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# The Weekly

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June 5, 2026

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## Loud Boom Across Region Traced to Train Derailment Near Arlington

By: Laurna Todd; KPI Writer

ARLINGTON — Residents across several western Kentucky counties were startled Sunday night after a loud boom rattled homes and was heard across the region before authorities confirmed a train derailment near the Arlington community.

According to Graves County Sheriff Jon Hayden, multiple residents from Carlisle, Graves and Hickman counties reported hearing and feeling an explosion-like sound around 10:10 p.m. on Sunday, May 31.

As reports poured in, the Graves County Sheriff's Office shared on social media that early information indicated a train may have struck a downed tree in Carlisle or Hickman County. At the time, officials were unsure if the incident was connected to the widespread boom residents experienced.

"Multiple reports of large boom that rat-

tled homes are being reported," the sheriff's office posted Sunday night. "Unconfirmed reports indicate that a train may have struck a downed tree in Carlisle or Hickman County."

People across the region quickly began commenting online about where they were when they heard or felt the disturbance, with reports stretching across multiple counties.

At approximately 10:48 p.m., authorities confirmed a train derailment in Hickman County near the Arlington community, close to the Carlisle County line. Initial reports raised concerns about a possible hazardous materials situation associated



with the derailment.

However, by 11:30 p.m., officials from both the Hickman County Sheriff's Office and Carlisle County Sheriff's Office confirmed there was no hazardous materials threat at the scene.

Emergency responders from numerous agencies worked throughout the night and into the week as recovery and reconstruction efforts continued.

Carlisle County Emergency Management provided drone

support while CN Railroad personnel and emergency agencies established a unified command to oversee the response. CN contractors spent several days repairing damaged railroad tracks and a railroad bridge while heavy equipment remained in the area. The closure of U.S. Highway 51 near the Hickman-Carlisle county line resulted in traffic disruptions as crews worked to restore the transportation corridor.

By Thursday,

significant progress had been made in the recovery effort. Hickman County Emergency Management announced that U.S. Highway 51 North had reopened near the Hickman County and Carlisle County

line. Dylan Jewell with Hickman County Emergency Management said railway reconstruction had been completed and train traffic had resumed.

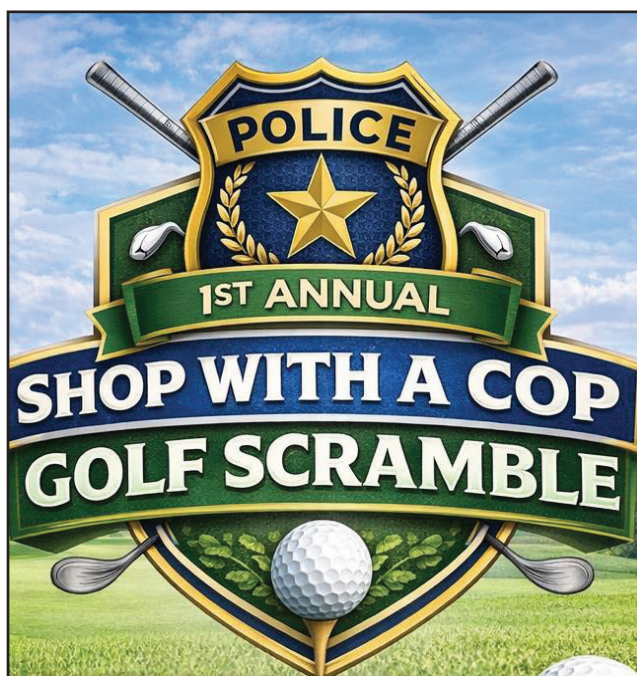
Officials are still asking motorists to drive slowly through the area as contractors and emergency crews remain on scene between State Route 288 in Hickman County and U.S. Highway 80 in Arlington.

Hickman County Emergency Management thanked residents for their

patience during the closure and expressed appreciation to the Hickman County Sheriff's Office, Carlisle County Sheriff's Office, Bardwell Police Department, CN Police, and the Kentucky Department of Transportation, especially personnel from the Hickman County division, for their assistance throughout the incident.

Emergency management officials said they will continue working alongside CN Railroad representatives until all remaining recovery and restoration operations are complete.

While many residents initially wondered what caused the loud boom that echoed across the region Sunday night, the derailment and subsequent recovery efforts became one of the largest coordinated emergency responses in the area in recent months.



## Golfers Invited to Support Shop With a Cop at First Annual Scramble

By: Laurna Todd; KPI Writer

Get Your Team Signed Up for the 1st Annual Shop With a Cop Golf Scramble

The Hickman Police Department is inviting golfers and community supporters to take part in the 1st Annual Shop With a Cop Golf Scramble on Friday, June 12, 2026, at Hickman Country Club.

The event will feature an 18-hole, 4-person scramble with a cost of \$240 per team. Organizers encourage teams to register early, as the tournament is limited to 18 teams and spots are expected to fill quickly.

Teams may sign up at Hickman Country Club or by sending a message to the Hickman Police Department's Facebook page with the names of

their players. Team entry fees should be paid no later than one week prior to the event.

All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the department's annual Shop With a Cop program, which helps provide Christmas gifts and support for local children and families during the holiday season.

In addition to team

registration, several sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals wishing to support the event. Sponsorship options include:

Organizers say community support is essential to the success of the Shop With a Cop program and encourage both golfers and sponsors to get involved.



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# AG UPDATE Simple strategies to control mosquitoes

for Ag and Natural Resources **Tom Miller,**  
Ballard County Ext. Agent

Sources: Michael Potter, UK entomologist

Mosquitos can ruin outdoor activities in the warmer months. It may seem like a never-ending battle when you're fighting to control the pesky insects. With mosquito-borne diseases becoming more prevalent, it's even more important to know how to take control of these pests around your home. Learning to do a few simple things could help protect you from more than the itchiness of a mosquito bite.

All mosquitos need standing water to develop through their larval stages, and that doesn't necessarily mean a lake or pond. It also includes bird baths, kiddie pools and even discarded soda pop cans. The key to controlling them around your home is to stop them



from breeding in the first place.

Some things you can do include:

- Drain and remove trash, bottles and

any debris that holds water.

- Recycle any unused containers that could collect water, especially old tires.

- Change water weekly in bird baths, wading pools, watering troughs and animal bowls.
- Fill in holes, de-

pressions and puddles in your yard.

- Make sure your culverts and ditches are draining properly.
- Check and clean

out clogged gutters to ensure drainage.

- Keep ornamental ponds stocked with fish.
- Fix leaky hoses and faucets.
- Drain water from flowerpots and garden containers.
- Turn over wheelbarrows, buckets and other items that collect water.
- Adjust tarps covering woodpiles, boats and grills to remove standing water.
- Encourage natural enemies of mosquitoes, such as warblers, swallows, martins and other insect-feeding birds.

It's a good idea to start these practices early in the season. Just because the mosquitoes aren't biting yet, it doesn't mean that they're not developing.

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<p><b>The Advance Yeoman</b> Editor; Teresa Pearson Periodical Class Postage paid at the LaCenter Post Office; LaCenter, Ky 42056 Publication Number, 7-520 Physical Address: 114 West Ky Drive LaCenter, Ky 42056</p>	<p><b>The Carlisle County News</b> Freelance Writer; Lilly Morefield Periodical Class Postage paid at the Bardwell Post Office, Bardwell, KY 42023 Publication Number, 9-0780 Physical Address: 305 Front St., Bardwell, Ky 42023</p>	<p><b>The Carlisle Weekly</b> Freelance Writer; Lilly Morefield Periodical Class Postage paid at the Bardwell Post Office, Bardwell, KY 42023 Publication Number, 1-5123 Physical Address: 5995 St Rt Hwy 80 E Arlington, KY 42021</p>	<p><b>The Livingston Ledger</b> Periodical Class Postage paid at the Smithland Post Office, Smithlandl, KY 42081 Publication Number, 316-560P Physical Address: 129 Adair St., Smithland, KY 42081</p>
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# Host Families Needed for International Exchange Students

By Laurna Todd  
KPI Writer

Families across Western Kentucky have the opportunity to make a lasting impact by hosting an international exchange student through Cultural Homestay International (CHI).

Students ages 15-18 from countries including Brazil, Belgium, Japan, Italy, France, Turkey, Thailand, Germany, Mongolia and Spain are currently looking for welcoming homes for the upcoming school year. CHI places students throughout Western Kentucky, including Ballard, Carlisle, Graves, Mayfield, Hickman and surrounding school districts.

Host families provide a bed, meals at home, some transpor-

tation and a welcoming environment. Students come with their own health insurance and spending money for personal expenses, activities and school-related costs.

Families do not have to have children of their own to host, and singles are also welcome. Host families can choose a student by reviewing detailed profiles, letters, photos and videos submitted by the students. Completing the application process to view students is quick and does not commit a family to hosting.

One student currently needing a home is Henrique, a one-semester student who will be here from August through December. Henrique says he loves “all sports with



a ball,” making him a great fit for an active family or sports-loving community like Ballard County.

Jessica Cooper, local coordinator for CHI, said hosting has been a rewarding expe-

rience for her own family.

“I have been hosting for three years and have already committed to a student for next year as well,” Cooper said. “My family loves the kids we

have hosted, and we have gained so much from the experience.”

CHI also offers support throughout the year, with coordinators staying in contact monthly with both the student and host

family.

Those interested in learning more about becoming a host family can contact Jessica Cooper at 270-853-9291 or by email at jessica.cooper111@gmail.com.

# Gov. Beshear expands medical cannabis access for 15 conditions in Kentucky

## Staff Report

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear has announced an expansion of the state’s medical cannabis program, allowing patients with 15 additional medical conditions to qualify for treatment under the law.

The move is intended to broaden access for Kentuckians suffering from chronic and debilitating health issues while the state continues to implement its medical cannabis program. Beshear said the decision was based on recommendations from

medical experts and public input regarding conditions that may benefit from cannabis treatment.

Under the expansion, patients diagnosed with the newly approved conditions will be eligible to seek certification from authorized healthcare practitioners. Officials say the change is expected to provide relief options for thousands of residents who previously did not meet the program’s eligibility requirements.

“This is about helping people who are living with serious medical challenges,” Beshear said in a



statement. “Kentuckians deserve access to treatments that may improve their quality of life when recommended by their healthcare providers.”

Supporters of the expansion praised the decision, arguing that medical cannabis can offer an alter-

native to traditional medications for some patients. Advocacy groups said the broader eligibility criteria will make the program more accessible and responsive to patient needs.

Critics, however, have called for continued monitoring of the

program’s implementation, emphasizing the importance of physician oversight and patient safety. State officials said regulations governing cultivation, distribution, and patient access will remain in place as the program grows.

Kentucky legalized medical cannabis in 2023, with the program designed to provide regulated access for patients with qualifying conditions. The latest expansion marks one of the most significant updates since the law was enacted.

Health officials encourage patients interested in medical cannabis to consult with their healthcare

providers and review state guidelines to determine eligibility. The expanded list of qualifying conditions is expected to take effect as the state continues rolling out medical cannabis services across Kentucky.

The newly recognized qualifying conditions include:

- Terminal illness
- Sickle cell anemia
- ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)
- Parkinson’s disease
- HIV and AIDS
- Huntington’s disease
- Muscular dystrophy
- Cachexia or wasting syndrome
- Crohn’s disease
- Ulcerative colitis
- Neuropathies
- Severe arthritis
- Fibromyalgia
- Glaucoma

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Administration has been granted by the Ballard District Court on the following estate:

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Name/Address of Fiduciary:  
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3044 Blandville Rd.  
Wickliffe, KY 42087

Date of Appointment:  
04/24/2026

Name/Address of Attorney:  
N/A

Persons having claim against the estate must present verified claims to the fiduciary at the address shown no later than:  
10/26/2026

Charissa Harris, Clerk  
Ballard District Court  
(6-5-26\_AY\_1x)

INVITATION TO BID  
**BALLARD COUNTY DETENTION CENTER KITCHEN SERVICES**

BALLARD COUNTY DETENTION CENTER IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR KITCHEN SERVICES FOR FY JULY 26 – JUNE 27.

