



February 6th, 2026

The

# Guardian

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## Graves County Sheriff's Ongoing Scammer Investigation

By Kelsey Edwards  
KPI Editor

The Graves County Sheriff's Office has made a second arrest in an ongoing investigation involving the alleged scamming of approximately \$83,000 from a Graves County couple, according to Sheriff Jon Hayden. Sheriff Hayden said the investigation began after the victims received a mailer claiming they had won a \$250 million jackpot. After calling the phone number listed in the mailing, the couple was instructed to send money in order to "release" their supposed winnings. Investigators said the victims were told the payments were necessary to cover fees, including what were described as IRS-related charges. By the time communication with the scammers abruptly stopped, the couple had reportedly sent close to \$83,000. The most recent arrest involves Hurane Courtney Martin, identified by the sheriff's office as a Jamaican citizen. According to authorities, Martin arrived at Fort Lauderdale International Airport on Jan. 22 on

a flight from Montego Bay, Jamaica. He reportedly applied for entry into the United States as a visitor for

inspection, officers discovered that Martin had an active arrest warrant issued out of Graves County. Inves-

to the scam. Customs and Border Protection officers contacted the Broward County Sheriff's Office in

charged with engaging in organized crime and theft by unlawful taking over \$10,000. He is currently being held

Facey, another Jamaican national accused of participating in the same fraudulent scheme. Authorities have indicated that additional suspects may be involved. Graves County Sheriff's Detective Tony Cornwell is continuing to lead the investigation. Sheriff Hayden said the criminal complaint against Martin outlines the alleged scheme in detail, stating that the victims were defrauded of an estimated \$83,000 between Sept. 1 and Sept. 30, 2025, after being misled into believing they had won a massive lottery prize. Investigators allege Martin was one of three co-conspirators connected to the crime and that he received funds under false pretenses. According to the complaint, Martin is accused of violating multiple Kentucky statutes, including securities fraud over \$10,000, engaging in organized crime and theft by unlawful taking over \$10,000. The investigation remains active as authorities work to identify and locate any additional individuals involved.



pleasure and presented a valid nonimmigrant visitor visa to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers. During a routine

investigation, officers alleged that Martin is the account holder of the bank account into which the victims deposited the funds connected

to the scam. Customs and Border Protection officers contacted the Broward County Sheriff's Office in

charged with engaging in organized crime and theft by unlawful taking over \$10,000. He is currently being held

## Mayor O'Nan Recognizes the Mayfield School Board

By Kelsey Edwards  
KPI Editor

In recognition of School Board Recognition Month at both the national and state levels, Mayor Kathy O'Nan attended Mayfield's Board of Education meeting to formally proclaim January as School Board Recognition Month in the City of Mayfield. O'Nan, who spent nearly 40 years teaching social studies at Mayfield High School, praised the commitment, leadership and volunteer service of the local board members. She said their work plays a critical role in supporting students and staff while helping shape the next generation of responsible and

engaged citizens within the district. Current members serving on the Mayfield Independent Schools Board of Education include Joe Green, Martha Wynstra, Larry Jackson, Michelle Arnett and Lorane Smith. Superintendent Billy Edwards also attends meetings and provides administrative input. O'Nan explained that school boards function as elected governing bodies for public school districts, acting as a link between the community and school administration to promote student success. Board members are responsible for setting district policies, approving curricula, overseeing budgets and fostering a positive learning

environment through thoughtful and practical decision-making. She added that the Mayfield Board of Education has carried out those responsibilities with diligence and professionalism, and she encouraged residents to recognize and thank them for their service. "January 2026 marks Kentucky's observation of School Board Recognition Month," O'Nan continued while reading the proclamation. "Therefore, I — proud former teacher and Mayor of Mayfield, Kathy O'Nan — do hereby proclaim January 2026 throughout the community as School Board Recognition Month, and I urge all citizens to honor the Mayfield Board of Education

members for their service." In addition to the proclamation, several district updates were discussed during the meeting. Adult meal prices were announced, with school breakfast now set at \$3.25 and adult lunch priced at \$5.05. Superintendent Billy Edwards also shared that Mayfield High School's prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, and will once again be held at the Mayfield-Graves Country Club, a venue he said has worked well in past years. The board renewed the district's student accident insurance policy through Roberts Insurance of Lexington at a cost of \$40,184.80. The policy provides coverage

for students injured on school property. Edwards reported that district facilities are currently in "really good shape" under the District Facility Plan, a state-mandated document updated every four years that evaluates infrastructure needs, enrollment trends and financial planning related to construction and renovations. Board members went on to approve a \$6,386 invoice for testing and inspection services related to renovations at Mayfield High School. They also approved a \$541,103.76 invoice covering the second phase of MHS renovations, which includes work by A&K Construction, CMS Architects and the purchase of

necessary hardware supplies. The board also reviewed several upcoming extracurricular trips and events. The MHS Bowling Regional Tournament in Bowling Green was rescheduled after being postponed due to inclement weather, with new dates to be announced. Mayfield High School baseball teams are scheduled to travel to South Fulton, Tennessee, on March 28 and to Obion County Central in Tennessee on April 4. The MHS softball team will travel to Union City, Tennessee, on April 6. In addition, seniors participating in the CCR Double Benchmark program are scheduled to take a charter trip to Eureka, Missouri, on April 24.



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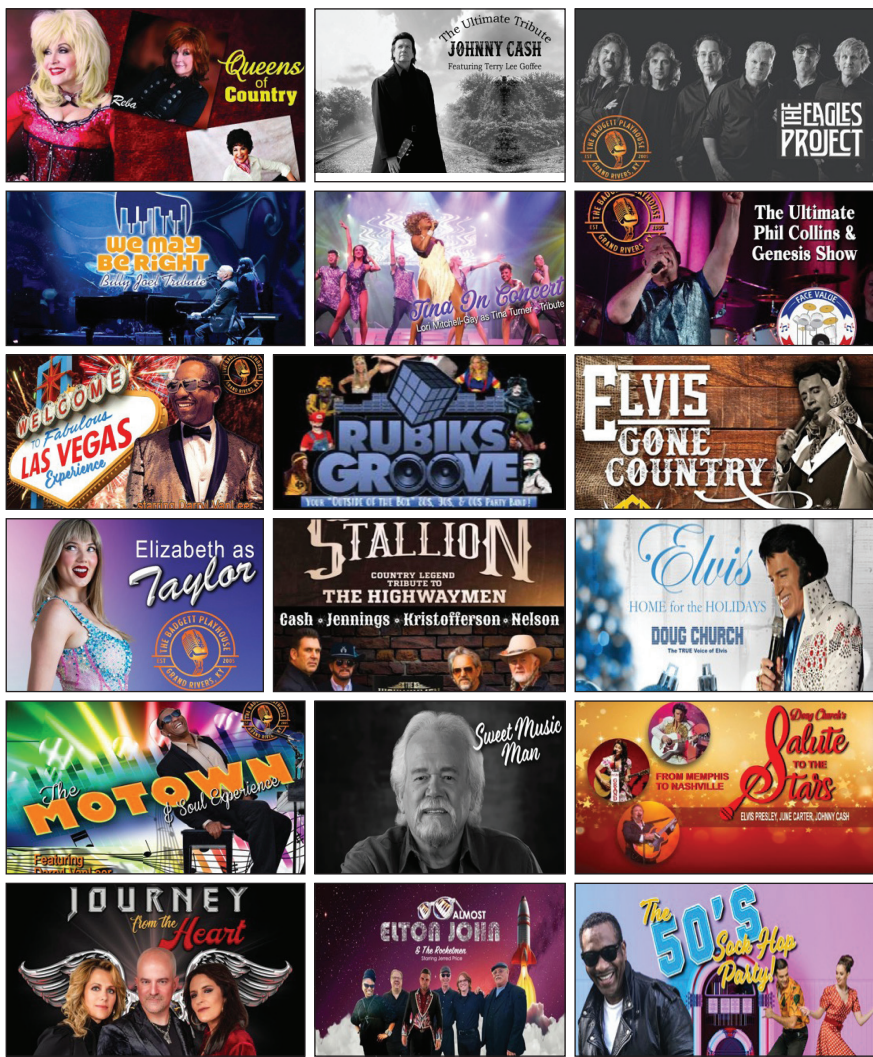
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**Lane Restrictions Planned on U.S. 45 in Fulton County Starting Feb. 9**

PADUCAH, Ky. — A contractor for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) will implement a lane restriction on U.S. 45/Highland Drive at the intersection of KY 1648 in Fulton County beginning Monday, Feb. 9, as crews begin concrete patching work. According to KYTC, the project will take place along U.S. 45 near mile point 0.8. Lane restrictions will be in effect during daytime work hours and will remain in place overnight while new-

ly poured concrete cures. Traffic will be maintained through the work zone, but motorists should expect periodic delays. Work will alternate from one lane to the next throughout the duration of the project. Drivers are advised to watch for posted signage and follow directions that guide traffic into the open lane. KYTC officials urge motorists to slow down and remain alert as traffic patterns may change frequently. The concrete patching is expected to take approxi-

mately two weeks to complete, weather permitting. Unfavorable weather conditions could extend the project timeline. KYTC reminds drivers to use caution when traveling through the area, especially where workers and heavy equipment are operating close to traffic flow. Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, allow extra travel time, and consider alternate routes when possible to minimize delays during construction.

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# Barkley Regional Airport Receives \$3.1 Million in Federal Funding for Critical Runway Lighting Improvements

**Press Release**

WEST PADUCAH, KY - Barkley Regional Airport (PAH) will receive \$3.1 million in federal funding to upgrade its runway lighting systems, supporting safe night operations and strengthening air service reliability, as part of a larger federal investment in Kentucky transportation infrastructure secured by U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell.

The funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, which passed the U.S. Senate and now heads to the President for signature. Senator McConnell, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Com-

mittee, played a key role in shaping the legislation.

The investment at Barkley Regional Airport will modernize runway lighting systems, which are critical for night operations, enhancing airfield safety, improving reliability, and supporting continued air service for the Purchase Region and surrounding communities.

"We are incredibly grateful for this federal investment and for the leadership that made it possible," said Dennis Rouleau, Executive Director of the Barkley Regional Airport Authority. "Runway lighting is fundamental for safe, reliable airfield operations, especially during night and low-visibility condi-



tions. This project will replace aging lighting systems and cabling, improve operational reliability, and enhance safety for our crews, passengers, and pilots. Most importantly, it helps ensure Barkley Regional Airport remains a dependable transportation asset and a critical gateway for

business, tourism, and economic development across the Purchase Region."

Barkley's funding

is part of more than \$36 million allocated to Kentucky airports statewide, supporting both commercial

and regional aviation infrastructure across the Commonwealth. The runway lighting project supports Barkley's ongoing efforts to modernize its airfield and facilities as the airport prepares for expanded air service and continued regional growth.

Barkley Regional Airport is at 100 Terminal Drive, West Paducah, KY, 42086. For additional information, contact Kat Byars, Marketing Manager and Public Information Officer, at 270-744-0521 or kat@flybarkley.com.

## The Vital Role of Regional Airports in Community Connectivity

Regional airports play a crucial role in supporting local economies, improving accessibility, and strengthening transportation networks. While major hub airports receive much of the attention, regional airports serve as essential gateways for smaller communities, connecting them to larger markets and opportunities.

One of the key benefits of regional airports is economic develop-

ment. They attract businesses by offering efficient travel options for employees and goods, supporting industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and tourism. Airports also create jobs, both directly through operations and indirectly through hospitality, logistics, and maintenance services.

Regional airports enhance quality of life by reducing travel time for residents who would

otherwise drive long distances to major airports. They are especially important for emergency medical flights, disaster response, and public safety operations.

Additionally, regional airports help ease congestion at larger hubs by accommodating general aviation and regional flights. Overall, they promote economic growth, mobility, and long-term community sustainability.

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# WEST KY SPORTS



The Mayfield Elementary School second grade-sixth grade boys' basketball teams compiled a 19-4 overall record over the weekend of Saturday, Jan. 31. The Cardinals' second grade, fourth grade and fifth grade boys' basketball teams captured championships.

(Photo courtesy of Mayfield Elementary Schools)

## Lady Marshall Kenzlee Terry reaches 1,000th career point



On Tuesday, Feb. 3, Marshall County junior Kenzlee Terry was honored for scoring her 1,000th career point. She reached the offensive milestone during a game versus McCracken County on Thursday, Jan. 22. Marshall County Coach Aaron Beth is pictured presenting a commemorative basketball. In a 4th District girls' high school basketball game played Tuesday, Feb. 3, Marshall County rolled past Murray 65-19.

(Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Athletics)

## St. Mary Coach Chase Denson earns his 100th career victory



St. Mary head coach Chase Denson was honored for recording his 100th career win earlier in the boys' high school basketball season.

(Photo courtesy of St. Mary)

## Racers defeat UIC

### Staff Report

MURRAY — The Murray State Racers swept the season series with the UIC Flames, winning 81-74 at the CFSB Center on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Entering the day having lost their last four games, the Racers (17-7) moved to 9-4 in the Missouri Valley Conference and in a share of second place as they hit the road Friday, Feb. 6 for a game in Carbondale against the Southern Illinois Salukis.

Making his first start in the MSU Blue & Gold, freshman Roman Domon played nearly 37 minutes and scored 18 points with eight rebounds. Fred King posted his eighth double-double on 16 points and 14 rebounds. Javon Jackson

added 14 points, while Layne Taylor added 11 points.

Leading 40-33 at halftime, the Racers hit the first two baskets of the second half for their largest lead of the day at 12 points (45-33), but the Flames put together a 9-0 run to cut it to a thin two points (47-45) at 13:48. Jackson, King, Shorter responded and the Racers' lead went to nine with 12:07 remaining. When Domon dunked on a fast break and then made a steal under the MSU basket and scored, the Racers were ahead 63-47 with 8:03 left.

Even so, the Flames made it a 77-74 game with 16.7 seconds left, but Shorter and King closed the game out making 4-of-4 from the free throw line.

## Draws held for next month's KHSAA Sweet 16 state basketball tournaments

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – Match-ups were determined for the 2026 Clark's Pump-N-Shop Girls Sweet 16 and the UK HealthCare Boys Sweet 16 Tuesday afternoon. Times will be released later.

Both tournaments will be played in Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center. The 65th Girls Sweet 16 is March 11-14 and the 108th Boys Sweet 16 is scheduled for March 18-21.

Here are the pairings by region:

### BOYS

Region 9 vs. Region 7  
Region 4 vs. Region 13

Region 5 vs. Region 3  
Region 12 vs. Region 11

----  
Region 6 vs. Region 14  
Region 8 vs. Region 2  
Region 10 vs. Region 15  
Region 16 vs. Region 1

### GIRLS

Region 2 vs. Region 11  
Region 1 vs. Region 7  
Region 15 vs. Region 9  
Region 12 vs. Region 5

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Region 8 vs. Region 16  
Region 14 vs. Region 3  
Region 4 vs. Region 6  
Region 13 vs. Region 10



## St. Mary 60, Livingston Central 48

### Staff Report

METROPOLIS, Ill. — St. Mary battled back from behind to beat Livingston Central 60-48 in the consolation championship of the Superman Classic at Massac County (Ill.) on Monday, Feb. 2.

The Vikings shot 49.0 percent (25-of-51) from the field. St. Mary made three of 14 three-point field goal attempts.

The Vikings shot 58.3 percent (seven-of-12) from three-point range.

Productive inside, St. Mary outrebounded Livingston Central 26-21.

Andrew Puckett (15 points), Griffin Mayes (14 points) and Jack Griffith (14 points) each reached double figures in scoring for the Vikings.

Aiding the winning team

offensively, Micah Itiavkase (seven points), Ashton Spurr (six points) and Ja'Cobi Nichols (four points) accounted for the rest of St. Mary's scoring.

Livingston Central shot 51.3 percent (20-of-39) from the field. The Cardinals made two of eight three-point field goal attempts.

Livingston Central shot 60.0 percent (six-of-10) from the free throw line.

Logan Wring (23 points, 12 rebounds) led Livingston Central with a double-double.

Along with Wring, Bryson Walker (13 points) and Avery Zaim (10 points) reached double figures in scoring for the Cardinals.

Chipping in offensively, Collin Chittenden (two points) rounded out Livingston Central's individual scoring.



## Murray Tigers 59, Calloway County 54

### Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray pushed past crosstown rival Calloway County 59-54 in a 4th District boys' basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 31.

The Tigers shot 51.1 percent (24-of-47) from the field. Murray shot 33.3 percent (five-of-15) from three-point range.

The Tigers shot 75.0 percent (six-of-eight) from the free throw line.

Harris Moore (17 points), Maddox Mitchell (15 points) and Aiden Armstrong (10 points) each reached double figures in scoring for the Tigers.

Chipping in offensively, Haden Parker (seven points), Micah Wyatt (four points), Kenyon

Cunningham (four points) and Henri Acreman-Nyamwala (two points) were Murray's additional scorers.

Calloway County shot 47.5 percent (19-of-40) from the field. The Lakers shot 38.5 percent (five-of-13) from three-point range.

Calloway County shot 73.3 percent (11-of-15) from the free throw line.

Jackson Ames (19 points), Trent Jones (11 points) and Acey Stricklin (10 points) each reached double figures in scoring for the Lakers.

The other scorers for Calloway County were Luke Armstrong (nine points) and Peyton Weatherford (five points).

# High school track and field rules revisions made for 2026 season

## Staff Report

LEXINGTON — With 21 state associations now incorporating the javelin into outdoor track and field competition, the NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee voted to move the implement construction specifications into the Track and Field Rules Book, effective with the 2026 season.

The addition of javelin specifications was one of 11 changes recommended by the committee at its June 16-18 meeting in Indianapolis — all of which were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

“Moving the implement construction specifications for the javelin into the rules book provides greater clarity, consistency and accessibility for high school coaches, athletes and meet officials,” said Julie Cochran, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Track and Field Rules Committee. “By incorporating the construction requirements directly into the NFHS Track and Field Rules Book, we ensure that all necessary information is readily available, specific to the high school level, and aligned with the intent of education-based athletics. This approach maintains appropriate equipment standards while promoting ease of understanding, consistent enforcement and fairness across all levels of high school competition.”

Several changes focused on minimizing risk of injury were approved by the committee. First, the assessment of a downed competitor by a health-care professional to determine the athlete’s ability to continue in an event is not considered aid. As a result, the games committee can designate an appropriate health-care professional to evaluate a downed competitor on the course without resulting in disqualification, provided no assistance is given to the competitor in progressing along the course. It prioritizes athlete safety by permitting on-course evaluation while preserving the integrity of the competition.

In addition, a new section in Rule 6-8-6 will promote risk minimization in the high jump and pole vault. The new language states that a high jump or pole vault competitor who has not entered the competition within 60 minutes from the first jump of the competition shall be allowed 1 ½ minutes of warm-up for high jump or two minutes for pole vault without the use of a crossbar or bungee cord under the supervision of an official. This will take place only at the beginning of a height change.

The committee noted that the current rule allows warm-up only after passing three consecutive heights, which can result in long periods of inactivity — sometimes over an hour — in large competitions. This can be a disadvantage and potential safety concern for athletes entering later.

“The committee believed that changing the rule to provide a standardized 1 1/2 minutes for high jump or two minutes for pole vault warm-up for any athlete entering after 60 minutes of elapsed time promotes fairness, consistency and

risk minimization,” Cochran said.

Another change in the high jump and pole vault concerns the addition of “items above ground level” to padding requirements in Rules 6-9-21 and 6-9-28.

“The addition of ‘above ground level’ clarifies that the padding requirement applies specifically to hard and unyielding surfaces that are elevated relative to the ground,” Cochran said. “This refinement helps differentiate between surfaces that present a greater risk of impact during a fall (such as raised concrete, asphalt, wood or platform extensions) versus ground-level areas that may already be accounted for with landing system setup.”

A change in Rule 3-2-3 gives the games committee the authority to determine the distance of takeoff boards in the horizontal jumps. As a result, the games committee can determine takeoff board placement in the long jump and triple jump aligning with its existing role in setting starting heights for the high jump and pole vault.

Two changes were made in Rule 9 regarding Indoor Track and Field. In Rule 9-1-1, the 200-meter dash was approved as an option for the 300-meter dash in the official Order of Events. The committee noted the change provides states with greater flexibility to structure events based on facility size and supports broader participation.

The other change in indoor track rules involves Rule 9-6-1, which establishes a uniform 20-meter exchange zone and creates a single standard for ease in officiating indoor relays.

Following are other changes approved by the Track and Field Rules Committee:

Rule 4-6-6c (new): No athlete shall wear audio (microphone) or video (camera) device during a race or trial or in restricted areas. This language aligns with other NFHS sports rules books.

Rule 6-2-2 NOTES: A new Note 3 was added in the section General Rules for Field Events — “The time limit for a consecutive attempt applies when taking consecutive attempts within a height and at a height change.”

Rule 6-3-2b4(a): In this section on Breaking Ties, changes were made in the metric measurements to simplify implementation, align with current metric practices and support consistency in meet management.

A complete listing of the track and field rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on “Sports” at the top of the home page and select “Track and Field.” The print version of the 2026 Track and Field Rules Book will be available for purchase in October at [www.NFHS.com](http://www.NFHS.com), and the digital version will be available in the same timeframe via NFHS Digital at [www.nfhs.org/nfhdsdigital](http://www.nfhs.org/nfhdsdigital).

According to the most recent NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, track and field is the top sport for girls with 506,015 participants in 17,267 schools nationwide, and the No. 2 sport for boys behind football with 625,333 participants in 17,274 schools.

# Bombers Earn District Win



By Tim Taylor  
KPI Sports Writer

Ballard Memorial entered their 3rd District matchup against the 1st Region All A 2026 champion Mayfield Cardinals as underdogs. A role they have been facing most of the year coming into the game with a 4-15 record and having won only one 3rd District game since 2015. That one win was last season in a 61-58 OT win for the Bombers over Mayfield. After Mayfield’s Owen Byrd hit a trey in the 1st quarter to put the Cardinals up 8-7, it was all Ballard Memorial after that. The Bombers went on a 22-2 run as Grayson Sparacio went off on the Cardinal defense during the stretch. The junior scored half of his career high 26 points during the decisive span to push the Bombers lead to

29-10. Mayfield scored 9 of their first half 14 points from the charity stripe as the Bombers took a 29-14 lead into the locker room. The Cardinals closed to within 11, but Sparacio was fouled on a 3-point attempt late in the 3rd quarter. He sank all 3 free throws to end the 3rd, and the Cardinals would get no closer. Ballard Memorial pulled away for a 58-44 win. The 14 point victory matched their 2015 3rd District tournament margin of victory over the Cardinals in February 2015. Sparacio had a career high of 26 points and his first ever double-double recording 10 rebounds as well. Ike Miller and Reed Duren both added 11 points in the victory. Looking to make it two wins in a row, the Bombers had

a makeup game with the Carlisle County Comets. The Bombers found themselves playing from behind all night. Trailing 23-11 in the 2nd quarter, the Bombers made strides to pull back into contention. Miller picked up his 5th foul in the 4th quarter and on controversial charge call, but the Bombers continued to play through adversity. Florian Gashi hit a trey and had offensive rebound putback to pull the Bombers to within 54-51 with under a minute remaining. But the Comets kept the lead and pulled away for a 60-53 win. Miller had 18 points to lead the Bombers with Sparacio adding 17. The Bombers will play the Comets again on Friday night February 6th in the Ballard Memorial Homecoming game.

# Marshall County 47, Henderson County 41

## Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County outlasted Henderson County 47-41 in a girls’ high school basketball matchup between rivals from bordering regions on Saturday, Jan. 31.

The Lady Marshals shot 42.5 percent (17-of-40) from the field. Marshall County shot 43.8 percent (seven-of-16) from three-point range.

The Lady Marshals shot 66.7 percent (six-of-nine) from the free throw line.

Kenzlee Terry scored a game-high 15 points for the Lady Marshals. Terry connected on three of seven three-point field goal attempts.

Accompanying Terry in double figures for Marshall County, Addi Wall and Rylan Darnall netted 10 points apiece.

Barely missing double figures,

Rylee Teague scored nine points for the Lady Marshals.

Chipping in offensively, Eden Sandlin (two points) and Jessica Reed (one point) accounted for the rest of Marshall County’s scoring.

Henderson County shot 34.7 percent (17-of-49) from the field. The Lady Colonels made only three of 17 three-point field goal attempts.

Henderson County shot 66.7 percent (four-of-six) from the free throw line.

Sharing game-high scoring honors with Terry, A’Tylia Green paced Henderson County with 15 points. Green was the only Henderson County player to reach double figures. ‘

The other scorers for Henderson County were Jersey Gardner (nine points), Adalyn Gish (six points), Callie Burnett (four points), Maggee Melvin (four points) and JaNyla Locher (three points).

