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March 20, 2026

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Gov. Beshear Announces \$3.7 Million in Tobacco Settlement Funds to Support Kentucky Farmers

ByMike Mohundro
WSIL

FRANKFORT, Ky. (WSIL) – Kentucky farmers are set to benefit from more than \$3.7 million in tobacco settlement funds, Gov. Andy Beshear announced today. The Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission has selected 305 projects across 73 counties to receive the funding, aimed at improving the health and productivity of farmland throughout the Commonwealth. “Our farmers help produce the goods we rely on each day and drive our economy, so when they succeed, Team Kentucky succeeds,” Gov. Beshear said. “These funds will help address needs

on farms across our Commonwealth and boost productivity in

fencing, grassed waterways, establishing rotational grazing sys-

wealth,” said Rebecca Goodman, Secretary of Kentucky’s Energy

Tobacco Master Settlement funds are allocated annually

Kentucky’s 121 conservation districts, which work directly with local farmers to verify and submit project proposals. Award recipients have two years to complete their projects. Over the past 31 years, the program has provided more than \$187 million to Kentucky farmers.

“This funding is critical to farmers in the Commonwealth to help conserve our state’s natural resources,” said Jay Nelson, director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation. “In turn, when a farm has a solid resource base, profitability is higher, and it’s a win-win scenario.”



the process.” The selected projects cover a wide range of conservation and farm improvement efforts, including installing livestock waterers,

tems, planting cover crops, and more. “I’m proud we can direct these funds to so many impactful projects on farms across the Common-

and Environment Cabinet. “By awarding aid now, we’re planting the seeds for a more sustainable Kentucky for generations to come.”

to support the State Cost Share Program. The funds are distributed with assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and

Coy Samons Interim Superintendent

Fulton Independent Schools has named Mr. Coy Samons as Interim Superintendent. Samons brings 37 years of experience in Kentucky education, including 21 years as superintendent in Murray and Paintsville Independent Schools. Over his career, he has served as a teacher, coach and principal, building a well-rounded



background in school leadership. He has led schools to numerous honors, including National Blue Ribbon School recognition, multiple 5-Star ratings, National Title

I Distinguished School status and District of Distinction recognition from the state. District officials say his proven leadership and strong track record make him well-suited to guide the district during this transition. Fulton Independent Schools welcomes Samons to the Bulldogs community.



City of Hickman Spring Bulk Trash Pickup

HICKMAN, Ky. — The City of Hickman will begin its Spring Bulk Trash Pickup on April 13, 2026. In partnership with Republic Services, residents are asked to

place bulk items at the curb by April 13 for citywide collection. This service allows for disposal of large household items not picked up during regular trash service.

Residents should ensure items are set out on time to avoid missing pickup. For details on accepted items, contact City Hall or Republic Services.

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AG UPDATE

for Ag and Natural Resources

Tom Miller,
Ballard County Ext. Agent

Beyond the scarecrow: Smart approaches
to controlling wildlife on the farm

Source: Matt Springer, Associate Extension Professor
of Wildlife Management

Wildlife is integral to Kentucky's landscape, and farms inevitably share space with a diverse range of animals. Rather than attempting to eliminate wildlife — an unrealistic and counterproductive goal — effective on-farm wildlife management can work to reduce conflicts and encourage natural behaviors that keep wildlife and people safely separated. Consider these strategies:

Define the problem — and the likely culprit.

Is the interaction causing harm or simply inconvenience? Economic loss, crop damage or threats to safety clearly require intervention, while other encounters — like a harmless snake sighting — may only require tolerance.

Identifying the species responsible for damage is not always simple. Clues such as habitat type, height of tree damage, bite patterns, tracks and scat can narrow the possibilities. Trail cameras, field guides and expert assistance can also provide confirmation.

Modify the habitat.

Small changes can make the environment less inviting and discourage wildlife from lingering near crops, buildings and livestock areas. Modifications can include:

- Reducing cover by mowing or clearing vegetation
- Removing attractants such as fallen fruit, unsecured feed or debris
- Eliminating denning or nesting sites such as hollow trees or woodpiles

Use deterrents strategically.

Deterrents can provide short-term protection. Visual tools like decoys or scare devices often



work best when rotated frequently so animals do not become accustomed to them. Try to introduce them right before wildlife pressure increases, such as just before fruit ripens or during calving season.

Deterrents like lasers or noise-making devices can help in certain scenarios but rarely offer permanent relief. For any deterrent, timing and variety matter more than the device itself.

Invest in fencing and enclosures.

Fencing is one of the most reliable long-term options for reducing wildlife damage, especially around high-value crops and livestock. Though they require higher upfront costs, well-designed enclosure reduce the need for repeated deterrents.

Deer generally require structures at least eight feet tall, but an offset fence disrupts their depth perception. Electrified fences are more appropriate for wildlife that climb or dig.

Enclosures also work best when installed proactively, before animals get accustomed to feeding or traveling in the

protected area.

Trap and hunt to reduce populations.

Trapping and hunting can be effective,

especially for species like raccoons and deer. Kentucky law (KRS 150.170) allows landowners to protect their property from

most wildlife, except those protected under federal law (bats and migratory birds). When animals are taken, landowners

must notify a conservation officer to obtain a confirmation number and may only keep consumable meat.

Hunting also supports long-term deer management and can provide supplemental income through leased access. Effective population control requires harvesting does, and landowners should monitor harvest outcomes.

Plan for long-term management.

There is no one-time, permanent fix. Effective management requires persistence and the combination of multiple strategies.

Every farm is different, and species-specific recommendations vary widely.

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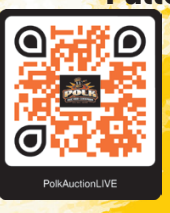


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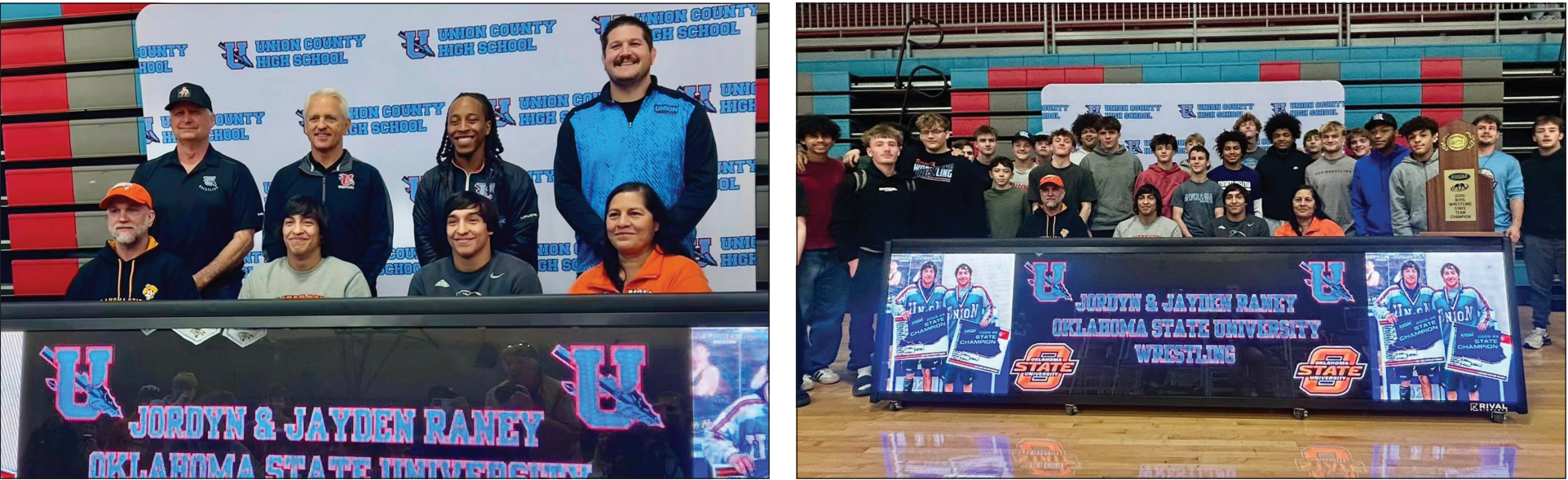
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West KY Sports

Union County wrestlers sign with Oklahoma State



Union County High School seniors Jordyn Raney and Jayden Raney signed with the Oklahoma State University wrestling program during a ceremony held at UCHS on Tuesday, March 17. (Photos courtesy of Union County High School)



Prior to the start of the 2026 high school softball season, McCracken County held its Crimson & Black Scrimmage. (Photos courtesy of McCracken County High School)

