

B SECTION

June 19, 2026

**Western Kentucky**  
**Business Journal**

★ ★ ★ AMERICA'S 250 ★ ★ ★



**Area America 250 events**

America will turn 250 on July 4th and Paducah and Murray are offering opportunities to celebrate with them!

**Paducah's Independence Day**

**Celebration** will be downtown on July 4, with events starting at noon. There will be food vendors, a Ferris wheel, live music and more. Fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m.

**Murray, Kentucky Freedom Fest** is set for July 3-4. The Murray Art Guild Summer Art Party runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday. The main event is

Saturday, starting at 7 a.m. Fireworks begin at 9 p.m.

For the full schedule and list of events, visit <https://www.tourmurray.com/freedomfest>

**Wickliffe council addresses infrastructure needs, water system upgrades and ATV concerns**

By Laurna Todd  
 KPI Writer

WICKLIFFE — The Wickliffe City Council met in regular session on May 12 at City Hall, addressing a variety of city business ranging from infrastructure improvements and water system maintenance to public safety concerns involving off-road vehicles.

Mayor David Phillips

presided over the meeting, with council members Jacque Jones, Lynn Lane, David Kissiar, Karen Lawrence and Tony Meggs in attendance. Council member Cathy Pigg was absent. Also present were City Clerk/Treasurer Bethany Cain, Water and Sewer Superintendent Grant Dunning, and resident Michael Draheim.

Council approved the

April meeting minutes and April Treasurer's Report.

One of the evening's key actions was the approval of Ordinance No. 676, authorizing bids for the city's trash collection franchise. The ordinance received its second reading and was unanimously approved by council members present.

*Mayor Reports Cost Savings and Upcoming*

**Street Work**

Mayor Phillips reported that the city had saved money by replacing culverts on Frederick Lane and Case Circle using local resources. He also announced that blacktopping projects would begin soon and encouraged residents to submit street repair requests to City Hall.

see **COUNCIL**, page B3

**Barlow advances fire station grant effort, approves budget and employee raises**

By Laurna Todd  
 KPI Writer

BARLOW — The Barlow City Commissioners met May 12 at the City Hall Annex, addressing infrastructure needs, grant opportunities, financial matters, and plans for the coming fiscal year.

Mayor Peggy Meriedeth called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance before welcoming visitors.

Resident Renee Reynolds spoke to commissioners about the condition of Greenlawn Avenue, replacement of speed humps, and maintenance concerns involving a drainage gully behind her property. City officials noted that the city was unsuccessful in securing state LARP funding for road projects and will explore other options for needed street improvements. The city will also follow up on maintenance concerns regarding the drainage area.

A major topic of discussion was the potential construction of a new fire station. Emma Wibbeler of the Purchase Area Development District outlined a grant opportunity through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Commissioners approved moving forward with the grant application process and authorized

the Purchase Area Development District to begin soliciting qualifications for architectural services.

The commission also approved the April meeting minutes, monthly financial reports, and payment of city expenses.

Maintenance updates included repairs to a sewer line near Monroe Drive. Commissioners also noted that the city received full funding through a Southern Foundation grant to purchase new playground equipment for the city park.

Mayor Meriedeth reported that representatives of the gas company would meet with attorney Ted Hutchins to continue discussions regarding the formation of a nonprofit organization. She also shared that 25 seventh-grade students participating in a 4-H Leadership Class recently visited City Hall to learn about local government and tour Barlow's historic Smallest Jail.

Under new business, commissioners approved renaming the Christmas Light Fund Savings Account to the Barlow Beautification Savings Account. The fund will continue supporting projects such as park improvements, holiday decorations, and community

see **BARLOW**, page B9

# Average gasoline price falls below four dollars per gallon

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

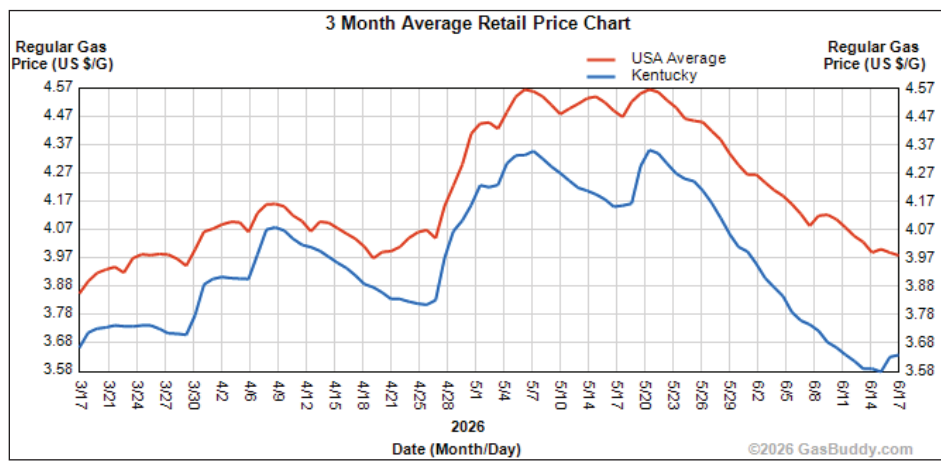
FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – The average price of gasoline nationwide fell 9.3 cents over the last week and stands at \$3.99 per gallon, according to GasBuddy data compiled across the U.S.

In Kentucky, the statewide average for regular gas stood at \$3.63 per gallon, as of mid-day on Wednesday.

“Average gasoline prices fell in 47 states over the last week, with the national average dropping below \$4 per gallon late Sunday for the

first time since mid-April,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “The decline came as oil prices moved sharply lower in reaction to news of a potential deal between the United States and Iran, though it remains to be seen whether the agreement will hold. A handful of price-cycling states saw averages jump before joining the broader downward trend.”

