



February 27th, 2026

The

# Guardian

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## Alumni Dinner & Auction Kicks Off Busy FFA Week in Graves County

By **Laurna Todd**  
*KPI Writer*

A full slate of activities for the Graves County FFA chapter began with a strong show of community support at the annual Alumni Dinner and Auction. Held February 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Mako Nesler Farms on Haven Road in Mayfield, the event drew more than 100 alumni, supporters and community members. The evening featured a meal, fellowship and a lively

auction, all benefiting the Graves County High School agriculture program. Chapter leaders expressed appreciation to everyone who attended and contributed, noting that the continued support of alumni and community partners makes the success of the agriculture department possible. "All funds raised will directly impact GCHS agriculture students," organizers shared. "From trip assistance and leadership conferences to hands-on

learning opportunities and classroom resources, this support helps us provide a quality agricultural education." The Alumni Dinner and Auction set the tone for an especially busy and productive FFA Week. Later in the week, 32 tractors lined the school lot for the chapter's annual Tractor Day, showcasing the strong agricultural roots of Graves County and highlighting the future of farming represented in today's classrooms. Students

and community members proudly displayed their equipment as a visible reminder of agriculture's importance to the local economy. In addition, the chapter hosted its second annual Rural First Aid and CPR Training Program in the agriculture shop. Thanks to support from the Kentucky

Department of Agriculture and Raising Hope, farmers, agribusiness professionals and agriculture students were able to participate at no cost. Each participant received a First Aid and Trauma Response Kit, and Graves County High School culinary students prepared a heart-healthy lunch

for attendees. Members of Graves County HOSA also assisted by offering free vital checks. Organizers say the goal of the week's events is clear — to celebrate agriculture, strengthen community ties and make farming in Graves County safer and stronger for future generations.



## Allen Claims First, Smith Second in Rotary Speech Event

By **Laurna Todd**  
*KPI Writer*

Graves County seniors earned top honors during the February meeting of the Mayfield Rotary Club, where Rotary Students of the Month participated in the club's annual speech competition. Coordinated by Rotarian Nate Cox, the contest challenged students to present speeches on the theme, "Service To Others Brings Happiness." Each participant delivered thoughtful remarks emphasizing the importance of compassion, volunteerism and community involvement. Representing Graves County Schools were Miss Keile Allen and Mr. Landon Smith. Allen captured first place with an inspiring and well-delivered speech

that highlighted how acts of service positively impact both the giver and the recipient. Smith followed with a strong performance to earn second place, demonstrating confidence and a clear understanding of Rotary's mission of service above self. The Rotary Club continues to play a vital role in strengthening the Mayfield and Graves County community through scholarships, youth leadership initiatives, service projects and school partnerships. The annual speech contest provides students with an opportunity to develop public speaking skills while reinforcing the values of civic responsibility and service. School officials expressed appreciation to the Mayfield Rotary Club for its continued investment in local students.



# Kentucky Dept. of Agriculture raising hope for farmers battling mental health struggles

The Raising Hope team held the MASH Barn dedication ceremony at Farmers' Appreciation and Awards Day in Owensboro.

Farm life is not an easy row to hoe. Between the physical nature of the work and the mental stress caused by numerous issues ranging from weather to wealth, farmers can find themselves raising crops and

livestock, but not their own spirits.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is working to address these issues through the Raising Hope program, which encourages farmers to take the extra steps needed to keep themselves and their families safe, healthy, and happy.

The program began in 2019 through the combined efforts of the Ken-

tucky Department of Agriculture Safety Director Dale Dobson and Dr. Cheryl Witt, RN, Extension specialist senior and associate professor, assistant dean of Undergraduate Programs at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. The initial focus was on mental health and suicide prevention, but it quickly expanded to include farm safety as well as personal health screenings.

"It's all about saving lives," Dobson said. "By teaming up and building this together, we're 20 years ahead of where we would have been by doing this individually."

Witt, who is the sixth generation of a Kentucky farm family, said the independent nature of most farmers and occupational demands create barriers to seeking help for physical ailments, undergoing preventative screenings or monitoring basic health



The Raising Hope team held the MASH Barn dedication ceremony at Farmers' Appreciation and Awards Day in Owensboro.

issues. So, the Raising Hope program takes such assistance directly to farmers with a traveling medical trailer called the Mobile Agriculture Safety and Health (MASH) Barn.

"We take nursing students to ag events and offer health screenings," Witt said. "We found that if farmers are around other farmers who do

these screenings, then they are more willing to participate. And that's the perfect time to also provide some mental health information. By meeting farmers where they are, we're reaching people who don't normally get reached."

In addition, the Raising Hope program has handed out more than

25,000 challenge coins. These tokens contain a message of support as well as the 988 number for the National Suicide Hotline.

"The coins are to let people know, 'You are appreciated,'" Dobson said. "Those three words can change a person's day and turn everything around."



Dale Dobson (left), Dr. Cheryl Witt (center) and Brandon Reed of the Raising Hope program.

For info on Raising Hope visit [kyagr.com/marketing/raising-hope.html](http://kyagr.com/marketing/raising-hope.html).

# Murray, Paducah Companies Among Eight Receiving \$862K in State Innovation Grants

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

Gov. Andy Beshear announced that eight Kentucky companies will share more than \$862,000 in state matching funds to support innovation and high-wage job growth, with local impact reaching communities like Murray and Paducah.

The awards are part of Kentucky's nationally recognized Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Match-

ing Funds Program, overseen by KY Innovation. The state funding will help match \$6.6 million in federal grants awarded to the companies.

In Murray, Fibonaci LLC, doing business as HempWood, continues advancing engineered hemp-fiber wood products. The company manufactures oriented hemp board, a durable, lower-emitting alternative to traditional hardwoods for interior applications. The funding supports continued product development and

technology improvements, strengthening advanced manufacturing in Calloway County.

In Paducah, Santerre LLC is addressing the region's invasive Asian carp problem. Western Kentucky waterways have been heavily impacted by the species, which disrupts ecosystems and local economies. Santerre converts invasive carp into organic fertilizer through an innovative process designed to reduce energy use compared to synthetic fertilizers while

offering a sustainable agricultural solution.

Other recipients include Louisville-based CreoSalus Inc., EndoNavis LLC and PGXL Technologies LLC, along with Lexington-based Thermi-

soln LLC, Wild Dog Physics LLC and ZDC Tech Ltd. Co..

Since its inception, Kentucky's SBIR/STTR matching program has helped companies leverage \$7.50 in federal or private

investment for every \$1 in state funding, supporting more than 781 high-paying jobs across the commonwealth and strengthening the state's growing technology sector.

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# Historic \$142 Million Investment Brings Green Energy Jobs to Carlisle County

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

Gov. Andy Beshear announced that Green Energy Parks will make a \$142 million investment to construct a new agricultural waste-to-energy facility in Arlington, creating 20 high-wage jobs and marking the largest private-sector investment in Carlisle County's history. The project is a major milestone for the small rural community, representing its first significant private-sector economic development announcement in more than a decade and signaling new mo-

mentum for long-term growth.

The new facility will convert locally sourced agricultural byproducts — including corn stover, livestock manure and distillers' grains from Kentucky's bourbon industry — into renewable natural gas and food-grade liquid carbon dioxide. At full capacity, the plant is expected to produce approximately 1.47 million British thermal units of renewable natural gas annually, capture and liquify more than 72,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year and pro-

cess about 575 tons of agricultural feedstock per day.

Carlisle County leaders have indicated the project represents the kind of strategic, agriculture-focused growth that fits the community's strengths and priorities. Local officials believe the investment will support the county's farming foundation, create quality job opportunities for residents and position the rural community for long-term economic stability and growth.

Green Energy Parks is co-developed by Global NRG, a renew-

able energy development firm specializing in anaerobic digestion and renewable natural gas infrastructure.

The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority preliminarily approved a 15-year

incentive agreement that could provide up to \$900,000 in performance-based tax incentives tied to job creation and wage targets, along with additional support through the Kentucky Enterprise Initiative

Act.

Additional details and reaction from county leaders are expected in the coming days. Readers are encouraged to watch for updated information in next week's edition.

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# WEST KY SPORTS



## Mustang Dance Team return home National Champions



The McCracken County High School Dance Team is pictured after returning home from winning the 2026 National Championship in Medium Varsity Game Day at the National Dance Alliance Competition. *(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)*

## Paducah Tilghman wrestling advances to state



Paducah Tilghman finished runner-up in the KHSAA Region 1 Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 21. In all, 12 Paducah Tilghman wrestlers have advanced to the KHSAA State Wrestling Tournament. *(Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School)*

## Forsythe named Marshall County girls' golf head coach



### Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County High School has announced Sarah Forsythe as its new girls' golf head coach.

Forsythe is a former collegiate golfer at Murray State University, where she played from 2017-2021.

She has been a teacher at Marshall County High School for the

past four years, teaching business classes. Forsythe was an assistant coach for the Lady Marshals in the 2025 girls' high school golf season.

Marshall County is a perennial girls' golf title contender.

"Marshall has an incredible program, and my goal is to continue the legacy we have," Forsythe said.



Cozy Home Furnishings was Marshall County's game sponsor on Thursday, Feb. 19. Marshall County hosted Graves County for a high school basketball doubleheader. 17.

*(Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School)*



## Kate The Great Reaches 1000 Points



(Photo by Tim Taylor)

By Tim Taylor  
KPI Sports Writer

Ballard Memorial senior Kate O'Neill reached a milestone goal of scoring her 1,000th point as a Lady Bomber basketball player. She entered her senior season needing 252 points to reach that achievement. She came into the teams 28th game of the season needing 19 points to become the 21st Lady Bomber to reach that mark. She only scored 2 points in the opening half on the February 17th game against Fulton County, but things changed quickly in the 2nd half. She scored 9 points in the 3rd quarter on Senior Night and was only 8 points away. The Lady Bomber coaches then knew tonight was going to be the night she reached her dream with Ballard Memorial leading the Lady Pilots 51-29. She hit a pair of free throws early in the 4th quarter and

then found an open look from the right corner for a trey to pull to within 3 points. Coach Barry Phillips called a timeout and drew up a three point opportunity for O'Neill. She would not disappoint. She came from the low block and popped out, just to the left of the top of the key. O'Neill received a pass from Rilee Bodell and she spotted up. O'Neill appeared right at home with an effortless looking three point shot that sank through the netting for the magical points she was looking for. "It feels great. The reward for all the hours in the gym I put in, and all this work, it is just so good to have my name on the banner." One recipient of that work has been Coach Barry Phillips who has been O'Neill's head coach for the last 3 seasons. He said, "The most special thing for her is the love of the game. She has

earned everything she has gotten. She is a special player and awesome person all around." Ballard Memorial Principal Tim Adams has a unique perspective of O'Neill. He coached her the 1st 4 years of her varsity playing career and has the opportunity as a principal to see the academic side of O'Neill. Adams said, "She wanted to do well on the basketball court, even at a younger age, and Kate put in the time to do well and it was fun to watch her achieve her goal." Adams added, "She is a quiet leader in our building and epitomizes our truth, honor, and loyalty." Ever since she scored those first two varsity points as a 7th grader on January 23rd, 2021, the goal of reaching that scoring banner has been something she looked to accomplish. She accomplished it in style and reaching that goal on Senior Night makes it even sweeter.

## KHSAA Board of Control conducts fifth meeting of 2025-26 academic year

### Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The KHSAA Board of Control conducted its fifth meeting of the 2025-26 academic year on Thursday, Feb. 19.