Ethan Webber signs with Midway University football



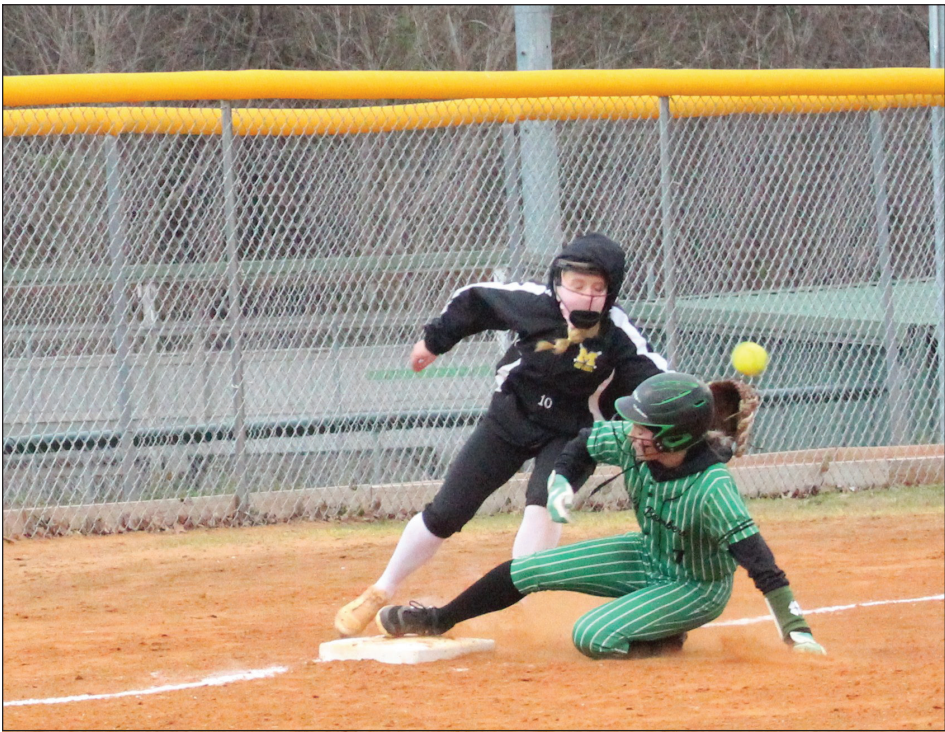
Marshall County High School senior Ethan Webber has signed to play football at Midway University in Midway. Webber was a member of the Marshall County High School football team for four seasons and a two-year starter. Webber was a team captain and vocal leader for the Marshals during his senior season. As a senior, Webber led the Marshals in receiving yards and hauled in four touchdown receptions. (Photos courtesy of Marshall County High School)



The McCracken County softball team won an indoor tournament in Illinois in February. The Lady Mustangs are currently competing in the 2026 high school softball season. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

St. Mary defeated Reidland in a boys' middle school soccer match earlier in the month. (Photo courtesy of St. Mary School)

Lady Bombers Start Season With Victories



(Photo by Tim Taylor)

By Tim Taylor
KPI Sports Writer

The Ballard Memorial Lady Bombers opened the season with a pair of wins. A 12-2 win over Murray and 15-0 win against Carlisle County. Trinity Williams hit a home run in each game for the Lady Bombers. The two wins came in sub 40 degree weather with Monday’s opener against Murray being the only game

not canceled in the state of Kentucky on opening night. It was played in sub 30 degree wind chill factors. The following night, Mady Bohde pitched a 3 inning perfect game against Carlisle County striking out 8 of the 9 batters faced. She also added a pair of triples and had 3 RBI. Gracie Glisson had 4 RBI combined in the two games while Adalyn Hargrove leads the team with 2 dou-

bles. After a weekend triangle with Hickman County and Anna Jonesboro Saturday, the Lady Bombers will have a pair of away district games facing Mayfield and Graves County on March 23rd and 26th respectively. Coach Scott Alexander was impressed with how the Lady Bombers handled the bitterly cold weather and came away with a pair of victories to start the season.

Bomber Tennis Vs Calloway County

By Tim Taylor
KPI Sports Writer

The Bomber tennis team made the trip to Calloway County. In Lady Bomber competition, Lalee Graves won a dominating 6-0 match for her win. The ladies had a few

competitive matches but were not able to pick up any additional victories. In the Bombers event, senior Luke Fickes won his match 8-4. He now has a singles win and doubles victory in the early season. The

next scheduled varsity match is at home on March 24th against Lyon County and then hosting Graves County on the 26th. The match against St. Mary on March 16th was postponed until April 14th.

Fulton County Baseball Looks to Rebuild and Compete

Staff Report

FULTON COUNTY, Ky. — Fulton County baseball coach Derrick Jackson is aiming for growth and improvement as the Pilots enter the new season. The team’s goal is to compete

for a district championship, with a strong focus on defense and fundamentals. Fulton County returns just four experienced players, making it a young roster, but team chemistry has developed well during spring training.

Senior leadership has helped guide the group, while players like Preston Smith and Drake Thorpe are expected to make key contributions. After a 4-9-1 record last season, the Pilots are eager to prove they are a different team this year.

Lady Eagles golf eyes continued growth, regional contention

Staff Report
KPI Writer

GRAVES COUNTY, Ky. — The Graves County girls golf team enters the new season with a blend of youth, talent, and rising expectations under the leadership of head coach Jade Miller. After back-to-back top-five regional finishes—including a near runner-up performance last season—the Lady Eagles are focused on taking the next step. Miller says the team’s mindset centers on steady improvement, strong course management, and building confidence in competitive situations. With a commitment to

accountability and team support, Graves County is aiming to be firmly in the mix for a regional championship this fall. Despite being a relatively young group, the Lady Eagles bring a promising combination of experience and emerging talent. Returning players provide leadership, while younger athletes are eager to contribute and grow throughout the season. Leading the way is Emilie Miller, who finished third in the region last year as an eighth grader with an impressive 76 scoring average. Sophomore Karley Jones is also expected

to be a key contributor, with expectations of consistently shooting in the upper 70s. Incoming seventh grader Kylie Miller could make an immediate impact, bringing strong junior golf experience to the lineup. Miller says she is most excited to watch her players develop and compete with confidence, while continuing to build a program capable of setting new school records. Last season, Graves County placed third in the region, finished second at the Marshall County Invitational, and recorded a top-five finish in the Eagle Invitational.

Carlisle County Baseball Preview

Staff Report

Carlisle County enters the 2026 season with a veteran roster and high expectations under head coach Hunter Burge. The Comets will rely on a core group of juniors and seniors, giving the lineup valuable experience while also allowing underclassmen to contribute in key

roles. Burge expects the team’s strengths to be its athleticism, versatility, and overall speed, which should create opportunities on both sides of the ball. On the mound, Carlisle County will focus on throwing strikes and consistently attacking hitters. Offensively, the team features players capable of driving the ball

for extra-base hits and adding power to the lineup. Strong team chemistry is another advantage, as this group enjoys competing together and supporting one another. A highlight of the season will be a June 7 game at Busch Stadium. The Comets look to compete daily and work toward their goals this spring.

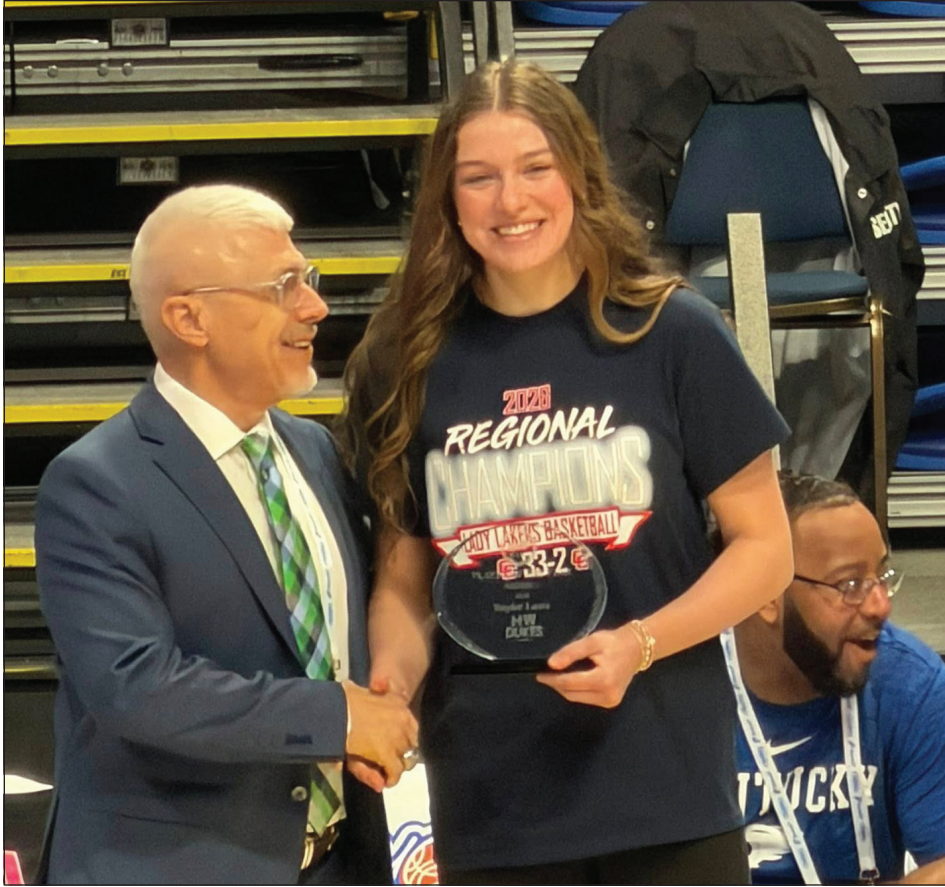
Murray State Athletics partners with Country Boy Brewing to create branded beer

Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray State Athletics has partnered with Country Boy Brewing out of Lexington, for a new brew named Murray State of Mind. This craft-brewed American Wheat Ale has been designed for tailgates and cheering on Racers across the state of Kentucky. Brewed with malted wheat and a touch of Bravo hops, this brew finishes crisp and clean, inviting you back for another sip. Light and refreshing, Murray State of Mind will fit perfectly into the cooler of every fan

that bleeds navy and gold. “The launch of the Murray State of Mind is another great brand initiative for our department and University and will allow us to further expand into more regional markets thanks to this incredible partnership with Country Boy Brewing,” Murray State Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. “We are excited to give our fans the opportunity to celebrate Racer Nation with this new offering.” “We are so lucky to find a partner in Murray State that appreciates a great crafted beer,” says

Daniel “DH” Harrison, Co-Owner and Founder of Country Boy Brewing. “We have a couple Murray alums on our team and cannot wait to cheer on the Racers with the first batch of Murray State of Mind.” Murray State of Mind cans and draft will launch market-wide beginning Monday, March 23 just in time for the Racers Baseball to take on the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Racer Nation is invited to the official launch event at Tap 216 on Tuesday, March 24, starting at 5 p.m. to try the new brew.



Calloway County High School senior Sayler Lowe was recognized as the KABC Region 1 Girls’ Basketball Player of the Year during the Girls’ Sweet 16 on Friday, March 13. (Photo courtesy of Calloway County High School)



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Murray State women’s basketball will battle Maryland in Chapel Hill, NC Friday

After winning the 2026 Missouri Valley Conference Championship, Murray State women’s basketball will take on Maryland in the First Round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The matchup is the first ever between the two programs and is the Racers third NCAA Tournament appearance in program history. MSU faced another Big 10 foe in Iowa in the First Round of the Big Dance a season ago.

Tip-off is scheduled for 2 p.m. CT and the game will be aired on ESPN.

Follow the Racers on Twitter (@MSURacers), Instagram (@RacersAthletics) and Facebook to stay up-to-date on all that is happening with Murray State Athletics. Follow Murray State men’s basketball on Twitter(@RacersWBB) and Instagram (@MurrayState RacersWBB).





Congratulations!!

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Veteran Carlisle County Baseball Team Ready to Compete This Spring

By Laurna Todd,
KPI Writer

CARLISLE COUNTY, Ky. — Experience, speed, and strong team chemistry will define the Carlisle County baseball team as they take the field for the 2026 spring season under head coach Hunter Burge. Burge expects to rely on a veteran-heavy lineup, with the majority of starters coming from an experi-

enced core of juniors and seniors. That leadership, combined with contributions from younger players, is expected to give the team both stability and depth throughout the season. “We’re expecting a veteran team,” Burge said. “Most of our lineups will feature six juniors and two seniors, with another position rotating among underclassmen.” Carlisle County’s strengths

are expected to center around athleticism and versatility, along with team speed that could create advantages both offensively and defensively. On the mound, Burge emphasized the team’s ability to consistently throw strikes and attack hitters as a key factor in their success. Offensively, the Comets bring power to the plate as well, with several players capable of hitting for

extra bases and driving the ball out of the park. Beyond physical talent, Burge believes the team’s chemistry could be one of its biggest assets this season. “This group seems to have strong chemistry and enjoys being around each other,” he said. That connection could play an important role as the team navigates the challenges of a long season and works toward its goals. While

the focus remains on day-to-day improvement and competition, one highlight already stands out on the schedule. Carlisle County is set to play at Busch Stadium on June 7, offering players a rare opportunity to compete on a major league field. The event will also include a St. Louis Cardinals game, with ticket packages available that include both games along with concessions. As the

season begins, Burge and his team are eager to take the field and see their preparation come to life. “We’re excited to get on the field and compete day to day to reach our goals,” Burge said. With experience, talent, and strong team unity, Carlisle County looks poised to make the most of the 2026 season.

Carlisle County Board Highlights Student Voices, Approves Key Initiatives at March Meeting

Carlisle County, Ky.— The Carlisle County Schools Board of Education convened Thursday, March 12, spotlighting student leadership, instructional investments, and upcoming facility improvements during a full March agenda. The evening opened with a presentation by Carlisle County Middle School students Eastyn Allen, Hudson Beggs, and Roxie Wilson, who shared research and personal reflections on why Carlisle

County is an exceptional place to call home. Their remarks set an upbeat tone that carried through the meeting. CCMS Principal Tosha Arnold followed with an overview of feedback from the Impact Working Conditions Survey, underscoring both points of pride and areas for growth that her team will continue to address to support staff and student success. During the superintendent’s report, the district announced partici-

pation in the NEEW Grant, which will deliver new science instructional materials, digital citizenship resources through The Social Institute, and fund a Comet Career Exploration Lab to be housed at the middle school. The report also highlighted standout performances by the district’s elementary and middle school LEGO robotics teams, with the elementary team advancing to the state competition at Rupp Arena in April.

In athletics, both the Comet and Lady Comet basketball teams were commended for outstanding seasons, each securing district titles. Baseball and softball seasons are now underway. The consent agenda featured several actions of note: approval of the 2024–25 financial audit, approval of the school wellness plan, a first reading of revisions to the facility use procedure, a first reading of a new Bring Your Own Device agreement for

student technology use, and a first reading of revisions to the School Telecommunication Device Policy. The annual approval of the district behavior code was also included. The Board approved staffing and instructional materials allocations for the coming year, maintaining current staffing levels in place for 2025–26. In a subsequent session, the Carlisle County School District Finance Corporation authorized plans and

the issuance of bonds for the concessions and restrooms project, which is now slated for summer 2026. The Board concluded in executive session to address a student discipline matter. The next Carlisle County Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Carlisle County High School library. As always, community members are encouraged to attend.

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Paducah Chiefs Baseball Club Needs Host Families for 11th Season

Press Release

PADUCAH – Opening day for the Paducah Chiefs Baseball Club’s 2026 season is at the end of May, but preparations already are underway to provide housing for the players. The college wood-bat team plays at Brooks Stadium in Paducah during the summer, and the players rely on the generosity of local families to host them for the season.

“Host families play such an important role in the experience of our players who come to Paducah for the sum-

mer,” said General Manager Greg McKeel. “They provide a sense of stability and support while these young athletes are away from home. Even though it’s only for about two months, many of these relationships last for years and truly become like extended family. Hosting one of these talented players was a rewarding experience for me. I invite others to be part of this special tradition and our hometown story.”

Families who would like to learn more about being a



host family for a Paducah Chiefs player can contact McKeel at 270-210-9766 or by email. Those inter-

ested also may contact Assistant General Managers Tab Brockman at 270-293-3030 or Greg Cannon

at 270-331-2813.

The first home game of the 2026 season will be Friday, May 29 at Brooks Stadium.

Season Tickets and General Admission Season tickets for the Paducah Chiefs are available for \$200 by contacting McKeel. A season ticket includes all home games and home playoff games. General admission seating is available at the gate on game days for \$6 per game or \$10 per game for a chairback seat.

Sponsorships Those interested in being a corpo-

rate sponsor for the Chiefs should contact McKeel. Sponsorship opportunities are available through signage at Doc Hideg Field and through advertisements in the game day program which is provided at no charge to every fan in attendance.

About the Chiefs The Chiefs have a long history dating back to 1903 but were revived in 2016 as part of the Ohio Valley League. The team is overseen by the Brooks Stadium Commission.