Looking ahead, De Haan noted, “The real test now shifts to the Strait of Hormuz, where any reopening and resumption



of normal oil flows would be the clearest signal that this relief is durable. For now, the national average could continue falling, provided there isn't a drastic reversal and the U.S. and Iran continue moving in a positive

direction.” Oil prices plunged after the U.S. and Iran announced a framework deal Sunday evening to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the critical waterway that has been the epicenter of

global energy market disruption since February. The agreement represents the most significant de-escalation since the conflict began, and markets moved quickly to price out much of the geopolitical risk premium

that had been built into crude over the past several months. Even with the drop in crude oil prices, relief at the pump won't arrive overnight, as analysts caution it could take months for shipping and refining to normalize. Crude remains more than 20 percent higher than when the conflict with Iran began, and is over 40 percent higher than at the start of the year. You can check out gas prices near you by going to [kentuckygasprices.com](http://kentuckygasprices.com), or by downloading the GasBuddy app.



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# How businesses have changed in the last 100 years

Over the past century, businesses have experienced remarkable transformations. From small family-owned shops operating with handwritten ledgers to multinational corporations using artificial intelligence and online marketplaces, the business world has continually adapted to new technologies, changing consumer expectations, and global events. While the core goal of providing valuable goods and services

remains the same, the way businesses operate today would be almost unrecognizable to entrepreneurs of the 1920s.

One of the most significant changes has been the advancement of technology. A hundred years ago, businesses relied on paper records, manual calculations, typewriters, and face-to-face

see **BUSINESSES**,  
page B11

## COUNCIL, from page B1

### Water and Sewer System Remains a Priority

Much of the meeting focused on the city's water and sewer infrastructure.

Dunning reported that repairs to the Broadway alley sewer issue were awaiting parts expected to ship May 14. Once materials arrive, repairs will be scheduled as quickly as possible.

Council also discussed ongoing problems at the sewage lift station serving the Ballard County Detention Center. Dunning said repeated clogs have occurred due to inappropriate items being flushed into the system. He suggested exploring an ordinance requiring an in-line sewage grinder to help prevent future blockages.

Additional concerns were raised regarding grease entering the sewer system from businesses, particularly near the Wickliffe Mounds lift station. City officials plan to consult with the city attorney about potential ordinances addressing both sewage grinders and grease traps.

Dunning provided

a detailed update on the city's water infrastructure following inspections of the jail water tower and the water plant's clear well storage tank.

According to preliminary findings, the jail water tower, constructed in 2001, is overdue for recoating by approximately five years. Inspectors warned that without repainting and corrosion protection, leaks could begin developing within the next five years. The clear well also requires preventive maintenance through resealing of its joints.

The estimated cost to complete both projects ranges between \$200,000 and \$300,000. Officials noted the work presents a unique challenge because the city lacks a backup water storage tank. Both structures would need to be drained and taken out of service during repairs, making long-term planning critical.

Dunning said a new water tower comparable to the existing structure would likely cost around \$4 million. While grant opportunities are being explored, available funding for water and sewer projects remains limited unless systems are experiencing severe

failures.

Other water and sewer updates included:

Completion of water line mapping throughout the city.

Progress on the wastewater lagoon disinfection system, expected to be operational within three to four weeks.

Ongoing work with James Marine regarding wastewater pretreatment requirements.

Repair of several small water leaks, sewer clogs and meter upgrades.

Removal of a culvert beneath a driveway on Case Road to prevent future sinkholes.

Planned repairs to a sewer-related sinkhole on Ohio Street.

Scheduled repairs for water leaks on Morning Meadows and behind the former pharmacy building.

Council also discussed a request from James Marine regarding a larger water line connection. Mayor Phillips informed Dunning that the city would not fund an upgraded line.

### New Water Billing Software Training Underway

Cain informed council that city staff had begun training on a new water software

system. Because training sessions are conducted through live webinars, City Hall may occasionally close during training hours, with notices posted for residents.

### Budget Planning Begins

With preparation underway for the 2026-27 fiscal year budget, Cain asked council members to submit any project or equipment requests they would like considered during budget discussions.

### ATV Complaints Prompt Action

Resident Michael Draheim raised concerns about reckless operation of three- and four-wheelers along Third Street, including reports of racing and burnouts.

Council members discussed similar issues occurring at the city park. Mayor Phillips said the city plans to install signs prohibiting off-road vehicles on paved streets and within park areas in an effort to improve safety and reduce damage.

Following completion of the agenda, Council Member Lynn Lane moved to adjourn the meeting, with the motion receiving unanimous approval.

# STIFEL CONGRATULATES



Pictured left to right:  
**Sally Teague**, Client Service Associate  
**Elliot Treece**, First Vice President/Investments  
**Lacey Metzger**, Client Service Associate  
**Adam Chustz, CFPA®**, Senior Vice President/Investments  
**Hanna Rhinehart**, Client Service Associate

## Chustz-Treece Group

for being named to

## Forbes' 2025 Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams

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*Forbes' Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams rankings are based on the 12-month period ending March 31 of the year prior to publication and selected by SHOOK Research, LLC from a pool of nominations as indicated in the methodology. The rankings may not be representative of any one client's experience and are not indicative of the financial advisor's future performance. For more information, see [www.stifel.info/award-disclosures](http://www.stifel.info/award-disclosures).*

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Nora is being spotlighted for this week's pet of the week. Nora is estimated to be just shy of a year old. She came to

McCracken County Humane Society last month, but was obtained by Animal Control back in April. Unfortunately her owner had

moved away and left her behind. This resulted in Nora being underweight and dehydrated. Thankfully, she is back to her healthy

self. She can be a little shy when it comes to meeting unfamiliar faces, but she's the best girl once she warms up to you. Nora is spayed,

microchipped, heartworm negative, and up to date on all of her vaccinations. She is also dog friendly. Her adoption fee is \$150.

Please contact: McCracken County Humane Society 4000 Coleman Road, Paducah, KY 42001 (270)443-5923

## Corvette Museum has 32nd anniversary in September

By **CHIP HUTCHESON**  
*Kentucky Today*

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (KT) — The National Corvette Museum (NCM) will honor its past, celebrate the present and drive into the future with its 32nd anniversary — a three-day celebration in Bowling Green Sept. 3-5.

The celebration will include exclusive activities, road tours, tech talks, Corvette Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Corvette raffles and more.

The museum has hosted an anniversary

celebration annually since it opened. Online registration for the celebration is open now until 9 a.m. (CDT) on Aug. 10. On-site registration will be available during the event.