The Board of Control, by a 15-3 vote, directed the Commissioner's office to draft a recommended alignment for football in 2027 and 2028, and track and field for 2026-27 and beyond, using an enrollment multiplier of non-public schools. The draft is to use the grades 9-12 boys' enrollment for football and the total grade 9-12 enrollment for track and field and cross country. Both alignment drafts will be sent to the member schools after an upcoming special meeting, once approved, with final adoption at a meeting in May.

The Board of Control voted 17-1 to suspend its January decision to place Cornerstone Christian in the 29th District. CCA Athletic Director Matt McGowan made his case before the Board, requesting to remain in the 30th District. At the January meeting, the Board had placed Cornerstone Christian, in its first year of postseason eligibility, into the 29th District to begin with the 2026-27 school year.

Grace James Academy in Louisville, an all-girls school, will become eligible for postseason play in the 2026-27 school year and be placed in the 22nd District. Placing Grace James Academy in District 22 balances the number of boys' and girls' teams in that district.

The Board of Control approved the distribution of additional membership surveys for future sports or

sport activities of pickleball, stunt and girls' flag football, with results expected at the meeting in May.

The first two rounds of the 2026 KHSAA Baseball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare will be held at the home of the Lexington Legends, Legends Field, based on board action. The Board of Control also agreed to a two-year transition to shift the soccer season, so it ends one week later than it currently does. Placing the finals on the first weekend in November is a key step in securing long-term options to host the finals at the Lexington Sporting Club stadium, and the entire movement of the start of the season allows schools to adjust schedules over a two-year period, eventually playing fewer contests during the hotter part of August.

As part of the public comment section, Meade County correspondence was received regarding its request to move from the 3rd Region to the 5th Region and join the 17th District. Conversely, last June, Fort Knox expressed thoughts of moving from the 5th Region and entered a request into the record to possibly move to the 3rd Region. In addition, a letter from Floyd County Schools was read into the record, which requested consideration of moving Lawrence County and Magoffin County to a different district. No action was taken on these requests, which will be reviewed again at a future meeting.

Claudette Herald, Superintendent of Oldham County schools, was named President-Elect by a unanimous vote.

## Region 1's Doss and Collins Earn KABC Coach of the Year Honors

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

The Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches (KABC) has announced its 2025-26 KABC Region Coach of the Year honors. Representing Region 3, Matt Brigrance of Ohio County was selected, while Will McCoy of Greenwood received the award in Region 4.

While coaches throughout Kentucky were honored, several of this year's recipients represent Western Kentucky programs, highlighting the continued strength of basketball in the western part of the state.

On the boys side, Region 1 honoree Collin Doss of Mur-

ray leads the list of Western Kentucky selections. In Region 2, Tyler Smithhart of Henderson County earned KABC Region Coach of the Year honors. Representing Region 3, Matt Brigrance of Ohio County was selected, while Will McCoy of Greenwood received the award in Region 4.

In girls basketball, Western Kentucky was equally well represented. Kirsten Collins of Calloway County was named the Region 1 KABC Girls Coach of the Year, while Ricky Baker of Lyon County earned the distinction in Region 2. Natalie Payne of Daviess County was honored

in Region 3, and Piper Lindsey of Barren County received recognition in Region 4.

The KABC Region Coach of the Year award is presented annually to coaches who demonstrate outstanding leadership, commitment to their student-athletes, and success on and off the court.

In addition to the Western Kentucky honorees, Regions 1 through 16 across the state recognized coaches in both boys and girls basketball, celebrating excellence in programs from Northern Kentucky to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky and throughout Central Kentucky.

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# Welding Wins and Strong Representation Highlight Year for Local FFA Chapter



Members of the Ballard Memorial High School FFA chapter gather for a photo at a recent event. Pictured from left are Cayden Powell, Lacey Burnley, Addie Haley, Annlee Polivick, Kenslee Shepherd, Miley Parker and Aubrey Crowley.

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

The Ballard Memorial High School FFA chapter is celebrating a stand-out year marked by competitive success and strong student involvement under the leadership of FFA Teacher Ryan Buchanan.

One of the chapter's most notable accomplishments came at a welding competition hosted by Murray State University. The team earned first place overall, a significant achievement that advanced

them as the regional representative at the state level.

Out of four students who competed, two earned first and second place honors — a testament to both individual skill and the strength of the program. The victory not only showcased technical ability in welding but also highlighted the dedication and preparation of the students involved.

Looking ahead, the chapter is preparing for speaking competitions scheduled for March at Murray

State University. Participation is strong, with every available speech slot already filled. The chapter plans to take a full group of competitors, demonstrating the students' enthusiasm for leadership development and public speaking.

With accomplishments already under its belt and more opportunities on the horizon, the Ballard Memorial High School FFA chapter continues to build momentum and represent its school and community with pride.

# Hickman County FFA Members Build Leadership and Skills Through Active Year



Representing Hickman County FFA at a recent WAVE Ag Initiative event are (from left) Jaedon Peyton, Zeke Nicholas, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Stephen Vaden, Abbey Bellew and Advisor Ethan Hall.

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

The Hickman County High School FFA chapter has enjoyed a full and productive year, marked by leadership development, competition and community involvement, according to FFA Advisor Ethan Hall.

Students began the year by attending camp at the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center, where members strengthened teamwork and leadership skills alongside peers from across the state. The chapter also traveled to the National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis, giving members the opportunity to experience one of the nation's largest student leadership gatherings.

Closer to home, Hickman County FFA members competed in the Hickman County Conservation District writing contest and hosted several successful chapter activities. Their annual Mum Sale fundraiser provided strong community support, while a Fall hayride brought students together for fellowship and chapter engagement.

Two chapter members were recently selected to participate in the Kentucky Agricultural Education Legislative Program, representing Hickman County in Frankfort and gaining firsthand experience in agricultural advocacy and public policy.

Members also had the opportunity to meet Stephen Vaden,

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, during a recent WAVE Ag partnership luncheon. The event allowed students to learn more about agricultural leadership and federal-level decision-making.

Looking ahead, the chapter is preparing for upcoming Ag Sales and Employability contests. Hall said students are eager to compete and showcase the skills they have been developing throughout the year.

With strong participation at the local, state and national levels, Hickman County FFA continues to provide meaningful opportunities for students to grow as leaders and future agricultural professionals.



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## Fulton County FFA Balances Fundraising, Leadership and Service



Fulton County FFA members gather items for the Angel Tree as part of their winter community service project. Front row, from left: Abryona Tucker, Alaina Sheppard, Lexi Uzzle, Brayden Burkeen, and Waylon Brunswick. Back row: Tallas Mitchell and Asia Powers.

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

The Fulton County chapter of the National FFA Organization has had an active season filled with fundraising success, agricultural projects, competitions, and community outreach, according to Agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor Katie Elder.

The chapter recently hosted its annual Chili Supper and live/silent auction, one of its largest fundraisers of the year. Elder said the event receives tremendous community support and serves as a night where members, families, and local residents come together to ensure its success.

Students are now preparing for spring

speaking competitions and Murray State University Field Day. In addition, members are busy working in the greenhouse ahead of upcoming plant sales. Students are also caring for sheep in the school barn, with hopes of welcoming lambs in March — giving members valuable, hands-on livestock experience.

Looking ahead, students are especially excited about attending the Murray State rodeo to explore another sector of the agriculture industry. They are also preparing for speaking day, Field Day, FFA Camp, and State Convention this summer.

Community service remains a strong focus. Members plan to purchase Easter

meals for 10 local families and assemble “Easter Boxes,” continuing a project from last year. They also hope to host another Easter egg hunt for kindergarten through second-grade students at Fulton County Elementary School, following last year’s successful and well-attended event.

Pictured from left to right are Abryona Tucker, Alaina Sheppard, Lexi Uzzle, Brayden Burkeen, and Waylon Brunswick. Back row: Tallas Mitchell and Asia Powers.

Elder said Fulton County FFA strives to take hold of every opportunity that comes its way, providing students with leadership, service, and real-world agricultural experiences.

## Graves County FFA Earns State and National Honors During Standout Year



Graves County FFA members are pictured at the Kentucky FFA State Convention. Back row (left to right): Cole Hayden, Maddox Stamper, Vinn Lowry, Jayce Hale, Bryce Collier and Christian Riley. Third row: Palin Bradley, Shiloh Parm, Katie Wolf, Izzy Foy and Jeffery Williams. Second row: Karlee Peeler, Addy Paschal, Caitlyn Penrod and A’Nya Sherfield. Front row: Mannix Hamilton. Photo by Abby Lyell.

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

The Graves County High School FFA chapter has experienced a banner year filled with state and national recognition, competitive success and individual achievement, according to FFA teacher Abby Lyell.

Among the chapter’s recent honors, Darcey Sloan, Mannix Hamilton and Jayce Hale were

selected as Murray State FFA All-Region Stars during an awards ceremony in November, recognizing them as top leaders within the region.

At the 2025 Kentucky FFA State Convention, the chapter was named a State Rater Gold Emblem Chapter and further selected as a top 10 percent chapter in the state. That distinction earned Graves County an invitation to apply for the National Chapter Rating. In October, members were recognized at the National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis as a National Three-Star Chapter — the highest rating a chapter can achieve.

Competitive success continued last summer as the chapter’s State Agricultural Issues Forum team earned second place at the state competition in June. In addition, Cole Hayden was named State Champion in the Nursery Proficiency contest at the state convention.

The chapter was especially excited about FFA Week festivities, including its annual Tractor Day

held Friday, Feb. 20. The event saw strong participation, with 32 tractors driven to campus as part of the traditional tractor drive-in. The display highlighted the pride students take in agriculture and showcased the community’s strong support for the program.

Looking ahead, Lyell said members are eager for a busy spring competition season. In the coming weeks, students will submit proficiency applications based on their Supervised Agricultural Experience programs, run for regional office, compete in Regional Speaking Day events in a variety of speaking contests and parliamentary procedure, and begin preparing for Career Development Events. Those contests will culminate at Murray State University FFA Field Day in April.

With national recognition, state championships and an active slate of events, Graves County FFA continues to demonstrate excellence in leadership, service and agricultural education.

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# Carlisle County FFA Competes Statewide, Earns Top Ratings

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

The Carlisle County High School FFA chapter has experienced a year filled with competition, recognition and community outreach, according to FFA teacher Mercedes Branham.

The chapter has competed in numerous events this school year, including the Kentucky State Fair, Vet Science, Land Judging and Farm Bureau Outstanding Youth contests. Their dedication and preparation resulted in the chapter earning a Gold rating at the state level and a prestigious Three-Star rating at the national level — one of the highest honors an FFA chapter can

achieve.

In addition to competitions, the chapter hosted its “All in for Ag” event, where members showcased the six sectors of agriculture to students across the entire district. The event highlighted the diversity of agricultural careers and educated students on the importance of agriculture in everyday life.

Chapter leaders also participated in their annual officer retreat in Gulf Shores, where they focused on strengthening teamwork and planning for the year ahead.

The chapter was especially excited about its annual Farmer Appreciation Meal held at the end of February. This year’s theme focused on Mental



Chapter leaders also participated in their annual officer retreat in Gulf Shores, strengthening teamwork and planning for the year ahead. Pictured at the retreat are back row (left to right): Kase Kelly, Myles Fourshee, Ty Watson and Knox Kelly. Front row: Mrs. Branham, Kaidance Vela, Abree Warren, Reese Eddleman, Brooklyn Dunn and Keyli Courtney.