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YA1612 '19 Kenworth T680 semi truck



APRIL 9

EA5449 '21 Komatsu WA320-8 wheel loader



APRIL 1

YA2675 '24 John Deere C12R corn head



APRIL 2

DT2842 '12 Mack LEU613 refuse truck



APRIL 9

EA5452 '20 Komatsu D51PX-24 dozer



APRIL 1

YA1997 '25 Bobcat CT4050 MFWD tractor



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Prediabetes Often Goes Unnoticed

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

March marks Diabetes Alert Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about prediabetes and encouraging individuals to take steps toward better health. According to the Kentucky Diabetes Report, approximately 14% of Kentuckians have prediabetes, placing them at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Prediabetes often has no noticeable symptoms, making early detection especially important. Healthcare providers diagnose predia-

betes when fasting blood sugar levels fall between 100 and 125. Without lifestyle changes, many individuals with prediabetes may go on to develop type 2 diabetes.

New to this year’s risk assessment is the inclusion of screening questions for type 1 diabetes. While type 1 differs from type 2 in cause, early screening can help identify those at risk and prevent serious complications such as diabetic ketoacidosis.

Residents are encouraged to take a free diabetes risk test and learn where they



stand when it comes to prediabetes. Early awareness can make a life-changing difference, and taking just a few minutes to assess your risk is a simple first step toward better health. Getting checked can help detect diabetes early, potentially saving your life or helping you better understand and manage your health before complications develop.

Know your risk. Get tested. Learn how to lower your risk—and take control of your health.

The Purchase District Health Department Diabetes Education Program offers a variety of helpful resources, including educational presentations and support classes available in person, virtually, or on demand—making it easy for anyone to get involved and stay informed.

For more information, to schedule a presentation, or to enroll in a class, call 270-444-9625 ext. 107.

Community Foundation of West Kentucky Receives National Recognition

Paducah, KY, — The Community Foundation of West Kentucky recently received word of their renewed accreditation with the nation’s highest standard for philanthropic excellence from the Community Foundations National Standards® Board. The Board establishes legal, ethical, effective practices for community foundations everywhere.

“Meeting the National Standards benchmarks is a rigorous, comprehensive process,” said Susie Nelson, board chair of National Standards. “This accreditation is a significant accomplishment that indicates the Community Foundation of West Kentucky demonstrates a commitment to transparency, quality, integrity and accountability as it carries out its mission.”

The Community Foundations National Standards® program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. With over 500 community foundations already accredited nationwide, the program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

“This accreditation renewal makes a very important statement to our donors,” said Lee Emmons, CFWK Chief Executive Officer. “People put their trust in us when making a charitable bequest or es-

tablishing a fund. They count on us to manage the investment wisely and honor their charitable wishes. The National Standards accreditation affirms our commitment to honor that trust.”

“The Community Foundation of West Kentucky works to meet critical community needs and support local causes, such as nonprofits supporting the arts, food insecurity, affordable housing, healthcare initiatives and expanding educational opportunities through literacy programs and scholarships,” said Emmons.

CFWK offers a range of charitable funds, allowing donors to advance a cause, support an individual organization, provide flexible support for community needs or recommend individual grants.

“Through philanthropic services, strategic investments and community leadership, the Community Foundation of West Kentucky helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come,” said Angie Jackson, CFWK board president. “With this renewed National Standards accreditation, you can be assured we are following best practices in all our efforts.”

Community Foundations National Standards® is the first program of its kind for charitable foundations in the United States.

The Community Foundations National Stan-

dards Board is a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations and is responsible for the quality, value and integrity of compliance with National Standards. For more information on the National Standards Board, visit its website at www.cfstandards.org.

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CALDWELL

Dollie June Sherrell Felker, age 78, of Princeton, passed away March 14, 2026 at Princeton Health and Rehabilitation. Funeral services were held at 11:00 am Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Ken Cummins officiating. Burial followed at Beech Grove Cemetery.

Dietra Ann Paris, age 80, passed away March 13th, 2026, in Owensboro, KY. Dietra was a brilliant, unique woman, known for many things, but she shined as an advocate for the dignity of people. The funeral will be held Friday, March 20, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home in Princeton, KY at 11 AM.

JoAnne Terry passed away on Friday, March 13th, 2026, in the Caldwell County Medical Center at the age of 80. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Thursday, March 19, 2026 at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Bobby Cotton officiating. Burial followed in Hawkins Cemetery.

CALLOWAY

Joe H. McKendree, 78, of Murray, passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Baptist Health in Paducah. A memorial service is set for 12 PM on March 28, 2026 at Blood River Baptist Church, State Highway 444, New Concord, KY 42076, with Jeff Norsworthy and Mike Scheffer officiating. A meal will follow the service and all family and friends are invited.

Dr. Mary Frank Holcomb (Valentine) transcended her earthly body on March 14, 2026. Graveside service were held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at the Murray City Cemetery. Rev. Jeff Rudy will officiate and burial will follow. No public visitation will be held.

Jean Cooper, age 85, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Sunday, March 15, 2026, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House. A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Rev. Shani Campbell officiating. Burial will follow in the South Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Mitchell L. Allbritten, 66 of New Concord, Kentucky, passed away Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete at this time at Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Murray, KY.

CHRISTIAN

Elwanda June West, age 88, of Christian County, KY, passed away on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, Jennie Stuart Medical Center of natural causes. Funeral Services were held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Home with Bro. Jimmy Stewart officiating and burial to follow in George West Family Cemetery.

James “Jim” Walker, 95, of Hopkinsville, KY passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday March 15, 2026. Funeral services will be 12:00 PM Friday, March 20, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. Dan Huck officiating. Burial will follow at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville, KY. Visitation will be Friday from 10:00 AM until the funeral hour at the funeral home. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Robert “Bob” Ellis, 81, of Hopkinsville, KY died Friday, March 6, 2026 at St. Thomas Midtown in Nashville, TN. Graveside services with military honors were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Ronald “Ronnie” Jackson, 69, passed away

on Friday, March 13, 2026, in Paducah, Kentucky. Born in Christian County, Kentucky, on April 13, 1956, he was the son of the late Clarence Wills and Vesta Louise Jackson. Funeral Service was held on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 12:00 PM - Gamble Funeral Home, 1311 S Liberty St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240 - Burial at New Asia Cemetery.

James Phillip “Doorknob” Whitlock - November 24, 1951 - March 13, 2026 - James Phillip “Doorknob” Whitlock, son of the late James Whitlock and Georgia Ann Kendrick, was born on November 24, 1951, in Christian County, Kentucky. Visitation is Monday, March 23rd, 2026 from 11-12 pm. Funeral Service will follow at 12:00 pm at the Gamble Funeral Home, 1311 S. Liberty St, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

James Henry Jones, 77, passed away on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at his home in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Visitation will be on Saturday, March 21st from 10-12 pm with Funeral Service to follow at 12 pm at the Gamble Funeral Home in Hopkinsville, KY. A Committal Service will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 10 am, Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West, 5817 Ft. Campbell Blvd., Hopkinsville, KY.

Jennifer Rena Griffith, 64, of Crofton, KY passed on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. A funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, 19, 2026 at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Crofton with Pastor Butch McKnight to officiate the service. Burial followed in West Macedonia Cemetery.

CRITTENDEN

Doris Ann Newcom, age 80, of Marion, KY, passed away Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville, KY. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the funeral home with Bro. Dennis William officiating. Burial will follow in Mapleview Cemetery in Marion.

FULTON

Larry Don Connell, age 80, of Fulton, KY passed away Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Diversicare of Martin. Graveside services for Mr. Larry Connell were held at 1 PM Thursday, March 19, 2026, at the Oak Grove Cemetery. There will be no visitation held at the funeral home and friends are asked to meet at the cemetery at the hour of service.

Larry B. Toombs, age 80, of Fulton, KY passed away Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Jackson Madison County General Hospital in Jackson, TN. There will no services held at the funeral home.

James “Pickle” Black, age 91, of Hickman, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2026, at Baptist Health in Paducah. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman, with burial to follow in Hickman City Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the funeral chapel from 10:00 a.m. until the service hour.

GRAVES

Calvin Morrow, 83, of Mayfield, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at Green Acres Healthcare in Mayfield. Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Pastor Richard Phillips officiating. Visitation will be held from 12:00 pm until the service hour of 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Aleta Greayer, 73 of Mayfield, passed away peacefully on Monday March 16, 2026 at her home. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later day. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of Contributions to, St. Jude Tribute Program, PO. Box 1000 Department 142. Memphis, Tn 38101-9908.

And the American Red Cross. 430 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 in her memory.

Gary Lee “Butch” Conway, age 72, of Adairsville, GA, formerly of Mayfield, KY, passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at Green Acres Healthcare in Mayfield, KY. Graveside services for Mr. Gary Lee “Butch” Conway will be 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at North Mt. Zion Cemetery. Bro. Eric Hayden will officiate. Interment will follow.

Kenneth Usher Alderdice, age 91, of Sedalia passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at his residence. Graveside services for Mr. Kenneth Usher Alderdice were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at Lebanon Church of Christ Cemetery. Mark Shelton will officiate. Interment will follow.