One of the Corvettes now on exhibit is Michael Jordan's 1993 ZR-1. It is part of the "Pop Culture and Corvette: An American Love Affair" exhibit.

Widely recognized as one of the greatest basketball players of all time, Jordan helped redefine professional sports



during the 1990s while leading the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships in eight seasons. His impact extended far beyond basketball, influencing fashion, entertainment and American culture. Now, one of his most recognizable Corvettes has arrived at

the museum, where guests can experience another chapter in the legacy of America's Sports Car.

Jordan's Corvette gained renewed attention in ESPN's acclaimed 2020 documentary series *The Last Dance*, which chronicled the rise of Jordan and the Chi-

cago Bulls dynasty. In episode eight, viewers see Jordan stepping out of this exact Ruby Red Corvette ZR-1 following his famous "I'm back" announcement during his return to basketball.

"That moment cemented the car as more than just a high-performance Corvette. It became part of one of the most recognizable stories in modern sports history," according to a NCM press release.

Located in the Museum's iconic Skydome, guests will

see more than a dozen legendary Corvettes connected to entertainment, music, sports and popular culture. Guests can also experience nearly a half-dozen Corvette ZR1 models spanning multiple generations, highlighting the continued evolution of Corvette performance.

Jordan's vehicle is on loan to the National Corvette Museum and will remain on exhibition through Spring 2027. The Jordan ZR-1 is included with regular Museum admission.

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**NOW SHOWING**

June 19th thru June 25th

**Walt Disney's Toy Story 5**  
(PG)  
Daily at 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

June 19th thru June 25th

**MATINEES DAILY**  
**Disclosure Day (PG-13)**  
Daily 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

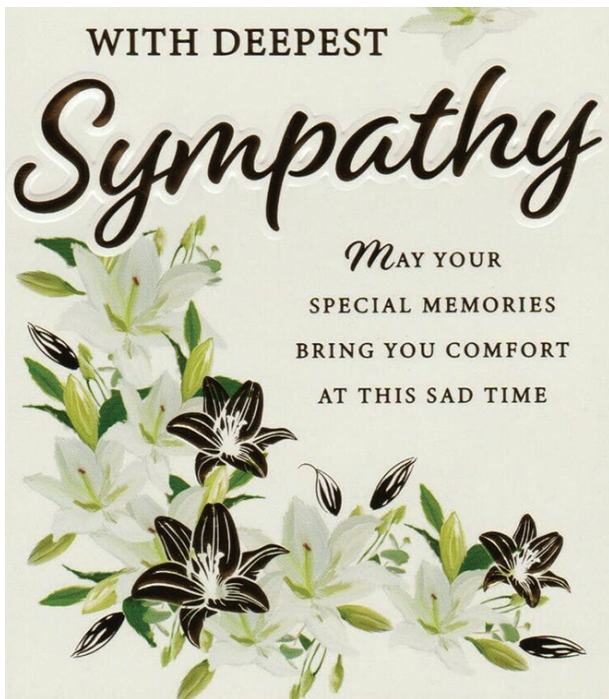
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## CALDWELL

**Claire Campbell Boone**, age 92, of Princeton, Born Mildred Claire Campbell in Lyon Co Ky December 4th 1933. She went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Monday, June 15, 2026. Visitation will be held from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm Sunday, June 21, 2026 at Morgan's Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Monday, June 22, 2026 at Morgan's Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Fredonia Cemetery.

**Robert "Bob" Moll**, 60, of Fredonia, passed away on Monday, June 15, 2026, at Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health in Paducah. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at Morgan's Funeral Home in Princeton with Bro. Josh Patton officiating. Burial will follow in White Oak Church Cemetery in Clay, Kentucky. Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2026, at Morgan's Funeral Home.

## CALLOWAY

**Joanne Moore**, 71, of Murray, passed away on Monday, June 15, 2026 at Baptist Health in Paducah. There are no events scheduled at this time. Imes Funeral Home & Cremation in Murray, KY is in charge of arrangements.

**Betty Jane Reichle**, 87, of Murray, KY, formerly Owensboro, KY, passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2026 at Murray Calloway County Hospital. The celebration of life for Betty Reichle is set for 11 am on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at Zion Baptist Church, 87 Zion Church Road, Reynolds Station, KY 42368.

**Charles Leslie McClain**, 89 of Murray, KY, passed away, Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at Passion and Purpose Homecare, Almo, KY. Arrangements are forthcoming at the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Murray, KY.

**Jimmy Dale "Jim" Overbey, Sr.**, 76, of Murray, KY, passed away Thursday, June 11, 2026 at Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray. A funeral service was conducted Saturday, June 13, 2026 in the chapel of the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home with Rev. Kim Reeder officiating. Burial with full military honors, by VFW Post 6291 Honor Guard, follow edthe service at Barnett Cemetery.

## CARLISLE

**Chadd Burgess**, 54, of Arlington, Kentucky, passed away at his residence on June 10, 2026. Visitation for Chadd was held from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington. Following the Visitation, the family would like invited everyone to stay for a special tribute at 2:00 p.m. in honor of Chadd.

## CHRISTIAN

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of **Mary "Faye" Jourdan**. Faye left this world peacefully on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at her home surrounded by family. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 PM at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home on Saturday, June 20, 2026, with Rev. Dennis Whobrey officiating. Visitation will be at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 11:00 AM until the service time at 1:00 PM. Private Entombment will be at a later date at Alexander Memorial Park Cemetery in Evansville, IN.

**Michael Ray Criswell**, age 69 of Hopkinsville passed away Friday, June 12, 2026, at his home of natural causes. Graveside Services will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 2:00 PM at New Ebenezer Cemetery with Bro. Fred Harrison officiating and burial to follow. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home was entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

**Vicki Jean Blake**, 68, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky died at 11:45 a.m., Sunday, June 14, 2026 at her home in Hopkinsville. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Lawrence Blake officiating. Burial follow edin Francis Cemetery in Alleghre, Kentucky.

**Norman Rose Sellers**, 87, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky died at 6:58 a.m., on Friday, June 12, 2026 at his home in Hopkinsville. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Robert Webb officiating. Burial followed in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West.