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INVITATION TO BID  
**BALLARD COUNTY DETENTION CENTER MEDICAL SERVICES**

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## BALLARD

**Ginger Thomas**, 78 of Lovelaceville, passed away June 1, 2026 at Oakview Nursing and Rehabilitation in Calvert City. No services are planned at this time. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to take care of Thomas family.

**Travis Wayne Gibson**, surrounded by family, peacefully passed away on May 29, 2026, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Funeral Service will be held Friday, June 5, 2026 at 1:00 pm, also at Morrow Funeral Chapel, with visitation from 11:00 am until the time of the service. Reverend Jeffrey A. Gibson will officiate. Interment will follow at Newton Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Paul A. Blaine**, a devoted educator, dedicated farmer, and beloved member of his community, passed away on May 28, 2026, at Baptist Health in Paducah, KY. A graveside service to honor Paul's life and memory was held Monday, June 1, 2026, at Providence Baptist Church Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Neil Eidson officiating.

## CALDWELL

**Betty Jean Faughn Rahn**, age 95, of Caldwell County, passed away Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Rivers Bend Retirement Community. Graveside services were held at 1:30 pm Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at White Sulphur Baptist Church Cemetery in Caldwell County.

**Kathleen Vinson Oliver**, age 91, of Princeton, passed away Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at Caldwell Medical Center. Funeral services were held at 11:00 am Saturday, May 30, 2026 at Morgan's Funeral Home with Bro. Dane Hodges officiating. Burial followed in Rowland Cemetery in Caldwell County.

## CALLOWAY

**Sarah Francis McCuiston**, age 85, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Thursday, May 28, 2026, at her residence. A funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Dr. Art Heinz officiating. Burial followed in the Murray City Cemetery.

**Michael Lee Baker**, 74 of Murray, KY, passed away, Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at his home. Arrangements are forthcoming at the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Murray, KY.

**Charles Duane "Charlie" Stanley, Sr.**, 68, of Hazel, KY, passed away Sunday, May 31, 2026, at his home. Friends visited with the family on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, 713 S. 4th St., Murray, KY 42071.

## CARLISLE

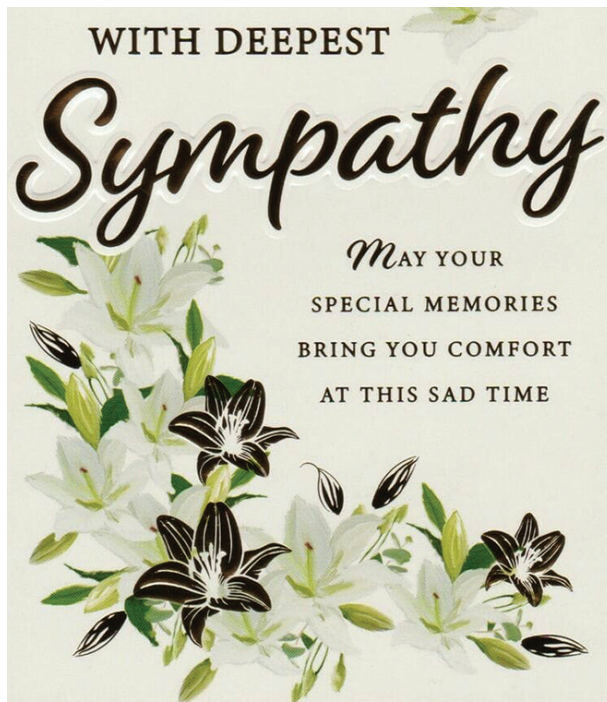
**Anthony Michael "Tony" Mountjoy**, 67, was born on July 1, 1958, in San Diego, California, and passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2026, in Paducah, Kentucky, at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 5, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington with Rev. Jim Wright officiating. Burial will follow at Columbus Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington.

## CHRISTIAN

**Dickie Ray Reece**, age 80, of Lafayette, KY, passed away on Monday, June 1, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Health of natural causes. Graveside Services will be on Monday, June 8, 2026, at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West at 10:00 AM with full military honors and burial to follow. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Ramona Rogers Harris**, age 82, of Gracey, KY, passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at Princeton Nursing and Rehab Center of natural causes. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home on Sunday, June 7, 2026, with burial to follow in Riverside Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 12:00 Noon until the service time at 2:00 PM. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Jordan Donnell Lee Jones**, age 19, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. Funeral Services were held at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Rev. Corey Brodie officiating and with burial to follow in Riverside Cemetery.



**Ray L. Warren**, 70, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away at 2:07 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at his residence, surrounded by his loving family. Funeral services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Brother Joel Whitenton and Brother David Tucker officiating. Burial will follow in Ancestral Haven Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral hour at the funeral home.

**Gwynn Hale**, 63, Dawson Springs Road, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Sunday, May 31, 2026 at Alive Hospice, Nashville, TN of natural causes. A celebration of life will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, June 5, 2026 at Lamb Funeral Home.

**Robert G. Hansen, Sr.**, 81, Ashland City, TN, passed away Friday, May 29, 2026 at Ahava Healthcare of Clarksville of natural causes. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 5, 2026 at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with full military honors. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

**Betty Russell**, 93, Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Friday, May 29, 2026 at Christian Health Center of natural causes. A graveside service was held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

**Bobbie Ella Croney** - August 24, 1924 - May 28, 2026 - Mother Croney completed her pilgrimage on earth on Thursday, May 28, 2026. Visitation - Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 11:00 am - 12:00 am with Funeral Service immediately following at 12:00 pm at the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Mount Vernon Church Road, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

**James W. Crick**, 63, of Crofton, KY died at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 30, 2026, at Bradford Heights Nursing & Rehab Center. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Crofton with Brother Billy Crick officiating. Burial followed in Castleberry Cemetery.

**Lucas Todd Miller**, 35, of Cape Girardeau, MO died at 7:40 a.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. Visitation is Saturday, June 6, 2026 - 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm at Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville, 709 Country Club Lane, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

## CRITTENDEN

**Mary Jo Adams**, lovingly known as "Jo Jo Melly" and "Granny Jo," passed away peacefully at 5:38 PM on May 28, 2026, at Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center at the age of 86. Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to Gilbert Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life will be Saturday, June 6th from 11-2pm at Main Street Missionary Baptist Church with Brother Dale Kinnis officiating.

**Gulie Clark Hackney**, age 63, passed away on May 27, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family. Services were held on Friday, May 29, 2026, starting at 12:00 PM with Bro. Daniel Orten and Aaron Duvall officiating. Burial followed in Mapleview Cemetery.

**Gordon Blue Guess**, 89, of Marion, Kentucky, died peacefully at his home on May 30, 2026. Visitation will be held at Myers Funeral Home on Friday, June 5, from 5-8 p.m., and a funeral service will be held at Marion Methodist Church on Saturday, June 6, at 11 a.m. Memorial contributions may be sent to Marion Methodist Church, 112 South College St, Marion, KY 42064, where Gordon was a lifelong member.

## FULTON

**Rona Hale Butts**, born on September 20, 1933, in Fulton, Kentucky, peacefully passed away on May 30, 2026, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. A graveside service to honor Rona's life was held on June 3, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Mt Kenton Cemetery, located at 2535 Lone Oak Rd, Paducah, Kentucky 42001 with Bro. Jonathan Goodman officiating. Family, friends, and all who were touched by Rona's presence were invited to gather in celebration of a life well-lived.

**Rev. James Lawson** of Fulton passed away Tuesday afternoon at his residence. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman, KY are in charge of arrangements.

**Modene Totty**, age 88, of Hickman passed away Monday afternoon at her residence. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman, KY are in charge of arrangements.

**Timothy "Tim" McClure**, age 67, of Hickman, KY passed away Friday, May 29, 2026 at the Pemiscot Memorial Hospital ER on Hayti, MO. Funeral services will be held at 2PM Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at the Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman with burial to follow in the Hickman City Cemetery.

**Kenneth "Ken" Cecil Wilkey**, 75, of South Fulton, Tennessee, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Memorial services for Mr. Wilkey were held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2026, in our funeral chapel.

**Zahide Hernandez**, age 74, of Hickman, KY passed away Thursday, May 28, 2026 at her residence. Funeral services were held at 2PM Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman with burial to follow in the Water Valley Tabernacle Cemetery.

## HENDERSON

**Patricia "Pat" Crafton**, 85, of Henderson, passed away peacefully at Lucy Smith King Care Center surrounded by her loving family. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson, with Brother Ellis Payne officiating. Burial followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

**Norabelle Roseanna Drury**, Nora to her friends, passed away on Thursday May 28, 2026 after a short illness. Graveside services will be at 12:30 pm on June 10, 2026 at St. Louis Cemetery in Henderson, Kentucky. Visitation will be from 11:00 am-12:00 pm, June 10 at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Henderson, KY.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of **Cynthia "Cindy" Renee (Fenwick) Keown** on May 27, 2026. Funeral services were held on Monday, June 1, 2026, at Tomblinson Funeral Home Henderson Chapel at 5:00 PM, with Pastor Jason Cowan officiating.

**Peggy Ann Evans Vest**, 92, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away Monday, June 1, 2026, at Henderson Nursing and Rehabilitation. Services were held at noon Thursday, June 4, 2026, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. The Reverend Dayne Bogard will officiate. Burial followed in Fernwood Cemetery.

**Anthony "Tony" Lee Beck**, 89, of Henderson, Kentucky, went to be with the Lord at 2:08 a.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, May 29, 2026, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. Burial followed in Fairmont Cemetery.

**James Harold Sheffer**, 82, of Henderson, Ky, known to many as Gomer, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at his home. Services were at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. Brother Dwight Cox officiated. Burial followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

## HOPKINS

**Eula Dale Johnson**, 87, of Nebo, KY, passed away on Monday, June 1, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Friday, June 5, 2026, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Rev. Dean Durham officiating. Burial will be in Bethlehem Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 12:00 P.M. until service time on Friday at the funeral home.

**Norma Jean Campbell Tapp** 76 passed away peacefully May 29th, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. The Tapp family received friends on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. & Wednesday, June 3, 2026, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. with the funeral service following at the funeral home.

**FUNERAL NOTICES** continued

**Ethel “Louise” McRoy**, 77, of Hanson, KY, passed away on Wednesday May 27, 2026, at her residence. A graveside service was held at 2:00 P.M. Friday May 29, 2026, at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville, KY. Burial followed after the service.

**Larry James Warren**, 77, of Manitou, KY, passed away surrounded by his family on Sunday, May 31, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Bro. Brad Tucker officiating. Burial to follow at Slaughters Cemetery in Slaughters, KY. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the funeral hour on Saturday at the funeral home.

**Linda Morse Miller**, 77, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Bro. Jerry Whitehouse officiating. Burial followed at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, 13560 KY-70, Bremen, KY 42325.

**Thomas “Tom” Tucker, Jr.**, 75, of Hanson, KY passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at his home. A celebration of life was held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at the family home, 255 Veterans Drive, Hanson, KY. Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville was entrusted with care.

Attention World Wide Travelers, Midwest Air Freight Announces Final Boarding was called on Friday, May 29, 2026 for **Carol Ray Travis**, of Nebo, KY. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

**Harold “Nate” Nathan Bryant, Sr.**, 83, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville surrounded by his family and friends. A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Bro. Brian Turner officiating. Burial followed at Odd Fellows Cemetery.

