.00. Contact Rocky Massey Motors at 270-575-4999

2008 Toyota Tundra 2WD 4w Drive 220,000 Miles (Hard to Find) \$9900.00. Contact Rocky Massey Motors at 270-575-4999

1950 Plymouth Sedan Super Sharp Must See \$16,000.00 Collector Car. Contact Rocky Massey Motors at 270-575-4999

2011 Nissan Altima 4 Door 134,000 Miles Great Buy Gas Saver \$6995.00. Contact Rocky Massey Motors at 270-575-4999

**GOLF CART FOR SALE**

REDUCED 2019 EZGO Golfcart 48V. Flame Red with Black seating. very good condition in Salem,

Ky area 4,200.00. Call 812-483-1116 (tfn)

**FARM EQUIPMENT**

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

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

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

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

**MISC. FOR SALE**

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

Very nice hot tub for sale in LaCenter (2021 Hot Springs Hot Spot SX) \$3,000.00. Call Ken at 270-983-0750. Also search "Ken Adlum" "You Tube" to find my you tube channel for a description, video and photos

For Sale: Baldwin Upright Piano In Good Condition \$300.00 Call 270-331-9835

Fiddle/Violin (Karl Knilling), Hand-Made in Germany, 2 Bows & Hard Case. Very Good Condition. \$300, 270-328-8801 (tfn)

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**27 Paradise Point---** Wow! 3 beautiful lots , over 1/2 acre sitting up HIGH on a hill with a SPECTACULAR WATERVIEW OF KY LAKE in Cambridge Shores Subdivision! Build your Dream Home on these lots. Wow! what a Magnificent Stunning view of Ky Lake! Enjoy the amenities that Cambridge Shores including 2 boat ramps, a covered picnic pavilion, a swim area with sandy beach, courtesy docks, tennis court, bas-

ketball court and Private Club House. HOA fee only \$175.00 annually.

2909 James Sanders Blvd- Paducah, KY 42001 Commercial/Industrial MLS Number 124836 • 7,560 sq. ft. The price is \$25.74 psf annually Located in Western Kentucky's largest business districts this location is prime for retail, restaurant, or service company. With 4060 net leasable square feet. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

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

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**



**Phat Mamma's Restaurant**  
**HWY 60, Ledbetter, KY**  
FULLY EQUIPPED,  
WITH 2 OUTBUILDINGS.  
1600 Sq. Ft./Site on 1.5 Lot  
Income approx. \$270K year  
**ASKING \$285,000**  
FOR MORE INFO  
CALL JAMES POWELL  
**270-217-1882**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

1996 Dodge Ram. 5.9 Cummins diesel, VIN 3B7MC33C2TM189669. Mileage, 296,XXX, green with grey interior. Contact McCains Towing. 270-210-7626.

AY\_3x-2/13, 20/20 and 2/27, 2026

# Georgia takes bite out of UK rally, escapes with rare win at Rupp

By KEITH TAYLOR  
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Kentucky lost one it needed on Tuesday night.

For the second time this season, the Wildcats lost two straight Southeastern Conference games after falling 86-78 loss to Georgia.

After returning to the Associated Press Top 25 more than a week ago, Kentucky has suffered back-to-back SEC losses for the second time this year. The recent trend began in a 92-83 loss at No. 12 Florida last Saturday in Gainesville.

Much like the loss to the Gators, Kentucky struggled in the backcourt and committed 22 turnovers, compared to just nine for the guests. The Bulldogs (18-8, 6-7) scored 22 points off those miscues. Florida scored 22 points off 14 Kentucky turnovers that resulted in a nine-point setback for the Wildcats.

“We did a really poor job managing the press,” Kentucky



Collin Chandler drives around Georgia's Blue Cain in Kentucky's 86-78 loss to Georgia on Tuesday. Chandler scored 18 on a career-high six 3-pointers. (Photo by Les Nicholson)

coach Mark Pope said. “We weren’t in attack (mode). We weren’t chasing it for nugget plays. Sometimes when you throw out a press, you just give it too much respect. We just needed a couple of ballhandlers to have enough in order to be on the attack and we just couldn’t do it.”

Otega Oweh tied his career-high with 28 points and has scored in double digits in all 26 games this season. However, it wasn’t

enough to overcome the struggles on offense. Oweh, Andrija Jelavic, Chandler and Malachi Moreno combined for 11 turnovers, including four by Oweh.

“The press was distracting for us, for sure,” Pope said. “We ended up playing on our heels and it was actually hard for us to kind of establish anything other than early in the halfcourt. Our lead guards did a poor job going back and demanding the

ball so we could get into a familiar space. We just did a poor job, we really did. Georgia did a nice job of not allowing us to do that (and) we ended up not functioning as well as we do.”