**Emma Alice Elizabeth Jones Knight**, daughter of the late Erman R. Jones and Ada Overall Jones, was born April 14, 1935, in Taylorsville, Kentucky. She departed from this life on Saturday, June 14, 2026, at Bradford Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, at the age of 91. Funeral Service was held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 12:00 PM at the Gamble Funeral Home, 1311 S Liberty Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Burial at Cave Springs Cemetery.

**Whit "Ole Hog" Bolton**, 71, of Greenville, KY passed away on June 14, 2026, at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital with his wife by his side. Per Whit Bolton's request, there will not be a memorial service held. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Crofton is assisting the family.

## CRITTENDEN

**Kimberley "Kim" Ann Hamby**, 62, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed peacefully into the arms of her Savior on Friday, June 12, 2026, at Baptist Health. Memorial visitation will be Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 pm at Gilbert Funeral Home. Memorial services will follow at 2:00 pm at the funeral home.

**Roberta Ellen Marshall Parish** passed away from this life on Friday, June 12, 2026 at the age of 71 at Crittenden County Nursing and Rehab in Marion, KY. Services are scheduled for 1 PM Friday, June 19, 2026 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY with interment in Whites Chapel Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 11 AM until service time Friday at the funeral home.

**Phyllis Jean Wood**, age 88, of Springfield, TN and formerly of Marion, KY passed away on June 10, 2026 at NHC-Springfield. She will be sorely missed, but the family rejoices that her long journey is over and her faith has now become sight. Funeral services for Phyllis Wood were held on Friday, June 12, 2026 at 12:00 Noon at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY with Pastor David LeNeave officiating. Burial followed in Mapleview Cemetery in Marion, KY.

## FULTON

**Otis Eugene Melton** of Fulton, KY passed peacefully at home (7:41AM) on June 15, 2026, with his daughter and caregiver, Andrea at his bedside. Otis was 103 1/2 years of age. Funeral services for Mr. Otis Melton will be held at 2 PM Friday, June 19, 2026, at the Hornbeak Funeral Chapel with burial to follow in the Greenlea Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 12 Noon Friday until the hour of service.

**Marcella "Marcy" Jane Dement**, age 92, of Haines City, Florida, and formerly of South Fulton, Tennessee, passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2026, in Florida. Memorial services for Mrs. Dement will be held at 2PM Friday, June 19, 2026 at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Visitation will be held at the church from 1PM Friday until the hour of service.

## GRAVES

**Janice Fay Bell**, 82, of Symsonia, passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at Metropolis Rehab and Healthcare Center in Metropolis, IL. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, June 19, 2026, at Symsonia Baptist Church in Symsonia with Bro. Rick Miller and Jason Bell officiating. Burial will follow at Clarks River Cemetery in Symsonia. Visitation will be held from 9:00 am to service time Friday at the church.

**Allison Marie Cox**, age 65, of Mayfield passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2026 at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY. Funeral services for Mrs. Allison Marie Cox were held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Duane Fields officiated.

**June Kaler Mohler**, age 91, of the Kaler Community, peacefully passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2026. Funeral services will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 19, 2026 at the Spring Creek Church of Christ with Brother Josh Pritchard officiating. Interment will follow in the Spring Creek Church Cemetery. Friends may call from 12:00 noon until the funeral hour on Friday, June 19, 2026 at Spring Creek Church of Christ in the Dogwood Community.

**Louis "Ned" Northington**, age 76, of Mayfield, Kentucky, passed away at 7:40 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at his residence. Funeral services for Mr. Louis "Ned" Northington were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, with burial to follow at Highland Park Cemetery. Rev. Patrick Wallace officiated.

**Darrell Fuqua**, age 88, of Pilot Oak, KY passed away Monday, June 15, 2026 at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House in Murray, KY. Funeral services were held at 2PM Thursday, June 18, 2026 at the Bethlehem United Methodist Church with burial to follow in the Bethlehem Cemetery.

**June Kaler Mohler**, age 91, of the Kaler Community, peacefully passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2026. Funeral services will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 19, 2026, at the Spring Creek Church of Christ with Brother Josh Pritchard officiating. Interment will follow in the Spring Creek Church Cemetery. Friends may call from 12:00 noon until the funeral hour on Friday, June 19, 2026 at Spring Creek Church of Christ in the Dogwood Community. Arrangements are being made by Hornbeak Funeral Home in Fulton, KY.

## FUNERAL NOTICES continued

## HENDERSON

**Ollie Loraine Fields**, age 79, of Henderson, KY, passed away at 12:01 P.M., Thursday, June 11, 2026, at Henderson Nursing & Rehab. Per Ollie's request, there will be no services. Burial will be held at a later date in Louisiana. Arrangements entrusted to Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home,

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of **Steven Earl Beaver** on June 10, 2026, in Smithfield, Utah. Relatives and friends are invited to Steve's Life Celebration at 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Thursday June 18, 2026, and again on Friday at 9:30 until service at 11:00 A.M. at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY. Services will be held at the funeral home in Henderson, KY, on Friday, June 19, 2026, at 11:00 A.M., with the Reverend Dale Beaver presiding. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, Kentucky. Military honors will be rendered by the American Legion Worsham Post #40.

**Shiela (Buttigieg) Cardwell**, 87, of Henderson, KY, passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2026. Funeral services will be 1:00 PM, Friday, June 19, 2026 at Tomblinson Funeral Home Henderson Chapel with Father Richard Meredith officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, Friday, June 19, 2026 at the funeral home.

**Samuel "Sam" Brandon Puckett**, 45, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away on June 11, 2026, at St. Anthony's Lucy Smith King Care Center, surrounded by his beloved family. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at Tomblinson Funeral Home Henderson Chapel, with Bro. Jeff Burke officiating. Burial followed in Smith Mills Cemetery.