**Elvie Hust, Sr.**, 67, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at Madisonville Health and Rehab. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2026 at the Allensville Fire Department, 975 Joe Gill Road, Allensville, KY 42204. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. until the service hour on Friday at the Allensville Fire Department.

**GRAVES**

**Charles W. “Chuck” Moore, Jr.**, age 62, of Mayfield passed away on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at Mills Health and Rehab Center in Mayfield, KY. A memorial service for Mr. Charles W. “Chuck” Moore, Jr. was held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at Mayfield First United Methodist Church, 1322 W. Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066. Rev. Adam Rush and Rev. Mark Stephens officiated.

**Bob D. Cornman**, age 94, of Mayfield passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield, KY. A memorial service for Mr. Bob D. Cornman will be 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Adam Rush will officiate. Visitation will be 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home.

**Timothy Dale McNeill**, age 55, of the Pryorsburg community passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield, KY. Private family services will be held at a later date. Byrn

Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

**James “Jimmy” K. Smith**, age 70, a resident of Mayfield, Kentucky, passed away at 12:23 a.m. Sunday, May 31, 2026, at Jackson Purchase Medical Center. Graveside services for Mr. James “Jimmy” K. Smith were held at 12:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, 2026, at McKendree Methodist Church Cemetery. Bro. Chris Kemp will officiate.

**LIVINGSTON**

**William Mike Embry**, age 72 of Grand Rivers Ky, passed away on Monday, June 1, 2025 at his home in Grand Rivers, Ky. There was a graveside service June 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m. at Dixon Cemetery in Grand Rivers with Rev. C. C. Brasher officiating.

**MARSHALL**

**Robert Todd Cross**, 49, of Benton, passed away on June 1, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Bro. Jarry Merritt officiating. Burial will follow at Wallace Cemetery in Symsonia. Visitation will be held from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Saturday, June 6, 2026, and from 12:00 noon to service time Sunday at the funeral home.

**Alexandria “Ally” Jackson**, 28, of Paducah, Kentucky, and formerly of Marshall County, passed away on May 29, 2026, at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Shawn Vandergriff officiating. Burial followed at Mullinax Cemetery in Calvert City.

**Kenneth “Kenny” Campbell**, 87, of Hardin, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Calvert City Nursing and Rehabilitation. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Or is handling the arrangements. The family will be holding a memorial service at Benton Church of Christ a later date.

**Carol Terry**, 83, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Marshall County Hospital in Benton. There will be a private memorial gathering held at a later date. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling the arrangements.

**McCRACKEN**

**Shela Egner**, 74, passed away on May 28, 2026, at Parkview Nursing Home in Paducah. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Tommy Moore officiating. Burial followed at Wallace Cemetery.

**Brenda Kay Watson**, 72, of West Paducah passed away on Monday, June 1, 2026, at her home. Funeral services will be at 1:00pm on Friday, June 5, 2026, at Lindsey Funeral Home with the Rev. BJ Myrick officiating Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery. Friends may visit the family from 11:00am to service hour on Friday at the funeral home.

**Fran Dickerson**, a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, went home to be with the Lord at 1:51 a.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2026. Surrounded by faith, Fran passed peacefully, comforted by the grace of God and the prayers of those who loved her. There are no events scheduled at this time. Lindsey Funeral Home oversees the arrangements.

**Jackie Hansen**, age 57, of Paducah, Kentucky passed away on Friday May 29, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. There are no events scheduled at this time. Lindsey Funeral Home oversees the arrangements.

**William “Bill” Cornett**, 63, of Paducah passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at Baptist Health Paducah. Memorial services will be at 1:00 pm on Saturday, July 11, 2026 at Hope Harbor Church in Murray, KY. Lindsey Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cornett family.

**Joseph L. Skees**, age 78, of Paducah, KY passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health after battling cancer. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Lindsey Funeral Home in Paducah, KY. A Funeral mass was held on Wednesday, June 3 at 12 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Paducah, KY with Fr. Gary Clark officiating.

**Sylvester Orr, Jr.**, affectionally known as Bubba, was born on August 5, 1946, in Saltillo, Tennessee to Sylvester Orr, Sr. and Mattie Mae Garrard Orr. He departed life at his residence on Tuesday, May 26 at 3:49 a.m. surrounded by family. The family planned a memorial service on Saturday, May 30, 2026, 12:00, at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church where Reverend Donna Newsome Hawkins officiated, as we honor the life of Sylvester “Bubba” Orr, Jr.; a life well-lived, defined by unconditional love, enduring friendships, resilience, and the joys of life’s simplest treasure of community.

**TRIGG**

Marshelle Atchley - December 13, 1974 - June 1, 2026 - Memorial services for 51 year old Marshelle Lynn “Rusty” Atchley of Cadiz will be held Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 2112 Highway 120, Big Rock, TN 37023. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Anett Turino Hernandez** - June 20, 1974 - May 28, 2026 - There will be no services for 51 year old Anett Turino Hernandez of Oak Grove. King’s Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**William Dale Gibbs**, age 82, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2026, at his home in Cadiz. Funeral services will be at Goodwin Funeral Home at 1:00 PM, Friday, June 5, 2026, with Bro. Steve Hardy officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in East End Cemetery.

**UNION**

**Virginia Ann Smith Quinn**, age 90 of Sturgis, KY passed away Monday, June 1, 2026 at Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson. he service will be 12 noon Monday, June 8, 2026 at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church. Fr. John Okoro will officiate. The visitation will be 10AM until service time on Monday at the church. The burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery in Ridgeway, IL.

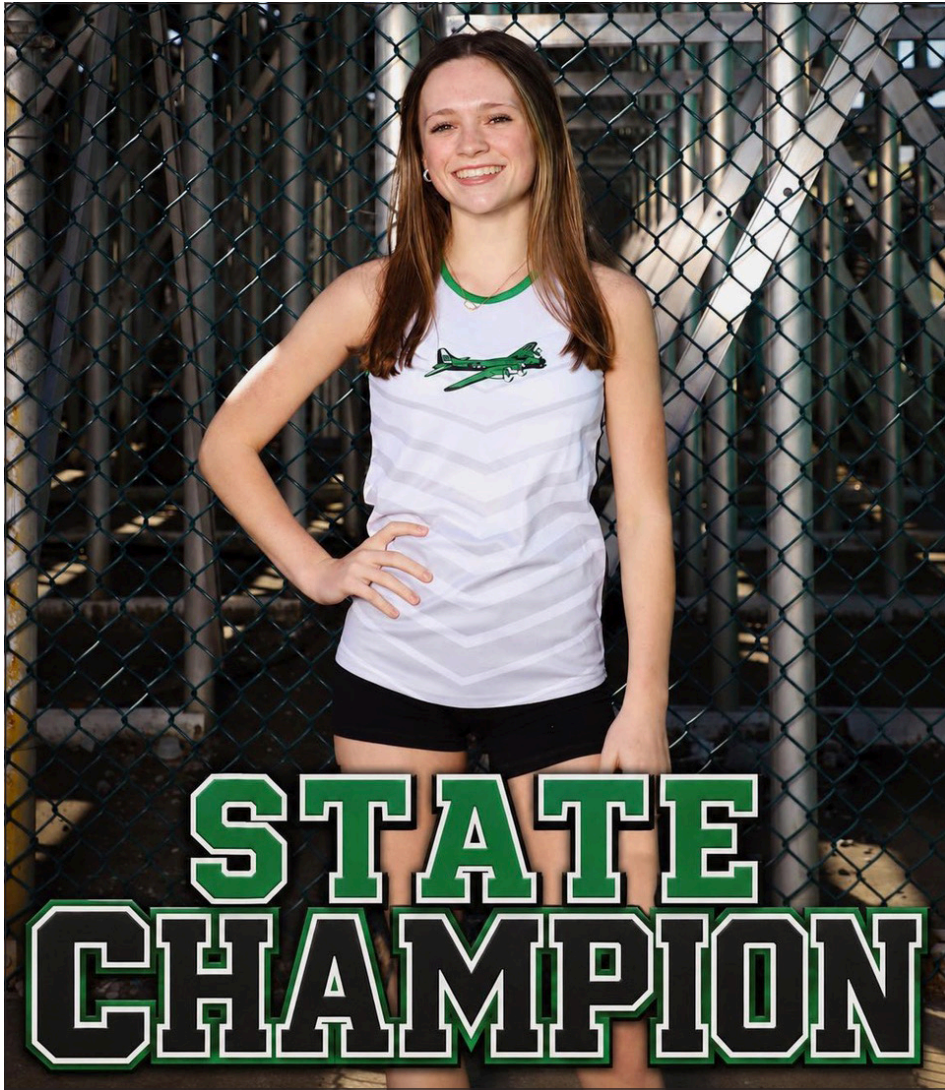
**Bruce Jackson**, age 70 of Morganfield, KY passed away peacefully at home on May 29, 2026, surrounded by those who loved him. Funeral service was held at 11 AM Wednesday June 3, 2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Bro William Alvey will officiate. Burial was held in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield, KY.

**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.*



# WEST KY SPORTS



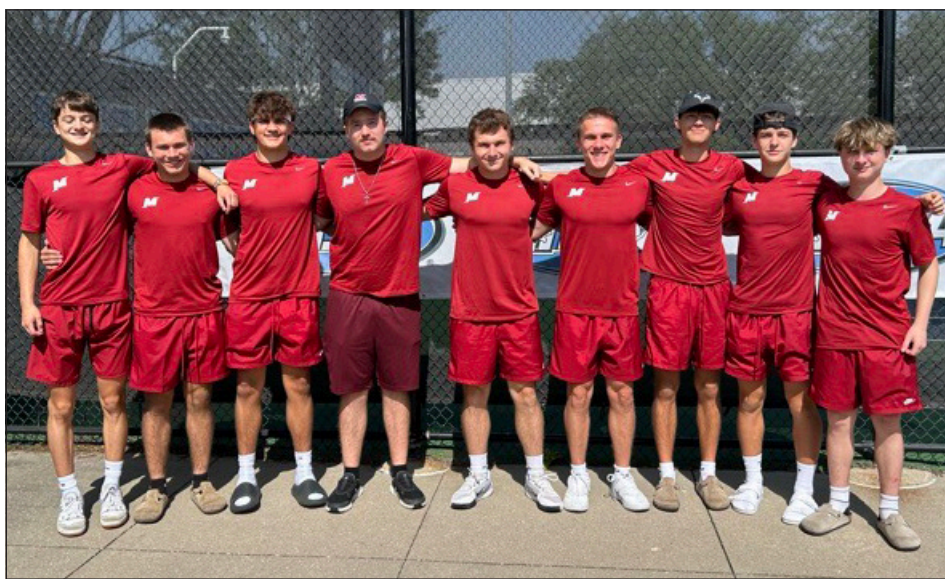
Ballard Memorial Middle School student, Rilee Bodell, is the 2026 KTCCA Middle School Track & Field 100 Meter Hurdle State Champion.