Dorothy Nell Canter Graham passed away quietly in her sleep at home on March 13, 2026, at the age of 102. Arrangements are being handled by Byrn Funeral Home, Mayfield, KY. Burial will be private at Baptist Cemetery in Lynnville, KY.

James Walton “Trey” Standifer, III. left this world to be with our Heavenly Father on March 12, 2026 at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

David J. Hawks, 76, of Farmington, passed away Saturday morning, March 14, 2026, at his residence. In keeping with David’s wishes, a private family memorial will be held at a later date.

Elizabeth Pitzen age 67 of Mayfield passed away at 12:15 AM Wednesday March 11, 2026 at the Green Acres Health Care in Mayfield. Memorial services will be held at a later date at Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield. Will be posted later at that time.

HENDERSON

Anna (Blake) Oliver, 68, of Henderson, passed away Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Deaconess Henderson Hospital. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 19 at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson with Rev. Mary Wrye officiating. Burial followed at Smith Mills Cemetery.

Diana Gayle (Haire) Nance, 79 of Onton, KY passed away on Saturday March 14, 2026 at Henderson Deaconess Hospital. Services were held graveside at 11:00 AM, Thursday March 19th at Onton Cemetery in Onton, KY. Pastor Chris Lewis will officiate.

Terral “Dennis” Hensley, 54, of Fort Branch, IN, passed away Friday, March 13, 2026 at Deaconess Gateway Hospital. Memorial services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18 at Henderson General Baptist Church with Chad Hensley and Alec Hensley officiating.

HOPKINS

Kimberly Jean Hisel Kittinger, 61, passed away on Monday March 16, 2026 at her daughter’s residence. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 P.M. Saturday March 21, 2026 at Abundant Grace Fellowship in Madisonville.

Robert “Andy” Lear, 61, passed away on Thursday March 12, 2026 at his residence. A Graveside service was held at 11:00 A.M. Tuesday March 17, 2026 at West Lawn Cemetery in Hanson, KY with DeWayne “Peewee” Austin officiating. Burial will follow.

Cathy Elaine Pierce, 69 of White Plains passed away Sunday, March 15, 2026, at her home. Service will was held on Thursday at 1:00pm at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville with Bro. J.D.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Holt officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in White Plains.

Jerald “Jerry” Ray Harper, 82, of Slaughters, Ky., passed away on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, surrounded by family at Redbanks Colonial Terrace Nursing Home in Sebree, KY. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Rev. Shelly Hendricks officiating. Burial will be held at Grapevine Cemetery in Madisonville. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the funeral hour on Friday at the funeral home.

Brian Allen Mitchell, 66, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Kentucky. A celebration of Brian’s life with friends and family will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 2695 Country Club Drive, Madisonville, KY, 42431. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

Dalton Wayne Higgs, 75, of Manitou, KY, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, IN. A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Benton Hoagland officiating. Burial followed at Concord General Baptist Church Cemetery in Manitou, KY..

LIVINGSTON

Wilma Louise Ramage, 88, of Paducah passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation in Paducah. Visitation was held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Lola Pentecostal Church in Lola, KY. Graveside service will follow at Carrsville Cemetery in Livingston County, KY, with Bro. Tim Fouts officiating.

Doyle G. Polk, Jr., age 98, passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Salem Spring Lake Nursing and Rehabilitation in Salem, KY. Graveside services with military honors will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 1:00 PM at Frances Cemetery. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

LYON

Gerald “Jerry” Vickrey passed away on March 12, 2026, at his home in Eddyville, at the age of 82. Visitation will be held on Friday, March 20, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held on Friday, March 20, 2026, at 1:00 PM Princeton Memorial Gardens with Eddy Miniard officiating.

MARSHALL

Patrick Munley, 78, of Benton, KY, passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at his home. Private family services will be held. Imes Funeral Home & Crematory is entrusted with caring for his family.

Faye E. Futrell, 90 of Calvert City, Kentucky passed away on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Calvert City Convalescent Center in Calvert City, Kentucky. A graveside service will be held on Friday, March 20, 2026 at 10:00 am at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum in Paducah, KY.

Beverly Kay Stevenson, 73 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Monday, March 16, 2026 at her home. No services are scheduled at this time. Collier Funeral Home & Cremation Services are handling all arrangements.

Ella Mae Lyles, 93, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away at 5:40 pm, Friday, March 13, 2026 at The Meadows Senior Community Health Center

in Nashville, TN. She was surrounded by family. Funeral Services were held in the chapel of Collier Funeral Home on Sunday March 15, 2026 at 2:00 PM. Doug Lyles will assist Jack Phillips in officiating the service.

Charles “Bob” Hines, 84 of Benton, Kentucky went to be with the Lord March 12, 2026 at Baptist Health Paducah, peaceful with his devoted wife, Jane, and family members at his side. A funeral service was held at 1:00 pm on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at Collier Funeral Home Chapel with Mark Ray officiating. Burial to follow at Calvert City Cemetery.

McCRACKEN

Philip Steele Chase, known as Phil to his friends and family, passed away peacefully on March 3, 2026, in his hometown of Paducah, Kentucky. Memorial visitation will be held on March 28, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, located at 120 Memorial Drive, Paducah, KY 42001.

Billy J. Simmons, 83, of Paducah, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Passion & Purpose Homecare in Almo, Kentucky. There will be no public services. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah is in charge of all arrangements.

Tommy Lynne Gliniewicz, affectionately known as Lynne to her friends and loved ones, passed away on March 16, 2026, in West Paducah, Kentucky, at her home. A graveside service was held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Mt. Kenton Cemetery with Pastor Boogie Butler officiating.

Jarett Scott Denkins, born on November 27, 1972, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2026, in Kevil, Kentucky. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah, with Bro. Larry Buchanan officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM until the service hour of 1:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah.

Bro. Larry Eugene Davidson, age 77, of Paducah, Kentucky, heard the words, “Well done, my good and faithful servant,” on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Baptist Health Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky. Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 9701 Blandville Rd, West Paducah, KY. Visitation will be held Friday, March 20, 2026, from 4:00pm - 7:00pm at Milner and Orr Paducah, and on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 9:30am until the service hour of 11:00 am at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Hilda Wright, 90, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at 1:27 a.m. Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Providence Pointe. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Bob Martin officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Kenton Cemetery.

Frances Jane Hawkins, a cherished homemaker, devoted caregiver, and adored grandmother, passed away on March 13, 2026, at the age of 83. A funeral service will be held at 1 P.M. on Friday, March 20th, 2026, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah. Visitation will begin at 11 A.M. and continue until the service starts at 1 P.M.

Clark A. Nelson, 84, of Paduch, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2026, in Metropolis, Illinois. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Dr. Chris Prescott officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

William “Willie” Alexander Nisbet, III passed away at the age of 79 on March 12, 2026. A memorial service will be held on May 2nd, 2026. Details are incomplete at this time. Milner and Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah are in charge of arrangements.

Ronnie “Droopy” Ashley, age 82, passed away on March 11, 2026. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with David Melber officiating.

Maxine Lee Smith, 71, of New Concord passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. She will be cremated per her wishes and private family services will be held at a later date.

James “Allen” Chandler, 62, of Paducah passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at River Haven Nursing & Rehab with his family by his side. Funeral services will be at 1:00pm on Friday, March 20, 2026, at Lindsey Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Maplelawn Park Cemetery.

Margaret Bradford, a cherished and trailblazing member of the Metropolis community, passed away peacefully on March 13, 2026, 8:10 p.m., at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center of Paducah, KY. Services to honor Margaret’s life will be held at Pettus Rowland Funeral Home, 1229 Madison Street, Paducah, KY 42001, on March 21, 2026. A visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by the funeral service at 12:00 p.m.

Zoe Nicole Johnson, a self-employed mother of three, entered eternal rest on Saturday, March 7, 2026. As a young girl, she accepted Christ as her Savior and joined with Washington Street Baptist Church in Paducah. A funeral service was Saturday, March 14, 2026, 12:00 NOON (CST), at Washington Street Baptist Church with Pastor Raynarldo Henderson and Pastor Michael Pryor officiating.

Ronald L. Goins, 79, of Ledbetter passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at home surrounded by family. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Bro. Todd Hawkins officiating. Burial will follow at New Bethel Cemetery in Eddyville. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am to service time Saturday at the funeral home.

TRIGG

Nell Fowler - May 28, 1943 - March 16, 2026 - Funeral Services for 82 year old Nell Fowler of Gracey were held Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at King’s Funeral Home with Bro. John Hagan officiating. Burial followed in Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

Timothy Wayne Marlowe, age 57, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2026, at Murray Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, at 1:00 PM, Tuesday, March 17, 2026, with Rev. Darrell Crawford officiating. Burial followed in East End Cemetery.