# Archery nominations sought for Midway/KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year

## Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The KHSAA has announced that the nomination process for the Midway University/KHSAA Male and Female Student-Athlete of the Year award among archery participants for the 2025-2026 schoolyear is open.

This award is based on athletic and academic achievement as well as community service and leadership. The link to the application contains additional criteria and a form to nominate one participant from each 2025-2026 team. Nominations must come from a member school, but can be submitted by an administrator, guidance counselor, or coach. Nominations may only be

submitted online at <https://khsaa.org/ge35-midway-university-khsaa-female-student-athlete-of-the-year-nomination-form/>.

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

The deadline for nominations for the Midway University/KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year in the sport of archery is Friday, Feb. 20.

# Oweh, Garrison earn in-state bragging rights, lead Cats past Oklahoma

By Keith Taylor  
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON (KT) — It didn't take a last second-shot for Kentucky to defeat Oklahoma on Wednesday night.

The Wildcats used a pair of last-second heroics by Otega Oweh to sweep the Sooners last season, but this time they put struggling Oklahoma away early and handed the Sooners their ninth consecutive loss with a 94-78 victory.

The Sooners (11-12, 1-9 Southeastern Conference) haven't won since posting an 86-70 triumph over Ole Miss in their conference opener on Jan. 3.

The win was the seventh in the past eight games for Kentucky, which showed no signs of a letdown following Saturday night's 95-77 win at No. 21 Arkansas.

In a short postgame appearance, Kentucky coach Mark Pope praised his team's performance.

"I'm super proud of our guys, really proud of the effort," said Pope, who briefly appeared at the podium before leaving to pick up his daughter at Bluegrass Airport. "I'm really proud —



Otega Oweh runs off a screen from Malachi Moreno on the way to a basket. Oweh finished with 24 points in a 94-78 win over Oklahoma on Wednesday. (Photo by Les Nicholson)

(Brandon Garrison), stepping up and being great. Otega continues to play at an elite level. We got contributions from everybody."

Garrison finished with a season-high 20 points — one shy of his career-high — and grabbed 11 rebounds against the Sooners. Garrison has scored 24 in the past two games after tallying 15 in the first eight conference encounters.

"I just try to stay consistent, working on (my game), practicing hard ... just keeping

my head," he said.

The Wildcats (16-7, 7-3) connected on five of their first 10 field goals from long range. Kentucky's first four field goals were from behind the arc as Denzel Aberdeen and Andrija Jelavic each hit two 3-pointers to jumpstart the team's offense.

"I thought tonight they came out and executed," Kentucky assistant coach Jason Hart said. "(Oklahoma) has been playing well, although their record doesn't indi-

cate it. Our guys have stepped up and accepted the challenge and were able to fight through those issues."

Oweh led the Wildcats with 24 points against his former team. Oweh, who was the hero against his former team twice last season, has scored double figures in all 23 games this season. He has scored 20 or more points 16 times against conference foes in his two seasons at Kentucky.

"Otega is just an elite player," Oklaho-

ma coach Porter Moser said of his former player. "He obviously can knock down the shot. He puts you in a really decision-making mode off ball screens, because he can turn the corner on you. Now he's making really good decisions passing out of it, I just see he's just becoming a complete player."

Collin Chandler, who has been crucial down the stretch for Kentucky, played a big role for the Wildcats with 18 points. Chandler missed his first

three 3-pointers but knocked down three in the final six minutes of the first half. Chandler made back-to-back threes in an 8-0 Kentucky run to close out the first half.

Behind Chandler and Oweh, who combined for seven treys, the Wildcats made 12 shots from long range. Kentucky connected on 9-of-16 treys in the first half to set the tone for the team's fourth consecutive home victory.

The difference-makers for the hosts were Oweh and Garrison. Garrison began his collegiate career at Oklahoma State. Hart said both players were motivated from start to finish.

"You want to impress them," Hart said. "And then Brandon, he just steps up and brings energy. He's from Oklahoma, so he gets bragging rights when you go home in the summertime and see those guys. (We are) just happy to play well tonight. We needed it."

**GAMETRACKER:** Tennessee at Kentucky, 8:30 p.m., Saturday. TV/Radio: ESPN, UK Radio Network.



McCracken County won the 2026 KHSAA Region 1 Girls' Bowling Championship on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)



Paducah Tilghman is among the high school bowling programs competing in the postseason. Team members pictured in no particular order are Keaton Thompson, Silas Williams, Axtan Cooper, Gannon Massey, Jackson Ramer, Cooper Cunningham, Davis Gordan and Jillian Slaughter.

(Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School)

## Christian Fellowship 72, Foundation Christian Academy 51

### Staff Report

BENTON — Christian Fellowship defeated Foundation Christian Academy 72-51 in a non-district boys' basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 31.

The Eagles excelled offensively, shooting 57.4 percent (27-of-47) from the field. Christian Fellowship shot 40.0 percent (eight-of-20) from three-point range.

The Eagles shot 58.8 percent (10-of-17) from the free throw line.

Elijah Grigg led a group of four Christian Fellowship scorers in double figures, netting 23 points for the Eagles. Grigg logged a double-double, hauling in 10 rebounds.

Joining Grigg in double figures for Christian Fellowship, Kain Burnett scored 13 points, Samuel Burnett netted 12 points, and Jake Burchett tallied 10 points.

Finishing outside double figures, Daxton Kite (eight points), Nate Perez (three points) and Ashton Ramey (three points) provided

Christan Fellowship's additional scoring. Nearly posting a double-double, Kite claimed a game-high 11 rebounds.

Foundation Christian Academy shot 38.6 percent (17-of-44) from the field. The Falcons made only three of 18 three-point field goal attempts.

Foundation Christian Academy shot 73.7 percent (14-of-19) from the free throw line.

Maddox Wilson paced Foundation Christian Academy, scoring a team-high 20 points for the Falcons.

Accompanying Wilson in double figures for Foundation Christian Academy, Logan Nix netted 16 points. Nix recorded a double-double for the Falcons, finishing with 10 rebounds.

The other scorers for Foundation Christian Academy were Mason Moore (seven points), William Cummins (six points) and Nathan Barbee (two points).

## Winder named Director of Broadcasting for MSU Athletics

### Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray State University Athletics, in partnership with Learfield, the leading media and technology company powering college athletics, announced Wednesday, Feb. 4 that Dave Winder has been named Director of Broadcasting. Winder will lead the Murray State Sports Network as the department continues to expand its broadcast footprint and content offerings through its recently announced 10-year partnership with Learfield.

The 2025-26 academic year marks Winder's 25th season with Murray State Athletics and his 21st in athletics communications. He currently serves as Associate Athletics Director for Communications and oversees Racer Radio, television production, and Racers Podcast Central.

"Dave Winder has played an integral role in telling the stories of Murray State Athletics dating all the way back to his playing days with Racer Baseball," Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. "We are thrilled that he is stepping into this new role as the 'Voice of the Racers' and will continue to narrate the incredible history of our sports programs for many years to come."

"In his new role, Dave will work closely with Learfield to elevate Murray State's live game broadcasts

and storytelling across radio and digital platforms," said Mike Haake, Vice President of Sports Properties at Learfield. "His passion and dedication to Murray State makes him the perfect leader to help deliver consistent, engaging content that deepens fan connection across all sports."

A Murray State graduate, Winder earned his degree in radio-television in 1987. After returning to his alma mater in 2001, he has held a variety of positions including serving as the primary communications contact for Murray State men's basketball since 2005, a role in which he supported seven NCAA Tournament appearances during his tenure. He also assisted in the department's transition into the Missouri Valley Conference and most recently served as communications lead for the 2025 baseball team that advanced to the College World Series.

"I want to thank Mike Haake and Nico Yantko for this incredible opportunity," said Winder. "Murray State has been a meaningful part of my life for 42 years- first as a student-athlete in the baseball program and the last 25 years as a dedicated member of the MSU Athletics staff. It has been a true honor to build a career at my alma mater, and I am looking forward to carrying on the storied legacy of Racer Radio."



# AG UPDATE Winter and early spring pruning tips

for Ag and Natural Resources

Tom Miller, Ballard County Ext. Agent

Rick Durham, extension horticulture specialist

As spring approaches, many homeowners begin to think about their yard's landscape. The winter months can be damaging to trees and shrubs. To ensure healthy spring plants, homeowners may want to prune the trees and shrubs around their home. But do not just prune for the sake of pruning, make sure you have a valid reason for pruning before you begin.

Pruning during the late winter months allows for the removal of damage caused by winter winds and precipitation. The wounds caused by pruning heal most quickly this time of year just as new growth is emerging on the plant.

Pruning also allows removal of diseased, crowded or hazardous branches. When pruning trees, the size of the tree does not need to be reduced too much in one season. Limit the pruning amount to one-fourth of the tree's volume. Start by thinning out branches by cutting them off close to the tree's trunk or a large limb.

Leave the base of the branch, known



as the collar, intact. Cutting the collar will prevent the plant from growing over the wound caused from pruning. Pruning in this manner allows for a healthy tree that is more open to sunlight and air movement. If the branch is cut back only part way, there will likely be a crowded regrowth of new branches where the cut was made. Do not seal or paint the wounds resulting from pruning because this will only delay the tree's healing process.

With spring-flowering shrubs, rejuvenation pruning may be needed, and the

time to prune is fast approaching. The best time to prune these plants is right after they have flowered. If the shrub is pruned before it blooms, the buds have been removed before their flowers were enjoyed. When pruning is done after blooming, the flowers will have been enjoyed, and the plant can recover, grow and produce more buds for flowers next spring.

Rejuvenation pruning removes one-third of the shrub's oldest growth. This pruning entails selecting the thickest, darkest and unhealthiest stems

or branches and cutting them back.

trunk. This ensures that only the young-

shrub. Shrubs that will bloom during the summer months can also be pruned during the early spring.

Pruning is not limited to a certain time of year. Homeowners can prune at any time if they notice branches and limbs that are damaged either from weather, disease or insects. Pruning is invigorating for the plants in a home landscape so one should not necessarily think of pruning as a means of size control. If you have a plant that has grown out-of-bounds, pruning may not be the answer -



Stems should be cut back to soil level and branches to the point of intersection with the shrub's main

est, most productive wood (that which produces the most/best flowers) remains a part of the

you may need to consider replacing the plant with one that will reach a smaller size at maturity.



## FARM MACHINERY AUCTION

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

901 State Hwy 1181 • Bardwell, KY 42023

### Warren & Diane Dunn Retirement Auction











**HELD ONSITE & ONLINE!**

**TRACTORS**

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

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

**Challenger MT675D Tractor:** Model: MT675D • SN#: Z08J00964 • Rear Tires: Goodyear 480/80R50 Duals • Front Tires: 420/85R34 • Guidance: Ag Leader Guidance • Weights: (12) Front Weights • Hours: 5,658

**HARVESTING EQUIPMENT**

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

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

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

**PLANTING EQUIPMENT**

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

**APPLICATION & FERTILIZER EQUIPMENT**

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

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

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

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

**TILLAGE EQUIPMENT**

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

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

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

**GRAIN HANDLING & CONVEYANCE**

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

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

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

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

**TRAILERS & TRANSPORT**

**1999 Merritt Hopper Trailer:** Length: 40 ft • Model: 41X96X68X25X2AXMGS • ID#: 1MT2P4121YH013278 • Suspension: Air Ride • Tires: 11R24.5 • Tarp: Electric EZ-Trail 672 Header Trailer: Includes: (6) Stock Stoppers

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

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

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

**40 ft Trailmobile Water Trailer:** Trailer Number: T63111 • Model: P3IT-OSAH • Tank Setup: (3) - 1,600 Gallon Tanks • (2) Mixing Tanks • Pump: Honda Pump

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

**TRACTORS**

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

**TRACTOR WAS BOUGHT NEW.**

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

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

**COMBINE**

**2020 John Deere 5780 Combine** 945.5 separator hours and 1,325 engine hours, equipped with ProDrive transmission, chopper, PowerCast tailboard, Contour Master, and power fold extension. Equipped with 650/85R38 front dual tires and 750/65R26 rear tires. SN#: 1H05780SELT810615

**HEADERS & HEADER SUPPORT**

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

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

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

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

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

**PLANTING & APPLICATION EQUIPMENT**

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

**Great Plains Precision Seeding System** Configured for 30-ft width with 7 1/2-inch spacing; includes wheat and soybean plates. Model: 3N3010P

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

**GRAIN CARTS & HANDLING**

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

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

**TILLAGE EQUIPMENT**

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

**Unverferth 1225 Rolling Harrow, 32.5 ft**

**Unverferth 1225 Rolling Harrow, 35 ft**

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

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

**DMI 2500 7-Shank No-Till Ripper** With gauge wheels.

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

**TRUCK, TRAILERS & BED**

**2003 International 9200I Day Cab Truck** Detroit Diesel Series 60 (430 HP), 10-speed transmission, air ride, like-new 11R22.5 rubber, 541,882 original miles. VIN: 2HSCEAMR93C051305

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

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

**Omaha Standard Truck Bed - 12 ft**

**SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & PARTS**

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

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

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

**Kelley Diamond Parts**

**DMI 2500 7 New Shanks**

**DMI Eco-Lotiger 730 Ripper** Ripper points new

**Small Wire Concaves for S-Series Combine**

**1,000-Gallon Aluminum Tank on Skid**

**Miscellaneous Kinze Parts**

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## FARM MACHINERY AUCTION

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

Ronald Smith Farms Retirement Auction

28 Vann Pitt Road • Benton, KY 42025











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# AG: Ky. farmland owners eligible for hunting, fishing license exemption if they don't reside there

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman announced on Thursday that Kentuckians who own farmland in the state are eligible for a fishing and hunting license exemption, even if they don't live on the farmland.