(Photo by Ashley Goode Photography)



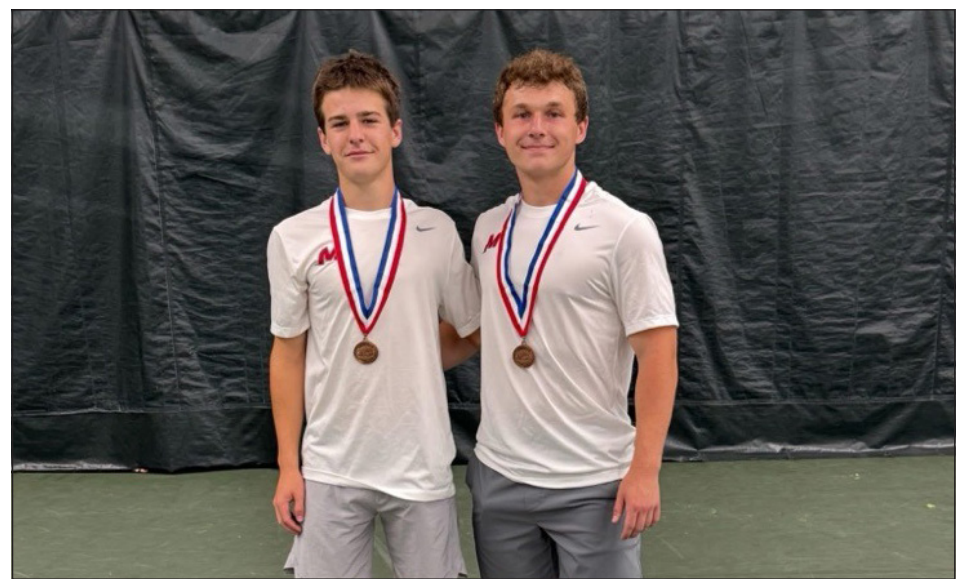
Ballard Memorial Middle School student, Zoe McGlenon, is the 2026 KTCCA Middle School Track & Field Shot Put State Champion.

(Photo by Ashley Goode Photography)



The McCracken County boys' team competed in the KHSAA Tennis State Tournament.

(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)



McCracken County's Holden Hagan and Asher Shanks reached the quarterfinals in the boys' doubles competition at the KHSAA Tennis State Tournament.

(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

**Estate AUCTION** 

**SATURDAY • JUNE 13, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.**

Home & Personal Property of  
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**MISCELLANEOUS SURPRISES**

Antique Walnut High Back Poster Bed • Maytag Washer & Dryer • Large Recliner • Vintage Curio Cabinet Lifetime Round Card Table • Several Quilts (14) • Round Oak Dining Table • Large Wooden Rocker Older Vintage Jewelry Case • Corner China Cabinet • Antique Ladies Victorian Purse • Iron Skillets • 3 Different Sets of Sterling Silverware (Including Normandy, Alvin/Southern Charm, & Noritake China (Florola) • Victorian Chair • Several Pieces of Beautiful Cut Glass • Pots & Pans • Henredon Furniture Co Dining Table & 6 Chairs- Vintage Cradle • Newer Armorie • Cedar Chest Wine Rack • 2 Old Brass Fire Extinguishers • Majestic Vise • Power Drill • Sockets • Wrenches • Craftsman Tool Cabinet • Bissel Carpet Cleaner • Jiffy Steamer • Magnifying Glass with Ivory Handle Large Kraut Kutter • Stainless Steel Cart • Antique Dr. H.C. Ritter Chiropractor Thermometer Civil War Books • Music CDs • Sewing Basket • Several Prints & Pictures • Cook Books • Elgin Pocket Watches • Wheel Barrow • Rakes • Sharp Shooter • Several Pieces of Wrought Iron Patio Furniture • Miscellaneous Surprises

**LOTS OF SILVER ITEMS & FINE GLASSWARE • OLD SILVER DOLLARS & COINS SELL AT 2:00 PM**  
Leigh B. Schlager - Trustee

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## Hatchell named Mayfield head coach

### Press Release

MAYFIELD — Long-time offensive coordinator Stephen Hatchell has been named the new head coach of the Mayfield football program.

“On behalf of the Mayfield Independent School District, I am honored to announce that Stephen Hatchell will be the next head coach of the Mayfield High School football program,” said Mayfield High School Principal Matt McMMain. Mayfield is a perennial state title contender and ranks among the top high school football programs in Kentucky.

Hatchell has served as offensive coordinator for the Cardinals since 2016. He started his coaching career with the team in 2007, first as the quarterback coach, then as the Cardinals’ offensive coordinator from 2008-2013. For the 2014-2015 seasons, Hatchell moved to Georgetown, South Carolina, where he was a quarterbacks coach and then of-



Mayfield Coach Stephen Hatchell

fensive coordinator before moving back to Mayfield where he resumed his OC duties.

Hatchell said he is excited to lead the Cardinals.

“I would like to thank the hiring committee for giving me the opportunity to be the next head football coach at Mayfield High School,” commented Hatchell. “It is a responsibility I do not

take lightly.

“This program has a rich history, and I am excited to build upon the strong foundation already in place. My family and I love this community and are thrilled to continue to serve our school and community.”

McMMain confided that the school district, the community, and the football program have a strong

tradition of excellence.

“Coach Hatchell knows this legacy and is committed to maintaining that standard,” added McMMain. “I am excited about the future of Mayfield football with him at the helm.”

Once a student-athlete himself, Hatchell played on the collegiate level. Hatchell was a quarterback for Murray State University from 2001-2003, then for Campbellsville University from 2004-2005.

Hatchell also serves as vice principal at Mayfield High School. He and his wife, Tyler, have a daughter, Zoey, and a son, Zander.

Looking ahead, Hatchell said to the players, parents, and alumni, “I will work tirelessly to make you proud both on and off the field. I am excited about the future of this program and my role in helping our young men become the best version of themselves. Go Cardinals!”



Ballard Memorial Middle School student, Wyatt Overstreet. He placed 3rd place in shot put at the 2026 KTCCCA Middle School Track & Field state meet. (Photo by Ashley Goode Photography)

## Foust steps down as coach of Lady Cards Basketball

**Press Release**

After one year with the Lady Cardinals basketball program, Head Coach Tom Foust has resigned.

“After much thought and consideration, I have made the difficult decision to resign as Lady Cardinal head coach. A career opportunity away from coaching arose and in the best interest of my family, I had to accept,” Foust said.

“I want to thank my players for their un-

wavering dedication to the program and each other, to the coaching staff who put these young ladies’ best interest first every day, and to the incredible administration for providing whatever was needed for these student athletes to be successful in sports and in life. Thank you to the entire Mayfield community for being so good to my family.”

In his only season at the helm, the Lady Cardinals went 14-13 on the year, but the

team also beat cross-town rivals Graves County for the first time in 13 years, and were the 3rd District Tournament Champions for the first time in 30 years.

In accepting the resignation, Mayfield High School Principal Matt McMain said, “We thank Coach Foust for his hard work this past year and respect his decision to move on. We wish him and his family the absolute best moving forward.”

## Kentucky free fishing weekend is June 6-7

**Press Release**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 1, 2026) — The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources invites residents and visitors of all ages to take advantage of Kentucky’s “Free Fishing Weekend,” June 6-7, 2026.

This annual event allows everyone to enjoy fishing in waters across the commonwealth without purchasing a fishing license or permit. All other regulations, including size limits and the number of fish an individual is permitted to keep, still apply. Permission is always needed if fishing in private waters.

Communities all across Kentucky participate by offering fun special events for anglers, especially for youth. Check local listings or click on the Free Fishing Weekend webpage on the department’s website (fw.ky.gov) to find many known events.

For those new to fishing, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife provides plenty of resources to get started on a lifetime of fishing enjoyment:

Get the basics: The Learn to Fish webpage provides basic information on gear, where to go fishing, suggested lures and tackle, catching and cleaning a fish and a number of instructional videos from knot tying to filleting fish. For those with more experience, visit the department’s main Fishing landing



page for links to all fishing topics.

Get equipped: Fishing poles can be purchased inexpensively at sporting goods and box stores, second-hand stores and yard sales. Fishing poles can also be borrowed for free at a number of locations across the state. Search for nearby locations on the Loaner Fishing Pole Locations map on the department’s website.

Learn the rules: See the annual Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide, also in a Spanish language version, for a complete summary of all fishing regulations.

Where to go: Visit the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) webpage for lists of easily accessible, specially stocked lakes. For a comprehensive list of fishing and boating access sites across Kentucky, check out the Waterbodies Search webpage.

Get inside information: Peruse the

annual fishing forecast and tipswebpage for insider information on fish around the state.

Find fish: Search the Lakes with Fish Attractors webpage for habitat maps at various lakes and download GPX files from there.

Continue learning: Kentucky Fish and Wildlife hosts Hook and Cookclasses in a number of communities throughout the year. Look for one- and two-day classes to improve or learn new skills.

For anglers on the go, download and use Kentucky’s Fish Boat KY app. The app helps users to find directions to local lakes, read fishing reports, learn about regulations, find stocking schedules, locate the nearest boat ramp and more. The app is available in the iTunes and Google Play app stores.

The water is calling. Pack up the family on the first weekend of June and enjoy fishing in Kentucky – for free.



The McCracken County girls’ team reached the quarterfinals of the KHSAA Tennis State Tournament. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)



McCracken County’s Cassidy Parker and Alex Poore reached the quarterfinals in the girls’ doubles competition at the KHSAA Tennis State Tournament. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)



# Congrats

## GRADUATES

Andrea Higdon 270-559-2566	Mary Hoy 270-559-1111
Betty Higdon 270-519-6991	Penny Mariner 270-559-5277
Jan Brandstetter 270-331-1197	Shea McGuire 270-562-2279
Shawn Brandstetter 270-508-0648	Vera Stone 270-556-0295
Tina Brandstetter 270-816-5790	Scott Walker 270-556-4326
Gaya Hart 270-556-3007	Shari Holsapple, General Manager



### CENTURY 21

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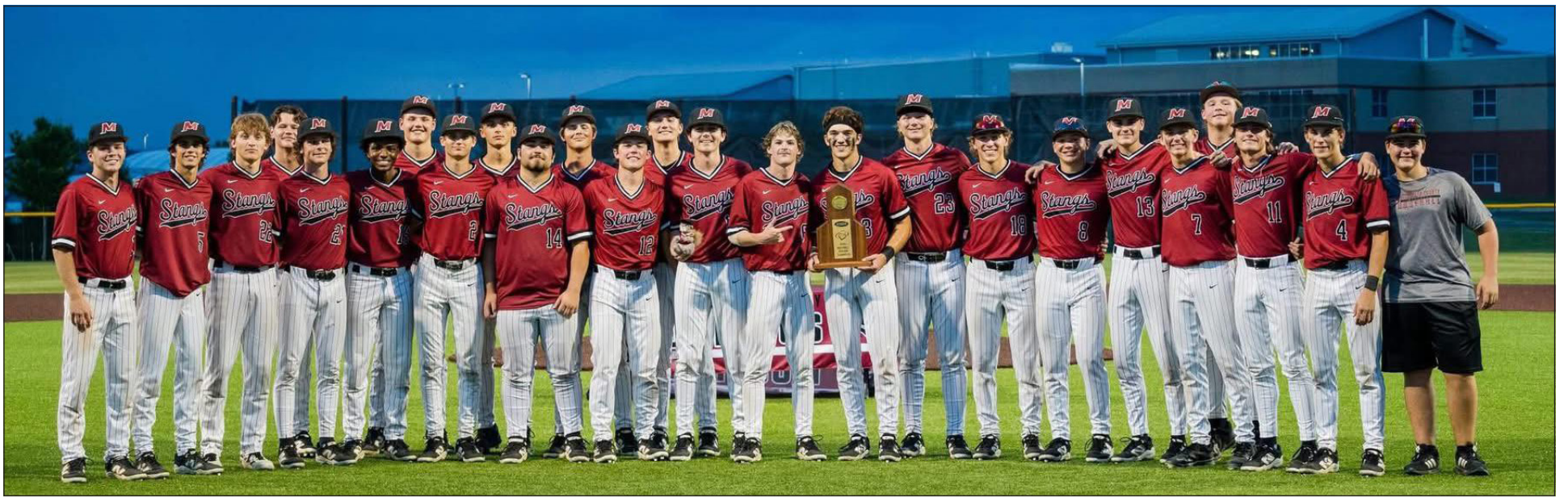
## New McCafé Refreshers



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# Mustangs claim 12th straight 1st Region title



(Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

**Staff Report**

PADUCAH — McCracken County won its 12th straight 1st Region baseball championship on Wednesday, May 27. Winning convincingly, McCracken County defeated rival Paducah Tilghman 9-1 in the 1st Region Baseball Tournament championship game on Wednesday, May 27.