## HICKMAN

**Thomas William Massey**, age 44, of Columbus, KY passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at his residence. A memorial service for Mr. Thomas William Massey will be held at a later date. Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

## HOPKINS

**Buddy McGregor**, 61, of Kuttawa, KY, passed away on June 10, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. Memorial services for the family will be held at a later date. Barnett-Strother Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

**Linda Ellen Robinson McCormick**, 75, passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at her home in Earlington, KY. A private graveside service will be held at Bethlehem Cemetery in Madisonville. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

**Michelle Grider Smith**, 52, of Hanson, KY, passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A memorial service will be held at Butler Funeral Home in Boliver, MO, date and time to be determined. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

**Etha Joyce Pendley Webb**, 77, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at her home surrounded by her loving family. A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Bro. Michael Pendley officiating. Burial followed at Hanson Cemetery in Hanson, KY.

**Linda Kaye Threlkeld**, 77, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at Ridgewood Terrace Health and Rehab in Madisonville. A visitation was held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville, KY.

## LIVINGSTON

**Robert Earl Hardin**, 84, passed away Sunday, June 14, 2026 at his home in Burna, Ky. Funeral services will be 1 PM Friday, June 19, 2026 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial will follow at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family from 11 AM until the funeral time at Boyds Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

## LYON

**Johnny "Jackie" Patton**, age 74, of Eddyville, passed away Monday, June 15, 2026 at his home. Visitation will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at Lakeland Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, June 20, 2026 at Lakeland Funeral Home with Josh Patton officiating. Burial will follow in Rolling Hills Cemetery in Eddyville.

## MARSHALL

**Ron Richard**, 82, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at the Oakview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Calvert City, Kentucky. There are no services scheduled at this time. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling the arrangements.

**Charles Leonard West**, age 82, of Mayfield, passed away on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at Jackson Purchase Medical Center. A graveside service will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at Haymes Cemetery in Benton with Bro. Mike Littrell officiating. There will not be a public visitation.

## McCRACKEN

**Brenda Browning Hubbard**, 77, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at 8:32 a.m. Tuesday, June 16, 2026, in Paducah, Kentucky. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Jeff Russell officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

**Ronnie Lee Coursey**, 80, passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at the Calvert City Convalescent Center in Calvert City, KY. A memorial visitation was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, from 5:00-8:00 PM at the Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah.

**Michael Linn Wyatt**, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away Saturday morning, June 13th, 2026 at the age of 77. A memorial service honoring Mike's life will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, June 19, 2026, at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Visitation will be held from 9:30 AM until the service hour of 2:00 PM on Friday, June 19, 2026, at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

**Kathrine Elizabeth "Betsy" Threet**, 94, passed away peacefully on June 11, 2026, in Paducah, Kentucky. There are no services scheduled at this time. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah are in charge of arrangements.

**Gene Peck**, raised as Gene Hurt, 88, of Paducah, passed away on Friday, June 12, 2026,

at Baptist Health Paducah. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at Oaklawn Baptist Church in Paducah with Pastor Jarry Merritt officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Paducah.

**Camelia D. Knight**, known affectionately as Camie, passed away on June 11, 2026, at Western Baptist. There are no services scheduled at this time. Keeling & Goodman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Knight family.

## TRIGG

**Carol Ann Courtney** - July 3, 1962 - June 10, 2026 - A Celebration of Life for 63 year old Carol Ann Courtney of Hopkinsville will be held Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Voice of Faith Church in Crofton, KY with Pastor Clint Hopper officiating. King's Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Beverly Heimlich Martin**, age 80, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, June 12, 2026, at her home in Cadiz. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at 12:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 302 S 4th St, Cissna Park, Illinois. Interment will follow at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, in Cissna Park. Visitation will precede the service at the Church, from 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM.

**Bill Rager**, age 87, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at his home in Cadiz. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz, where the family received friends on Monday, June 15, 2026, from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM CDT. Graveside service, conducted by Dickerson Funeral Home in Veedersburg, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 12:00 PM EDT, at Centennial Cemetery, 465 E 800 S, Kingman, Indiana, where Bill was laid to rest with his wife Jan.

## UNION

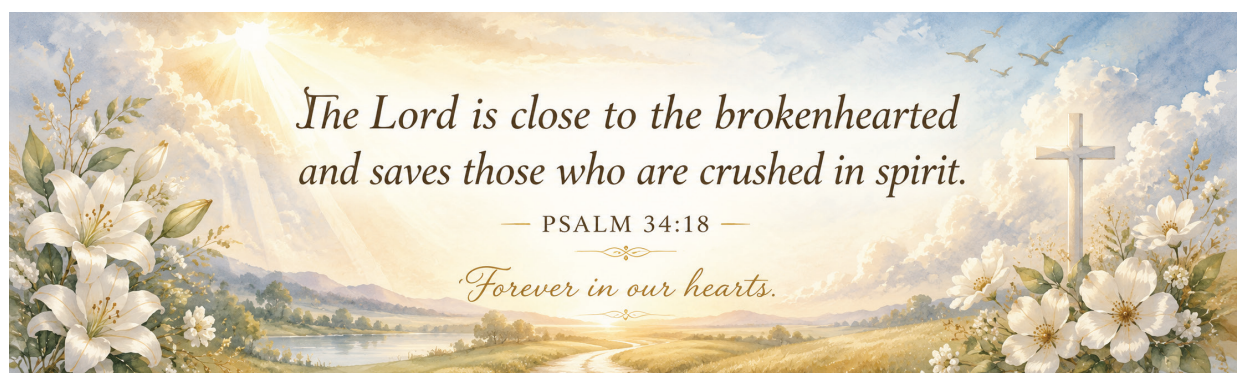
**William Bryan "Bill" Johnson Sr.**, 76, of Henshaw, Kentucky, passed away on June 12, 2026. Funeral was held at 3 PM on Thursday June 18, 2026 At Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Josh Dossett officiated. Burial was held in Caseyville Cemetery in Sturgis, KY.

**Amanda Kay Owen Finnie** passed away on June 11, 2026 at age 71, in a medical facility near Charlotte, NC. There are no events scheduled at this time. Whitsell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## WEBSTER

**Alice A. Chandler**, 77 of Dixon passed away peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at Shemwell HealthCare in Providence, KY. Funeral services will be Friday, June 19, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay with Blake Beaver officiating. Burial will be in Chandler Cemetery outside of Dixon. Visitation will be Friday at 10:00 AM till service time at the funeral home.