In a formal Opinion of the Attorney General, Coleman has overruled decades-old interpretations of the statute that limited the license exemption only to those who currently resided on the land. That includes prior Attorney General's opinions issued in 1963 and 1979.

State Sen. Gary Boswell, R-Owensboro, requested the Opinion of the Attorney General. As part of



the legal review, the Attorney General's Office consulted the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), which has historically "applied a lenient interpretation" to the statute.

KDFWR stated that it had not performed an exhaustive review of historical practices on the subject due to the expedited time frame in which the Office requested input, and it expressly

reserved the right to supplement or amend its response upon further review or if additional records come to light.

"As someone who grew up hunting with my dad on his

Logan County farm, I'm proud to stand up for the rights of all sportsmen," said Coleman. "Kentucky is home to some of the finest natural and wildlife resources in the world, and I encourage every Ken-

tuckian to responsibly enjoy them while supporting critical conservation and preservation efforts."

The Office of the Attorney General is tasked with providing legal opinions to public officials to assist them in the performance of their duties. Opinions of the Office are persuasive in Kentucky courts and public officials are expected to follow them.

"I'm particularly grateful for the whip-smart attorneys in our Office who diligently considered this complex legal history to uphold the law and for Kentucky's outdoorsmen," Coleman noted. "Kentuckians are well-served by Aaron Silletto, Chris Bowlin and Christopher Thacker in the AG's Office."

# Bill takes vacant homes to affordable housing

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – State Sen. Brandon Smith, R-Hazard, has filed legislation aimed at tackling the affordable housing shortage in Kentucky by putting long-vacant houses back into productive use.

Senate Bill 142 would create the Abandoned Home Pool Fund, a new housing initiative that partners with trusted nonprofit housing organizations to rehabilitate abandoned residential properties and convert them into safe, quality rental homes.

Under the proposal, homes restored with these funds must remain affordable for 20 years. Rent would be based on actual rehabilitation costs rather than market rates. Tenants who consistently make on-time rent payments could eventually earn the

opportunity to purchase their home, putting long-term stability and wealth-building within reach for working families. If a tenant is evicted after making at least 48 months of payments, they would receive 20 percent of those payments back as a refund toward future housing.

The program would direct funding through experienced nonprofit partners with a track record of delivering results in housing rehabilitation and community development. To qualify, organizations must be Kentucky-based nonprofits with at least five years of experience in housing or home repair. Renters must earn no more than 120 percent of the area's median income and complete a homeownership counseling course before signing a lease.

Smith's bill includes appropriating \$25 mil-

lion from the state's General Fund for the Abandoned Home Pool Fund.

"This bill is about giving people a fair shot, not fueling

profits for speculators," Smith said. "It's a smart, targeted solution that lifts up neighborhoods and makes efficient use of tax dollars."

Affordable housing advocates have noted there is an ongoing need for solutions that expand supply, while addressing blight and neighborhood

decline. Smith says the bill would complement other statewide efforts to increase housing access and support community revitalization.

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Advance Yeoman • Carlisle County News • The Carlisle Weekly • Livingston Ledger  
The Marshall Times • West KY News Pennyryle Edition • Mayfield Graves Guardian • West KY News

# How to maximize outdoor wedding venues

When searching for the right place to tie the knot, each couple looks for their own unique spot. According to The Knot Worldwide 2024 Global Wedding Report, couples across the globe identify cost and venue style/type as the most important variables to consider. Nearly 75 percent of couples worldwide report getting married within 30 miles of their homes. And many couples prefer an outdoor wedding.

Outdoor weddings peaked in popularity in 2020, when the global pandemic forced couples to be creative as they sought to tie the knot with friends and family in attendance. Statista reported that 68 percent of couples hosted their wedding ceremonies outside

or partially outside in 2020. However, Hudson Valley Weddings paints a more conservative picture of outdoor weddings today, with 35 percent of weddings now being held outdoors.

Couples hold their ceremonies and receptions outside for a variety of reasons, including the chance to tie the knot in a naturally beautiful landscape. The following are some ways to maximize the benefits of outdoor venues.

• *Embrace the opportunity to accommodate more guests.* Couples with large guest lists may opt for outdoor weddings because venues with outdoor space typically can accommodate more people. Outdoor spaces can be vast and not constrained by

the walls of banquet halls or restaurants — allowing guests to spread out.

• *Include child-friendly elements.* If it would be difficult to exclude children from the festivities, an outdoor venue can ensure kids have something to do. Kids tend to have high energy levels, and an outdoor venue gives them space to run around without crashing into something or tipping something over. Setting up a separate kids' play area also makes it easy to gather the kids in a certain spot, helping to keep children away from adults who are dancing.

• *Take advantage of the aesthetic.* Most outdoor spaces

offer awe-inspiring features. Those who opt for spring or summer weddings can take advantage of cultivated, fragrant gardens or even fields of natural wildflowers. Fall weddings will be on fire with the natural oranges, reds and yellows of the changing landscape, which makes the perfect photo backdrop for nuptials. Try to time the occasion for around sunset to make outdoor areas even more special. A setting sun can cast a special glow on the festivities. And save money on decor by relying exclusively on natural features.

• *Get creative with food.* Part of the appeal of being outdoors for the wedding is the freedom to offer guests less standard

fare in regard to food. A pig roast for a tropical affair or even wood-fired pizzas or barbecue align well with an outdoor wedding. Caterers often suggest passed appetizers for the cocktail hour and plated meals for dinner to cut down on insects buzzing around a buffet line.

• *Design a contingency plan.* Every couple wants the wedding to go off without a hitch (except for the actual getting hitched part), so it's important to have a tent, pergola or covered area to retreat to in the event of rain or strong sun.

Outdoor weddings are popular options that can add a special touch newlyweds will remember for years to come.

## What to know before a wedding gown shopping trip

Weddings mark a turning point from one stage in life to another. The significance of that transition is perhaps one reason why couples and their guests dress so nicely for a wedding ceremony and reception. Formal garb is a wedding tradition, and guests anxiously await seeing which type of gown a bride will wear. In western cultures, white wedding gowns have been the standard since the nineteenth century and are believed to symbolize purity and grace. In eastern cultures, wedding gowns often have been elaborate, colorful creations that have their own symbolic meanings unique to various areas of the world.

Shopping for a wedding gown can spark mixed emotions. While it is exciting to try on some remarkable garments, there also is the pressure of knowing all eyes will be on you while wearing this couture creation. Narrowing down wedding gown prospects can take vision, time and patience. The following pointers can help when it comes time to visit bridal shops.

• *Make an appointment*  
Many bridal shops operate by appointment only. That's because the staff wants to devote complete attention to a client, and having people simply walk in from the street can draw their attention away and/or lead to long wait times. Identify the stores you want to visit, and then call to secure your time slot.

• *Narrow down styles*  
Think about what your personal style might be and how you want to look on your wedding day. If you're not sure about the vocabulary surrounding dress silhouettes, visit Pinterest or Instagram and save images of dresses that you love. Then you can show the sales staff what you are thinking instead of going in empty-handed.

• *Keep an open mind*  
Try on a few different styles even if you have a particular dress in mind. You never know if something might be a better fit for your body type or the scope and style of your wedding unless you give it a go.

• *Start the process early*  
Unlike off-the-rack clothing, most wedding shops will have to order your dress and have it shipped. Then comes a few weeks for alterations. KWH Bridal notes eight to 12 months before a wedding is a good time to choose and order a dress. Brides magazine says most made-to-order wedding gowns take about six to nine months to create. There also are three separate fittings to ensure the gown will fit like a glove.

• *Invite a handful of confidantes*  
It's best not to arrive at the shopping appointment with an entire entourage. Pick, at the most, four people whose opinions you trust; otherwise, it could be a case of too many cooks in the kitchen. As a bride-to-be you'll already be anxious, and you'll want soothing, supportive people with you.

• *Plan your budget*  
Know well in advance what you can afford to spend. According to data from The Knot, wedding attire accounts for 7 percent of the average couple's budget. Most wedding gowns are in the range of \$2,000. Don't forget about additional costs, such as veil, shoes, alterations, undergarments, and any add-ons.

In addition to these tips, arrive to an appointment well-rested, fed and comfortable.



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# Warning signs for heart disease

Heart disease is the leading cause of death across the globe. Data from the World Health Organization indicates that cardiovascular diseases, which are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels, claim roughly 18 millions lives each year. More than 80 percent of those deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes that oftentimes can be prevented.

The right lifestyle choices, which include eating a healthy diet and exercising regularly, can help people reduce their risk for cardiovascular disease. Learning to recognize warning signs of heart disease is another way individuals can reduce their risk of developing this global but often preventable threat.

**• Chest pain:** Chest pain is widely recognized as a sign of heart attack. However, many people experience chest pain without ever suffering a

heart attack. So how can individuals distinguish chest pain suggestive of heart disease from less threatening types of pain in their chest, such as stiffness after strength training or discomfort stemming from a pulled pectoral muscle? According to the British Heart Foundation, chest pain related to heart attack is marked by feelings of heaviness, tightness or pressure in the chest. Pain or tightness in the chest that subsides after a few minutes may be indicative of angina, which the Mayo Clinic notes is a symptom of coronary artery disease caused by a reduction of blood flow to the heart.

**• Stomach pain:** People may not instantly associate stomach pain with heart disease, but in certain instances such discomfort might indicate a heart problem. The BHF notes that a painful or burning feeling in



the stomach can be indicative of a heart problem, including heart attack. Though it's not easy to distinguish between heartburn, which in spite of its name is a digestive issue, and stomach pain indicative of heart attack, it's best to avoid writing off abdominal pain as heartburn. The Mayo Clinic notes that many heart attacks do not involve sudden, crushing chest pain, and are instead

characterized by a host of warning signs, including abdominal pain. The BHF advises anyone experiencing stomach pain who are unsure of its origins to contact a health care professional immediately.

**• Arm pain:** Pain in the arm is another potential indicator of heart disease. According to the Mayo Clinic, arm pain that appears suddenly and is

severe could be a symptom of heart attack. This pain may occur alongside feelings of pressure, fullness or squeezing in the chest. The BHF notes that a heart attack is more likely to occur if the pain is going down the arm, particularly the left arm, or into the neck.

**• Swelling in the lower legs:** The National Library of Medicine notes that swelling in the legs, ankles or feet is

indicative of a heart problem. Blood flow is adversely affected when the heart is not working at peak capacity, and that can contribute to what's effectively a traffic jam involving the blood in the veins of the legs. That backup causes the buildup of fluid in the tissues.

Heart disease is a formidable and deadly foe. Learning to recognize the warning signs of heart disease might prove lifesaving.

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# Dakarai Strong Foundation Now Accepting Donations

By Kelsey Edwards  
KPI Editor

A new nonprofit created to support families navigating childhood cancer is now able to accept donations following its official approval as a 501(c)(3) organization. The Dakarai Strong Foundation was established in honor of Dakarai Saxton, the 14-year-old Mayfield resident whose fight with cancer touched the community. Dakarai was diagnosed in 2024 at the age of 13 with Stage IV osteosarcoma that had spread to both of his lungs. His treatment included chemotherapy, surgical tumor removal, replacement of his entire humerus with a donor bone and radiation therapy. Throughout his battle, he remained a source of inspiration and strength within the Mayfield community.