Kentucky trailed by 12 at 69-57 with 9:20 remaining but rallied and narrowed the margin to 81-78 with 2:13 remaining. However, they made just one field goal on seven attempts in the final two minutes, coupled with

a critical turnover by Oweh with 1:11 remaining.

Georgia made 14 3-pointers and got 29 points from its bench. The Bulldogs connected on eight treys in the second half that thwarted any hopes for a Kentucky comeback down the stretch.

“We weren’t good defensively tonight,” Pope said. “In the second half, they shoot 57 percent from the 3-point line. They’re the lowest assist-per-field-goal-made team in our league, and they were 20 and seven tonight. That’s just a poor commentary on our defensive effort.”

“Inexplicably, to start the second half, we just abandoned defensive assignments, and also Georgia made some good plays. That was a disappointing effort from us, and it’s gonna be hard to win when you let people shoot like that.”

Sparked by a career-high six 3-pointers by Collin Chandler, Kentucky made

12 treys of its own. Chandler finished with 18 points and said the Wildcats weren’t attentive enough in the second half.

“It kind of felt like we lost focus for a second and it really slipped away from us in the second half, I feel like we were pretty focused for a good amount of the first half,” he said.

Kentucky led by seven with seven minutes remaining in the first half, but Georgia scored 17 of the last 22 points of the half and led 39-34 at the break. The Wildcats (17-9, 8-5) went scoreless in the last 2:25 of the half, despite hitting nine of their first 18 shots of the contest.

It marked Georgia’s first win in Lexington since the 2008-09 season and only the fourth all-time in Rupp Arena.

Gametracker: Kentucky at Auburn, 8:30 p.m. Saturday. TV/Radio: ESPN, UK Radio Network

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## ABSOLUTE AUCTION

FORMERLY LEROY & JUNE KAUFMAN FARM

★ SATURDAY, MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 10:00 A.M.  
★ AUCTION HELD OFF-SITE @ THE ST. JOHN'S KC HALL LOCATED @ 6725 US-45, PADUCAH, KY 42001

± 73 ACRE FARM IN MCCrackEN CO. KY. 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN LONE OAK!

ADDRESS OF SUBJECT PROPERTY: 1700 LEBANON CHURCH RD. PADUCAH, KY 42003

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TRACT 2: 111 ACRES  
TRACT 3: 14 ACRES  
TRACT 4: 13.5 ACRES  
TRACT 5: 123 ACRES

ALSO SELLING: FORD TRACTOR, EQUIPMENT, IMPLEMENTS, LAWN & GARDEN, ETC.

REAL ESTATE TERMS OF AUCTION: 15% good faith deposit due day of sale. Balance due in 45 days. 10% buyer premium added to final bid and included in the total contract price.

CHRIS COLSON AUCTION & REALTY, LLC

270.444.0031

3250 Key Drive Paducah, KY 42003

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## ABSOLUTE AUCTION

HERBERT & CONNIE BURRUS LIVING ESTATE

★ SATURDAY, MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 10:00 A.M.  
★ 8678 HAMLETSBURG RD. BROOKPORT, IL 62910  
PARKING AVAILABLE ON FARM

PREVIEW: 8:00 A.M. Day of Sale

VEHICLES, TRACTORS, HAY EQUIPMENT, NUMEROUS IMPLEMENTS, TRAILERS/WAGONS, LIVESTOCK MISCELLANEOUS, & MUCH MORE!

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# Student-created book highlight of Spring All in for Ag Education Week

FRANKFORT, Ky. – A book written and illustrated by two Kentucky students is at the center of this Spring's All in for Agriculture Education Week.

"Millie's Farm Day," written by eighth-grader Ayla Tolentino and illustrated by 11th-grader Blakely Beth Callahan, follows the day in a life of farmer, Kenzie, as seen through the eyes of a dairy cow named Millie.

"It's amazing how creative our young people can be," Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. "All in for Agriculture Education Week is designed to get agriculture in the classroom. This book does that in a fun, color-

ful way for our youngest future farmers."

The book contest, sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), the Dairy Alliance, and Farm Credit Mid-America, asked Kentucky students to craft a story centered around dairy farmers caring for their cows.

"As fewer families have direct ties to farming, agricultural literacy has never been more critical," said Farrah Newberry, Chief Executive Officer at The Dairy Alliance. "By partnering with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to create and distribute 'Millie's Farm Day' to students across Kentucky, we are accurately

highlighting modern dairy farming and helping bridge that gap. All In for Ag Education Week is about inspiring curiosity, building understanding, and ensuring the next generation sees the innovation and sustainability driving today's dairy farms."