Health Awareness, with the goal of feeding and reaching agriculturalists throughout the county while

raising awareness about mental health challenges within the agricultural community. The event was

a success thanks to the hard work of the FFA Officer Team. With the support of local businesses that

donated items for a silent auction, and the generosity of those who placed bids, the chapter raised more than \$1,500 for the FFA Alumni Scholarship Fund while continuing the tradition of honoring and supporting local farmers.

Looking ahead, the chapter’s overall goal for the year is to achieve the highest possible ranking at the Kentucky FFA State Convention.

With strong competition results, national recognition and meaningful community engagement, Carlisle County FFA continues to demonstrate leadership and dedication to agricultural education.

# Western Kentucky FFA Chapters Promote Agriculture, Road Safety During FFA Week

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

WESTERN KENTUCKY — National FFA Week brought a unified celebration of agriculture across western Kentucky, as students from Ballard Memorial High School, Carlisle County High School, Graves County High School, Calloway County High School, Marshall County

High School and McCracken County High School joined other area chapters in recognizing the vital role farming plays in their communities.

Throughout the week, chapters hosted activities highlighting agricultural education, leadership and community involvement. Many schools incorporated their traditional Drive Your Tractor to School

events either just before or during FFA Week, while other chapters marked the week with their own unique programs and outreach efforts.

While most tractor events have concluded, the message continues beyond the celebration. With spring planting season approaching, residents can expect to see more farm equipment traveling rural

highways and county roads. Agriculture educators across the region are encouraging motorists to slow down, remain patient and give farmers the space needed to operate safely.

FFA programs throughout western Kentucky also used the week to acknowl-

edge the challenges facing today’s agricultural industry, including rising costs, market uncertainty and advancing technology. At the same time, students demonstrated that the future of farming remains strong, supported by multigenerational farm families and

communities that continue to stand behind agricultural education.

As FFA Week wraps up, the focus now shifts from celebration to preparation, as another planting season begins across the region.



Calloway County High School FFA members brave frigid temperatures as they drive tractors through town to campus, kicking off FFA Week with a strong display of agricultural pride and dedication.




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# AG UPDATE Farm Bill Update

for Ag and Natural Resources

Tom Miller,  
Ballard County Ext. Agent

With the divided congress and the divided country, I don't like the odds of us getting a new farm bill this year. The House is currently working on a new bill but then it takes the Senate to agree. We will see what happens. However, the Big Beautiful Bill passed last fall provides many provisions that are normally included in a Farm Bill. Some of the areas that help us in agriculture were that the Reference Prices used for PLC and ARC County went up. Corn rose from \$3.70 to \$4.10. Soybeans went from \$8.40 to \$10.00 and wheat went from \$5.50 to \$6.35 a bushel.

The bill also allows for an update in base acres. My initial thought was that it would not affect the grain areas of Ky very much, but the data shows a different picture. The state could get as many as 696,730 acres added. These acres seem to be greatest in the counties that lost pasture and tobacco. Christian County is the top in the state and could add 75,000 acres. Graves is 4th in the state and could add 43,000 acres. Ballard is about middle of the pack and is looking at

13,000 acres. This is not new farmland, it is just land that was not counted as cropland for farm programs in 2002 when soybean bases were added. Nationwide Texas, North Dakota, Nebraska and South Dakota all may add over 2 million acres. Most of that is land being cropped that used to be cattle.

The BBB also made some changes to crop insurance. The subsidy was raised a little, meaning that the cost for coverage should go down a little. There were also some new products created that will allow you to increase coverage cheaper than you can buy up from normal coverage. The problem with these new products is that they are based off county yields. Talk to your insurance agent as these may be a way for you to get a little more coverage at a cheaper price. For example you may be able to take the normal 75% level and use SCO or ECO to get more coverage cheaper than buying up to the 80% or 85% level.

The BBB also made the 2025 crop election of PLC or ARC-Co unimportant as you will get the best option no matter what you picked. We are going



to have to make an election again for the 2026 crop. We won't know the Marketing Year Average Price until the fall of 2027. With the increased reference prices, it makes the decision harder for corn and soybeans. For wheat I think PLC is the obvious choice. The USDA had forecast the MYAP for 2026 to be \$4.89. We are currently trading at @ \$5.50 for next summer and the reference price went up to \$6.35. We are well in the money for a PLC payment and the only way it would not be best is if the price goes up to \$6.50 or higher. We won't need a PLC payment if the price goes up that much.

Corn and soybeans are much harder to figure out. The new reference price for corn is \$4.10. The estimate from USDA for 2026 is \$4.09 but we are currently trading

at \$4.60. After much study and discussion with others I feel like you probably need to stay with ARC-Co for both corn and soybeans for the 2026

crop. For instance, with corn the odds of getting a larger ACR-Co payment are greater until the price falls all the way to \$3.79. We are in trouble if the MYAP gets that low. Soybeans are the same story, ARC-Co is the better choice until the price gets to \$9.15. We are more than \$2 above that now. Arc-Co for Corn and soybeans and PLC for wheat. That is my thinking currently, it could change in the future if prices change,

I will try to keep you updated. I would not expect the payments for corn or soybeans to be very high with either program so if you make the wrong choice not much will be lost. FSA is still waiting on guidance from USDA on getting the BRIDGE payments out. The girls in the local office will be contacting you when they finally know something. They are hopefully by March 1.

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## ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION

**SAT., MARCH 7th AT 10:00 A.M.**

**Location: 2040 Main St. (Hwy 68), Cadiz, KY**

Selling Fourshee Building Supply. The Fourshee Family has been in the Lumber/Hardware Store Business since 1953. 70 Years of serving the public with lumber and Hardware & have decided to retire and liquidate their Real Estate at Public Auction  
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**TRACT 2**

**TRACT 2:** 5.79 +/- Acres - Fourshee Building Supply Commercial Property. Showroom, Offices, Storage & Large Shop/Warehouse. Property also includes 3 Lg. Lumber/Storage Bays. Property will include an easement to Tract 3 if sold separately. New owner will receive Cell Phone Tower Lease of \$750.00 per month with a 2.5% increase per year in 5 year increments. **GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!!! GREAT LOCATION!!!**

**TRACT 3**

**TRACT 3:** 5.52 +/- Acres of Open Land with Easement from Tract 2 if sold separately.

**TRACT 4**

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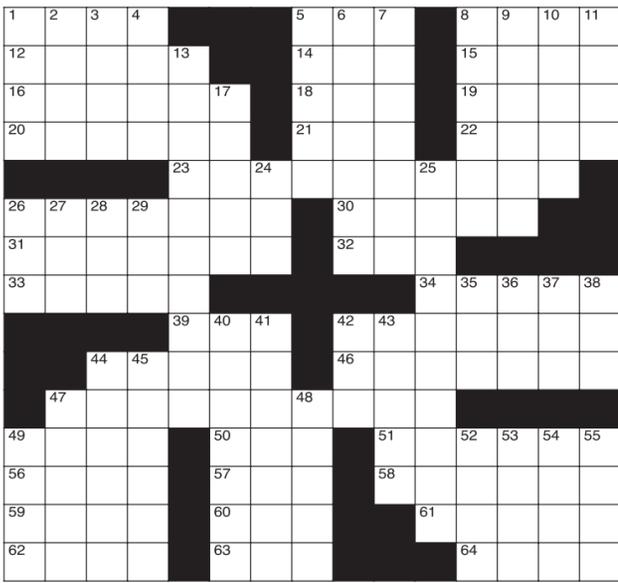
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### Crossword Puzzle



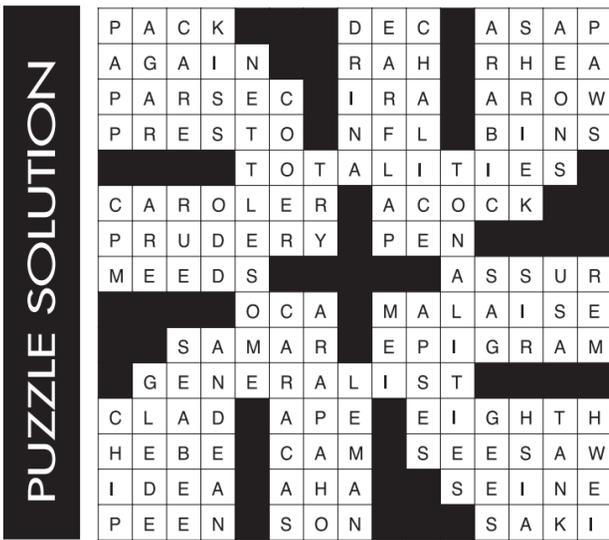
#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. What travelers must do
- 5. Calendar month
- 8. Hopefully quickly
- 12. Once more
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. "Cheers" actress Perlman
- 16. Astronomy unit
- 18. Savings vehicle
- 19. Get your ducks in this
- 20. Right away
- 21. Popular sports league
- 22. Containers
- 23. Entireties
- 26. One who wassails
- 30. Turned-up position
- 31. Extreme modesty
- 32. Writing utensil
- 33. Rewards (archaic)
- 34. Ancient capital
- 39. S. American wood sorrel
- 42. General discomfort
- 44. Philippine island
- 46. A witty saying
- 47. One who summarizes
- 49. Covered in
- 50. Mimic
- 51. Henry was a notable one
- 56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 57. Retired NFLer Newton
- 58. Playground equipment
- 59. Concept
- 60. Satisfaction
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Hammer end
- 63. A father's male child
- 64. Japanese drink

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Off-Broadway figure
- 2. Gelatinous substance
- 3. Concern
- 4. "Lick It Up" rockers
- 5. Serbian river
- 6. Part of a hat
- 7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
- 8. Semitic language
- 9. Utter a shrill cry
- 10. Long times
- 11. Animal parts
- 13. Causing annoyance
- 17. Amorous talker
- 24. Attempt
- 25. Harmonic effects
- 26. Cost per mile
- 27. They \_\_\_
- 28. Bitterly regret
- 29. Not even
- 35. A way to drop
- 36. Title of respect
- 37. World leader
- 38. Georgia rockers
- 40. National capital
- 41. Great Plains people
- 42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
- 43. Architectural recesses
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. Mountainous
- 47. Kite bird
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Popular snack made of potato
- 52. 70s songsters The Bee \_\_\_
- 53. SE China port \_\_\_-men
- 54. Something to fill up
- 55. League of Legends character

**Puzzle Solutions on B9**



### Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to canned food. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = E)

- A. 6 22 21 21 5 8**  
Clue: Sealed in metal
- B. 1 5 22 16**  
Clue: Pairs well with carrots
- C. 16 14 15 1**  
Clue: Liquid meal
- D. 10 5 22 21 16**  
Clue: Legumes

Answers: A. canned B. peas C. soup D. beans

### Word Search

#### CANNED GOODS WORD SEARCH

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

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

#### ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION

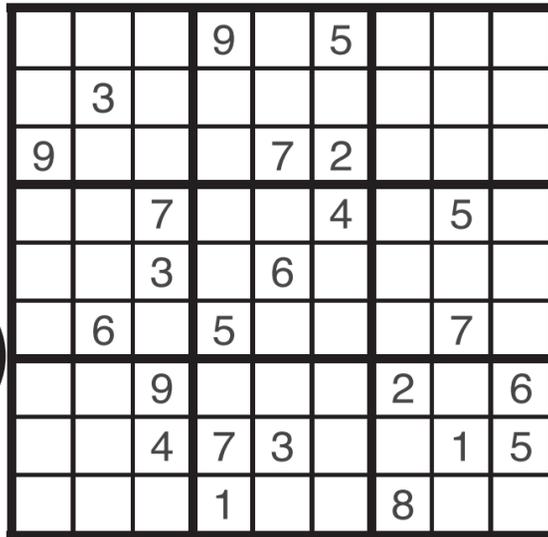
#### WORDS

- BRINE
- CAN
- CANISTER
- FERMENTATION
- FILLED
- LABEL
- LID
- LINING
- OPENER
- PACKING
- PASTEURIZE
- PICKLING
- PRESERVE
- PROCESSING
- REHYDRATE
- ROTATION
- SEALING
- SHELF
- STERILE
- STOCKPILE
- SYRUP
- TIN
- VACUUM

### Sudoku Puzzle

#### How it Works:

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



### Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to canned food.