McCracken County scored first and never trailed. The Mustangs erupted for five runs during the top half of the opening inning. Caden Kern started on the mound for McCracken County and earned the win. Kern pitched four innings and recorded three strikeouts. Working out of a relief role, William

Fox closed out the game on the mound for the Mustangs. Fox pitched the last three innings and recorded five strikeouts. Wesley West started on the mound for Paducah Tilghman and took the loss. West pitched one inning and struck out two McCracken County batters. Behind West,

Brayden James and Brandon Dutton each pitched in relief for the Blue Tornado. McCracken County scored nine runs on 11 hits. Kern (two hits, one RBI), Fox (two hits), Lane Grace (two hits), Gage Reeves (one hit, three RBIs), Gage Dugan (one hit, three RBIs), Lucas Gagnon (one hit, one RBI), Brady Thomp-

son (one hit) and Kendrick Dunning (one hit) were McCracken County's top offensive contributors. As part of a balanced offensive attack for McCracken County, Kern, Grace, Dugan and Dunning each doubled. Paducah Tilghman plated one run on six hits. Brendan Mira (two hits, one RBI), Stone Crowe (two

hits), Landon Hinz (one hit) and Raymond Walker (one hit) accounted for Paducah Tilghman's offense. Following its region championship-clinching victory, McCracken County advanced to the KHSAA Baseball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare, which is being held at Legends Field in Lexington.

# Murray State Athletics records highest finish in MVC All-Sports Trophy Standings

**Staff Report**

MURRAY — Murray State Athletics was rewarded for one of its most holistically competitive years in program history after it was announced that the Racers finished second in the Missouri Valley Conference's All-Sports Trophy final standings. The second-place finish is the department's best since joining the MVC. The Racers secured the second spot with a final score average of 8.814 after winning three total championships in league play throughout the 2025-26 athletics campaign. "This year has represented one of the most successful and athletically-competitive chapters in the history of our university," Murray State

University President Dr. Ron Patterson said. "Our student-athletes, coaches and staff have embraced a culture centered on excellence. We are incredibly proud of the momentum surrounding our university as we continue leading the pack and building an even brighter future for Murray State." Murray State earned regular-season and tournament titles in women's basketball and also won the women's golf championship. MSU also recorded top-three finishes in women's soccer, softball, women's tennis, baseball, and men's golf, while men's basketball, women's cross country and women's track and field picked up top-four finishes. "This has been

the most athletically-competitive year in the history of our department because our student-athletes, coaches and staff have embraced a championship mentality in everything that we do," Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. "A major pillar of our strategic priorities is competing for and winning championships, and we achieved that this year with nine of our programs recording top-four finishes and women's basketball and women's golf winning league titles. We are incredibly proud of the relentless drive that continues to push our department forward while we focus on leading the pack, and we know that the best is yet to come."

Since joining in the league in 2022-23, the Racers' best finished in the All-Sports Trophy standings prior to this season was seventh place. Over the last two years, Murray State has raised a school-record \$43 million dollars in support of new facilities, initiatives and championship resources. That total was made possible by 15, seven-figure gifts, which also amounts to the most in department history. The \$43 million is committed towards the department's bold, comprehensive \$100 million fundraising campaign, Leading The Pack, which was created to further position itself for the future by investing in student-athlete suc-

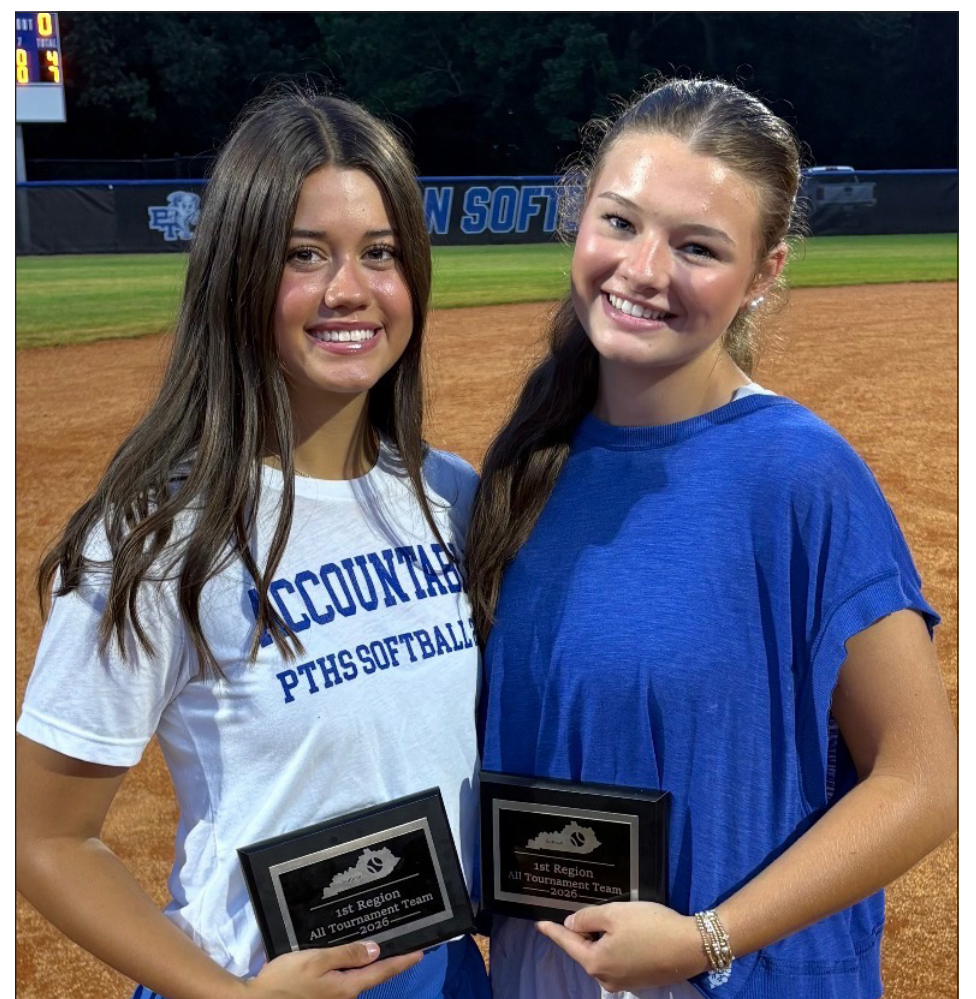
cess and wellness, revenue share and competitive resources and world-class facilities. The All-Sports Trophy is based on a school's average finish in each of the sponsored championships by the Missouri Valley Conference. Teams are awarded 12 points for first, 11 for second, 10 for third, etc., and the total accumulated points are divided by the number of sports in which a particular school competes. For sports not sponsored by every MVC school, the points decrease by the number of competing schools (i.e., in a sport where 10 teams compete, 12/10 = 1.20, so point totals decrease by 1.20; 1st = 12, 2nd = 10.8, 3rd = 9.6, etc.) Finishes in baseball, basketball, soccer,

softball, tennis, and volleyball are based on regular-season competition. However, institutions receive three bonus points for each league post-season championship earned in those aforementioned sports. All other sports are determined by finish at the championship tournament or championship meet.

**TOP FIVE LEAGUE STANDINGS**  
Points -- Team (Championships\*)  
8.857 -- Illinois State (3)  
8.814 -- MURRAY STATE (3)  
7.719 -- Indiana State (3)  
7.252 -- UNI (4)  
7.101 -- Drake (2)  
\*Combined regular-season and tournament championships

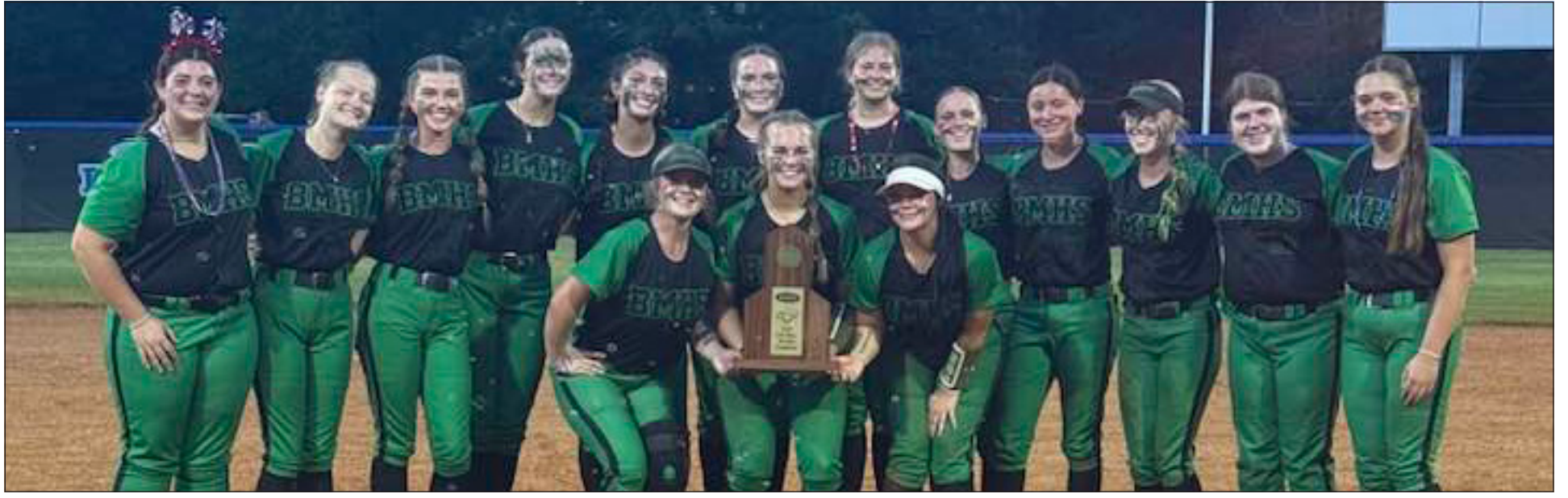


Maria Korte sang the national anthem prior to the Paducah Chiefs' home game versus the Henderson Flash at Brooks Stadium on Tuesday, June 2. The Flash edged the Chiefs 3-2 in 10 innings. (Photo courtesy of Paducah Chiefs Baseball)



Adrienne Romain and Camrynn McMinn represented Paducah Tilghman on the All-1st Region Softball Tournament Team. (Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School)

# Lady Bombers capture 1st Region title



(Photo courtesy of Ballard Memorial High School)

## Staff Report

PADUCAH — Ballard Memorial defeated Hickman County 7-4 in the 1st Region Softball Tournament championship game at Paducah Tilghman on Wednesday, May 27.

Hickman County scored first and owned multiple leads. Hickman County pushed across a pair of runs during the top half of the opening inning.

But Ballard Memo-

rial eventually answered, scoring three runs during its second at bat.

Hickman County moved back ahead after manufacturing two runs during the top half of the third inning.

Answering again, Ballard Memorial scored three additional runs during the bottom half of the fourth frame.

The Lady Bombers regained the lead and

never trailed again.

Leading 6-3, Ballard Memorial added an insurance run during the bottom half of the sixth inning.

Madyson Bohde pitched a complete game for Ballard Memorial and earned the win in the circle. Bohde recorded seven strikeouts.

Blair Byassee started in the circle for Hickman County and pitched the first two innings.

Following Byassee, Keeleigh Stewart pitched the last four innings in relief for the Lady Falcons. Stewart recorded four strikeouts.