**Jill Fancy Lynn**, aged 53, of Henderson, formerly of Clay, passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, June 11, 2026. Following Jill's wishes, cremation has been chosen, and there will be no formal services at this time. Condolences may be offered online at [www.vanoverfuneralhome.com](http://www.vanoverfuneralhome.com).



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

## Is paying your bills getting increasingly harder?

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

Buyer beware. Everything around you is geared toward taking the money you work so hard to make. Department stores have one motive in mind: taking your money. Drug companies (no matter how harmful the side effects are) have one motive in mind: taking your money. Banks have one motive in mind: taking your money and using it to make them more money. As strange as it seems, some of your friends have one motive in mind: taking your money. Amazon, which I love, is geared toward taking our money. So, what do you do to fight against the desperate battle for your money that surrounds you all day, every day?

Almost everyone in America has heard of the financial guru, Dave Ramsey. He says, “We (Ameri-



cans) are ignorant as to how much effort, time, energy, and money is spent to get our business and thereby our money. While companies spend billions of dollars and hours to sell to us, we sit idly by, getting sold and sold and sold.”

Ramsey said if you want to be debt free

you must, “figure out what your actual income is and then proceed to live far below that mark.” He says you must remind yourself to slow down. Evaluate carefully every purchase because you may be sacrificing your financial freedom for years to come.

Ramsey says if you

must borrow money there are two sure-fire guidelines to abide by. First, borrow on short terms and only borrow on items that go up in value. That means, it’s okay to borrow for a house that is within your budget, but borrow for the least number of years you possibly can.

I wonder if most American’s have more trouble getting out of debt, or keeping out of debt?

He says, “Debt will always get you in trouble. Have you ever lain awake at night wondering which bills were going to get paid? Have you ever wished you could buy something

for your children but didn’t have the money?” According to scripture debt will bind you and choke the life out of you. Proverbs 22:7 says, “The rich rule over the poor and the borrow is servant to the lender.”

The Bible speaks against being impulsive. It says, “He who is impulsive exalts folly” (Prov 14:29).

Dave Ramsey is a first-hand rags-to-riches kind of guy. At 26-years-old, he had a \$4 million portfolio, but by the age of 30 he was bankrupt. He has since rebuilt his financial life and devotes himself to helping others who find themselves in the same “mess”. This is not an advertisement for Dave Ramsey, but a bell ringer to get our attention in a volatile financial world. I believe God gives us wisdom when we actively try to make wise choices.

## MOMENTARY AFFLICTION

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett  
Bandana Baptist Church

Numbness arrested my legs. Every step was an agonizing jolt, making it impossible to ignore the excruciating pain. Sweat trickled down my face and tears nearly did, too. Every fiber of my being screamed for me to throw in the towel. All of this agony stemmed from the 375-foot ascent to Eagle Point Buttriss in the Red River Gorge of eastern Kentucky.

But once I got to the peak, the sights made the struggle worthwhile. The breathtaking panoramic views stretched as far as the eye could see, as lush pine valleys and rolling hills came together to paint an unforgettable land-

scape. The beautiful blue sky was like an ocean floating in the heavens. The sun cast a golden glow upon every rock, tree, and stream in the wilderness, illuminating the scene with warmth. And as I took in the incredible scenery, every ounce of my pain melted away.

And the Bible says the same thing about the believer’s earthly sufferings. The uphill climb of life’s trials can make you feel like giving up. There will be times when you feel like you can’t take another step on the tribulation-laden road to everlasting life. But the sight of Jesus Christ in glory will make all of your sufferings worthwhile. That is why Peter said, “But

rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed” (1 Peter 4:13).

Being with Jesus in heaven will far surpass the pain of your earthly hardships. As a matter of fact, the magnitude of your heavenly reward far outweighs the gravity of your tribulations on earth—so much so that a comparison between them is impossible! As Paul aptly said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18). The troubles of this life are temporary and they weigh nothing compared to the

weight of heaven: “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (2 Cor. 4:17). What is one drop of sorrow compared to an overflowing cup of joy in eternity? What are a thousand dark days compared to being forever in the light of God’s glorious presence?

I also snapped many photographs of the awe-inspiring peak to help me remember why the climb was well worth it. And believers likewise have a picture of heaven to encourage them that the excruciating climb of life will be worth it in the end: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with

them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no

more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4).



### A - Admit to God That You Are A Sinner

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. - Romans 3:23 Repent, turn away from your sin. - Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9

### 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

# OUTDOOR Truths

By Gary Miller  
Outdoortruths.org



As adults, we all can look back on our lives and find people or moments that will forever be etched into our memories. Some of them will not only forever be remembered, but they are the ones that changed the trajectory of our lives. It may be the death of a loved one, an illness, or a tragedy, but these periods moved us to places we would have never otherwise gone. Thankfully some of these events were good as well. For instance, I can remember my first time fishing at the lake and my first time sitting in a tree stand waiting on a deer. Both became

part of the foundation of these articles that I have written for 24 years and the ministry they birthed. But the real life-changing event came without excitement. In fact, without one small gesture, it would have been quickly forgotten. It didn't come from anything that was special or anyone that was famous. But it is the one thing that changed my life forever. And it is the one thing I continue to go back to, to offer to others who may need that same life change as I did.

It happened one evening as I was preparing to speak at a wild game dinner, 18

years ago, this month. The event was small and held outdoors. About an hour before that event, two men drove up in an older van. I remember a couple of things about their arrival. First, as I noticed the interior of the van, it looked like they were living out of it. I don't think they were, but it looked like it. And secondly, as I noticed the appearance of these two guys, it looked like they were living out of the van. Lol. There was nothing special about our encounter. But for some reason I noticed their kindness. After a few introductions, they handed me a

thin paperback book and invited me to read it. I thanked them, tossed the book in my truck, and went on with my business. I don't know how long after that, that I decided to pick up that book, but when I began to read, I couldn't put it down. It changed my life because it showed me that God had already freed me from the responsibility of trying to live the Christian life in my own strength. It explained how Paul came to the end of his efforts to keep the law so that he could simply trust Christ to live His life through him. In essence, it broke the

grip that legalism had on me and showed me what grace really was, and how it was not only responsible for my salvation, but also for any spiritual growth I will ever experience. My job was not to produce the life of Christ. My job was simply to bring myself to the Source. Since that time, I have shared that message across the country, looking for others like me who have grown tired of their inability to live the Christian life by their own efforts. Looking for others who need someone to fire them from the job they were never qualified to do. So, happy

anniversary to me! Eighteen years ago, two ordinary men handed me a little book, and God used it to change everything. "It's for freedom, that Christ has set you free." ~Paul