**ODGOS**



Answer: Goods

### Guess Who?

#### GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born on February 25, 1976 in California. I attended Harvard University and wanted to become a lawyer. But I went into the arts and starred on a popular television series about the recreation department of a small town. My father was a legendary record producer.

Answer: Rashida Jones

### COLORING FUN

#### OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!  
Monday, March 2nd

### Valentine's Day Jokes

**What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?**  
Lily

**Why do birds fly north in the spring?**  
Because it's way faster than walking.

**How excited was the gardener about springs?**  
So excited he wet his plants!

**What did the big flower say to the little flower?**  
Hi, Bud!

**Why are trees very forgiving in spring?**  
Because they turn over a new leaf.

**What goes up when the rain comes down?**  
An umbrella



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# Update on the Mayfield's Lighthouse Women's & Children's Shelter

By Kelsey Edwards  
KPI Editor

At the Mayfield-Graves LTRG community partner luncheon, representatives from The Lighthouse Women's and Children's Shelter shared an update on efforts to rebuild after the December 2021 tornado destroyed the organization's former facility. Danelle Slack, the Executive Director, outlined plans to renovate and convert the former Budget Inn motel into a centralized shelter designed to serve women and children facing domestic violence, addiction, homelessness and other crises. The nonprofit is currently in the bid process, with hopes of beginning construction in

late March. Although The Lighthouse has continued outreach services since the tornado, Slack said the new site will allow the organization to return to a residential model focused on long-term healing. Slack went on to emphasize that the organization's approach centers on compassion and education, challenging common misconceptions about homelessness and financial instability. She shared national data highlighting that a significant portion of unhoused individuals are employed full time; one in four women experience physical violence by an intimate partner; approximately 3 million children witness domestic violence each year; and nearly 60% of

Americans live one paycheck away from economic crisis. In rural areas like western Kentucky, Slack said the challenge is compounded by limited shelter space, fewer motel rooms, lack of public transportation and fewer community resources. Many women and children in crisis are not visibly homeless but may be sleeping in vehicles, couch-surfing or temporarily housed through churches and community members. Slack then stressed that the new Lighthouse facility is far more than a cosmetic renovation. The approximately 10,000-square-foot building is being redesigned to meet updated safety codes and trauma-informed standards that prior-

itize privacy, dignity and security. Plans call for eleven private residential units, including nine family suites and two studio apartments. Each family suite will feature a private living area, bathroom, kitchenette, sleeping space and individual HVAC systems. The larger complex will also include a shared kitchen, two laundry rooms, a community space for parenting and lifeskills classes, staff offices and overnight staff quarters. Security measures will include gated access, fencing, lighting, surveillance cameras and controlled entry points. Engineers have even designed privacy walls to prevent visibility from outside the property, allowing residents to step outdoors

without fear of being seen. Construction is projected for completion by this time next year, February 2027, though that timeline does depend on funding and contractor bids. Final bids were due February 19, 2026. If costs exceed projections, portions of the project may need to be rebid, potentially delaying progress. While the organization is optimistic about currently secured funding, additional resources are still needed for site work, perimeter fencing and furnishings. The Lighthouse continues to pursue grants and private donations to close funding gaps. Operational sustainability is another major focus. Slack estimated that once the facility opens, the organization's annual operating budget

which includes utilities and staffing, will nearly triple. Slack did note that the need remains urgent, with multiple calls each week from individuals seeking assistance. Many are currently placed on waiting lists. She expressed hope that the rebuilt Lighthouse will serve as a permanent hub of safety and renewal for the region, offering families a structured path toward stability. Those interested in supporting The Lighthouse or seeking assistance can call 270-681-2177, email [LighthouseMayfieldKY@gmail.com](mailto:LighthouseMayfieldKY@gmail.com), or visit the organization's Facebook page or website at [lighthousemayfield-ky.com](http://lighthousemayfield-ky.com) for updates on construction and programming.

# Mayfield Animal Shelter Lowers Adoption Fee for February

By Kelsey Edwards  
KPI Editor

The Mayfield-Graves County Animal Shelter is offering reduced adoption fees on puppies throughout the entire month of February in an effort

to find homes for all of the dogs currently in its care. As of February 10, the shelter was housing 24 puppies ranging in age from 3 to 6 months old. The group includes a mix of breeds such as Boxer mixes, Pit mixes, Shepherd/Terrier

mixes and Labrador mixes. To encourage adoptions, the shelter has lowered the puppy adoption fee from \$212 to \$125 plus tax. The fee includes three puppy vaccinations, a rabies vaccine, bordetella vaccine, deworming treatment, flea

and tick prevention for the current month, microchipping, and spay or neuter services. For those who are unable to adopt but still want to help, the shelter welcomes donations. Needed items include wet and dry dog and cat food,

blankets, toys, paper towels, newspapers and cleaning supplies such as all-purpose cleaners, bleach, laundry detergent and dish soap. For more information, residents can call 270-251-0130, email [mayfieldgravesshelter@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldgravesshelter@gmail.com) or

message the shelter through its Facebook page. The shelter is open from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 500 N. 12th St. in Mayfield.

# Mayfield Artist Painting Unveiled by Ky Supreme Court

By Kelsey Edwards  
KPI Editor

Though Mayfield-Graves County is a small, rural community, its legacy continues to reach far beyond Western Kentucky. That impact was on display when the Supreme Court of Kentucky unveiled the official portrait of retired Justice John William Graves during

a ceremony in Frankfort. A western Kentucky native, Graves served on the state's highest court from 1995 to 2006. Before his tenure on the Supreme Court, he worked as both a district and circuit judge in McCracken County. The portrait, which will hang permanently among those of former justices, was painted by Mayfield artist

Fred Biggs. For now, the painting is displayed at the court's temporary location while renovations at the Capitol are underway. Fred Biggs, is an active board member of the Mayfield-Graves County Art Guild, and has built a reputation for capturing moments and figures significant to the region. His most widely recognized work is

a memorial painting of the former Graves County Courthouse destroyed in the December 2021 tornado. A print of that piece now hangs in the office of Andy Beshear. He also previously had a painting of the Fancy Farm Picnic displayed in the Team Kentucky Gallery at the Capitol. Largely self-taught, Biggs began painting at age 42 while recovering from major surgery. During six weeks away from work, he watched television artist Bob Ross and decided to try acrylic painting himself. Over the next three decades, his

hobby evolved into a passion for preserving the history and identity of Graves County through art. Born in the unincorporated community of Wheel, Biggs said his upbringing continues to shape his artistic perspective. He grew up on the farm that was the birthplace of former Vice President Alben Barkley and attended school in Lowes. Political history was never far removed from his daily life. The opportunity to paint Justice Graves came after Justice Shea Nickell, who now serves the same western Kentucky district

once represented by Graves, commissioned the portrait. Biggs described the process as both deliberate and deeply personal. He studied his subject for months before ever putting brush to canvas, focusing not only on physical likeness but on capturing the justice's character. While many formal portraits feature dark backgrounds to emphasize the subject, Biggs chose a brighter backdrop to reflect Graves' personality.

## MAYFIELD-GRAVES WEEK IN REVIEW

The Graves County Economic Development traveled to Frankfort to advocate for the continued growth and momentum of both Mayfield and Graves County. While in Frankfort, the team attended West Kentucky Thank You Night which is an annual gathering that brings together state leaders and Western Kentucky communities to express appreciation for ongoing partnership, support, and investment across the region. Additional meetings included

time with the Kentucky Department for Local Government. The Kentucky Department for Local Government (DLG), under the Office of the Governor, provides financial help in the way of grant and loan assistance, as well as advising local governments in matters of budget, personnel and other issues relevant to those entities. They also facilitate CDBG grant programs that directly benefit Graves County and partners across the Commonwealth.

Several Graves County Fishing Team Boat teams braved the cold and fished an SAF Tournament that was hosted by the Marshall County Anglers. With 82 boats competing, team members Jake Buzanis and Michael Harris brought home 2nd place with 16lbs 15 oz. Hunter Legens and Luis Garcia came in 9th with 5lbs 15 oz and then Coleman Winstead and Maddox Stamper came in 26th place with 2lbs 7oz.

### MAYFIELD-GRAVES EVENTS UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb 28, A Princess Tea Party, GCHS, 9 am
- Feb 28, Wingo Lions Club Junior Art Show, Wingo Lions Club Building, 2 pm
- Mar 2, Mayfield Trade Day, Mayfield-Graves Co. Fairgrounds, 5 am
- Mar 2, Women's History Month Display--All Month, All Day
- Mar 2, Lunch Book Club, GCPL, 12 pm
- Mar 2, Stress Free & Quiet Coloring Hour, GCPL, 5:30 pm
- Mar 2, Night Book Club, GCPL, 6 pm
- Mar 3, Homebased Microprocessing Workshop, GC Extension Office, 9 am
- Mar 3, LEGO Creator Night, GCPL, 3 pm
- Mar 3, Dr. Seuss Birthday Minigolf, GCPL, 5 pm
- Mar 3, All American Circus, Mayfield-Graves Co. Fairgrounds, 7 pm
- Mar 4, Easter Craft, GC Extension Office, 10 am
- Mar 5, Story Time, GCPL, 10 am
- Mar 6, Infant Hour, GCPL, 10 am
- Mar 6, After School Storytime, GCPL, 10 am
- Mar 6, Trading Card Game Night, GCPL, 4 pm

# The Scene

FEBRUARY 27, 2026



## B SECTION:

- Area Deaths
- Inspiration
- Classifieds
- Senior Health

### ★ ★ ★ Senior Health ★ ★ ★



Pictured (left to right): Heather Barron, Unit Manager; Paula Basham, Assistant Director of Nursing; Stephanie; Greg Lindsey, Executive Director; and Tabitha Neal, Assistant Director of Nursing. See Stephanie Cole story on page B2.

## Rehabilitation success stories bring patients home

By **Laurna Todd**  
Scene Writer

Recently, two area rehabilitation centers are celebrating meaningful victories as patients regain independence and return home to their families after serious health challenges.

At Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, staff recently recognized Stephen for completing his rehabilitation journey following a stroke. Through dedicated physical and occupational therapy, Stephen worked

steadily to rebuild strength and confidence. His progress allowed him to walk again, safely get in and out of bed, and manage everyday self-care tasks—important milestones that mark a return to greater independence.

Meanwhile, at Life Care Center of La Center, another patient reached a heartfelt goal just in time for the holidays. Larry arrived needing support to rebuild strength, mobility, and swallowing

see **HOME**,  
page B2



Larry completed rehabilitation at Life Care Center of La Center, rebuilding strength and mobility with the support of his therapy team before returning home to his family.