Mary Frances Rogers Cook, age 84, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at her home, surrounded by her family. Funeral services were held at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, at 1:00 PM, Wednesday, March 18, 2026, with her brother, Rev. Kenny Rogers, officiating. Burial followed in East End Cemetery.

UNION

Thomas Leonard Hagan, age 81 of Morganfield was called home to the Lord on March 16, 2026. He was born April 21, 1944 in DeKoven, KY. Funeral services will be 11 AM Friday, March 20, 2026 at

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Morganfield. Fr. Bruce McCarty and Fr. Dave Johnson will officiate. Visitation will be 9 AM until service time at the church. Burial will be in St. Ann Cemetery with full military rites.

Shirley Ann Owens, age 77, of Morganfield, KY, passed away on March 15, 2026, at Linda White Hospice House in Evansville, IN, following complications from ALS. Funeral service will be 3 PM Friday March 20, 2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Visitation will be 11 AM until service time Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Boxville Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Dorothy (Dot) F. Hancock, 76, peacefully passed away on March 12, 2026 at Lucy Smith Hospice Center in Henderson, Kentucky. Leaving behind a legacy of love, faith, and service. Funeral

Service will be Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 12:00 PM. Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Carr’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Morganfield, Kentucky.

Nancy Marie Collins, of Sturgis, Kentucky, passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 13, 2026. She was born January 29, 1960, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, to Janice and Larry Jack Sale. A celebration of life was held on Tuesday, March 17th at 5:30 PM at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Jeff Paris will officiate.

WEBSTER

Charles “Poochie” Collins, 71 of Wheatcroft passed away Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at Oak Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Blackford at 1:00 PM with Pastor Phillip

McCoy and Brother Dale Williams officiating. Burial will be in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Opal Lee Waide, 102, of Carterville, IL formerly of Providence, KY passed away on Thursday March 12, 2026, at Parkway Manor in Marion, IL. Graveside services were held at 1:00 PM on Thursday March 19, 2026, at Green Grove Cemetery with Bro. Johnnie Davis officiating.

Faron Lee Sigers 58, of Poole, KY passed away Friday March 13, 2026 at his home. Arrangements are pending at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY. Online condolences can be made at www.townsendfuneralhomeinc.com.

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.

‘Safety comes from experience’: UK Forest Fire Field Day provides students with essential firefighting skills

By Christopher Carney
University of Kentucky

BEREA, Ky.—

At the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR), a program provides students the unique opportunity to experience wildland firefighting. The UK Fire Cats, classified as emergency firefighters with the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF), are on call to fight real wildland fires in their communities.

At the recent Forest Fire Field Day, students traveled to the Berea College Forestry Outreach Center to participate in a series of trainings — a required step for students that want to apply to be a future UK Fire Cat or obtain additional wildland fire certifications. Among the activities, student teams, led by forestry professionals, constructed a fireline, properly handled important tools, got into a practice fire shelter and learned general safety protection protocols.

The most important takeaway from the event, which was facilitated by the KDF and UK, was The fire triangle consists of fuel, oxygen and heat, which are “all required for a fire to exist,” according to Reinstetle. Understanding the fire triangle was critical while students worked together on clearing a fireline, which creates a barrier to slow the spread of fires by removing combustible materials.

“There’s a lot of responsibility and you have to make sure that you and your team are safe,” Collins said. “People’s lives hang in the balance, so you have to talk to each other and take it seriously.”

Participating in Forest Fire Field Day is required for students enrolled in the FOR 255 Forest Fire undergraduate class, which is open to all majors at UK.

Tyler Rumble, a mechanical engineering student in the UK Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering, also participated in the Forest Fire Field Day. Rumble, a volunteer firefighter in his hometown in Indiana, said he’s interested in “just about everything firefighting related.”

“This is fun and skills that will stick with us for the rest of our lives,” Rumble said. “When you work as a team, you get more done. When you don’t work as a team, someone might get hurt. We look out for each other and help each other. As an engineering student, I hope one day to design better tools that firefighters need.”

Rumble and Collins are both hopeful to apply to become a Fire Cat.

For Laura Robinson, FNR academic coordinator at Martin-Gatton CAFE and course instructor, student participants have a great opportunity to take what they are learning in class, apply it and get the training

to obtain their wildland firefighter type 2 certification — a required step in applying to become a UK Fire Cats.

In addition, Robinson believes that partnerships are what make events like Forest Field Day possible and valuable for the students.

“This is a great partnership working with the Kentucky Division of Forestry; they provide the experience, resources, equipment and gear,” Robinson said. “All of this allows our students to have the hands-on training, interact with forestry professionals and learn about potential career opportunities from people that do this every day.”

With woodlands in each of the 120 counties and forest industries in 110 counties, Kentucky’s forests contribute approximately \$20 billion to the Commonwealth’s economy annually.

Robinson hopes FOR 255 Forest Fire helps students appreciate the importance of Kentucky’s woodlands and the role that forestry and natural resources professionals have in managing these resources to keep our forests healthy and productive for future generations.

The UK Fire Cats program is in partnership with the FNR, KDF and U.S. Forest Service. To be eligible for UK Fire Cats, undergraduate students must enroll in FOR 255 Forest Fire for the spring semester.

For questions or additional information, contact Laura Robinson, FNR academic coordinator at L.Robinson@uky.edu.

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VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

The elephant in the room

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

It's easy to do things absentmindedly. There can be some bad consequences from not thinking before we make decisions. I was 62-years-old before I had a broken bone. Freezing rain was falling and compacting as soon as it hit the ground. Without thinking, I decided to go outside, down four-ice covered steps just to shut a storage building door that had blown open. There were no items of significance in the building so why did I absentmindedly, step out the door not taking the consequences of my actions into consideration? I don't know, but what I do know is that the second my foot stepped out the door and touched the first step, I immediately slid down the other three shattering my wrist requiring surgery with two pins and six screws to hold it together.



I remember when my sister was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Even though I knew God could heal her, I thought my world had nearly ended. Bad news can be a very frightening thing. It shakes our world and shatters our peace. Doubt and fear come flooding into our soul and mind. For a little while we may for-

get our position in Christ. A phone call at 3:00 a.m. sends chills down our spine. A knock at the door after mid-night momentarily engulfs us in fear. News of a bad accident is blood chilling. That's when we pray scared prayers. We pray visualizing the worse scenarios: everything our mind tells us is possible. We pray in fear of

what may happen. As you know, most of what we fear never happens. Although there are those times when our worst fears do come true, faith is still our best go-to. Where do we run? What is our first reaction to bad news? What about when the weather man is counting down the time when a tornado could potentially hit your house? There

are some scary times we have to deal with, but in all these God is still God and he has the power to bring peace to every situation. Faith is still the best antidote for fear. Any fear. The elephant in the room is, "How much do we trust Him?" Is fear or faith our first reaction? For me, that depends on the situation, I guess. There were times

I've had no fear in the face of bad news, but there were other times (like when I heard the news of my sister's possible death), that I stayed up all night sick with fear. Praying for God to intervene. And, He has. She's not cured yet, but she's on the way. God is good and the more we realize that, the stronger we'll be when bad times come. We don't want bad news. But, as you've often heard, God allows bad to come once in a while so we will learn to trust Him and be thankful to Him for the good He brings in our lives. If everyday was stress and anxiety free, we'd never appreciate the good God does in our lives. I'm so thankful for the Word of God that says "peace be still, take courage, be strong, trust in Me, I'll never leave or fail you." Faith is a product of hope and hope is the anchor of our soul.

Upcoming Youth Xplosion 26

Equip Church in Paducah, KY., will be hosting Youth Xplosion 26 on Friday, March 27th, from 6 pm to 8 pm, and Saturday, March 28th, from 9 am to 9 pm. It is a church youth conference that will be hosted by Rev. Joshua & Christy Sullivan from Be Real Ministries. Friday will consist of in-person registration and an evening service/ worship service. Saturday events include workshops, prayer

time, and morning and evening worship services. Lunch and dinner will also be served on Saturday. Advance Registration cost is \$30.00 until Friday, March 13th. After that date, the registration cost is \$40.00. On-site registration is also available for \$40.00. Registration, except for on-site registration, will be online. For additional registration information, contact Rev. Joshua Sullivan

at berealministries.com or Pastor Scott Wade at (217) 899-8639. We are proud and excited to bring this youth conference to the Paducah area. The youth are the future leaders of the church, and we look forward to helping to lead them to obtain a closer relationship with our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. For more information you can contact Equip Church at 270-441-7900.



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As I look back on this last deer season, it seems that bad news could be the theme. I hunted hard but my effort only produced minimal results. If I had to compare the hours in the stand to my harvest ledger, I would definitely be in the red. What makes it even worse is I knew I was in a place where some big bucks lived. In fact, I missed my opportunity at one of those bucks because I couldn't get my crossbow up before said buck left. Another bummer was when I arrowed a ten-pointer but was never able to

find him. I think he's still alive. At least I hope he is. When I think about it however, I can't remember a year that was marked by more successes than failures. The truth is bad news is a lot more normal than good news, and it's easier to find. It's certainly that way in most areas of life.