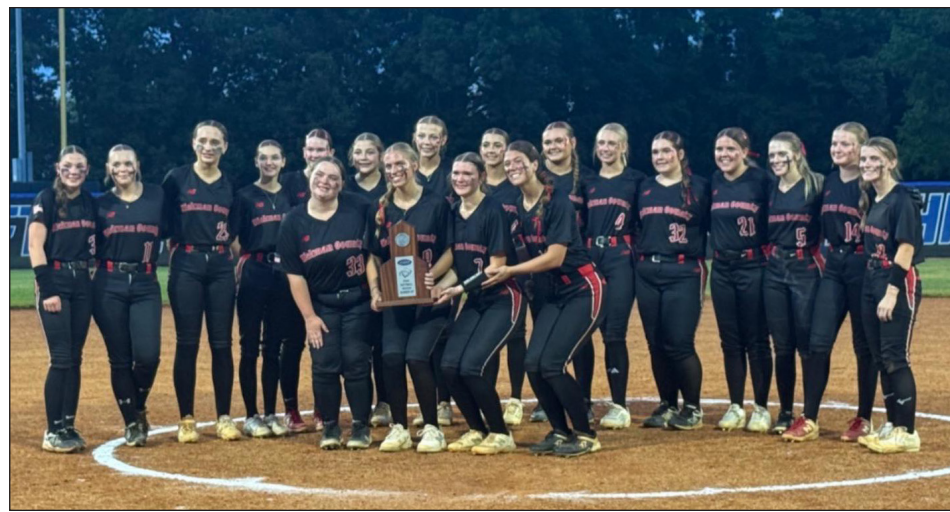
Ballard Memorial scored seven runs on 10 hits. Aubrey Alexander (two hits, four RBIs), Miley Nichols (two hits), Serenity Owens (two hits), Adalyn Hargrove (one hit, three RBIs), Trinity Williams (one hit), Anlee Polivick (one hit)

and Gracelyn Glisson (one hit) accounted for Ballard Memorial's offense. Both Alexander and Hargrove homered. In addition to homering, Alexander also doubled in Ballard Memorial's victory.

Hickman County plated four runs on five hits. Stewart (one hit, two RBIs), Audrey Tucker (two hits, two RBIs), Jenna Byassee (one hit) and Sophie Morris (one hit) ac-

counted for Hickman County's offense. Both Stewart and Tucker doubled for the Lady Falcons.

Following the win, Ballard Memorial advanced to the KHSAA Softball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare, which is set to be held at John Cropp Stadium in Lexington.



Hickman County finished runner-up in the 1st Region Softball Tournament on Wednesday, May 27. (Photo courtesy of Hickman County High School)

## Murray State signs Nikolic

### Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray State University men's basketball head coach Ryan Miller has announced the signing of 6-foot-8 forward Pavle Nikolic, who joins the Racers from Serbia.

Nikolic averaged 15.7 points and 5.1 rebounds per game on 34 percent from deep in 28 minutes a game in the Adriatic League.

The productive Nikolic brings in a wealth of experience to our program, having recently completed

a successful season with his club team.

"He has an elite combination of size, strength and speed, and is a proven scorer and plays efficiently with the ball in his hands," Miller commented, following Nikolic's signing. "We are thrilled to have Pavle as a member of the Racer Family."

Following his stellar club season, the Čačak, Serbia, native finished second in voting for ABA Young Player of the Year.

Nikolic made a

significant impact for Team Serbia at FIBA U20 EuroBasket by leading the team in points and rebounds per game, playing an instrumental role for a Serbian squad that made the semifinals for the first time in a decade.

In seven games during the tournament, Nikolic averaged 16.6 points, 6.4 rebounds and 1.6 assists per game, shooting 51 percent from the floor and 44 percent from deep, en route to All-Star Five honors.

## KHSAA Dead Period slated for June 25-July 9

### Staff Report

PADUCAH — Student-athletes will be sidelined June 25-July 9 via the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Dead Period.

The Dead Period was adopted 20-plus years ago by member schools in response to concerns about year-round play and practice and parental and coaching desire for some down time from interscholastic play. Member schools adopted the period of June 25-July 9 as a time of inactivity, which followed the pattern of the historic idling of southern textile mills

and this time allows administrators, coaches, student-athletes and their families a time where they are not committed to school play.

According to Article 3 of Bylaw 26 (The Dead Period), it states that: "Students may not receive coaching or training from school personnel (either salaried or non-salaried) and school facilities, uniforms, nicknames, transportation or equipment shall not be used each year in any KHSAA-sanctioned sport or cheerleading squad during the period beginning June 25 and going through July 9.

School funds may not be expended in support of interscholastic athletics in any KHSAA sanctioned sport during this period. These restrictions shall not apply to any postseason wrap-up activities, celebrations and recognition events relating to a spring sports team at a school which participated in KHSAA state championship play in that particular sport during that particular year."

Fall sports teams will open preseason practices in July, following the conclusion of the KHSAA Dead Period.

## Hole-In-One



John Wright hit a hole in one at Rolling Hills Country Club earlier this week on hole 12. John used a 5 iron to complete this accomplishment.

## Kentucky Lands Transfer Forward Milan Momcilovic

### Staff Report

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The University of Kentucky has added a major piece to its roster with the signing of transfer forward Milan Momcilovic, a highly regarded front-court player expected to make an immediate impact for the Wildcats.

Momcilovic arrives in Lexington after two productive seasons at Iowa State, where he developed a reputation as one of the Big 12's most versatile offensive players. Known for his outside shooting, size, and ability to

stretch the floor, the 6-foot-8 forward gives Kentucky another scoring threat as the program continues to reshape its roster.

Kentucky coaches praised Momcilovic's skill set and experience competing at a high level. His ability to play multiple positions and contribute on both ends of the floor is expected to strengthen the Wildcats' lineup heading into next season.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to compete at Kentucky and be part of one of the most storied programs in college basketball,"

Momcilovic said following the announcement.

The addition is viewed as a significant recruiting win for the Wildcats, who have emphasized adding experienced talent through the transfer portal. Momcilovic averaged double figures in scoring during his collegiate career and earned recognition for his perimeter shooting and basketball IQ.

With his commitment secured, Kentucky continues to build a roster capable of competing for SEC and national championships.



# CN Train Derails in Hickman County; No Injuries Reported

**Staff Report**

HICKMAN COUNTY, Ky. — Recovery efforts are ongoing after a CN Railroad freight train derailed late Sunday night near the Hickman County–Carlisle County line, leaving approximately 30 railcars and two locomotives off the tracks in a heavily wooded area near Peery Road.

According to the Hickman County Emergency Management Agency, officials were notified of the possible derailment at approximately 10:16 p.m. on May 31. The train was carrying a mixed freight load that included aggre-

gate materials, automotive-related cargo and various non-hazardous chemical products.

Emergency responders initially identified two railcars as potential hazardous materials concerns. However, hazardous materials specialists and CN Railroad officials later determined the railcars posed no threat to public safety. As a result, a shelter-in-place advisory issued for nearby residents in northern Hickman County was lifted Monday morning.

CN Railroad said the derailment occurred after the train struck a tree that had



fallen onto the tracks. The collision caused 31 railcars to derail

in various positions, including two locomotives.

“There were no injuries, fires or impact to the public,” CN said in a statement. The company confirmed that one railcar carrying carbon dioxide was ruptured and that fuel leaked from one locomotive into a nearby waterway. Environmental response teams have been deployed and officials said the affected areas have been contained.

Despite the derailment, authorities emphasized that no injuries have been reported and there is currently no threat to surrounding communities.

The incident has disrupted rail travel. Amtrak announced

that its City of New Orleans trains 58 and 59 are temporarily terminating and originating in Carbondale, Illinois, with no alternate transportation available.

Peery Road remains closed indefinitely, and Highway 51 North between KY 288 and KY 80 in Arlington continues to experience traffic delays due to emergency response operations.

Multiple local, regional and state agencies remain on scene assisting with recovery, environmental remediation and traffic management efforts. Investigations into the derailment continue.

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**2009 Peterbilt**, Model 340, 330 HP, Automatic Allison transmission, nice truck, runs excellent! 2000 gallon fuel tank, 5 product tank, grease barrel, air compressor, hose reels, air pumps!  
Stk. #09PETE246LUBE..... **\$30,000**



**2020 PETERBILT 579**, 455 HP, 12 speed, automated transmissions, nice truck, runs excellent, low miler, air seat, power windows, power/heated mirrors, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve, sliding 5th wheel, good tires.  
Stk. #20MX371579DC..... **\$28,500**



**2022 PETERBILT 579**, 455 HP, very nice truck, very clean/ fleet maintained!! runs and drives excellent, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, sliding 5th wheel, air seats, tilt/tele, double bunk!  
Stk. #22MX558579..... **\$34,000**



**2014 INTERNATIONAL PROSTAR**, 450 HP, manual Eaton-Fuller transmission, Air Ride suspension, good truck, runs excellent, low miles, power windows, air seat, dump valve, differential lock, cruise, sliding 5th!  
Stk. #14MF324PRODC..... **\$12,000**



**2021 INTERNATIONAL LT**, X15 Cummins engine, 12 speed automated transmission. Super nice truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained, air seat, smart wheel, power windows, power/heated mirrors, sliding 5th.  
Stk. #21X15443LTC..... **\$26,000**



**2018 PETERBILT 579**, 455 HP Paccor engine, good truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained! air seat, very nice truck, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, A/S 5th, cruise, tilt/tele!  
Stk. #18MX590579DC..... **\$22,000**



**2016 PETERBILT 579**, 455 HP Paccor engine, good truck, fleet maintained! truck runs and drives perfect! good tires, clean cab, power windows, power mirrors, power door locks, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve!  
Stk. #16MX789579DC..... **\$18,000**



**2019 PETERBILT 579**, Good truck, runs great, clean, air seat, fleet maintained, no rust, very nice truck, power windows, power/heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, A/S 5th, cruise, tilt/tele, 12 speed.  
Stk. #19MX631579DC..... **\$25,000**



**2020 KENWORTH T680**, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, no rust, southern ran truck, air seat, air brakes, tilt/tele, power windows, power/heated mirrors, 455 HP, 12 speed, differential lock  
Stk. #20MX541T680DC..... **\$24,000**



**2016 MACK PINNACLE CHU613**, 455 HP, good truck, runs excellent, well maintained, 12 Spd mDRIVE, air seat, power window, power mirrors, heated mirrors, dump valve, differential lock, sliding 5th wheel!  
Stk. #16434FLATCH..... **\$20,000**



**2005 MACK GRANITE CV713**, 410 HP, good truck, runs excellent, nice truck, thick frame, 10 Spd Mack manual transmission, differential lock, sliding 5th wheel, good tires! heavy duty truck! \*pre-emissions!  
Stk. #05CV376TADC..... **\$25,000**



**2014 MACK PINNACLE CXU613**, 445 HP, very good truck, runs excellent, dump valve, differential lock, fleet maintained, air seat, tilt/tele, power windows!  
Stk. #14CXU546TADC..... **\$14,000**



**2019 MACK ANTHEM 64T**, 395 HP, very nice truck, runs great, fleet maintained, very clean, air seat, power windows, power door locks, power mirrors, heated mirrors, dump valve, differential lock, tilt/tele!  
Stk. #19ANTH692TADC..... **\$18,000**



**2020 INTERNATIONAL RH**, good truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained, power windows, power door locks, smart wheel, tilt/tele, cruise, sliding 5th wheel, dump valve! \*low mileage!  
Stk. #20YEL360RHDC..... **\$14,000**