*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*

## Our world is not meant to be perfect

By William F Holland Jr.  
billyhollandministries.com

The Lord has given most of us a good life filled with blessings, but with me, no matter how much "stuff" we accumulate, it does not bring spiritual contentment or joy. And in all honesty, it's not supposed to. I've been around a while, and lately I'm rarely pleased with anything. I realize I'm probably too picky, but I have a standard that simply wants what I pay for. It seems no matter how much I spend, there are always details that disappoint me. For example, over the years we've had a lot of remodeling work done on our home, as most of you know, it's not cheap. The problem is that instead of skilled craftsmen who take pride in their work, there is now an army of people who try to

hurry and finish a job without the conviction of doing it right.

Another area I'm growing weary of is the food industry. In our area, there are only a few places that serve decent meals, while the overwhelming majority of restaurants have disgruntled employees, and this lackadaisical attitude shows up in their service and their products. I do not believe it's demanding too much to have an expectation to be satisfied with my purchase. Again, it's obvious in our day and age that most people do not want to work, and couldn't care less about doing what they are paid to do. Whether it be new cars, new houses, clothing, vacations, or whatever, it seems that very few things are what we dreamed they would be. Surprise: it was never intended to.

Even Solomon, who had everything, was depressed because nothing on earth can spiritually satisfy or take the place of our personal relationship with God.

I've often wondered if my expectations are unrealistic, but I just believe that when we pay for something, we deserve a quality product and quality service. It's one thing to make a mistake, but when there is no effort or concern to give people what they pay for, this is unacceptable. Controlling how we react to disappointments can help our emotional roller coasters, and when we recognize that flaws and failures will always be with us, it allows us to appreciate the small victories when they happen. How encouraging it is to imagine that many of our loved ones, our new name, our new

body, our inheritance, and citizenship, along with crowns and rewards, are all a part of our glorious and "perfect" future. How wonderful to know that heaven will be filled with endless praise, everlasting joy, perfect peace, and contentment without darkness, discouragement, or disappointment.

We are only briefly passing through this "imperfect" world, and the only thing we will take with us when we leave is an account of how we lived. It's sad but true that not everyone is concerned with their eternal destiny. We are graciously given eternal life when we repent, confess, obey, and receive Christ as our Lord who willingly paid our ransom. Billy Graham is quoted, "I will not go to heaven because I am a preacher. I'm going to heaven entirely on the merit

of the work of Christ. The most thrilling thing about heaven is that Jesus Christ will be there!" "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born-again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:3-4).

When we talk about hope, this usually means we are wondering if something is going to turn out the way we want, but there is a spiritual hope empowered by faith where we can definitely know that God is watching and listening, and that our prayers will be answered without having to worry or be afraid. Romans 15:13 reminds us, "May the

God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." You see, those who trust and know God have been born again into an eternal inheritance that can never change or fail. Adam and Eve, and even the earth is under a curse, but there is coming a day when mediocrity will be no more. God has always been perfect, and in the future, we will be perfect, heaven will be perfect, and we will never be disappointed again.

*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*

# Coleman joins AGs urging EPA review the impact of mifepristone on water systems

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) — Kentucky’s attorney general is continuing his fight to mitigate the influence and impact of a popular abortion drug in the bluegrass state.

AG Russell Coleman joined 13 of his counterparts in petitioning the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to flag mifepristone for review in the next Contaminant Candidate List (CCL or CCL 6).

Mifepristone is the first of two drugs used to end early intrauterine pregnancy. It is a synthetic steroid and endocrine disruptor that blocks progesterone, the pregnancy hormone that supports early fetal development. The attorneys general called it “a growing threat to the country’s waterways” in a June 5 comment letter.

The Safe Drinking Water Act, passed in 1996, requires the CCL to be reviewed and updated every five years. A draft for the sixth CCL was published in April; it includes 75 chemicals, 4 chemical groups (including microplastics and PFAS) and disinfection byproducts and 9 microbes.

Contaminants identified by the list are not yet regulated but



AG Coleman. (Kentucky Today/Lawrence Smith)

are known or anticipated to appear in public water systems. The EPA uses the CCL to identify contaminants for future regulatory decision-making, a separate process called Regulatory Determination.

Mifepristone was not initially nominated for CCL 6 consideration back in April 2023.

The attorneys general noted the recent proliferation of mifepristone and the nationwide rise of chemical abortions in their letter, saying the surge in “home-setting chemical abortions has serious implications for the Safe Drinking Water Act.”

Following the fall of abortion-sanctioning Roe v. Wade and its protections in mid-2022, chemical abortions have steadily increased. The Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion research and advocacy organization, found they accounted for 63% of abortions in 2023. “As mifepristone’s use is now at an all-time high, its inclusion on the CCL is a logical step to further investigate the impact of its newfound prevalence on the public health,” the chief legal officers said.

They cited research suggesting the progesterone-blocking metabolites in the drug persist after disposal,

and conventional wastewater treatment is not designed to remove them. Both factors create a “strong reason” to conclude that mifepristone’s chemical compounds persist in the environment and the water supply.

All expressed concern that “pregnant women who unintentionally ingest the drug through the public water supply could be at greater risk of health complications than the general population.”

The attorneys general urged the EPA to amend CCL 6 to include mifepristone and its approved generics. “The health of pregnant women and Americans everywhere may depend on it,” they concluded.

The letter was submitted to the EPA on the final day of a comment period that ended on June 5.

Coleman did not respond to a request for comment.

BARLOW,  
from page B1

beautification efforts. Commissioners also approved closing the city’s old State Aid Savings Account to comply with state direct-deposit requirements.