Saxton, a familiar face at Mayfield High School's War Memorial Stadium and a member of the Mayfield Cardinals football

team, died October 29, 2025, just hours after returning home from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. His mother, Ashley

Williams, announced the formation and approval of the nonprofit in a Facebook post. She stated, "In the middle of this

grief I made a promise to my son that his life would continue to matter. That his pain would not be wasted. That somehow I would turn the worst loss of my life into something that could help other families." One of the foundation's primary goals is to establish an annual scholarship in Dakarai's name for a student at Mayfield High School. She said honoring his legacy through education is especially meaningful to her. "One of my biggest goals is to award a scholarship every year at Dakarai's high school in his honor," Williams said. "I want his name to live on. I want his story to continue to matter. I want his life to keep touching others." Beyond scholarships, the Dakarai Strong Foundation aims to offer assistance and encouragement to Kentucky families

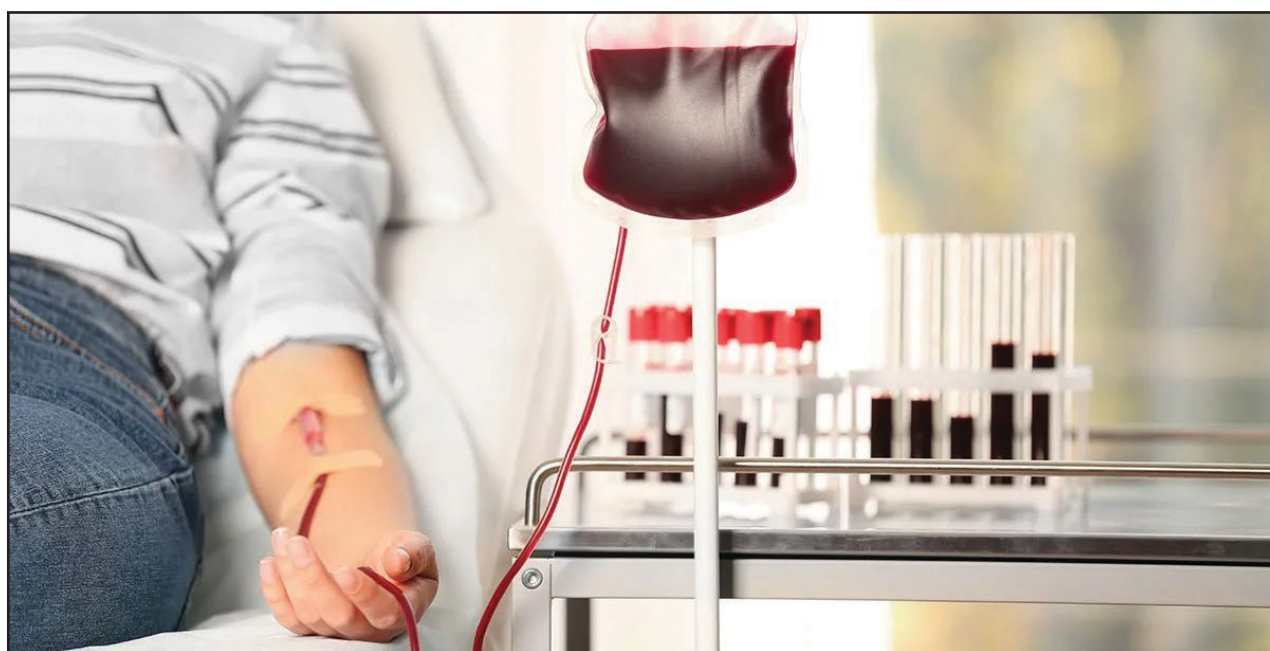
facing childhood cancer. Williams said the organization is rooted in the support her own family received during Dakarai's illness. "Part of our mission is to support families the way we were supported when we were barely surviving. To step in when things feel impossible and remind families they are seen, understood and not forgotten," she said. Williams shared the announcement of the nonprofit on Jan. 29, marking three months since her son's passing. According to the post, the foundation is now prepared to accept donations, and work is underway to create an official website. Those interested in donating to the Dakarai Strong Foundation or offering support are encouraged to contact Williams directly.

# Mayfield Battle of Badges Collects 45 Units of Blood

By Kelsey Edwards  
KPI Editor

Local first responder agencies set aside their daily duties to take part in a friendly but meaningful competition aimed at helping save lives. The Mayfield Police Department, Mayfield Fire Department, Graves County Sheriff's Office, Graves County Jail and Restricted Custody Center, and Kentucky State Police Post 1 participated in the Seventh Annual Battle of the Badges blood drive, hosted at His House Church in partnership with the

American Red Cross. The annual event pits local law enforcement and emergency agencies against one another to see which group can generate the most blood donations, while also drawing attention to ongoing shortages in the blood supply. Organizers say the competitive aspect helps encourage participation and community involvement, especially during the winter months when donations tend to decline. This year's drive resulted in the collection of 45 units of blood, an amount that could potentially help save as many as



135 lives. The Mayfield Police Department emerged as the top donor group for the

event, earning bragging rights for 2026. The Graves County Sheriff's Office and the Graves County Jail and Restricted Custody Center tied for second place, followed by Kentucky State Police Post 1 and the Mayfield Fire Department. Officials noted that winter conditions often make blood collection more difficult,

as seasonal illnesses and the threat of severe weather can limit donor turnout. That reality made the success of this year's drive especially significant. The department also expressed gratitude to everyone involved in making the drive a success, including those who donated, recruited others to participate

or helped organize the event. Organizers said the Battle of the Badges continues to be an effective way to support the American Red Cross while highlighting the willingness of first responders to serve their community, both on and off duty.

## MAYFIELD-GRAVES WEEK IN REVIEW

Mayfield Graves County Chamber of Commerce has officially launched its all-new website and is your go-to hub for everything happening in the business community. From discovering who the board is such as their mission, vision, staff, ambassadors, board of directors, and how they are working to support Mayfield and Graves County businesses every day you will also find the member directory, you can join or renew your membership, stay up to date of events and programs taking place, the members portal, resources for business and community such as job postings, links, etc., as well as get in touch quickly with the chamber! You can

check it out at <https://www.mayfieldgraves-chamber.com>

American Legion Post 26 Commander Joe Kimbel and Disabled American Veterans Post 106 Commander Ron Reavis recently presented \$350 checks to GCED President Jason Lemle. The funds, generously donated by the veteran posts, will be used to cover meals for Graves County High School JROTC students during an upcoming spring field trip to Fort Campbell. The trip is part of the Community Connections program, an initiative designed to expose local high school students to career opportunities through hands-on, real-world experiences.

Shanna Bradley has officially been welcomed to the Mayfield Graves County Long Term Recovery Group! Shanna joined as the new Administrative Assistant, and she will be managing the LTRG's front office. Shanna brings more than a decade of experience in the nonprofit world and a heart for serving the people of west KY. Her background includes work with organizations such as The Lighthouse, Sunrise Children's Services, Catholic Charities, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, DRC, and more. She also serves on several local nonprofit boards and has experience working in the disaster recovery space.

### MAYFIELD-GRAVES EVENTS UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb 7, Take Your Child to the Library Day, GCPL, All Day
- Feb 7, Cook for the Week Class, GC Extension Office, 10 am
- Feb 7, Sing-O Night, Sedalia Cafe, 6 pm
- Feb 8, Studio A Performing Arts, GCHS Performing Arts Center, 3 pm
- Feb 9-14, DIY Y2K Valentines Day in the Teen Room, GCPL
- Feb 10, LEGO Creator Night, GCPL, 3 pm
- Feb 10, Valentine's Kitchen Science for Kids, GCPL, 4 pm
- Feb 10, Silent Book Club, GCPL, 5:30 pm
- Feb 12, Story Time, GCPL, 10 am
- Feb 12, Valentine Sip & Spray, Fancy Farm Vineyard & Winery, 4 pm - 8 pm
- Feb 12, SkillRise 270 Canva Workshop, Mayfield Chamber Building, 5:30 pm
- Feb 12, Classic Movie Night Valentine's Edition, GCPL, 5:30 pm
- Feb 12, PROM Fashion Showcase, GCHS Performing Arts Center
- Feb 13, Infant Hour, GCPL, 10 am
- Feb 13, After School Storytime, GCPL, 10 am
- Feb 13, Trading Card Game Night, GCPL, 4 pm

# Sweetheart deal: Trooper Teddy Bear available for Valentine's Day

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – This Valentine's Day, the Kentucky State Police (KSP) is inviting Kentuckians to make a meaningful difference and bring pleasure to a loved one, by purchasing a Trooper Teddy Bear.

The agency's Trooper Teddy Valentine's Day Sale runs now through Feb. 16, offering the signature teddy bears at a special price of \$20.

Each bear purchased helps fund the Trooper Teddy Project, a long-standing program that places

teddy bears in the hands of children experiencing traumatic events, including severe illnesses, car accidents, abuse or involvement in critical incidents. The initiative operates solely through charitable contributions and bear sales, ensuring all proceeds directly support the purchase of additional bears.

"The children receiving support from this cause have experienced trauma that no one should have to go through, especially kids" said Gov. Andy Beshear. "The Trooper Teddy Project helps us wrap our arms around our most



A Trooper Teddy Bear was presented to this child in Lexington. The gifts are \$20 through Valentine's Day and available through the Kentucky State Police.

vulnerable population and can bring peace during some of the most difficult times."

The Trooper Teddy Project began in December 1989 following a fundraiser hosted by then-First Lady Martha Wilkinson,

which raised enough funds to purchase the program's first 2,000 bears. Since then, Trooper Teddy Bears have become a meaningful part of KSP's efforts to support children across Kentucky. "Trooper Teddy

Bears allow our troopers to connect with children during some of the most challenging moments they may face," KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr. stated. "This program is about compassion, trust and reminding children that they are not alone."

The first 50 customers who order online as part of the Valentine's Day sale will receive a free Trooper Teddy sticker and KSP pencil. Proceeds from every sale directly support the Trooper Teddy Project, ensuring troopers across Kentucky have these bears available

when responding to situations involving children.

Trooper Teddy Bears may be purchased online or in person at any KSP Post. Online orders can be shipped for an additional fee or picked up at a local KSP Post at no cost. One hundred percent of the proceeds from Trooper Teddy sales are used to purchase additional bears to distribute to children in need. To purchase a bear or make a tax-deductible contribution, visit the Trooper Teddy website.



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# UK students partner with Elwood Hotel for AI-enhanced experiential learning in hospitality

By Bailey Vandiver  
University of Kentucky

Students in a hospitality and tourism marketing class at the University of Kentucky practiced creativity and connection through a partnership with the Elwood Hotel.

The Hospitality Management and Tourism (HMT 320) class is an undergraduate course that emphasizes experiential learning through real-world industry partnerships. In Fall 2025, students designed a targeted social media campaign aimed at enhancing brand awareness and engagement for Elwood.

“Not often, as college students, do we get the opportunity to be creative, and this was a fun way to bring in that artistic vision and be creative and think outside the box,” said Emilia Grossi, an HMT senior. “No matter what you do in hospitality, or really anything, knowing how to talk to people and connect with people is important. That was a really fun and useful part of the experience.”

The HMT program is part of the Department of Retailing and Tourism Management (RTM) in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Yeonjung Kang, RTM assistant professor, teaches the course. Kang is also part of the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) AI-focused 2024-25 Teaching Innovation Institute, which supports faculty in integrating AI into teaching and learning.

To learn more about their industry partner, students toured the hotel and heard a presentation from Elwood personnel. Then each group analyzed the brand, developed a marketing strategy, including a slogan, and produced a social media video.

In the course, students learned the importance of artificial intelligence (AI) prompt engineering, meaning how to ask strategic questions to generate meaningful insights, and how to apply AI outputs to



Students in the Hospitality Management and Tourism course record content for their projects at the Elwood Hotel on Nov. 10, 2025. (Photo by Sabrina Hounshell)

support data-informed marketing decisions. Kang emphasized that building AI literacy alongside human critical thinking is essential in the hospitality industry and aligns with UK’s initiative to coordinate and advance AI use.

Students put 100 reviews of Elwood into a spreadsheet then used AI tools to identify key themes in customer feedback, including what visitors valued most about their stay. Those insights informed each group’s final product.

“I’ve learned how to use my resources in a good way,” Grossi said.

Based on the analysis, Grossi’s group chose the slogan “Stay Connected.” The students storyboarded, recorded and edited a video in the style of filmmaker Wes Anderson.