One of my favorite evangelists of times past was a black man by the name of E.V. Hill. The way he preached could make me confess sins I'd never committed. He tells a story about a woman in his church who always sat on the

front row. Her nickname was Eighteen Hundred. It was given to her because she was so old that everyone thought she must have been born in the 1800's. Everyone loved Eighteen Hundred. Author, Shane Claiborne, tells how E.V. Hill shared the story with him. Every Sunday old Eighteen Hundred would sit in her usual spot in the front row. As Pastor Hill started preaching, she would start muttering, "Get to the good news, Pastor: get to the good news". And her commentary would get louder and louder as the

sermon progressed. The longer he talked, the louder she got. He would be talking about how Jesus died on Friday, and she'd yell back, "Don't leave him there. Get to the empty tomb on Sunday." He'd be talking about how hatred, sin, and racism are still alive today. And she'd shout back, "Move on Pastor. Get to the good news!" Eventually he would get to the good news, and she would shout "Amen!" at the top of her lungs.

I think about all that Eighteen Hundred went through in her life. Racism,

slavery, poverty, and the likes. If anyone ought to wallow in the bad news it ought to be her. But Eighteen Hundred had not only found a story of bad news that ended in good news, but she also wanted to make sure it always ended the right way. It was this good news that overcame all the bad news she had endured in her life. Friend, I know the world is full of bad news. But it always has been. The gospel, however, is good news, and it is good news for everyone who hears it. So, don't forget, it's alright to recognize

all the bad things that may be going on, but don't end the story on Friday. Sunday is coming.

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

Age is not an excuse for being unhealthy

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

This might be one of the most unpopular articles of all time, but as I sit here wanting to express from my heart, my private burdens are being exposed. I care about you (and me), it's the only reason I would write about such a challenging subject. I believe it's better to step forward and deal with personal issues that are causing great harm to our bodies and our self-esteem. Excess body fat is a serious problem. Many people, including myself, tend to gain size and bulk around the waist. I do not like it, but within my mind, trying to do something about it is like climbing a vertical cliff. Most of the time, I talk myself out of trying even before

I can gather the ropes and climbing gear.

Let's face it, being overweight makes a person sluggish, and to be blunt, we do not like how we look. Our obesity can be a psychological dark cloud that hangs over us, along with being self-conscious of how we look when we get dressed or undressed, and anywhere that has a mirror. Not only are we seen by everyone, but we also feel bad for our spouse and how we have let ourselves go, as if our appearance were not important. I know those who love us say they do not care about our outward appearance, but what are they supposed to say?

I've heard people joke around about their appearance by saying things like, "I don't care what people think, I just want

to enjoy my life" or, "I'm too old to care anymore, I just want to be happy." I get it, but are we really content and proud with what we have created? These types of comments evolve from the combination of secret frustrations and anger. Frustrating because of how difficult it is to break free from this powerful bondage, and anger for allowing ourselves to get into this mess in the first place. My intention is not to heap more condemnation or guilt on us, but to come out in the open and ask why we are stuck in this merry-go-round of being overweight and out of shape, and how we can stop yielding to the temptations to please and serve our flesh. I guess the big question is, do we believe this is a serious problem, or

will we continue being controlled and living in denial? It is said that when we don't deal with what's going on, it keeps going on.

Within the context of being a marshmallow, the more bad foods we eat, the more we help diabetes take control of our destiny. Even when we realize that what we consume is the problem, some still refuse to change their lifestyles. They are discouraged and depressed, yet the desire to eat unhealthy is stronger than the desire to cast down these food addictions. Max Dupree is quoted, "We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are." We are told that highs and lows from glucose and insulin can make us feel weird, which is why so many of us are on meds to keep us balanced. I realize

I'm older, but I believe my cravings for afternoon naps are a consequence of my sugary diet and lack of exercise.

Exercise is a popular subject to talk about, but it's very difficult to actually do. Personally, I've had visions of working out, but have never been serious about it. I have every opportunity to do push-ups and sit-ups, but I don't want to. I would much rather sit down and watch something meaningless. Just how important is this to me? Yes, I'm old and tired, and I do not have the energy I once had, which proves even more how I must accept that I'm responsible for my health. What about embracing our bad habits, eating too much, eating the wrong types of food, not getting enough cardio exer-

cise (which causes us to not only be out of shape, and the reason for our muscle atrophy), retaining fluid, heart-artery, lung, kidney, liver, and pancreas problems, and this is just naming a few. I can make a lot of excuses about my negative addictions, but the pain has not yet caused me to raise my game. We can continue to ignore our old attitudes, or we can become motivated to be transformed into the best version of ourselves. Isn't it better to be honest, even if it's uncomfortable?

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

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MISC. FOR SALE

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8-4. Sat. 8-1

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right Piano In Good Con-
dition \$300.00 Call 270-
331-9835

Fiddle/Violin (Karl Knil-
ling), Hand-Made in Ger-
many, 2 Bows & Hard
Case. Very Good Con-
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Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. approves more than \$2.9 million in loans

Press Release

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. (KAFC) approved 16 agricultural loans totaling \$2,977,295.25 for projects across the Commonwealth today at its monthly board meeting.

Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program (AILP)

Four Agricultural Infrastructure loans totaling up to \$712,000 were approved. Loan recipients were in Caldwell (\$250,000), Grayson (\$250,000), McLean (\$62,000), and Shelby (\$150,000) counties.

KAFC participates with lenders to provide financing to producers making capital expenditures for agricultural projects through the AILP. Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations. Producers may be eligible for up to \$250,000 not to exceed 50 percent of the project.

Beginning Farmer Loan Program (BFLP)

Ten Beginning Farmer loans totaling up to \$1,765,295.25 were approved. Loan recipients were in Anderson (\$250,000), Caldwell (\$250,000 and \$250,000), Hardin (\$152,500), Harrison (\$161,045.25), Laurel (\$158,000), Metcalfe (\$62,500), Monroe (\$250,000), Rockcastle (\$23,750), and Wayne (\$207,500) counties.

The BFLP is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to develop, expand, or buy into a farming operation. Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, or agriculture facilities; to secure permanent working capital;

for the purchase of farm real estate; or to invest in a partnership or LLC.

Diversification through Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Program (DEALP)

One Diversification through Entrepre-

neurship in Agribusiness loan totaling \$250,000 was approved for a recipient in Estill County.

DEALP is designed to assist agri-entrepreneurs with the purchase, establishment, or expansion of a business that sells

agricultural products or services to farmers or consumers.

Large/Food Animal Veterinary Loan Program (LFAVLP)

One LFAVLP loan totaling \$250,000 was approved for a recipient in Rockcastle County.

LFVALP is designed to assist individuals licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Kentucky who desire to construct, expand, equip, or buy into a practice serving large animal producers, including goat, sheep, swine,

and other smaller food animals.
For more information on KAFC participation loans, contact your lender or Bill McCloskey at Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy at (502)382-6093 or email kafc@ky.gov.

Gerber Right Kind Sale

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 • 6 p.m. (EST)

At the farm 5 miles southeast of Richmond, Indiana on 227 South

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Sire: EFBEF Benefit L200
Sire: Connealy Craftsman

Gerber Craftsman 5032 • 21309586

CE	BW	WW	YW	Milk	REA	MARB	SM	SC
7.0	1.8	74	129	28	0.51	1.27	94	303



Sire: AHA GE-EPD

Gerber Noonday N122 • 44656811

CE	BW	WW	YW	Milk	REA	MARB	BMIS	CHBS
8.7	0.4	67	110	38	0.94	0.62	520	204



Sire: SHF Haviland F158 H028
Sire: GAR Sunbeam

Gerber Sunbeam 5012 • 21309443

CE	BW	WW	YW	Milk	REA	MARB	SM	SC
13.0	0	61	105	20	1.29	1.30	81	313



Sire: AHA GE-EPD

ELZE H028 Haviland 14N • 44658609

CE	BW	WW	YW	Milk	REA	MARB	BMIS	CHBS
2.0	2.9	77	126	26	0.84	0.56	484	214



Sire: Slayton Kuruk 203
Sire: GAR Powercat

Gerber Powercat 5066 • 21309627

CE	BW	WW	YW	Milk	REA	MARB	SM	SC
14.0	-2.3	62	126	32	1.32	0.91	83	359



Sire: AHA GE-EPD

Gerber Navigator 010N • 44656123

CE	BW	WW	YW	Milk	REA	MARB	BMIS	CHBS
6.4	3.0	79	132	38	1.06	0.41	471	178



Sire: Slayton Kuruk 203
Sire: Thomas Clear Water 2555

Gerber Clear Water 5078 • 21303539

CE	BW	WW	YW	Milk	REA	MARB	SM	SC
9.0	0.5	84	157	34	.89	0.86	77	314



Sire: AHA GE-EPD

Gerber Notable N042 • 44656166

CE	BW	WW	YW	Milk	REA	MARB	BMIS	CHBS
9.4	1.3	65	110	26	0.88	0.50	386	167



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UK alum Ray Allan Mackey:

Continuing a legacy of service for Kentucky agriculture



Meadow View Farms is operated by the Mackey families of Hardin County, and they received the Kentucky Farm Bureau Legacy Farm designation in October 2025. Pictured from left to right are Stewart, Grant, Jan, Ray Allan, David, Stephanie, Clarissa and Sawyer Mackey. Alexandra Mackey, who is studying to be a veterinarian at Auburn, is not pictured.