**2021 INTERNATIONAL RH**, fleet maintained, excellent shape, runs and drives perfect, smart steering wheel, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, air seat! dual 80 gallon fuel tanks!  
Stk. #21GA263RHTADC..... **\$20,000**



**2017 WESTERN STAR 4700**, Good truck, runs excellent, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, sliding 5th wheel, dump valve, fleet maintained, thick frame, heavy duty truck. Low miles, southern truck, not rusty.  
Stk. #17DET123WSDC..... **\$25,000**



**2020 KENWORTH T370**, 350 HP Paccor PX9, auto Allison RDS transmission, nice truck, runs excellent, air seat, air brakes, hard steel bed, differential lock, dump valve! \*salvage title/ truck has been fixed!  
Stk. #20T3302TADUMP..... **\$65,000**



**2006 MACK GRANITE CV713**, 370 HP, manual Eaton-Fuller Transmission, good truck, runs excellent, thick frame, A/C, nice dump bed, air gate, electric tarp! differential lock!  
Stk. #06CV535TADUMP..... **\$35,000**



**2015 INTERNATIONAL TRANSTAR 8600**, 410 HP, good truck, low miles! runs excellent! air seat, air brakes, differential lock, well maintained! \*nice bed/ air gate/ electric tarp!! \*rear hitch!  
Stk. #158600116SADUMP..... **\$35,000**



**2013 INTERNATIONAL ALLSTAR 4400**, 240 HP, automatic Allison transmission, nice truck, runs excellent, A/C, cruise control, autocrane body and crane, tool boxes, hose reels, lots of storage!  
Stk. #134400226SER..... **\$25,000**



**2015 RAM 5500 HD**, 350 HP Cummins ISB6.7, nice truck, well maintained, summit 11 ft body, 4416 summit crane with remote, rolling drawer tool boxes, lots of storage, vanair power flex generator/ air compressor combo!  
Stk. #15RAM305SER..... **\$35,000**



**2002 WILSON**, 43 ft. Good trailer, good doors and hoppers, air ride with dump valve, roll tarp. Two standard hoppers, two speed landing gear, air ride suspension, all steel wheels, tandem axles.  
Stk. #02WIL960HOPPER..... **\$15,000**



**2012 TIMPTE**, Good trailer, roll tarp, good doors, vibrators. 42 ft hopper, two hoppers, standars, knock rails, manual roll tarp, two speed landing gear, front and rear ladder locations, front and rear catwalk, 65,000 lb. GVW.  
Stk. #12TIM390HOPPER..... **\$18,500**



**2008 JET**, Nice trailer, excellent shape, tarp, jet hopper bottom, steel composition, roll tarp, front and rear ladder locations, spring suspension, all steel wheels, tandem axles, 68,000 gross vehicle weight, 40 ft length.  
Stk. #08JET220HOPPER..... **\$17,000**



**2011 WILSON 43 FT**, nice trailer, roll tarp, good doors, dump valve! front and rear ladder! 19 ton 43 ft hopper, front and rear catwalk, air ride suspension, tandem axle, fixed axle.  
Stk. #11WIL740HOPPER..... **\$24,000**



**2020 TIMPTE**, nice hopper trailer, ag hoppers, good tires, roll tarp, dump valve! 72 inch sides, 40 ft long, 96 inch wide, front and rear ladder, air ride tandem fixed axle.  
Stk. #20TIM40HOPPER..... **\$32,000**



**2005 J & J**, nice trailer, good tires, not rusty, electric tarp, air gate, dump valve! liner, J & J 32 ft tandem axle end dump.  
Stk. #05J1046DUMP..... **\$17,000**



**2025 ATRO**, new 2025 34 ft dump trailer, high lift gate, built with air hard ox steel, 13,337 empty weight, external cylinder/ no doghouse for easier dumping capabilities, front ladder, led lights \*12% fee must be paid with purchase!  
Stk. #25ATRO610DUMP..... **\$33,000**



**2013 MAC TRAILER**, nice trailer good box, needs lift arms and tarp replaced, air ride tandem axle, sells as is/ pulls good! Mac trailer mfg 40 ft end dump  
Stk. #13MAC024DUMP..... **\$17,000**



**2008 SUMMIT**, nice trailer, full frame, good tires, air gate! Summit 34 ft end dump.  
Stk. #08SUM919DUMP..... **\$20,000**



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# After long wait, joy in Kentucky as Momcilovic chooses Wildcats

By KEITH TAYLOR  
*Kentucky Today*

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – Kentucky got its man, finally.

Milan Momcilovic, the top available player remaining in the portal, chose UK over Louisville and Arizona on Monday night, according to multiple sources.

The 6-foot-8 Momcilovic played for Iowa State last season where he led college basketball in three-pointing shooting with a 48.7 percentage on 7.5 attempts per game. His coming vaults UK back into the position of nation-

al contender under Mark Pope, who enters season three as the head coach.

Momcilovic told the Lexington Herald-Leader last month that Kentucky would be in the mix for his talents.

“I think Kentucky would be a good fit,” Momcilovic told the newspaper. “I obviously went against Pope at BYU his first year (in the Big 12), and I loved how his team played. I think we went 1-1 against them, but they killed us at their place, because they fly the ball up the court and shoot 3s. I really like the way they play.”

Momcilovic’s style fits Kentucky perfectly with his ability to shoot from beyond the perimeter.

“Kentucky last year, he didn’t have enough shooters around him to really coach, I feel like, the way he wanted,” he said at the time. “But I think — if I were to choose Kentucky — that would be a good fit for me. I feel like I’d be a great player for him, and he’d be a good coach for me.”

He went through the NBA Combine but eventually pulled out of the NBA Draft late last Wednesday. Since then UK fans - and others - have

been on edge about when he was going to make his college choice. It finally came Monday night and Big Blue Nation could finally exhale.

Momcilovic, who is from Pewaukee, Wisconsin, scored 1,349 points over his three years at Iowa State. He averaged 16.9 points per game last season.

Kentucky’s season ended with a loss to Momcilovic’s Iowa State team in the second round of the NCAA tournament. The Wildcats were 22-14 after starting the season ranked ninth in the AP Top 25.

Iowa State coach T.J. Otzelberger said he had no hard feelings regarding Momcilovic’s future choices last month.

“I love Milan. Like, he’s my guy,” he said. “Obviously, we had a couple of years’ relationship prior to him even coming to Iowa State, and I think what you want for everybody in your program is for their dreams to become a reality. And, obviously, with the season he had and how he’s continued to develop, he put himself in a great position for the draft.

“And yet, at the

same time, in the climate and the landscape of college athletics, it’s important to keep your options open and leave that available at the end if it isn’t to go your way. So, everything, all the conversations were great. I really respect how he went through and made his decisions, and I don’t think there’s anybody who’s a loser in this situation, right? We had a great experience with him for three seasons ... it’s important that he’s able to find a landing spot at a college that fits what he’s looking for.”



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<p><b>FB8128</b></p>  <p><b>JUNE 18</b></p> <p>2019 Bobcat T870 tracked skid steer</p>	<p><b>YA2275</b> <span style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px;">2 SELLING</span></p>  <p><b>JUNE 11</b></p> <p>2024 International HX520 semi truck</p>	<p><b>YA3552</b></p>  <p><b>JUNE 18</b></p> <p>2012 Link-Belt RTC8030 crane</p>	<p><b>EF1199</b></p>  <p><b>JUNE 18</b></p> <p>2021 Hitachi ZX210 LC-6 excavator</p>	<p><b>FC3084</b></p>  <p><b>JUNE 18</b></p> <p>1990 Caterpillar D8N dozer</p>

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# Search Ends in Tragedy as Missing Owensboro Teen Found in Kentucky Lake

**Staff Report**

LYON COUNTY, Ky. — An 18-year-old Owensboro resident died following a cliff-jumping accident at Kentucky Lake over the weekend, according to local emergency officials.

Marshall County Emergency Management Agency Director Curt Curtner said emergency crews recovered the body of Caleb Milem, 18, at approximately 12:57 p.m. Monday after an extensive search that began Sunday afternoon near the Rock Quarry area of Ken-

tucky Lake.

According to Curtner, Milem was jumping from cliffs that rise roughly 50 feet above the water when the incident occurred. The area is a popular destination during the summer, with visitors frequently leaping from the cliffs into the lake below.

Investigators believe Milem was performing flips while jumping from the cliffs. Curtner said evidence gathered during the investigation suggests Milem landed face-first and stomach-first on his final jump.

“It appears that the



last time he did it, he sort of landed on his face and belly,” Curtner said. “It probably knocked him unconscious and knocked the breath out of him.”

Search efforts were suspended Sunday night due to limited visibility and resumed Monday morning after specialized equipment capable of reaching deeper water

was brought to the scene. Officials eventually located Milem approximately 95 feet below the lake’s surface.

Curtner emphasized that investigators do not believe Milem struck any underwater rocks. He explained that the cliff face extends outward as it descends, allowing jumpers to clear the rock wall when entering the water.

While tragic, Curtner noted that fatal accidents at the site have been relatively rare over the past three decades.

Multiple agencies

assisted in the search and recovery operation, including emergency management and rescue teams from Marshall, Lyon, McCracken, and Caldwell counties, along with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, TVA Police, and Christian Area Ministries.

Milem’s body was released to the Marshall County Coroner’s Office and is expected to undergo an autopsy in Frankfort. Funeral arrangements are expected to be announced in the coming days.

## 12 counties randomly chosen for election audit

By TOM LATEK  
*Kentucky Today*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Attorney General Russell Coleman announced he randomly selected 12 Kentucky counties on Tuesday afternoon that will be undergoing an inquiry following the May 2026 Primary Election.

The inquiries will be conducted by members of the Attorney General’s Department of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to determine if any irregular-

ities took place during the primary election.

The 12 counties that were selected, in order of their drawing from a small bourbon barrel by Coleman, were: Rowan, Oldham, Franklin, Daviess, Laurel, Adair, Scott, Union, Fulton, Carroll, Floyd, and Pike. The length of time each audit will take varies by the population and number of ballots cast in each of the counties.

State law used to provide for six counties (or five percent of



Kentucky’s 120 counties) to be randomly selected for post-election audits after each primary and general

election, but the Kentucky General Assembly doubled that number a few years ago.

“From Pike to Fulton, our Office is committed to ensuring Kentucky’s elections are free, fair, and secure,” Coleman said. “Along with our election officials and law enforcement partners, we are committed to making sure every vote is counted fairly.”

The Attorney General’s office monitors potential election law violations throughout the year through the Election Fraud Hotline. Since January 1, the Hotline received

nearly 600 messages, including 155 on Election Day. Coleman noted that all but two complaints were unfounded, and those two remain under investigation by the DCI.

After completing independent investigations involving each of the 12 counties selected, DCI investigators and the Attorney General’s Special Prosecutions Unit will present their findings to a grand jury of each audited county.

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# Kentucky seeks developers for more EV charging stations in rural areas

By TOM LATEK  
*Kentucky Today*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear announced a request for proposals (RFP) to further expand Kentucky’s network of fast-charging stations to support reliable, long-distance travel for electric vehicle drivers across the state.

“Electric vehicles are no longer the technology of the future, they’re here now,” Beshear said. “We’re excited by the progress we’re making to expand our charging network, and we will keep working until Kentucky has the network required to meet the needs of the families that rely on our roads each day.”

This is the fourth RFP under the state’s

EV Charging Program, which has supported the opening of 12 fast-charging sites to date. In total, Kentucky is expected to receive nearly \$70 million in federal funds from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program established through the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Previous proposals focused on Kentucky’s Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs) along its interstates and parkways, where the current 12 open sites and the 16 under construction are located. This latest proposal seeks private developers who will design, build, operate, and maintain the stations in other urban and ru-



ral areas not already served by those stations, helping ensure EV infrastructure reaches communities across Kentucky.