“This project is very intentionally designed to provide students a really hands-on, real-world marketing project working with a real industry partner,” Kang said. “Hospitality is about practical application of knowledge, so practicing in class is definitely helpful.”

David Bader, Elwood owner, said working with the HMT students was a fantastic experience.

Four women stand at the front of a classroom and present, while those in the audience sit at desks and listen.

Students in the Hospitality Management and Tourism present

their projects about Elwood Hotel on Dec. 8, 2025. Photo by Sabrina Hounshell.

“From our observations of two classes, as well as our engaging of several students as team members, we think the school is doing a very good job in preparing students for hospitality, which is a frame of mind as much as a set of skills,” Bader said.

The partnership is valuable for the students, the university and Elwood.

“We have benefited by exposure to both

creative talent (in the classroom setting) and

young people who have intrinsic hospitality in their blood,” Bader said. “We look forward to a long relationship with the program.”

Grossi, who said her “hope and dream” is to be a full-time event planner, said she’ll carry the lessons from this project and course into her career.

“What I’ll use in my future career is paying attention to finer details, using my resources and finding a way to incorporate the way modern technology is moving, and the people skills of interacting with a client, asking them what they want and delivering on what that is,” Grossi said.

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## BALLARD

**Wendy Sommer** - Sunday, September 12, 1976 – Thursday, January 29, 2026 - A beloved teacher, daughter, friend, “not-mama”, and mother. Full of life and always giving all she has, she loved everyone she met with her whole heart. She lived a life full of love and laughter and gentle care. Her giving spirit will forever inspire those around her and she will be deeply missed. Her life was celebrated at Oscar Baptist Church (7820 Oscar Rd, La Center, KY 42056) on Tuesday, February 3rd at 1PM.

**Lillie Mae Sharer** passed away on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Baptist Health in Paducah, KY. Funeral services were held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY. with Rev. Mitch Boulton officiating. Interment followed at Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery.

## CALDWELL

**Sharon Ann Neill**, passed away on January 31, 2026, at the age of 76 in Auburn, KY. Visitation will be from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 1:00 PM Saturday, February 7, at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

**Nita Kaye Oden**, known by most as “Nini”, age 65, of Lyon County, formerly of Princeton, passed away Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at Mercy Health Lourdes in Paducah. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Northside Baptist Church in Princeton. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Northside Baptist Church in Princeton with Bro. Ken Cummins officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

**Joyce Hall Gilkey**, age 84, of Princeton, passed away on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at Princeton Nursing and Rehab. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm, Monday, February 2, 2026, at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Ronnie Sivells and Bro. Bill Bruce officiating.

**James “Chris” Owen**, age 58, of Princeton, passed away Tuesday, January 27, 2026 suddenly at Caldwell Medical Center. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Rev. Steve McVay officiating. Burial will follow at Meeks Cemetery in Caldwell County.

## CALLOWAY

**Linda Lou Morrison**, 82, of Murray, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026 at her home. The funeral service for Mrs. Morrison is set for 1 pm on Friday, February 6, 2026 at Imes Funeral Home, 311 North 4th Street, Murray, KY 42071. Sammy Cunningham will officiate and burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery. Her family welcomes visitors from 11 am – 1 pm on Friday, February 6, 2026 at the funeral home.

**Michael Anthony Tomalewicz**, 73, of Murray, formerly of Chicago, IL, passed away on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at his home. No services are planned at this time. Imes Funeral Home is entrusted with caring for his family.

## CHRISTIAN

**Denison Wheeler Miner, Jr.**, affectionately known as “Denny,” passed away on February 2, 2026, in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, at the age of 85. The family has chosen cremation with a Celebration of Life Service to be held at a later date. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Sandra Ann Lawson Adair**, age 77, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Southern Kentucky Hospice in Bowling Green of natural causes. Graveside Services will be at 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Rosedale Cemetery in Pembroke with Rev. Joe Bufford

officiating and burial to follow. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Frankie Joe Overton**, 79, of Hopkinsville, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 8:15 in the morning at his home surrounded by love. Funeral Services were held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Bro. Shane Smith assisting and burial to be held in Riverside Cemetery.

**Cody Delaney Whitfield**, age 46, of Oak Grove, KY, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026, at his home of natural causes. The family has chosen cremation with a Celebration of Life Service to be held at a later date in Ohio. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Beckie Robin Bogard**, age 70, of Oak Grove, KY, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 26, 2026, at her home of natural causes. The family has chosen cremation with a Celebration of Life Service to be held at a later date locally and in South Carolina. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Sherry Ann Oatts** - July 19, 1962 - January 30, 2026 - The family of Sherry Ann Oatts of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, is saddened to announce her passing on January 30, 2026 at the age of 63. Funeral service will be 12:00 p.m. Friday, February 6, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Pastor Neil Immel officiating. Visitation is Friday from 10:00 a.m. until the service hour. Burial will follow in New Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Larry A. Ross**, 73, Greenwood Drive, Hopkinsville, KY passed away on Monday, February 2, 2026 at his daughter’s house in Hopkinsville, KY of natural causes. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with full military honors. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

**Terry Bruce Mayton**, 71, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Monday, January 26, 2026 at Christian Heights Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Pembroke, KY of natural causes. A graveside service was held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 2026 at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with Terry Hancock officiating. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

**Katherine Bronaugh**, 69, Hopkinsville, passed away on Saturday, January 31, 2026, in Hopkinsville, KY. Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 11-12 pm with Funeral Service following at 12:00 pm at Edgefield Baptist Church, Pembroke Road, Pembroke, KY 42266.

**Elizabeth Altina Tyler**, 70, Pembroke, passed away on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, in Pembroke, KY. Visitation will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Gamble Funeral Home, 1311 S. Liberty St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

**Kimberly Renee Howell Simpson**, 62, of Dawson Springs, KY died at 2:10 a.m. Monday, January 26, 2026 at her residence. There are no events scheduled at this time. You can still show your support by sending flowers directly to the family, or plant a tree in memory of Kimberly Renee Howell Simpson.

**Alton Dale Yoder**, age 88 years, 5 months and 15 days passed away on January 26, 2026 at the home of his son Orla Yoder in Crofton, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 29, 2026 at the Crofton Amish Church East District with minister Ray Miller officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

## CRITTENDEN

**Tracey Jay Dargon**, age 66, of Crittenden County, passed away on January 30, 2026, at her home. Private services will be held at a later date. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Carlene Walker Binkley** age 85 of Marion, KY passed away February 1, 2026 at her home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 1PM at Myers Funeral Home with burial to follow in Mapleview Cemetery.

**Vernon Lefty Towery**, age 88, of Marion, KY passed away peacefully on January 30, 2026, leaving behind a life rich with love, tradition, and meaningful connections. A celebration of life is scheduled for Friday, February 6 at Myers Funeral Home. Visitation begins at 10:00AM, service at 1:00PM and burial to follow in the Towery Cemetery.

## GRAVES

**Mary Etta Jackson** - May 12, 1934 — February 1, 2026 - An obituary will be posted at a later date. In the meantime please feel free to share your memories of Mrs. Jackson with the family. Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 7th, 2026 from 12-2 pm and immediately following the funeral service will begin at the Second Christian Church, 512 E. Water Street, Mayfield, KY 42066.

**James Edward Brasure**, age 51, of Sedalia passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at Green Acres Healthcare in Mayfield, KY. A memorial service for Mr. James Edward Brasure will be held at a later date. Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

**Terry Dian Rose**, age 78 of Mayfield, KY passed away at 3:20 PM Thursday, January 29, 2026 at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield, KY. Private Memorial Services will be held at a later date. The Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of the arrangements.

**Barbara Dean Thurston Murillo**, beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother passed away peacefully in her daughter’s home on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Funeral Services were held at 1:00 PM Monday, February 2, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Kenneth Vaughn will officiate. Burial followed in the Owen’s Chapel Cemetery.

**Lorraine Hayes**, age 77, of Lexington, TN passed away Tuesday, January 27, 2026 in Lexington. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, February 6, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY with members of her family conducting her service. Burial will follow in the Mayfield Memory Gardens.

**Bogdan “Poncho” Gaicki**, age 76 of Mayfield, KY passed away at 11:30 AM Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at the Mercy Health Paducah. Memorial Services will be held 12:00 Noon Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Friends are invited to call from 10:00 AM until 12:00PM Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY.

**Mable Dean “Fuzzy” Brooks** - December 14, 1940 — January 26, 2026 - Mable was born on December 14 1940 and departed this life peacefully on Tuesday morning January 27 , 2026 at Jackson Purchase Medical Center. Mable lived her life by keeping God first and her family close. She got her nickname from her Dad because she was born with a thick head of curly hair. AND THAT’S HOW “FUZZY” CAME TO BE! Memorial Service was held on Monday, February 2, 2026 from 1-2 pm at the Second Christian Church, 512 E. Water St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

## HENDERSON

**Steven Douglas Barnes**, 73 of Dawson Springs passed away Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess. Service was held on at 11:00 am at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville. Burial was held at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville at 1:00 pm.

**FUNERAL NOTICES** continued

**Wanda Lou (Marks) Johnson**, 93, of Denton, North Carolina, formerly of Evansville, Indiana went home to be with her Lord and Savior on February 2, 2026, at her residence. Relatives and friends are invited to Wanda's Life Celebration from 10:00 a.m. until the service time on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY. The funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY.

**James Cooper Lane**, age 79, of Henderson, KY, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at his home. James was a proud United States Air Force veteran who served during the Vietnam War. He was a member of The American Legion Worsham Post #40 and The Henderson Elks Lodge #206. There will be no services at this time. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the Henderson Worsham Post #40 American Legion Burial Detail, 1709 Madison St., Henderson, KY, 42420.

**Paul Wayne Devers**, 77 of Henderson, KY, passed away on Saturday January 31, 2026 at Heart to Heart Hospice in Evansville, IN. Relatives and friends are invited to Paul's Life Celebration from 10:00 A.M. until service time on Monday February 9, 2026 at Benton-Glunt and Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY. The funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home. Burial will be held at a later date St. Ann's Cemetery in Morganfield, KY.

**Thomas Edgar Duncan, Sr.**, age 79, of Henderson, KY, passed away on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Deaconess Henderson Hospital. Relatives and friends are invited to Thomas' Life Celebration from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Friday and again from 10:00 a.m. until service time on Saturday at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at the funeral home with Father Shibu Cheriyanunnel officiating. Burial will follow at St. Louis Cemetery in Henderson, KY.

**Melinda Lou McCormic**, age 63, of Corydon, KY, formerly of Clinton, IA, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at her home. Relatives and friends were invited to Melinda's Life Celebration from 1:00 p.m. until service time on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY. The funeral service was held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home with Steve Hoskins officiating. Private burial will be held at a later date at Corydon Cemetery in Corydon, KY.

**Brenda Mae (Lykins) Margelot**, 84 of Sebree, KY passed away on Monday February 2, 2026 at her home under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice. Services were held at 1:00 PM Thursday February 5, 2026 at Sebree United Methodist Church. Ernie Margelot IV will officiate. Burial was in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY.

**Angela "Angie" Jordan**, age 48, of Evansville, IN, passed away Friday Jan 31, 2026, at IU hospital in Indianapolis, IN. Funeral services will be held at 4 pm on Friday, February 6, 2026, at Tomblinson Funeral Home, Henderson, Ky. Visitation will be from 12:00 to 4:00 PM on Friday. Nathan Jordan will officiate.

**Kathy Skaggs**, 70, of Henderson, Kentucky, left this world on January 27, 2026, at Lucy Smith King Care Center. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, February 6, 2026, at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson with Chaplain Dayne Bogard officiating. Burial will follow at Fernwood Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM until the service begins.

**John Tom Utley**, 91, of Smith Mills, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on January 27, 2026 at Lucy King Care Center, surrounded by his loving family. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 12:00 PM at Tomblinson Funeral Home, with Brother Steve Hale and Brother Donnie House officiating.

**Bobby Lee Chaney** of Henderson, KY, 91, died Sunday, January 25, 2026, at Redbanks Nursing

Home. Visitation was held on Thursday, February 5th, from 11:00 a.m. until service time at 2:00 p.m. at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson, officiated by Bro. Tim Shockley.

**HICKMAN**

**Michael G. "Mike" Frizzell**, age 72, of Clinton, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. A Funeral service was held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home in Arlington. Burial followed at Zion Cemetery in Columbus, Kentucky.