Photo provided by Hardin County Farm Bureau

By Jennifer Elwell

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Hardin County farmer Ray Allan Mackey questioned the phone call he received earlier this year from Laura Stephenson, University of Kentucky vice president for Land-grant Engagement and dean at Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

“Are you sure you have the right person?” he asked Stephenson when she told him he was chosen for the UK Martin-Gatton CAFE

Hall of Distinguished Alumni and would be honored at the 2026 Night of Excellence.

However, the Kentucky agricultural community was likely not surprised by this honor, which had also been bestowed on his late father, Ray Mackey, 45 years earlier.

“Ray Allan Mackey is a farmer, leader and advocate whose lifetime of dedication extends far beyond his own family’s operation to strengthen agriculture across Kentucky,” Stephenson said. “His story reflects the very heart of our land-grant mission — where education, research and Cooperative Extension come together to serve communities and support the people who grow our food and steward our land.”

“I saw it enough to say, ‘I want to be there someday,’” Mackey said. “I want to follow in those footsteps, and I want to learn and grow as much as I can. UK was the natural spot.”

Field days, research trials and agricultural events at UK only deepened his interest. Seeing firsthand how research could shape practical farming sparked his drive to understand the “why” behind agricultural practices.

“At UK, you saw what could be possible if you applied science and knowledge to the working land,” Mackey said.

Mackey majored in agronomy, a natural fit for a young man already committed to returning to his family’s Hardin County farm. He also gravitated toward agricultural economics, a discipline he remembers as a “new buzzword” on campus that helped shape his understanding of the broader industry. By the time he graduated in 1979, he had built a foundation that blended science with business, skills that would prove essential in the decades to come.

Building a life and legacy on the farm

Even before receiving his diploma, Mackey knew he would return to the family operation. His father was heavily involved with the Kentucky Farm Bureau, and soon after graduation, Mackey became not only the farm’s foreman but its day-to-day manager.

In 1986, he and his wife, Jan, purchased their first farm, raising grain, tobacco and alfalfa. As their family grew, so did the operation. They acquired additional land and added beef cattle and a small farrow-to-finish swine enterprise. Today, Mackey produces corn, soybeans, beef

see **MACKEY**,
Page B16

ONLINE AUCTION

ENDS MONDAY APRIL 6TH @ 6PM (CST)

BOONVILLE, INDIANA

To view and bid go to “www.Dimmettauctionservice.com and click on **HiBid Online Auctions**”

An education at UK was inevitable

Mackey’s connection to the University of Kentucky began long before he set foot in a classroom.

His grandmother, Myrtle, lost her husband in 1940. Wanting to ensure her six children had access to the best education, she moved her family from Clinton County to Lexington in the mid-1940s. She operated a boarding house on the edge of campus while her sons attended UK.

After earning a degree in agronomy in 1949, Mackey’s father, Ray, began his career and long history of advocating for agriculture in Sonora, Kentucky, where he raised his family.

Mackey remembers many visits to his grandmother’s house on Gazette Avenue and the agriculture college. Each trip brought him close to the campus that, in his eyes, was “the place that all knowledge and learning and experience and growth was happening.”



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AUCTION PICKUP: Will be at 5747 West County Road 600 North, Richland Indiana.

TERMS: Pick up time is Tuesday, April 7th from 10AM to 5^{PM}. Cash, check, and or credit card (3% charge) when you pick up your items. A 10% buyers premium & 7% sales tax will be charged for this consignment online auction. Shipping available. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.

To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

LOCATION: DAS will be having an Online auction at 3699 SR-62 East Boonville, Indiana. It’s just East of Degonia Springs. There will be a \$20 transfer fee and the items will need to be picked up at DC Firearms LLC located at 5747 West County Road 600 North Richland, IN.

To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

PREVIEW: You can preview items on Sunday, April 5th from 1-3^{PM} located at 3699 SR-62 E Boonville, IN in the **BLUE BARN**.

To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

50+ GUNS





Ray Allan Mackey was inducted into the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Hall of Distinguished Alumni in February 2026.
Photo by Matt Barton

MACKEY,
From page B15

cattle, and finishes pigs when it makes economic sense. Mackey has never shied away from innovation. He embraced alternative tillage methods, variable-rate soil testing, precision fertilizer applications and other practices aimed at improving efficiency, sustainability and profitability. His approach reflects a lifelong curiosity that ties directly back to his experiences with research and Extension at UK.

A champion for Cooperative Extension
For Mackey, the Cooperative Extension Service is not simply a resource;

it is a lifeline. What began with taking soil samples to the Hardin County Extension office quickly grew into a decades-long relationship built on collaboration, trust and shared purpose. “When you walk in the Extension office enough, then you’re on the list for mailings, meetings and committees,” he said. That involvement shaped his leadership journey, pushing him toward roles within county groups, commodity organizations, and statewide and national agricultural entities. Mackey describes Extension as a “stable, solid base of information and knowledge” that has guided him throughout his

career. Whether choosing hybrids, responding to emerging pests, making fertility decisions or exploring new technologies, he has relied on Extension specialists and researchers for science-based solutions. He also speaks warmly of the relationships he’s built with faculty members, connections strengthened through his service with several farm organizations. “You just don’t get that kind of relationship any other way that I know of,” he said. “It’s beautiful. It really is.”

Service rooted in purpose
Mackey’s leadership in agriculture spans more than 40 years and an impressive list of organizations. His service with the Kentucky Corn Growers Association — including as vice president and president — has been especially impactful. Today, he chairs the Kentucky Corn Promotion Council and sits on the Kentucky Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He previously held roles with the Kentucky Beef Cattle Association, Kentucky Pork Producers Association and Kentucky Soybean Association. His contributions have earned him numerous honors,

including Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year, the Southeastern Farmer of the Year Award, the UK Presidential Medallion and the Kentucky Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Yet accolades aren’t what drive him. Mackey’s focus has always been on learning, sharing and strengthening the agricultural community. He remains deeply committed to youth programs such as 4-H and FFA, often speaking at events and mentoring young agriculturalists. His passion now includes preparing the next generation, including his own sons Grant and Stewart, who are both UK graduates, for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

A lasting impact
As Kentucky celebrates its agriculture week, Ray Allan Mackey stands as a testament to what it means to be a farmer. “Leaders like Ray Allan demonstrate how the land-grant mission comes to life — when research, education and Extension work together to serve Kentucky agriculture and the communities that depend on it,” said Stephenson. For Mackey, agriculture has always been about learning, giving back and preparing the next generation.

ONLINE AUCTION

ENDS MONDAY, MARCH 30TH @ 6 PM (CST)

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

To view and bid go to **“www.Dimmettauctionservice.com** and click on **HiBid Online Auctions”**

LOCATION: DAS will be having an Online Auction at 5025 W Franklin Rd Evansville, IN 47712. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

PREVIEW: You can preview items on Sunday, March 29th from 1-3 PM CST located at 5025 W Franklin Rd Evansville, IN 47712. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

- 18' GREAT PLAINS 1800TC
- 1996 FORD 8970 FWD TRACTOR W/ 7,202 HRS
- KINZE 2210 12-ROW PLANTER
- CASE IH 490 20' DISK
- JOHN DEERE GRAIN CART
- TYE 4-SHANK RIPPER
- DMI 2500 3PT 5-SHANK RIPPER
- 9-ROW 3PT ANHYDROUS APPLICATOR



To view and bid go to **“www.Dimmettauctionservice.com** and click on **HiBid Online Auctions”**

AUCTION PICKUP: Will be Tuesday, March 31st from 10 AM to 5 PM CST at 5025 W Franklin Rd Evansville, IN 47712.

TERMS: Pick up time is Tuesday, March 31st from 10 AM to 5 PM CST at 5025 W Franklin Rd Evansville, IN 47712. Cash, check, and or credit card (3% charge) when you pick up your items. A 10% buyers premium will be charged for this online auction. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.

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