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**AUCTIONS**

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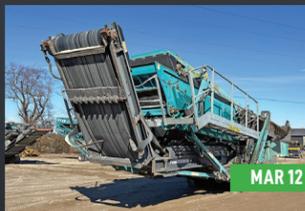
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EF2325 Bucyrus Magnum 420SR sod roll harvester



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## Senior care you can trust

By Laurna Todd  
Scene Writer

Choosing the right senior living option is an important decision for families seeking the best care for loved ones. Modern senior living now focuses on independence, dignity and quality of life, offering a range of choices designed to meet changing health and lifestyle needs. In Western Kentucky, Life Care Center of La Center provides a trusted option for both short-term rehabilitation and long-term skilled nursing care.

Conveniently located in La Center near Paducah and major medical providers such as Lourdes Hospital and Baptist Health

Paducah, the facility combines easy access to advanced health services with a warm, homelike environment. With 24-hour skilled nursing and individualized inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, residents receive personalized care tailored to their medical needs and recovery goals.

Senior living today includes many types of communities designed to support aging adults at different levels of need. For individuals who require medical supervision, post-surgical recovery, wound care or chronic condition management, skilled nursing facilities like Life Care Center of La Center provide essential support delivered by experienced nurses and therapists in a comfortable, supportive

setting.

Beyond clinical care, the center prioritizes daily activities, social engagement and meaningful amenities that enhance mental and emotional well-being. Comfortable living spaces, dining programs, religious services, planned group outings and family-focused support help residents feel secure, connected and truly at home.

As families explore senior living choices, Life Care Center of La Center stands out for compassionate care, professional expertise and a genuine commitment to helping residents feel at home—whether for recovery, rehabilitation or long-term living.



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## 2025 annual Whatever it Takes Champion: Stephanie Cole

By Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

This honor is truly well deserved. Stephanie, LPN, consistently goes above and beyond, not only for residents, but for their families as well. She keeps them informed of

even the slightest changes in condition, and shows extraordinary compassion during very difficult times. A family member of a patient shared that, during the patient's final days, Stephanie would come in on her days off to check on her and support the family. Stephanie regularly goes out of her way to care for others, bringing special snacks and items to residents who may not have anyone else to do so. She truly does whatever it takes

to ensure residents and families feel cared for and supported.

We are so proud and honored to have Stephanie as part of the Parkview team, and grateful for the compassion she shows our residents, families, and peers. Stephanie was honored with a plaque, \$250 cash award, and recognition on the Whatever It Takes Champions wall. Congratulations, Stephanie!

**HOME,**  
from page B1

ability. With the help of coordinated physical, occupational, and speech therapy, he made steady gains and was ultimately able to return home to his wife and family.

Care teams at both facilities say determination played a key role in each patient's recovery. Larry, in particular, was described as focused from the day he arrived, working tirelessly each day to meet his therapy goals.

Both facilities offer comprehensive rehabilitation services

designed to help patients regain strength, independence, and quality of life after illness, injury, or surgery. For more information about rehabilitation at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, call (270) 443-6543 or visit 544 Lone Oak Road in Paducah. To learn more about services at Life Care Center of La Center, call (270) 665-5681 or visit 252 W. Fifth St. in La Center.

Stories like these serve as encouraging reminders that with skilled care, determination, and support, recovery—and the return home—are truly possible.

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Stephen celebrates the completion of his stroke rehabilitation, having regained strength, mobility, and independence through dedicated therapy.

## BALLARD

**Edward Wayne “Bud” Fleming** passed away peacefully on February 20, 2026, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana. Funeral services were held at 12:00 PM on Monday, February 23, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Jason Logsdon officiating. Burial will follow at Lovelaceville Cemetery in Lovelaceville, KY.

**Mary Kay Riepe**, age 82, passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026. Visitation will be held Friday, February 27, 2026, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in LaCenter, KY from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held Friday, February 27, 2026 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in LaCenter, KY at 1:00 p.m. with Father Jude Okeoma officiating. Interment will follow at St. Mary’s Catholic Church Cemetery.

**Mary S. Smith**, age 86, passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Baptist Health in Paducah, surrounded by her loving family. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY at 1:00 p.m. with Brother Wes Peeler officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery.

## CALDWELL

**Brenda Jo Clark**, age 72, of Princeton, passed away February 24, 2026 at her home, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, faith, and deep devotion to those she cherished most. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm, Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 1:30 pm, Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Cedar Hill Cemetery with Bro. Dean Ray officiating.

## CALLOWAY

**Sandy Weatherford**, 63, of Dexter, KY was called home on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at Baptist Health in Louisville, KY after a long term battle with restrictive lung disease, pulmonary hypertension and congestive heart failure, as a result of a motor vehicle accident she sustained in 2001. She passed beautifully and peacefully surrounded by her loving daughters, under the care of her long time, trusted health care team. Graveside services were held at 1:00pm on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Brook Hill Memorial Gardens. Burial will follow.

**Debbie Diane Aarons**, 69, of Buchanan, TN, passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Murray Calloway County Hospital. No services are planned at this time. Imes Funeral Home is entrusted with caring for her family.

**Kevin Gerard Reuter, Sr.**, 69, passed away on February 20, 2026, at Murray-Calloway County Hospital. A Celebration of Life will be held on April 7, 2026, in Dickeyville, Wisconsin. Imes Funeral Home & Crematory is entrusted with caring for his family

**Michael David “Mike” Hodge**, 69, of Murray, met his Lord and savior on Friday, February 20, 2026 at his home surrounded by his loving family. The funeral service honoring the life of Mr. Mike Hodge was held at 11 AM on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at the Heritage Chapel of Imes Funeral Home, 1804 Highway 121 Bypass North, Murray. Rev. Jim Simmons and Brian Hodge will officiate, and burial will follow at Murray City Cemetery.

**Ben Kays Camp**, age 61, of Kirksey, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026, at his home. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 27, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Bro. Jordan Roach officiating. Burial will follow in the Kirksey Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Helena F. Lotz**, age 99, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at the Murray – Calloway County Hospital. A graveside service will be held on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Murray Memorial Gardens. Rev.

Kerry Lambert will officiate with burial to follow. There will be no public visitation.

**Gwen (Nance) Gingles**, age 97, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at her home. A public visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 28, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with a private family graveside service to follow. John Dale will officiate the private family graveside service.

**James Dale Parker**, 81, of Whitestown, Indiana, formerly of Henderson and Murray, Kentucky, passed away at 2:33 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Chapel Hill Church in Henderson, Kentucky. Visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m. CT, with the service beginning at 11:00 a.m. CT.

**Brenda Roberts**, age 83, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Monday, February 23, 2026, at the Murray – Calloway County Hospital. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

**Edward A. Etuokwu**, age 82, of Murray, Kentucky, formerly of Nigeria, passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

## CHRISTIAN

**Judy Carol Alexander Crossett**, age 79, passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center of natural causes. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 PM on Friday, February 27, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Rev. David Tucker officiating and burial to follow in Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Friday, February 27, 2026, from 11:00 AM until the service hour at 1:00 PM. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Ann Isom**, 70, of Hopkinsville, KY died Wednesday morning, February 18, 2026 at her residence. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 23, 2026 at New Work Fellowship with Pastor Michael Shearon officiating. Burial will follow in Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

**Bonnie Lynn Whitfill**, 61, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky died at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, February 15, 2026 at Saint Thomas West Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, February 23, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home. Burial will follow in New Ebenezer Cemetery.

**Dr. Mark Johnson, D.C.**, 65, Pyle Lane, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Friday, February 20, 2026 at Saint Thomas West, Nashville, TN of natural causes. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2026 at Lamb Funeral Home with Rev. Irvin Cushenberry officiating. Burial will follow in Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held from noon until the service hour on Friday, February 27, 2026 at the funeral home.

**Donnie Aldridge**, 69, Kountry Spring Lane, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Friday, February 20, 2026 at his home of natural causes. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Edgewood Baptist Church with Rev. Brandon Boone officiating. Burial will follow in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with full military honors. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

**Levi Peterson, Jr.**, 92, was born December 13, 1933 in Birmingham (Ensley), Alabama to the late Levi Peterson, Sr and Lelia Bell McCurdy Peterson. Levi passed peacefully February 21, 2026 while under hospice care after a brief

illness. Visitation will be held at the Gamble Funeral Home located at 1311 S. Liberty St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Funeral service will be held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 10 am at the St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church located at 902 E. 9th St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Rosary to begin at 9:30 am. Burial to follow at KVCW.

**Jonitta Moore**, 76, Hopkinsville, passed away on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, in Nashville, TN. Funeral service was held on Thursday, February 26th at 12:00 pm ant the First Street Baptist Church located at 812 Moayon Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Burial to follow at Cave Springs Cemetery.

**Jeff A. James**, 61, of Hopkinsville, KY passed away on Friday, February 20, 2026, at TriStar Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, TN. A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2026, at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville with Pastor Gary Atkin to officiate the service. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the funeral hour. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville is in charge of the arrangements.

**Sharon Elizabeth Ross**, 67, of Hopkinsville, KY died Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at her residence. Memorial service was held on Monday, February 23, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with Bro. Buddy Weatherford officiating. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville is in charge of the arrangements.

**Judy Lane Mosby**, 81, of Crofton, Kentucky died at 12:04 p.m., Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at her home in Crofton. Funeral services was held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Crofton with Rev. Barry Williams officiating. Burial will follow in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026.

**Carlos Catlett** affectionately known as “Los” passed away on February 20, 2026. Visitation will held at Taylor’s Funeral Home Hopkinsville, Ky on Saturday February 28, 2026 from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Cremation has been chosen after the Visitation.

## CRITTENDEN

**Emil Leroy Hodge**, 83, of Marion, KY passed away February 23, 2026 at Livingston Hospital. Services are scheduled for 1 PM Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Marion Baptist Church with interment in Sugar Grove Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 6-9 PM Friday at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY and from 10 AM until service time at the church on Saturday.

**Mary Lou Long**, 91, of Brookport, Illinois, formerly of Marion, KY passed away February 21, 2026 at her home in Brookport. Eastern Star Services are scheduled for 1:30 PM Friday February 27, 2026 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY. Funeral services are scheduled for 2 PM Friday February 27, 2026 at Gilbert Funeral Home with interment in Maplevue Cemetery. Dr. Calvin Bryant will be officiating, The family will receive visitors from 9 AM until service time Friday at the funeral home.

**Shirley Jean Kirk**, 77, of Marion, KY passed away February 21, 2026 at her home in Marion. She was a member of Lola Baptist Church. Services were held at 1 PM Wednesday February 25, 2026 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY.

**William Christopher Gabriel**, age 75, of Marion, passed away on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at Baptist Health of Madisonville. No services are scheduled at this time. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Robert Milton Brantley**, 92 years old of Princeton, KY, formerly of Marion, KY, passed away at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY on Friday February 20, 2026. A Celebration of Life was held at 1PM

**FUNERAL NOTICES** continued

Sunday February 22, 2026 at Myers Funeral Home, Marion, KY. Burial to follow at Mapleview Cemetery.

**FULTON**

**Judith Ann Everett Anderson**, 83, beloved wife of the late Bobby Anderson and a devoted mother and Nana, passed away on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at Fulton Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services for Mrs. Judith Ann Anderson were held at 2PM Sunday, February 22, 2026, at the Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman with burial in the Hickman City Cemetery.