**Wanda Johnson Campbell**, age 72 of Clinton passed away 4:45 PM Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at Clinton Place in Clinton, KY. Celebration of Life services will be held at a later date. Brown Funeral Home in Clinton are incharge of arrangements.

**HOPKINS**

**Jerry Wayne Phillips**, 84, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville with Bro. Eddie Rodgers officiating. The burial will be held at a later date at Silent Run Cemetery in Nebo, KY. A visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the service hour Saturday at the funeral home.

**Margaret A. Manley Phillips**, 85, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Bro. Robert Allen officiating. Burial will be held at Old Salem Cemetery in Mortons Gap, KY as the weather permits.

**Sharon Williams Gamblin**, 68, of Mortons Gap, KY passed away on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at Park Grove Nursing and Rehab in Madisonville, KY. A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Eddie Fleming officiating. Burial will be held at Gamblin Cemetery in Nortonville, KY, when the weather permits.

**Sue Bentley Keith**, 76, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at her home. A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Bill Bursztynski officiating. A private burial to follow at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville.

**Kelly Marie Knight**, 46 of Nortonville walked through the gates of Heaven on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at Riverside Care and Rehab in Calhoun. Services were held at 2:00pm on Sunday at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville. Due to current weather conditions burial will take place at New Salem Cemetery in Nortonville at a later date.

**Carolyn Jean Ray**, 73 of Mannington passed away Thursday, January 29, 2026, at her home. Services will be private for family at a later date.

**Gary Neal Holley**, 68 of White Plains passed away Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at his home. Services were held Tuesday at 2:00 pm at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville with Bro. Brad Payne officiating. Burial will take place at Graham Hill Cemetery at a later date.

**Larry Gene "L.G." Rushing**, age 66, of Dawson Springs, passed away January 27, 2026 at his home. Arrangements are incomplete with Morgan's Funeral Home.

**Patricia Ann Atwell**, 74, of Madisonville, KY passed away Sunday February 1, 2026 at Madisonville Health and Rehab. Funeral service will be 2:00 P.M. Friday, February 6, 2026, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Father Steve Hohman officiating. Burial will follow at Bethlehem Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 12:00 P.M. until the service time Friday at the funeral home.

**Lloyd Wayne Arnold**, 78, of Madisonville, KY passed away Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Pastor Kris Goodman officiating. Burial will follow at Hanson Cemetery.

**Melinda Ely**, 70 of Madisonville, KY passed away on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at her residence. Services for the family were provided by Barnett-Strother Funeral Home and Crematory in Madisonville.

**LIVINGSTON**

**Minnie Ruth Owen**, 91, of Salem, passed away Thursday, January 29, 2026 at Princeton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Graveside Services were held at 11 AM Monday, February 2, 2026 at Groves Chapel Cemetery in Tiline, KY, with Bro. Steve Tinsley officiating, burial will follow.

**Coach Don Ringstaff**, a true Livingstonian, heard the words "Well done, my good and faithful servant" on the morning of January 28, 2026. He was just one month shy of his 85th birthday. Funeral services were held on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 2 PM, at Livingston Central High School, on Don Ringstaff Court, with speakers Bro. David Davis, Bro. Josh Bumpus, and Mr. Mike Riley officiating. Burial will follow in Salem Cemetery.

**Richard (Ricky) Eugene Campbell**, age 67 of Smithland passed away peacefully at Ray and Kay Echstein Hospice Center Friday, January 30, 2026. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Monday, February 2, 2026 at Dunn's Funeral Home in Eddyville with Rev. Bobby Lady officiating.

**LYON**

**Brett Alan Travis**, 58, of Paducah, went to be with our Lord and Savior on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Baptist Health Hospital in Paducah. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Lakeland Funeral Home in Eddyville with Bro. Keith Allred and Bro. Rick Miller officiating. Burial will follow in Caldwell Springs Cemetery in Crittenden County.

**Betty Pallai**, age 98, of Kuttawa, formerly of Taylorville, IL, passed away Tuesday, January 28, 2026 at Riversbend Retirement Community. A memorial visitation will be held from 10:00 am until 11:30 am Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Eddyville Methodist Church. A memorial service will be held at 11:30 am Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Eddyville Methodist Church.

**MARSHALL**

**Janice Stahl Devine**, 84, of Calvert City, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, February 2, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday, February 6, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar Street, Benton, Kentucky 42025. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, February 6, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Pastor Mike Donald officiating. Burial will follow at Wilson Cemetery.

**Threessa Davis**, 87 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at her home. A funeral service will be at 1:00 PM on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Collier Funeral Home with Rev. Samantha Hall officiating. Interment will follow at Temple Hill Cemetery, Almo, KY. Visitation will begin at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Collier Funeral Home, 211 West 5th, Benton, Kentucky.

**Kevin W. Faircloth**, age 55 of Benton, KY passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at his home. No services are scheduled at this time. Collier Funeral Home, Benton, KY is handling arrangements.

**Charles "Randy" Tidwell**, 32 of Gilbertsville, Kentucky passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky. A memorial service was held at 3:00 PM on Monday, February 2, 2026 at Collier Funeral Home.



## FUNERAL NOTICES continued

## McCRACKEN

**Donna Sue (Pierson) Butterworth**, age 87, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, February 2, 2026, at Providence Pointe Healthcare. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 11:00 AM in the Sunset Lawn Cemetery in Harrisburg, IL, with Brother Ed Lafferty officiating.

**James Lindle Alvey**, 90, of Kevil, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Mercy Health-Lourdes. There will be no services. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah is in charge of arrangements.

**Donna Lancaster Roseberry**, age 88, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. A private family burial at Mount Kenton Cemetery will be held at a later date.

**Martha Jean Rogers**, 90, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at her residence. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, February 6, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Bob Martin officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 5, 2026, and on Friday, February 6, 2026, from 10:00 AM until the service hour of 11:00 AM at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

**Jesse Leigh Eidson** entered her heavenly rest on January 31, 2026. A funeral service was held at 1 P.M. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Dr. Nathan Joyce officiating. Burial followed at the Providence Baptist Church Cemetery in the Needmore community.

**William Barger**, age 68, passed away on January 26, 2026, in Paducah, Kentucky. A memorial service will be held at 12:00 pm on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until the service time of 12:00 pm on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at the funeral home.

**Jimmy LaDell Collier**, 60, of Paducah passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. Celebration of Life service will be scheduled at a later date.

**Tina Oliver**, 63, of Paducah passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Christian Health Center in Hopkinsville, KY. She will be cremated per her wishes. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Oliver family.

**Michael "Aaron" Ladd**, 49, of Brookport, IL, passed away on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at Mercy Health - Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, KY. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at Lindsey Funeral Home with the Rev. Robbie Greif officiating. Burial will follow at Houser Grove Cemetery in Boaz, KY.

## TRIGG

**Chris Radford** - April 1, 1969 - January 31, 2026 - Funeral Services for 56 year old Chris Radford of Cadiz will be held Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 12:00 noon at King's Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 10:00-12:00 on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at King's Funeral Home. Burial will be on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville, KY with military honors.

**Ross Allen Thomas**, age 71, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, February 2, 2026, at his home in Cadiz. Funeral services will be at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, at 1:00 PM, Saturday, February 7, 2026, with Bro. Kenny Rogers

officiating. Burial will follow in Starkie Thomas Cemetery. Visitation will precede the service from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the funeral home.

**Darrell Hammond**, age 67, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at his home. Funeral services will be at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, at 1:00 PM, Friday, February 6, 2026, with Bro. Russ Stallons officiating. Burial will follow in Boyd Cemetery. Visitation will precede the service at the funeral home from 11:00 AM until the service hour of 1:00 PM.

## Funeral Notice

Paid obituary furnished to  
Kentucky Publishing Newspaper Group

## Jesse Leigh Eidson

Jesse Leigh Eidson entered her heavenly rest on January 31, 2026. She will be remembered as a remarkable woman whose dedication to her family, her farm, and her faith were the hallmarks of her long and fruitful life. Born on September 21, 1923, in Bandana, Kentucky, Jesse exemplified resilience and compassion throughout her 102 years.

Known for her exceptional work ethic and intricate knowledge of the land, Jesse was a devoted homemaker and farm wife, as well as an integral part of the community. Alongside her husband of 62 years, Boyce Rudell Eidson, she was skilled in raising and harvesting chickens, dairy cattle, and beef cattle. Her hands were rarely still, as she tirelessly made biscuits three times a day - a tradition that became a cherished memory for family and friends alike.

A faithful Christian, Jesse was very active at the Bible Baptist Church, and later she became an integral member of the Heartland Church. Her unwavering devotion was an inspiration and a testament to her enduring faith in Jesus.

Jesse is survived by her two sons, Robert Neil (Coralie) Eidson of Bandana and Larry

Lynn Eidson (Leah) of Paducah; three grandchildren, John Tyler Eidson, Eric Mansfield Eidson, and Meredith Leigh Eidson Ehrenheim; twelve great-grandchildren, Susanna Moran, Brandie Malizia, Lauren Anderson, Samantha Eidson, Wesley Eidson, Alex Eidson, John Stevens, Calleigh Eidson, Cameron Eidson, Ellis Ehrenheim, Owen Ehrenheim, and Anne Ehrenheim; and several great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Boyce Rudell Eidson; her father, Jesse Abernathy; her mother, Lena Titsworth Abernathy; one brother, George Robert (Clorius) Abernathy; and one grandson, Gregory Neil Eidson.

A funeral service will be held at 1 P.M. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Dr. Nathan Joyce officiating. Visitation will begin at 11 A.M. and continue until the service begins at 1 P.M. Burial will follow at the Providence Baptist Church Cemetery in the Needmore community.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of gifts to the Gideons International, Paducah West Camp, P.O. Box 10, Kevil, Kentucky 42053.

Share a memory or leave an encouraging message for the family at [www.milnerandorr.com](http://www.milnerandorr.com).

**Ronnie Turner**, age 79, of Cerulean, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Bradford Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. A graveside memorial service will be held at a later date at Turner Cemetery in Cerulean. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, Kentucky.

**Kenneth N. Calhoun**, age 66, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, at 12:00 PM, Saturday, January 31, 2026, with Bro. Charles Browning officiating. Burial will follow in New Hope Church Cemetery.

**Bobby Gene Holloway**, age 85, of Gracey, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at Trigg County Hospital in Cadiz, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM, Sunday, February 1, 2026, at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, with Rev. Bradley Cornelius and Rev. Herb Case officiating. Burial with military honors took place at 12:00 PM, Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West, 5817 Fort Campbell Blvd, Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

## UNION

**Mark Pauley**, age 68 of Morganfield, KY passed away Thursday, January 29, 2026 at Deaconess Hospital Union County. The service was held at 1 PM Thursday, February 5, 2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Bro. Ron Gish will officiate. The burial will be in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield.

**Eva Clara Peak Hendrickson**, age 93 of Morganfield, KY passed away Saturday January 31, 2026 at Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson. Funeral service was held at 12 Noon Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at St. Ann Catholic Church.

Fr. Freddie Byrd will officiate. Burial will be in St. Ann Cemetery in Morganfield, KY.

**Damian Edward Alvey**, age 79, of Morganfield, KY passed away Thursday, January 29, 2026, at the West Kentucky Veteran's Center in Hanson, KY. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 8th at 1:00pm at St. Ann Catholic Church in Morganfield, KY with a funeral mass and burial to follow at 3:00pm. Burial will be in St. Ann Cemetery.

**Kenneth Ray "Kenny" Blackburn, Jr.**, age 63, of Sturgis, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at his home. There are no events scheduled at this time. You can still show your support by sending flowers directly to the family, or plant a tree in memory of Kenneth Ray Blackburn Jr.

## WEBSTER

**Omer Franklin Johnson** 93, of Slaughters, KY passed away at his home on Monday February 2, 2026. Funeral service will be 2PM Thursday February 12 at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Bro. Jacob Bumpus will officiate with burial in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Slaughters, KY. Visitation will be Wednesday 4-8PM and Thursday from 8AM till service time.

Wayne Woolsey, 75 of Madisonville, KY passed away on Wednesday January 28, 2026 at his home. Funeral services were held Saturday January 31, 2026 at Integrity Ministries Church, 801 North Broadway Providence, KY at 1:00 PM with Brother Ronnie Roberts officiating. Burial will be in White Oak Cemetery in Clay. Funeral service will be 2PM Thursday February 12 at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Bro. Jacob Bumpus will officiate with burial in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Slaughters, KY. Visitation will be Wednesday 4-8PM and Thursday from 8AM till service time.