This includes rural portions of counties, some parkways such as the Bluegrass Parkway, as well as

routes connecting interstates and parkways: U.S. 23, U.S. 68, U.S. 25E, U.S. 27 and U.S. 127, AA Highway in central and eastern Kentucky; U.S. 68, KY 80, U.S. 51 and U.S. 60 in western Kentucky; and urban areas such as Ashland, Coving-

ton, Lexington, Elizabethtown, Owensboro and Henderson.


Each station must have at least four charging ports and be accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NEVI funds totaling \$55 million have been

obligated for fast-charging stations in Kentucky.

“Reaching a milestone of 12 open sites was a big step to ease range anxiety for EV drivers who live in Kentucky and those who are visiting our state,” said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman. “Additional fast-charging stations statewide will make a real difference for Kentuckians and those visiting the commonwealth.”

Responses to the RFP are due July 13, and selections are anticipated late this summer. To obtain the RFP and learn more about the EV Charging Program visit [EVCharging.ky.gov](http://EVCharging.ky.gov).



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**B - Believe Jesus Died for Your Sins**  
For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that WHOEVER believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

**C - Confess Jesus is Lord**  
If you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved. - Romans 10:9

## KSP seeking tips on 2024 murder in Princeton community

By TOM LATEK  
*Kentucky Today*

MADISONVILLE, Ky. (KT) – Kentucky State Police (KSP) at Post 2 in Madisonville continue their investigation into a Caldwell County murder that occurred in the Princeton community in the spring of 2024.

April 2026 marked two years since authorities located Dorothy Sparks dead in her home. The Investigation revealed that the manner of her

death was a homicide and the incident has been under extensive investigation since.

In the wake of the anniversary, KSP Post 2 is requesting any information from the public that is relevant to this case surrounding the date of April 18, 2024, near the 11000 block of South Jefferson Street (KY-293), in Princeton, KY.

If anyone has information about the murder of Dorothy Sparks, contact



Kentucky State Police Post 2 at 270-676-3313, online through the KSP website Tip form found here: <https://www.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/tip>. You can text a Tip via the

Kentucky State Police App. You can also text 67283, type KSPTIP with a space, then details of the tip related to this case.

Crime tips can also be sent to Hopkinsville-Christian County Crime Stoppers at 270-887-TIPS(8477). Hopkinsville-Christian County Crime Stoppers are offering a reward for those who supply information that leads to the arrest of a suspect in a murder case.

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

## The Call to Wait: Finding God in Stillness

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

In a country defined by constant activity, endless notifications, and perpetual entertainment, many people find themselves living at a frantic pace. I know I do. Often, I find my attention is divided among countless responsibilities and distractions, all of which are necessary, good and worthwhile. Yet, Scripture offers a different vision for life.

What if our calling is not to live in a constant flurry of activity, but to slow down and take time to enjoy the roses he's already given us? What if we are meant to allow the experiences, lessons, and struggles of life to settle deeply within us, like compost breaking down into rich fertilizer for the soul? In that quiet process, God may



(Photo from David Jeremiah blog)

awaken new life within us. I believe this is part of His intended work in our hearts.

I also believe, that's why God created a Sabbath day. We all need a day to rest and rejuvenate. Throughout Scripture, the repeated call is often not to immediate

action, but to patient waiting. Psalm 27:14 urges believers to "wait for the Lord; be of good courage (be strong) and he shall strengthen thine heart..." In Isaiah we're reminded that "those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

(Isa 40:31). Who doesn't need renewed strength?

As you know, to "wait upon the Lord" does not mean we sit passively and do nothing. It means trusting in God; serving and worshipping while we rely on His faithfulness.

The psalmist explains it as a deep longing for God's presence: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God..." (Psalm 42:2). Our waiting is not passive inactivity; it is an active desire for communion with the One who gives life.

Scripture reminds us of God's faithfulness in times of unrest and uncertainty. Psalm 46:1 declares, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Elijah found God in stillness: "In a still small voice" I Kings 19:12 says. What if just being still, soaking up the word of God through meditation, and allowing God to fill our spirit with his peace was the best medicine for better health and peace of mind? That may not be realistic for all days, but surely a little quietness and meditating on God's word can be a source that fills the needs of a human soul. An added bonus may be renewed strength! Something to consider.

## A best friend is a gift you give yourself

By William F Holland Jr.  
billyhollandministries.com

I was thinking the other day about how wonderful it is to have friends. Last week I went to lunch with my best friend, and we always have a great time sharing our thoughts about life. Most of us have acquaintances, but we can usually count on one hand those who are trustworthy and loyal. These special friends are always ready to celebrate our victories and console us when we are going through a difficult time. The bottom line: we can trust them with everything, and we know that if anything serious were to happen, they would be by our side all the way to the end. In this day and age of electronic relationships, it's refreshing to have those we can confide in and

be transparent with. We were not created to be an independent island to ourselves, and are grateful for our spouse, but we also have a need for social interaction as we learn how to love, trust, listen, and respect others.

An old Irish Proverb says, "A trusted friend is like a four-leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have." Friendship is all about sincerely caring for another person without any ulterior motives. We realize that within our social network, many are not really deeply connected with us, and that is alright. We accept that we will not be best friends with everyone, and no doubt, these casual friends also feel the same way about us. Have you ever been talking with someone and as they ask how you are, they instantly

move on to another subject before you hardly have a chance to answer? I believe a true friend is someone who really cares about what's going on with us. They laugh when we laugh and cry when we cry. Donna Roberts is quoted as saying, "A true friend knows the song in my heart and sings it to me when my memory fails."

The story of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane just before he was to be crucified allows us to see a brief moment of His human side and how He really wanted the spiritual and emotional support of His friends as He was facing death. Since Christ experienced so many things in his life, we can know that he understands loneliness and the value of having someone walk with us in our

journey. As the story is told in all four gospels, he asked three of his close friends to accompany him to a quiet place called the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. When they arrived, he asked them to stay awake and pray, as he was going a little further down the path to pour out his heart to the Father. As He walked away, it's clear that He felt an overwhelming sadness and anguish as his words are recorded in Matthew 26:38, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me."

The very next verse is significant to his devotion to God and his determination to fulfill his mission as the sacrifice to save and forgive those who believe. "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me:

nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." After a while of interceding in agony, he returns to hopefully receive some positive encouragement, but instead finds them asleep. This happens on three separate occasions, and the last time he stands over them and, with compassion, says, "Sleep on now and take your rest. Behold, the hour is now at hand, and the son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners." Yes, they were not alert when he needed them, but just because they could not keep their eyes open does not mean they did not love him. (I would say we would have done the same thing). The point is that we all want our closest friends around us when we are walking through our experiences, whatever they are.

I've always heard there comes a time in our lives when we realize who actually matters, and who never did, and that good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget. The wonders of friendship are not the outstretched hand or the kindly smile; it's the spiritual inspiration when two people mutually discover they enjoy spending time together. When we are in the hospital or in the nursing home, and our family and friends are holding our hands, we realize that these were our greatest blessings.

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](mailto:psalmz103@gmail.com)

# OUTDOOR Truths

By Gary Miller  
Outdoortruths.org

Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed some fishing trips with other people. I love to see others catch fish or have a successful hunt. I have had my share of those moments, so I don't need to have everything about me. But there are times when I do make it about me. My next plans are to be dropped off at the river and to float down the river, and fish by myself from my kayak. Those hours alone produce so much more than what fish I may or may not catch. I also think about my Pinnacle bike rides. This

article is a product of one of those trips, where it was just me, God, and few deer and turkeys. I never fail to get what I need from God when I make these trips. I believe God wants that as well. Let me say it this way. Sometimes it's all about me. Not God. Not you. But me. Let me say it another way. Sometimes God makes things all about you. Sometimes it's for something that He wants to give. And sometimes it's for something He wants to check. Let me illustrate.

Some time ago I was contacted by someone who needed financial

help from my church. The problem was, I was no longer pastoring a church. It would have been easy to move them on, but in my spirit (while I was riding my bike), God said to me, this needs to come from your ministry – that I am the pastor of Outdoor Truths Ministry. So, before I agreed, I gave God my bank account number to make sure He had the right person. Well, I didn't, but the idea crossed my mind. But the thing that I remember most about this encounter with God, was that He also let me know that this thing I was supposed to do, was

not about the person in need, but about me. He was saying to me that the person's worthiness was none of my business. No vetting. No references. No follow ups. I was just to do what God asked me to do. So, thankfully I did. What I understood as God was leading me this way, was that He was doing a heart check. He was checking if my faith was still in God or had it moved to my ministry. Was I depending on the blessings or the One giving the blessings. On that day, I passed the test. But another one will come.

My friend, at times

in your life, God is going to make it about you. You are going to want to analyze, compromise, and debate. You are going to crunch the numbers, and the numbers will be in your favor. The devil will then assure you that God would never ask you do something so irresponsible. But there will be a still small voice that will remind you that this thing that God is asking you to do, is only about you. Your obedience. Your faith. Your heart. But the truth is, just like my test, your test will not come so that God can find out where your

heart is. He already knows. It will come so that you and I can find out where our heart really is. It will be right where our treasure is. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." ~Jesus

*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*



## THE DANGER OF DOING NOTHING

**Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett**  
Bandana Baptist Church

The number of victims it has claimed is incalculable. Few can resist its hypnotic appeal. It leaves its targets with a heavier heart and a lighter wallet. Worst of all, most of its captives never learn their lesson, succumbing again and again to its seductions despite swearing to never surrender. It has made a fool of me and has likely done the same to you: the checkout lane.

That's where all the junk is—candy bars, chips, soda, and other enticing empty calories that need no advertisement. And distributors have conveniently and cleverly

placed such delectable treats there because they know you are stuck with nothing to do but wait in line—and look. You grab what you need and go your way in the rest of the store, but movement stops at the checkout lane. Temptation lies within arm's reach, and before long, a chocolate bar or some other I'll-never-buy-this-again item slithers into your shopping cart. Idleness plus temptation equals another pointless purchase, and another disappointed victim.

Doing nothing is dangerous, especially in the Christian life. Idleness presents believers with an opportunity to "check out" what sin has to



offer. Inactivity leads to sin-activity. When movement stops, temptation starts. Just ask David—the Scripture says that he "tarried in Jerusalem," dilly-dallying when he should have been at war until his eyes wandered toward a bathing Bathsheba, and the rest is shameful history (cf. 2 Sam.

11).

This is why the Bible speaks so strongly about idleness and spiritual neglect. Solomon cautioned that doing nothing to maintain your house will result in its deterioration, and neglecting to care for your soul will lead to its decline (Eccl. 10:18). He similarly

taught that an idle person's life will be overrun with evil, just as a vineyard becomes overgrown due to negligence from a lazy gardener (Prov. 24:30-34). Paul also asserted that failing to be busy doing the Lord's work results in being busy doing the devil's work (2 Thess. 3:11). The Scripture even teaches that an "abundance of idleness" was one of the greatest iniquities of Sodom (Ezek. 16:49).

But you can vanquish idleness the same way you overcome temptation in the checkout lane: be vigilant, look away, and keep on moving. Believers must watch themselves and watch out for the devil's wiles (Gen. 4:7;

Gal. 6:1; 1 Peter 5:8). Christians must also be "always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58b), remaining occupied with serving Christ, praying often, reading Scripture, and participating in the local church. The great Puritan Isaac Ambrose wisely warned, "As a standing pool grows filthy of itself and full of toads and vermin, so the heart that is not engaged in something good and useful is a fit place for the devil to breed evil thoughts and filthy passions in." Save yourself some money and be watchful in the checkout lane. And save yourself some regret by resisting the subtle danger of idleness.

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