**Robert William “Tony” Slayden**, age 83, passed away Thursday, February 19th, surrounded by family at the home of his daughter in Athens, AL. A memorial graveside service will be held at 3PM, Saturday, March 14, 2026, in the Obion County Memorial Gardens. There will be no visitation held at the funeral home and friends are asked to meet at the cemetery at the hour of service.

**Cynthia “Cyndy” Terrett**, age 78, passed away Tuesday, February 17th, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health in Paducah, KY. A memorial visitation was held Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 4-7 p.m. at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman, KY.

**GRAVES**

**Janice T. Dawson** age 80 of Mayfield passed away on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at Baptist Health of Paducah. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at Byrn Funeral Home.

**Richard “Ricky” Copeland**, age 68, of Mayfield passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026 at TriStar Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, TN. Funeral services for Mr. Richard “Ricky” Copeland were held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Chief Cornerstone Baptist Church. Rev. Keith Allred will officiate. Interment will follow at Trace Creek Cemetery.

**Mary Frances Bennett**, age 99, of Mayfield passed away on Sunday, February 22, 2026 at Mercy Health Lourdes in Paducah, KY. Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Frances Bennett will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Brian Egerton and Bridges Holland will officiate. Interment will follow at Farmington Cemetery.

**Shirrell Thurston** of Melber passed away at 7:48 AM Thursday February 19, 2026 at his residence in Melber 1 month after his 89th birthday. Funeral service was held at 11:00 AM Tuesday February 24, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Rev. Gary Cruse and Rev. Jerry Rollins officiating, burial will follow in the New Concord Cemetery.

**Mary Cooper Mabry**, age 93 of the Melber Community, passed away at 2:23 AM Thursday, February 19, 2026 at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services for Mary will be held at 1:00 PM Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Bro. Gary Knuckles will officiate with burial to follow in the Liberty Cemetery.

**Kathryn Saccenti (Demetrio)**, 72, of Wingo, Kentucky, originally from West Haven, Connecticut, passed away on February 17. Memorial services for Kathryn are being planned in Rocky Hill, Connecticut and will be made available as soon as they are finalized.

**HENDERSON**

**Mark Edward Adamson**, age 61, of Henderson KY, passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, IN. Relatives and friends are invited to Mark’s Life Celebration from 1:00

until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY. Inurnment will be held at White Oak Cemetery in Clay, KY.

**Anna L. Holderfield**, age 88, of Robards, KY, passed away on Sunday, February 22, 2026, under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice. Life Celebration was held on February 26th from 4:00 pm - 8 pm at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, 629 S. Green St., Henderson, KY 42420.

Jerry Lee Hagan, aged 66, passed away on February 23, 2026, at Redbanks Nursing Home in Henderson, Kentucky. In reflection of his life, family and friends will gather to honor Jerry, celebrating the love and memories he leaves behind. Memorial services will take place at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Visitation will be held from 12:00 PM until service time, allowing all who knew him the opportunity to pay their respects. Repass at Thomason’s banquet hall from 4:00pm-7:00pm.

**Paul Wayne Fredrick**, age 81, who departed this life on February 22, 2026, at Lucy Smith King Care Center, surrounded by his devoted family. Memorial services were held in reverence on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 1:00 PM at Haven Pentecostal Church, with Rev. Phil Wagoner officiating.

**Nancy Jo Crafton Williams** passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026, 11 days after her 90th birthday. Relatives and friends are invited to Nancy’s Life Celebration from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home and again from 10 a.m. until service time on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Bellfield Baptist Church. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the church, with the Reverend Jerry Tooley and Nancy’s second-favorite nephew, the Reverend James A. Williams, officiating. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson.

**Jesse Ralph O’Nan**, 91, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away February 22, 2026, at Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson, Kentucky. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. Father Ted Tempel will officiate. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery with full military rites performed by American Legion Worsham Post No. 40. Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2026, and from 11 a.m. until service time Saturday at the funeral home where prayers will be said at 6 p.m. Friday.

**Grace Ethel Staples Alderson** - Grace died at the age of 102 on 18 February 2026 at St. Anthony’s Hospice Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson, Kentucky. Services were held at noon Monday, 23 February 2026, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. Brother Robert Duncan will officiate. Burial will be in Cash Creek Cemetery.

**HICKMAN**

**Rev. Martin Thomas Hoskins**, age 92 of Clinton, passed away Monday, February 23, 2026 at Baptist Health in Paducah. Funeral Services for Rev. Tom will be held 1 PM Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Brown Funeral Home in Clinton with Rev. David Dixon officiating. Burial will follow in the Mt. Moriah Cemetery. Visitation will be held after 11 AM on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton.

**HOPKINS**

**Melvin (KBM) Samuel Atkins**, 74, of Madisonville, passed away on February 20, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Hospital in Madisonville, KY. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home, Providence Chapel, with Bro. Robert Allen officiating. Burial will follow in Green Grove Cemetery.

**Kim Yvette Murphy**, 64 years young, of Henderson, KY, formerly of Madisonville, KY, ran joyfully into the arms of her Lord and Savior on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at her home. Memorial Services will be held at a later date. Barnett Strother Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family with the arrangements.

**Charles “Chuck” Edward Reed**, 75, of Madisonville, KY, passed on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at Deaconess Gateway in Newburgh, IN. A Celebration of Life was held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Covenant Community Church in Madisonville with Dr. Michael Knight officiating.

**Theodore James “Teddy” Thomas Jr.**, 62, of Nashville, Tennessee, formerly of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at 5:00 p.m. Friday February 20, 2026 at St. Thomas West Hospital in Nashville with his loving family by his beside. On Saturday, February 28th at 12:00 p.m., Teddy’s life will be celebrated at Abundant Life Assembly of God in Henderson. Superintendent Marshall Chambers will be eulogist. Burial will follow in Thomas Family Cemetery in Cairo, Kentucky. His visitation and wake services will be from 11:00 a.m. until the 12:00 p.m. service time Saturday at Abundant Life Assembly of God where family and friends will gather.

**Linville Allen Young**, 57 of White Plains passed away Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Graveside service was held at 1:00pm on Tuesday, February 24 at Orange Grove Cemetery in White Plains.

**James F. Keller III**, 68, of Slaughters, KY, passed away on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Eddie Fleming officiating. Burial to be held at a later date.

**Shirle Ann Storey Mitchell**, 80, of Madisonville, KY, formerly of Louisville, KY, passed away on Friday, February 20, 2026, at Ridgewood Terrace Health and Rehab in Madisonville. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville with Pastor Eddie Fleming officiating. Burial to follow at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the funeral hour on Friday at the funeral home.

**Mary Elizabeth Todd Ferguson**, 92, of Dawson Springs, KY, passed away on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at Tradewater Health and Rehab in Dawson Springs, KY. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

**LIVINGSTON**

**Nancy C. Stice** passed away at home, Sunday, February 22nd, after a long illness. “ Nanny Boop “ was loved by all who were blessed to have known her. Most of her adult life was spent as a business manager first at the transmission service she helped build and run, for over twenty years next she managed several branches of Subway, two Livingston County grocery stores, and ran the Ledbetter Minit Mart for over a decade. When an on the job injury forced her into early retirement, she spent the rest of her life enjoying it as much as possible. When her time came, she closed her eyes and went peacefully to sleep, one last time. Words can’t express how much she will be missed.

Lindsey Funeral is honored to take care of the Stice family.

**Zane Walker**, age 93, of Grand Rivers, passed away February 21, 2026 at Calvert City Nursing & Rehabilitation. Visitation will be held Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home was held from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Private graveside services were held at 10:00 am Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at Corinth Cemetery.

## FUNERAL NOTICES continued

## LYON

**Elizabeth Gray Oliver**, age 90, of Eddyville, passed away February 21, 2026 at Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. Funeral services were held at 2:00 pm Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home with Bro. Ricky Sexton officiating. Burial will follow at Friendship Methodist Cemetery in Lyon County.

**Karen Ann Eaton**, age 74 of Kuttawa, died at 4:49 am. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026 at Baptist Health in Paducah. Graveside memorial services were held at 1:00 pm Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Kuttawa Cemetery with Rev. Jimmy Jones officiating with burial to follow. Dunn's Funeral Home in Eddyville is in charge of the arrangements.

## MARSHALL

**Carolyn Sills**, 82, of Benton, KY passed away February 17, 2026, at Marshall County Hospital in Benton, Ky. Funeral Service were held Monday February 23, 2026, at 11:00 am at Lindsey Funeral Home with Joey Adair officiating the service and burial followed in Marshall County Memory Gardens in Benton, KY.

**Carolyn Duckett Clark**, 73, of Gilbertsville, Kentucky, peacefully passed away at her home on Saturday, February 21, 2026. Visitation will be from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Monday, March 2, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar Street, Benton, KY 42025. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, March 2, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann. Bro. Mark Thweatt officiating. There will be a private family burial held at a later date.

**Larry Gene Hyde**, 86, of Gilbertsville, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at his residence. Per his wishes, no funeral services will be held. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling the arrangements.

**Elva Jane (Tucker) Walker**, 87, of Murray, passed away Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Spring Creek Healthcare in Murray. service celebrating Elva's life will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. in the chapel of Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, 713 S. 4th Street, Murray, KY with Rev. Jim Stahler officiating. Friends may visit with the family from 11:00 a.m. until the 12:30 p.m. service time, at the funeral home. On Friday, March 6, 2026, a funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Harre Funeral Home in McLeansboro, Illinois, with Rev. Danny Walker officiating. Friends may visit with the family from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Harre Funeral Home, 310 W. Randolph Street, McLeansboro. Following the service, Elva will be laid to rest beside her first husband, Charles Ira Rogers, at the Ten Mile Cemetery.

**Marjorene Pace**, 99 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Calvert City Convalescent Center with her family by her side. A funeral service was held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at Collier Funeral Home with Danny Davis and Lyndall Groves officiating. Interment will follow at Edwards Cemetery, Benton, KY.

**Mark Joseph Kunnecke**, age 70, passed away at Riverbend Retirement Community in Kuttawa, KY on February 20, 2026. Graveside funeral services will be held Friday, March 27, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Calvert City Cemetery.

## McCRACKEN

**Jennifer Hooper**, 52, of West Paducah, passed away on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. A Memorial Service was held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, with Greg Carman officiating

at Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah.

**Jimmy Dale McMurtry** passed away on February 21, 2026, at Baptist Health Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky. Funeral services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, with Pastor Jeremy Beggs officiating. Burial will follow at Marshall County Memory Gardens. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the service hour on Friday, February 27, 2026, at the funeral home.

**Erma Lou Lewis Tatum**, 85, of Bolivia, North Carolina, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on February 20, 2026, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Paducah, Kentucky. A graveside service will follow in her hometown.

**Joyce Baker** of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on February 20, 2026, after a fulfilling life marked by service, beauty, and her devotion to her loved ones. A funeral service will be held at 1 P.M. on Friday, February 27, 2026 at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Lone Oak with Rev. Brent Morris officiating. Visitation will begin at 11 A.M. and continue until the service starts at 1 P.M.

**William W. South** passed away on Friday, February 20, 2026, at River Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation in Paducah, Kentucky. A private family service will be held at a later date. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah are handling arrangements.