"We know the future of our industry is in the hands of this next generation and proudly partner with KDA to enhance ag education in our elementary schools statewide," said Mark Barker, senior vice president of agricultural lending at Farm Credit Mid-America. "Supporting programs like All in for Ag that allow students to learn about agriculture in our community helps

us achieve our mission of securing the future of rural communities and agriculture."

The book author, a self-proclaimed "ag nerd" and vice president of her middle school's FFA chapter, was excited to bring a little bit of agriculture into the classroom.

"I was inspired by my friend Kenzie, who cares for her own cattle," said Tolentino, who attends Bondurant Middle School in Franklin County. "I've learned a lot from occasionally helping her over the last few years."

Written with younger elementary students in mind, the student-drawn illustrations complete the story through pictures.

"Being the illustrator for 'Millie's Farm Day' is an honor I hold so close to my heart," said Callahan, who attends South

Laurel High School. "I'm incredibly grateful for the chance to bring this story to life through art and to help share the joy and wonder of farm life with young readers. Every page is a reminder of how thankful I am for this opportunity."

The book will be a highlight during the All in For Agriculture Education Week March 16-20.

All in for Agriculture Education Week began in 2025 when Commissioner Shell joined forces with Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman and Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher to bring agriculture into classrooms across the Commonwealth. Agriculture Education Week delivers an all-encompassing learning experience for students, equips educators with ready-to-use lessons, and fosters community involvement to create hands-on learn-

ing opportunities on the diverse world of agriculture for students.

The book contest was developed to get students even more involved. It will be distributed to elementary schools across the state along with other ag education material. Once distributed, the book will become a permanent resident in the school library.

The student author and student illustrator will tour during the ag education week making stops at schools to read the book and conduct mini art lessons with students.

In addition to the book tour, students can participate in a virtual tour on Tuesday, March 17 led by a dairy farmer. Using the format of the book the farm will take students on a virtual tour of the farm and then end with a question and answer session.

## CITY OF BARLOW, KENTUCKY SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 322

This summary is made pursuant to KRS 83A.060(9), as a summary of an ordinance prepared and certified by an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

### 1. Title of Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CONNECTION CHARGE OF THE WATER AND SEWER RATE ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON APRIL 17, 1977

**2. Text of the Ordinance:** The waterworks connection charges shall be \$100.00 for all size connections plus the actual costs incurred by the City in making connection. The sewer connection charge shall be \$100.00 plus the actual costs incurred by the City in making connection. The connection charge to new customers for both water and sewer service shall be \$100.00 plus the actual costs incurred by the City in making connections.

By my hand and hereby certified,  
/s/ BEN E. STEWART  
Riley & Stewart, P.S.C.  
PO Box 1655  
Paducah, KY 42002-1655  
(270) 443-0040

Passed on second reading and became effective February 10, 2026.

Date published 2/20/2026

(2-20-26\_1X\_AY)

## CITY OF BARLOW, KENTUCKY SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 323

This summary is made pursuant to KRS 83A.060(9), as a summary of an ordinance prepared and certified by an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**1. Title of Ordinance:** AN ORDINANCE WAIVING CONNECTION CHARGES IN ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAM FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

**2. Main Points of the Ordinance:** Subject to limitations and conditions, the waterworks and sewer connection charges are waived for a three-year period and not to exceed \$25,000 in cost to the City for new construction in the City.

By my hand and hereby certified,  
/s/ BEN E. STEWART  
Riley & Stewart, P.S.C.  
PO Box 1655  
Paducah, KY 42002-1655  
(270) 443-0040

Passed on second reading and became effective February 10, 2026.

Date published 2/20/2026

(2-20-26\_1X\_AY)

## ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION Friday, February 27, 2026 @ 10:00 am



Harris Real Estate & Auction will offer **48.13 ± acres** of highly tillable farmland located in Bardwell, Kentucky, selling in one tract by the deed. This property is well suited for row crop production and offers an excellent opportunity for farmers, investors, or buyers seeking quality agricultural land in Carlisle County.

The tract consists primarily of open, productive farmland with strong agricultural characteristics. Its manageable size and single tract offering make it an attractive option for expanding operations or long-term investment ownership.

### AUCTION HELD AT

Carlisle County  
Extension Office  
65 John Roberts Dr.  
Bardwell, KY 42023

**REAL ESTATE TERMS:** The property will be offered in 1 individual tract. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 30 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. All 2026 ad valorem taxes will be prorated at closing. The property will be sold by the deed.

**HARRIS** HOMES - FARMLAND  
ESTATES - WATERFRONT **MICHAEL HARRIS**  
Real Estate & Auction PRINCIPAL BROKER  
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**Wuthering Heights (R)**

Showtimes:  
Fri 7:00 pm; Sat & Sun 1:30 pm, 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm;  
Mon thru Thurs 7:00 pm

Starts Friday, February 27th

SCREAM 7 (R)