Henry Lee Burton 84, of Nebo, KY formerly of Dixon, KY passed away on Sunday February 1st, 2026 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. Funeral services will be held at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY at 11am on Friday February 6th, 2026. Rev. Barry Cullen will officiate. Burial will be in Concord Cemetery in Manitou, KY. Visitation will be from 4pm-8pm on Thursday and from 8am until service time on Friday.

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

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

## Blessed and highly favored

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

Until I fell off a City Scooter while on vacation in Denver, Colorado, I had no concept of the impact a fall can have on a person's life. I'm ashamed to say, in July 2025, when my family doctor said, "You're in very good health, but the older you get, the more you'll have to be careful about falling", I almost laughed. My immediate, and somewhat proud response, was: "Well, I'm not worried about that because my muscles are strong and I don't think I'll be falling in the near future."

I didn't take ignorance into consideration. Why would someone, my age, get on an electric City Scooter anyway?

I did, and the MRI showed I had torn my hamstring from the bone. I spent three days in the hospital in Denver. It took eight days before I could raise my leg enough to put it on a pillow by myself. On the tenth day, I could get out of bed by myself but it was eleven days before I could walk just a couple steps without a walker. On the 13th day, I felt like a miracle had happened. I was extremely slow, but was able to take care of my basic needs without help. It has now started my fourth week and I'm so excited to be able to sit without tremendous pain.

The amazing thing is that for almost two weeks I had to have someone do every-



thing for me and miraculously on the 12th day, everything began to get better day-by-day. I attribute that healing process to God's divine intervention and lots of prayer from lots of Christians. I still need help with some things and it remains

to be a challenge. I'm so grateful for where I am. In fact, from where I was, to where I am, I know God's love and mercy was instrumental in my healing.

I read where celebrity chef, Guy Fiera, fell down some stairs in November, tearing

his quadricep muscle in half. He said it was one of the worse things he's ever gone through. I agree. This is one of the most painful things I've ever experienced. But I'm on the mend and the long-term process of physical therapy must take place if I don't want to limp around the rest of my life.

I don't fully understand the reasons people fall when we get older. In my case, it was a bad choice on my part, but when most people fall it's not their fault. It could be from general weakness, uneven steps, vision problems or something they trip over like a pair of shoes, a cord or a pet. In any case, it's a rude awakening when it happens to

you.

The point of my telling you this is that we think it can't happen to us. It can. We take so much for granted when, in fact, we should look at "normal every day" activities as a privilege. It's God's blessings that we get out of bed, without help, in the morning. I cling to the scriptures, "He sent His Word and healed them" (Ps 107:20) and "Healing is the children's bread" (Matt. 15:21-28).

If you're going through something that's new and painful remember God is with you to heal and restore you. "With us is the Lord our God to help us" (2 Chron 32:8). I honestly believe there are angels watching over us.

## There is no substitute for perseverance

By William F Holland Jr.  
billyhollandministries.com

Let's consider tracking how we spend our time in a typical 24-day period. Sleeping and working naturally take up most of it, followed by household tasks and hobbies, and finally, entertainment. Recently, I heard someone point out a troubling contrast: for Christians, spending more time on television or social media than on Bible study, prayer, or ministry seems out of balance. We often hear about the spiritual battle for our minds, but do our choices reflect the seriousness of this struggle? Though I'm involved with ministries and activities, I must ask myself whether I'm still allowing these daily distractions to consume too much of my focus. Do I believe there is such a thing as having a balance with my busy sched-

ule of helping others versus how much time I spend watching and being conformed to the world? The essential question is whether our attention is fully turned toward God, or if we are trying to justify and play both sides as we indulge in meaningless distractions. Can you sense Jesus prompting you to re-examine your priorities?

Our grandson is a normal first grader who loves to play with Legos and all things related to Mario and Sonic. But he also has a strong connection to Minecraft computer games. He spends a lot of time on his switch, and becomes so deeply involved that it seems he loses contact with what's going on around him. To even mention taking a break causes him to become upset. I was convicted about this the other day, and realized I would be the

same way if someone took my television, computer, and cell phone away. Have we literally fallen in love with entertainment? Could this addiction be associated with a type of idol worship? The devices are not evil in themselves; they are just tools, but anything that captures our hearts receives our highest devotion. Romans 6:16 talks about the deception of slavery. "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you become a slave to them, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"

I admit, I enjoy the internet, and browse as I relax and watch television, as I suppose most everyone else does. I have my phone with me at all times, as it's now become a part of my life. I'm still astounded by the technology of a

satellite beaming a video and audio signal to my big screen, and me having access on a handheld device that can produce information about anything I can imagine. Should we be concerned that Satan is the prince and power of the airwaves? Why am I not more obsessed with Colossians 3:1-2? "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Is it not disturbing that we have become obsessed with our technology devices? Are we being distracted away from God? When was the last time we turned everything off for a week? Could we do it? If the enemy can distract you from your time alone with God, then he can isolate you from the help that

comes from God alone. Be encouraged as you read Ephesians chapter 5:6-21.

What did people do before technology? I know: they talked to each other. Today, many are sadly developing an illusion that Facebook likes, or even shaking hands with our acquaintances, is a substitute for love. Some believe long-distance acknowledgments protect us from the demands and concerns of close relationships. We want to be loved, but some build walls around themselves to avoid the entanglements of sincerely caring for others. True connection requires authenticity, mutual respect, and vulnerability, as we allow others to help us understand how to love and how to be loved. Sherry Turkle, a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has spent the last 15

years studying how our "plugged-in lives" are changing who we are. She claims that our technological devices have produced a world in which we're constantly communicating, while meaningful conversations are deteriorating. Many accept that reading or listening to what others say, and indicating they agree, is the same as knowing someone personally. Hiding behind a screen can become a twisted sense of security as we observe society from the realm of our private isolation, and even more serious: Can this also be used to hide from God?

*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*

# OUTDOOR Truths

By Gary Miller  
Outdoortruths.org



There's no doubt what we do makes an impression on our young people and those who look up to us. Just as I remember buying my first new gun, I also remember my first new knife. Not only was I enamored by the knife itself, but I was also very interested in the paperwork that came with it. While most would only throw away the unnecessary stuff, I made it a point to find out about my new Buck knife. It talked about

how to take care of it and how to sharpen it. But what caught my attention was the message from Al Buck. Here is how it read.

Now that you are family, you might like to know a little more about our organization. The fantastic growth of Buck Knives was no accident. From the beginning, management determined to make God the Senior Partner. In a crisis, the problem was turned over to Him, and He hasn't failed

to help us with the answer. Each product must reflect the integrity of management, including our Senior Partner. If sometimes we fail on our end, because we are human, we find it imperative to do our utmost to make it right. Of course, to us, besides being Senior Partner, He is our Heavenly Father also; and it's a great blessing to us to have this security in these troubled times. If any of you are troubled or perplexed and looking for an-

swers, may we invite you to look to Him, for God loves you.

"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son; that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John: 3:16

Wow! What an impression that I thought big companies and successful people surely had no need for God. I was wrong and I never forgot that simple message purposefully placed in that

little box. Decades later, every time I go to buy a knife, I'm reminded of that day that someone cared enough to be unashamed of their faith and who also understood that all we have and all we do is to be used to reflect the goodness and grace of a Heavenly Father. Since that time, I have met other businesses and their owners who feel this same responsibility and apply it different ways. Their subtle but powerful message is their own

unique way of recognizing their own Senior Partner.

*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*

## STEWARD YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett  
Bandana Baptist Church

Being blind, uneducated, and seventy years-old, there was not much she could do—but she wanted to do something. The African woman had been led to Jesus by a gospel-preaching missionary, but her newfound zeal hit a brick wall because of her limitations. She wanted to serve the needy, but felt too old. She yearned to teach, but she couldn't read. But after seeking God's wisdom, she conceived an unconventional idea.

She gave her Bible to the missionary and asked him to underline John 3:16 in red ink. She then passed around her Bible to younger villagers, asking, "Can you read the passage underlined in red?" Then came a follow-up question: "Do

you know what this means?" When the youth would respond, "No," she would then tell them "the old, old story of Jesus and His love." Although she wasn't a missionary or a Bible teacher, she understood that the Lord gave her a job to do—and she made it all about Jesus.

Likewise, if you believe in the Man whose voice inspired the red letters, you also have a calling to fulfill, a ministry to steward, spiritual gifts to use, and divinely-tailored tasks assigned by God exclusively for you. As Paul explained, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone" (1 Cor.

12:4-6).

And the not-so-secret secret for faithfully fulfilling your God-given calling is centering your service and spiritual gifts around the "words in red," and the Man who spoke them. If the glory of Christ is not the goal of your Spirit-supplied abilities, then recognition, results, and reputation will take its place. Thus, whether you are pastoring a church, teaching Sunday school, changing diapers in the nursery, evangelizing a lost neighbor, singing in the choir, leading family worship, caring for the sick, or counseling the broken—the cross must be the axis. This is why Peter said, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's

varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves,

as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything

God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 4:10-11a).

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

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THERIES  
HONOR  
COURT  
MUSIC  
GARDEN  
WATER  
MOUNTAIN  
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WINDY  
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RAINY  
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ICEY  
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WET  
DRY  
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# Agriculture in Western Kentucky during February



February in Western Kentucky marks a quiet but critical period in the agricultural calendar. While fields lie mostly dormant under cold winter skies, farmers across the region are actively preparing for the upcoming growing season. This month serves as a bridge between winter maintenance and spring planting, with decisions made now shaping the year's harvest.

Row-crop agriculture dominates Western Kentucky, with corn, soybeans, wheat, and tobacco among the region's most important commodities. In February, winter wheat fields are closely monitored for signs of frost damage and nutrient needs. Farmers often apply nitrogen fertilizer when weather conditions allow, ensuring healthy growth as temperatures begin to rise. Soil testing is also common, helping producers fine-tune fertilizer plans and manage input costs.

Livestock operations remain busy throughout the winter months. Cattle producers

focus on herd health, feeding stored hay and supplements while preparing for calving season. Equipment maintenance is another major task. Tractors, planters, and combines are inspected and repaired now, reducing the risk of costly breakdowns once planting begins.

February is also a time for planning and education. Many farmers attend extension meetings, agricultural conferences, and farm shows hosted by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and local organizations. These events provide updates on market trends, new technologies, pest management strategies, and conservation practices tailored to Western Kentucky's soils and climate.

Although the landscape may appear still, agriculture in Western Kentucky is anything but idle in February. Careful preparation, strategic planning, and stewardship of land and livestock during this month lay the foundation for a productive growing season. As winter

slowly loosens its grip, farmers stand ready for the demanding but rewarding work that spring will soon bring.

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# Farm-to-school measure clears Senate committee



Agriculture Commissioner Johathan Shell, left, and Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, testify about the farm-to-school bill that cleared a committee. It advances to the Senate floor. (LRC photo)

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Legislation designed to help Kentucky farmers more easily share their products in students’ meals advanced to the Senate floor, after winning approval from the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, the sponsor of Senate Bill 5, considered one of that chamber’s priority measures due to its low number, said one of the prime goals is to put more locally grown produce into schools to benefit students’ nutrition, among other things.

“I think this opens the door to expanding out this arena and having more and more of our local produce be able to go, not just into schools and hospitals, but to be able to develop and push into the mainstream market,” Howell said.

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell testified to the panel that the legislation would start the process of decentralizing the current procurement system in schools so that farmers’ access to school markets can be bolstered.

SB 5 seeks to break barriers and overcome procurement challenges created by large conglomerates, he said.

“A lot of it’s federal. Some of it’s state, but it’s all-around procurement,” Shell said. “It’s all-around sourcing. It’s all-around guidelines and programs that they’ve put in place in policy that really have created barriers to limit access for locally grown food.”

Shell said there’s a larger plan to market farmers’ products besides legislation, and many stakeholders are currently working on these efforts.

“Senate Bill 5 is the next natural step in making Kentucky-grown foods more accessible to students. It helps integrate local agriculture into both their education and their daily meals, while supporting the farmers and crops that feed Kentucky families,” Shell said. “Coming from a family with deep roots in Kentucky farming, I’m committed to strengthening our agricultural ecosystem. By connecting kids to where their food comes from, we’re investing in a healthier future for everyone.”

School nutritionists have procured locally grown foods during agriculture week and taught students the origins of food, he said.

SB 5 now heads to the Seante floor.

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**Location: 1555 Powder Mills Rd., Magnolia, KY 42757**  
**Inspection: Daily 8:00 AM-5:00 PM CT**  
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