**Angela Schultzman Smith**, born March 27, 1939, died February 18, 2026. The funeral was held at St. Francis Catholic Church in Paducah, KY at 12 pm on Wednesday, February 25, with Fr. Gary Clark officiating. Burial followed at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Rollie Brent Bartlett**, 75, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2026, at Southgate Nursing and Rehabilitation in Metropolis, Illinois. A funeral service was held at 1:00 PM on Monday, February 23, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Bro. Bud Russell officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Kenton Cemetery in Paducah, Kentucky.

**Greg Ward**, 55, of Paducah passed away on Friday, February 20, 2026, at his sister's residence. He will be cremated per his wishes and no services are scheduled at this time. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Ward family.

**Jason Dewayne Kent** 12-16-1977 to 2-18-2026. Matthew 12:50... "For whoever dose the will of my Father in Heaven is my sister, brother, and mother" Jason passed away after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. His life was a testament to faith, redemption and perseverance. Lindsey Funeral Home oversees the arrangements.

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

**Robin Joseph Sample ("Joe")**, age 65, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at home on February 19, 2026. The family will gather for a private memorial in remembrance of Joe. Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah is in charge of arrangements.

**Gary Thomas Lee**, age 72, born on November 28, 1953, in Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on February 23, 2026, at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House in Murray, Kentucky. There are no services scheduled at this time. Keeling & Goodman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Lee family.

**Joann Reedy**, age 79 of Paducah, born on March 4, 1946, in Decatur, Illinois, passed away peacefully at her residence on February 20, 2026. Funeral services were held at Southland Baptist Temple in Paducah, Kentucky, starting on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 9:00 AM with Bro. Jonathan Goodman officiating. A graveside service was held on February 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM at Macon County Memorial Park in Decatur, Illinois.

## UNION

**Troy Utley**, age 61 of Morganfield, KY passed away Monday, February 23, 2026 at Deaconess Hospital Henderson County. Arrangements are pending at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield. Memorial contritutions can be made to the Troy Utley Memorial Fund at Whitsell Funeral Home, PO Box 348, Morganfield, KY 42437.

## WEBSTER

**Lorna Sue Hall**, 64 of Providence passed away Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at her home. Funeral services were held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Providence with Bro. Johnnie Davis officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

**Ilis "Brad" Bradley Owen**, 78, passed peacefully at Baptist Health in Madisonville, KY on February 21, 2026. Funeral services will be Friday, February 27, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay. Pastor Tim Rigdon will be officiating. Burial will be in Rocksprings Cemetery in Wheatcroft. Visitation will be Friday 10:00 AM till service time at the funeral home.

**Glada Ruth Braden**, 90 of Tulsa, OK formerly of Clay passed away Saturday, February 21, 2026 at her home. Cremation was chosen; there will be a memorial service later in the spring.

**Ronald "Ron" William Bell**, 83 of Clay, passed away on Friday, February 20, 2026 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay with Brother Russell Bell officiating.

**Mary Jean "Jeannie" Edwards**, 82 of Clay passed away Friday, February 20, 2026 at her home in Clay. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at Vanover Funeral Home at 11:00 AM with Brother Ronnie Gibson officiating. Burial will be in Oddfellows Cemetery in Clay.

**Michael Jay Wright**, 76 of Dixon passed away Thursday February 19, 2026 at his home. Funeral services were held on Sunday, February 22, 2026 at Vanover Funeral Home at 2:30 PM with Brother John Brumfiel officiating. Burial will be in Oddfellows Cemetery in Clay.

**Frank Lewis Melton**, age 94, passed away in Martinez, Georgia. He was born on January 13, 1932, in Marion, Kentucky, to the late Ruth and William Melton. Graveside services will be held at 2:00PM on Saturday February 28, 2026 at the Shady Grove Cemetery in Shady Grove, KY.

**Karen Sue Fulcher** 83, of Dixon, KY passed away at her home February 18, 2026. A 2PM graveside service will be held Saturday February 28, 2026 at Old Cedar Grove Cemetery in Tilden, KY. Townsend Funeral Home is handling the service. Bro. Jody Hughes will officiate.

**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

## Released from past mistakes

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

If you're a beach lover like me, you've watched as ocean waves wash onto shore melting your footprints into the surrounding sand. If you've noticed, sometimes those powerful waves must take two or three sweeps across the grainy sand before the tell-tale signs of someone walking completely disappears. A tiny footprint may only take one gush of water, but a big and deep footprint takes more than one.

That's like the footprints left in our lives because of sin. Some are barely seen. Others are very deep. What can we do about the footprints that just won't go away?

In life, not only do we have to contend with footprints we've left behind, we also have to learn to deal with the footprints our spouses, our children, our churches, our government and sometimes even the



footprints our parents left behind. But know this, the past has no power over you if you don't focus on it. Apostle Paul had lots of reasons to regret his life before Christ, but he said, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are

before" (Phil 3:13).

Focusing on the left-behind footprints is not healthy. Satan tries to keep our focus on what is wrong, but God wants us to think on what is right. For some of us, it's time to change our thinking habits, if we want to be released from past mistakes. The Bible says, think on

these things: whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report (Phil. 4:8). Not once does Jesus say to think on your failures and shortcomings.

For all of us, the first step in washing away deep and unpleasant footprints, the answer is to give our life to Christ. After that, it becomes

a journey. You're not instantly sanctified and perfect. We are, however, cleansed by his blood and forgiven. Trouble is, forgiveness does not wipe out the past. The price for sin is very costly. Sometimes, bad choices turn our entire lives around and continue spinning in mindless circles. Only Jesus

can help people deal with the spinning that is out of control.

Too many of our choices are made without 'thinking'. Take, for instance, when I fell off a city scooter ripping the hamstring muscle from my bone. Getting on that scooter was a decision I made without thinking and it's one I'll be reminded of for the rest of my life. I'll no longer have the freedom to do just any activity I want to. My life will be filled with many restrictions and, for me, that's a gross reminder that there's always a price to pay for not thinking before acting foolishly.

No one can change your life, but you. God can change your heart and your desires, but it will be up to you to obey God and change your life. In this life, we will all leave deep and unwanted footprints, but thank God, He has the ability to wash away our sins and make us whole again.

## ALMOST HOME

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett  
Bandana Baptist Church

On lengthy road trips, I often groan and grumble about the rigors of long travel, and my wife will always reassure me, saying, "Just a little while longer—we are almost home." And it never fails to cheer me up, no matter how far away we are from home. Because of that reminder, I keep my foot on the gas, my eyes on the road, and the guiding map on my GPS. And all the way, I am encouraged in my heart because I know the road won't go on forever. Indeed, home will be just around the corner.

All who are redeemed by faith in

Christ are headed home, too. We are destined for our Father's heavenly house. As Jesus assured, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (John 14:2). The Bible even says that we are headed for a place not built with human hands: "For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1). In fact, one day we will "be away from the body and at home with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8).



But right now, we aren't at home. We are sojourners traveling up the rough and rocky road of our Christian pilgrimage—and it is not easy. We often grow tired and exhausted on the road of righteousness (Gal. 6:9). We sometimes have to

wait when we wish we were moving forward, much like being stuck in traffic (Psalm 27:14). But we need only to remember the biblical truth that we are almost home.

We cannot be certain of how close we are, of course. But we can be certain that we

are closer to our heavenly home-going with every passing hour. Every evening sunset brings us closer to the day when the Son will shine brightly upon us (Malachi 4:2 Rev. 22:5). Every night of sleep brings us closer to the day when we shall rest from our labors (Rev. 14:13). We may be years or only seconds away from entering our eternal home, but no matter what, we are almost there.

And thus, we need to keep our eyes on the highway of holiness and our heads held high in faith, allowing the guiding map of holy Scripture to direct us to our heavenly home. And all the

while, we may sing the words of William Hunter's hymn, I Feel Like Traveling On: "My heav'nly home is bright and fair,

*I feel like traveling on.*

*Nor pain, nor death can enter there,*

*I feel like traveling on.*

*Yes, I feel like traveling on,*

*I feel like traveling on;*

*My heav'nly home is bright and fair,*

*I feel like traveling on."*

# OUTDOOR Truths

By Gary Miller  
Outdoortruths.org



It seems, years ago, I simply reacted when hunting season came. The preparation phase lasted only about a month. The reason was because I hunted area farms. Unlike many hardwoods' areas, farmland hunting is fairly predictable. The deer are basically going to be there from year to year. I know this cuts out the need for a lot of scouting articles, but the truth is the truth. For instance, I have heard all my life that oak trees only

produce acorns every three years or so. Now, I've not studied this, so don't send me mean emails. What I have discovered is this. If there is an oak tree on the side of a field, and that field is fertilized by the farmer every year, that tree will have acorns every year. I have also noticed this. If that same farmer has several cows and those cows fertilize around that oak tree every year (if you know what I mean), that tree will have

acorns every year as well. Things just are a little different on the farm. And what about that wonderful spring gobbler? I've hunted them in the deep woods and on the farm and I can tell you, once again, if that farmer has cows and he feeds those cows a little sweet feed; he is creating one of the best management areas for turkeys. What each hunter needs to realize is that each cow pie is a natural bait pile that a turkey will eventually find.

Somehow, I just can't see this technique being given print space in any outdoor magazine; but again, that's life on the farm; a little different and, in my opinion, a lot better. The farmer has learned that nothing is wasted – even waste. He has learned that what the rest of the world sees as worthless and even unmentionable is the catalyst for growth and the medium for consistency. He has learned that waste is not waste. It is fertilizer!

What all of us need to remember is there is nothing that happens in our life that is useless or worthless. God never looks at something we have done and says, "I can't use that." He uses everything and has promised that even the things we consider of no use, He will use to grow our life into one that is consistent in bearing spiritual fruit year after year. As I like to say, not only can God make something out of nothing, but He

can make something out of everything. And that means what looks like cow pies to you, is fertilizer to God.

*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*



Craig Beavers

# Heart, kidney and metabolic health are connected and early action matters

[PADUCAH, KY] — Heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and obesity are often thought of as separate conditions, but health experts say they are more closely connected than

many people realize. A growing focus on Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) syndrome highlights how problems affecting the heart, kidneys and metabolism can

interact and worsen over time.

CKM syndrome refers to the combined effects of heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and obesity and share common risk factors,

including high blood pressure, high blood sugar, abnormal cholesterol and excess body weight. Because they often occur together, they increase the risk of serious complications such as heart attack, stroke and heart failure.

In February 2025, Baptist Health Paducah was selected to participate in the American Heart Association's Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Health Initiative™, a new national effort to improve prevention, screening and treatment of interrelated conditions that can lead to heart disease and stroke.

Participating hospitals and clinics in the initiative are recognized as "CKM Health Groundbreakers." Baptist Health Paducah is among 150 health care sites across 15 regions in the U.S. working together to advance care for more than a quarter-million patients.

"When we look at heart disease, kidney disease and metabolic conditions like diabetes, we now understand that they don't occur in isolation," said Craig Beavers, PharmD, Cardiovascular

see ACTION, page B9

## Tri-Rivers Healthcare, PLLC

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**ACTION,**  
from page B8

Serviceline Executive Sponsor Baptist Health Paducah. "They are deeply connected. The earlier we recognize risk factors, the more we can do to prevent long-term damage and improve overall health."

According to the American Heart Association, 42% of U.S. adults live with at least two chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, abnormal cholesterol or diabetes. These overlapping conditions significantly increase the risk of developing CKM syndrome.

If left unmanaged, CKM syndrome can lead to serious

health problems, including heart failure, irregular heart rhythms such as atrial fibrillation, heart attacks, clogged arteries, stroke, peripheral artery disease, kidney failure, disability and premature death.

CKM syndrome is categorized in five stages, ranging from Stage 0, when no risk factors are present, to Stage 4, when individuals have both CKM risk factors and established heart disease. Early stages may involve excess body fat, elevated blood sugar, high blood pressure or abnormal cholesterol levels, often without noticeable symptoms.

Health experts emphasize that early

recognition and coordinated care can make a meaningful difference. The five key health factors to monitor and manage are: blood pressure, cholesterol, weight, blood sugar and kidney function.

"You have more control than you may think," said Beavers. "With the right care plan, including medications when appropriate, healthy lifestyle changes and regular checkups, many people can slow or even reverse the effects of CKM syndrome."

To learn more or schedule an appointment with Baptist Health Medical Group Cardiology call 270.575.3113.

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## Quilter Charles Cameron Workshop

Quilter Charles Cameron Workshop will be held March 12-14 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah.

Learn from acclaimed modern quilter Charles Cameron in the Crooked Crosses and Bent Boxes workshop at the National Quilt Museum. Explore semi-improv

techniques and view works from his exhibition, A Curious Modern Quilter, currently on display.

The workshop begins with a pattern overview, followed by hands-on instruction. Participants will work toward a 60" x 50" throw quilt using efficient piecing techniques such as strip piecing, nested seams, and modular

subunits. Blocks are oversized, then trimmed improv-style to create movement and visual interest.

The National Quilt Museum is in downtown Paducah, Kentucky, near hotels, dining, and attractions. Visit Paducah.travel to plan your trip. Fees: \$495 / \$396 NQM Friend

Register <https://quiltmuseum.org/charles-cameron/>

## Kentucky State Parks launches new mobile app to improve visitor experience

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Building on the New Kentucky Home initiative, the Kentucky Department of Parks has implemented a new mobile app designed to enhance state parks' outdoor recreation experiences. For the first time, guests will have access to accurate digital maps that are also available offline.

The free mobile app, powered by OuterSpatial, provides up-to-date information and resources on outdoor recreational opportunities and events, curated experiences and hiking trail maps.

"From hiking, activities, golf and more, our Kentucky State Parks are a great place to visit, and this free app will help make it easier for families to enjoy," said Gov. Andy Beshear. "If you haven't

visited one of our 44 Kentucky State Parks in a while, this new app and passport challenge is a great reason to plan a stay."

"We're excited to finally have a mobile app that will give Kentuckians and visitors a better way to explore the incredible range of parks across our state," said Kentucky State Parks Commissioner Russ Meyer. "From hiking and camping to cultural events and family outings, this app brings it all together in one reliable and easy-to-use place."

*Key features for the mobile app include:*

Detailed Park Maps – View boundaries, trail networks, restrooms, parking areas and more.

Over 1,000 Outdoor Points of Interest – Discover scenic

overlooks, boat launches, playgrounds, climbing areas, historical sites and other amenities.

Outings – Follow curated experiences created by park staff to help you explore something new.

Challenges – Complete outdoor goals and earn digital badges for achievements.

Real-Time Updates – Stay informed about trail closures, facility changes and event schedules.

To celebrate the launch, Kentucky State Parks is introducing the KY Passport Challenge, a statewide invitation to explore all 44 state parks. Participants can check in at any state park to get started. Each check-in earns a unique digital badge tied to that park, with the goal of collecting all 44 badges to complete your passport.

# Kentucky Dam Village State Park GOLF COURSE

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## PREMIER LAND AUCTION

Angelo Towhead Island • Tuesday, March 24, 2026 • 12:00 pm (CST)

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Auction Held At: Shawnee Community College - Cairo Campus - 2035 Washington Ave, Cairo, IL 62914

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9.95 MILLION  
BOARD FEET  
OF SAWTIMBER

Located in Alexander County and approximately one mile from the Cairo city limits, the island provides convenient access to town while maintaining a private, river-oriented environment. Angelo Towhead lies on the final stretch of the Middle Mississippi River and is recognized as the last island before the river transitions into the Lower Mississippi at the Ohio River confluence.

TIMBER INVENTORY OVERVIEW

- Total Timberland: Approximately 522 acres
- Sawtimber Volume: Estimated 9.9-10 million board feet (Doyle 78 log rule)
- Average Volume: Approx. 19,070 board feet per acre Projected Species Composition (Gross Mill Volume)
- Cottonwood: ~8.95 million board feet (≈90%)
- Maple: ~554,000 board feet (≈6%)
- Miscellaneous Hardwoods: ~168,000 board feet (≈2%)
- Green Ash: ~132,000 board feet (≈1%)
- Swamp White Oak: ~76,000 board feet (≈1%)
- Elm: ~76,000 board feet (≈1%)

In addition to sawtimber, the property includes an estimated 37,000 tons of pulpwood, providing additional harvest value.

REAL ESTATE TERMS & CONDITIONS: The property will be offered in 2 tracts and combinations. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 30 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING, SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. 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. Timber Rights: All timber information, including volumes and estimated values, is provided for informational purposes only and shall not constitute a warranty, representation, or guarantee of value or harvest results. Buyers assume all risk related to timber valuation and harvest.

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# Logan's Law clears House chamber with near unanimous vote

By **TOM LATEK**  
*Kentucky Today*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Legislation aimed at significantly strengthening Kentucky's sentencing and parole laws for serious and violent crimes cleared the Kentucky House on Tuesday by a vote of 93-1.

The measure, House Bill 422, is named Logan's Law in memory of six-year-old Versailles native Logan Tipton. Logan was violently killed as he slept in his family's home in 2015. House Bill 422 is sponsored by Rep. Dan Fister, R-Versailles, Logan's State Representative, and Rep. TJ Roberts, R-Burlington.

Logan's Law was named in memory of six-year-old Logan Tipton

who was violently killed as he slept in his family's home in 2015. The measure would put more teeth in Kentucky's sentencing and parole laws.

"Logan was a kind, strong, and wonderful young man who loved his family and was a bright light to everyone who crossed his path," Fister said when presenting the bill on the House floor. "He had his whole life ahead of him and now his family is living the worst nightmare any parent or sibling can endure. While no legislation can undo that loss, this bill aims to turn tragedy into meaningful reform."

Ronald Exantus was acquitted of capital murder and first-degree burglary by reason of insanity in 2018, but

was found guilty on two counts of second-degree assault and one count of fourth-degree assault for attacking other members of the Tipton family and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Seven years later, he was released from prison in October on mandatory re-entry supervision, despite being denied release three times by the Kentucky Parole Board. Exantus was rearrested in Florida on October 9, just eight days after being released from prison, and is back in Kentucky state custody. He will be released later this year.

HB 422 expands and clarifies the definition of "violent offender," increases the minimum time certain offenders must serve before becoming eligible for

parole (including raising life-sentence parole eligibility from 25 to 35 years), and limits early release options such as mandatory reentry supervision for violent and high-level felony offenders.

The measure also requires consecutive sentencing for offenders convicted of multiple violent or serious felonies involving multiple victims, tightens parole eligibility rules, and adjusts reporting and data-tracking requirements to reflect longer sentences and parole restrictions. In addition, it revises procedures related to capital sentencing, aggravating

factors, and treatment of defendants found guilty but mentally ill.

Logan's Law now goes to the Senate for consideration.



Logan's Law was named in memory of six-year-old Logan Tipton who was violently killed as he slept in his family's home in 2015. The measure would put more teeth in Kentucky's sentencing and parole laws.

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

**Word Search Answers**

B E G V R O D D K A P S U N Z G H S C A T I S  
 I U N I L A A H A R S T E N S V B I L A A F  
 G N V N U V I T E R F R I A K H  
 R E L A H O P N R W H S E S I Z E T A N E  
 L V G G A A E I E I H I G G I S S  
 G N A K B S A A E I E I H I G G I S S  
 I N H S O O T S G B C N S S I N N X T C  
 I N H S O O T S G B C N S S I N N X T C  
 G I O N N O K R R O T S A N C J T C  
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# Cats use strong finish to overcome Gamecocks, end 3-game slide

By KEITH TAYLOR  
Kentucky Today

Kentucky's rare three-game losing streak came to an end on Tuesday night with a sprint to the finish line.

The Wildcats (18-10, 9-6 Southeastern Conference) used a late spurt to overcome struggling South Carolina, 72-63, a win Kentucky desperately needed following losses to Florida, Georgia and Auburn over the past two weeks.

Kentucky coach Mark Pope and his squad were eager to put the three-game slide behind them with now three games remaining in the regular season. Pope admitted the past two weeks had been "emotionally wearing and taxing" on his squad.

"The pressure (at Kentucky) is ever present, which is such a privilege," Pope said on his postgame radio show. "It's why you want to come play at Kentucky. Nobody wants to go play where it doesn't matter, right?"



Denzel Aberdeen scored 19 to lead Kentucky past South Carolina on Tuesday night. (UK Athletics photo)

But I do think there's an emotional toll on our guys. I think the past couple games and then the game Saturday, the way it finished ... we spent more time trying to purge ourselves and refresh ourselves from the energy of the last 10 days."

The players, including Mouhamed Dioubate, were relieved to avoid a fourth-straight defeat.

"We had a little adversity, but we fought through it," Dioubate

said. "Shout out to my team again, and Coach, he kept motivating us. Through the tough times throughout this game we fought through it. We've been doing that all year."

Kentucky never led by double digits until the final minute and was clinging to a 59-57 lead with 2:52 left. After the brief spurt by the hosts, the Wildcats scored 10 unanswered, including a clutch 3-pointer by Collin Chandler to

put the Gamecocks away.

"Collin (had) another crucial shot down the stretch to give us some breathing space," Pope said. "I thought Mo and Brandon Garrison gave us great lifts. All four of our guys off the bench were positive plus-minus tonight. That really is important. The most important (thing) is the guys just kind of hung in there and got a win on the road, which is a big deal for

us."

South Carolina (12-16, 3-12) missed nine of its last 13 shots down the stretch, while Kentucky was successful on four of its last field goal attempts.

Denzel Aberdeen led four players in double figures with 19 points and connected on four of the team's seven 3-pointers. Aberdeen made back-to-back treys during a 13-0 Kentucky run in the first half, the team's longest scoring spree since a 12-0 run in a 92-68 win over Mississippi State on Jan. 10.

Pope praised the performance by Aberdeen, who played 37 minutes and didn't commit a turnover in the backcourt.

"We needed a (big) game from him," Pope said. "He's been a little quieter the last few games and I thought he carried us tonight, which we needed. We needed him to do it. He rose up and got the job done."

Dioubate followed Aberdeen with 12 points and added

four rebounds. Andrija Jelavic tied a career-high with 11 points, while Chandler had 10 points. Malachi Moreno had eight points and had 11 rebounds.

Coming off a career-high 29-point performance in a 75-74 loss at Auburn, Otega Oweh missed double figures for the first time this season, finishing with eight points. Dating back to last season, Oweh had scored double figures in 30 consecutive games.

Kentucky shot just 39 percent (26-of-66) from the field and made just seven treys on 25 attempts and committed 15 turnovers. South Carolina managed just 13 points off turnovers, while the Wildcats scored 18 points on 12 miscues by the Gamecocks.

The Cats, though, held a whopping 48-28 advantage in rebounding, which proved to be decisive.

Gametracker: Vanderbilt at Kentucky, 2 p.m., Saturday. TV/Radio: ESPN, UK Radio Network.

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