Additional actions included approval of the FY2027 Municipal Aid Road Fund Cooperative Program Agreement Resolution, acceptance of the FY2025 audit conducted by Clayton, Byrd and Meeks, and first reading approval of the FY2027 city budget.

Following an executive session

regarding employee compensation, commissioners approved a 5 percent cost-of-living increase for city employees for FY2027.

The meeting concluded with adjournment following the completion of all agenda items.

The Barlow City Commission normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex. Officials noted that the July meeting will be held on the same date but at an earlier time. The exact meeting time will be announced once scheduling is finalized.

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# Tips to trace your own history while celebrating America's

Millions of Americans will spend some time in 2026 commemorating 250 years of United States history. The U.S. turns 250 in July 2026, and the summer figures to be an especially celebratory time across the 50 states.

As Americans engage with their nation's history, they might be compelled to learn more about their personal history as well. Genealogy has become a popular pastime in the twenty-first century, and the National Archives offers these tips to anyone looking to do some digging into their personal history as they celebrate 250 years of the United States.

**• Start with yourself.** The National Archives recommends starting with the person you know best: yourself. Your own personal details can serve as a starting point as you work toward more unknown facets of your family history. After you note all of your own details, learn and document

all you can about your parents and then do the same in relation to your grandparents.

• Emphasize four vital components. The National Archive notes that names, dates, places, and relationships are the tools of the family researcher. That's because these nuggets of information have long been used to identify people in public records.

• **Peruse any existing family archives.** Many families have kept their own archives over the years, even if that record-keeping was not widely known within a family. A relative might have kept various types of documents that help to paint a picture of your genealogy. Ask around in the family to see if anyone has kept records, which might include:

- Newspaper clippings
- Birth and death certificates
- Military certificates
- Marriage licenses



- Letters
- Diaries
- Photographs/photo books
- Scrapbooks

• **Let others know.** Inform family members near and far that you're working on a genealogy project. A relative might have beaten you to it, and that person could have lots of valuable information and documents to share.

Others might be able to point you toward a relative who has become the unofficial family historian. In addition, cousins and aunts and uncles might have records from their own immediate families, which can help you as you conduct your own research.

• **Access government records.** The U.S. federal

census dates all the way back to 1790, which makes it a potentially excellent source of information for your project. State and county archives also can be wonderful resources that keep records of births, deaths, marriages, and other notable events that can help people trace their family histories. Even local libraries might have records of your

family, especially if your family has been settled in the same area for a significant amount of time.

American history might be the focal point in the United States in 2026. But that renewed emphasis on history also makes 2026 a great time to study your own family's part in helping the nation make it to its 250th birthday.



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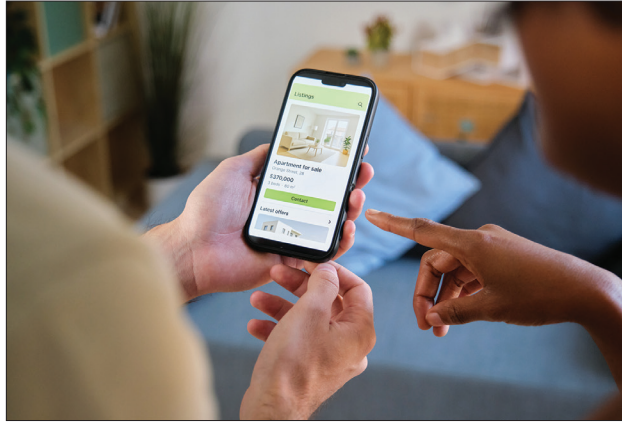
**BUSINESSES,**  
from page B3

communication. Telephones were becoming more common, but many transactions still depended on letters delivered through the mail. Today, computers, smartphones, cloud storage, and high-speed internet allow companies to communicate instantly with customers, suppliers, and employees anywhere in the world. Tasks that once required hours of paperwork can now be completed in minutes.

The rise of the internet has also transformed the way companies sell products. In the early twentieth century, customers had to visit a physical store or order from printed catalogs. Today, online shopping allows consumers to purchase nearly anything with a few clicks. Small businesses can now reach customers across the country—or even around the globe—without opening additional storefronts. Social media platforms and digital advertising have also become powerful marketing tools, helping businesses connect directly with their audiences.

Transportation and logistics have improved dramatically as well. In the 1920s, shipping goods often took weeks or even months. Modern highways, air freight, and sophisticated supply chain management systems have made it possible for products to be delivered quickly and efficiently. Many consumers now expect next-day or even same-day delivery, something that would have seemed impossible a century ago.

The workplace itself has undergone major changes. Early businesses often expected long workdays with few employee benefits. Over time, labor laws improved working conditions by establishing minimum wages, workplace safety standards, and limits on child labor. Today, many companies



also offer health insurance, retirement plans, paid leave, flexible schedules, and opportunities for professional development. The growth of remote work, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, has shown that many jobs can be performed successfully from home.

Customer service has evolved alongside these changes. In the past, word-of-mouth was one of the primary ways businesses built their reputations. While personal recommendations remain valuable, today's consumers can instantly read online reviews, compare prices, and research companies before making purchases. Businesses must now maintain strong customer relationships both in person and online, responding quickly to feedback and adapting to changing expectations.

Another important development has been globalization. Many companies now buy materials from one country, manufacture products in another, and sell them worldwide. This interconnected economy creates opportunities for growth but also presents challenges, including supply chain disruptions, international competition, and changing trade policies.

Environmental and social responsibility have also become increasingly important. Consumers often expect businesses to reduce waste, conserve energy, support charitable causes, and operate ethically. Many companies now publish sustainability reports and invest in environmentally friendly practices, recognizing that responsible business decisions can

strengthen customer trust and long-term success.

Despite all these changes, some things remain constant. Successful businesses continue to depend on honesty, quality products, excellent customer service, and the ability to adapt. Entrepreneurs still take risks, solve problems, and work to meet the needs of their communities.

As technology continues to advance with artificial intelligence, automation, and new forms of communication, businesses will undoubtedly continue to evolve. Looking back over the last 100 years shows that while tools and methods may change dramatically, innovation, resilience, and a commitment to serving customers remain the foundation of lasting business success.

# 9 facts about the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is a document that indicates the founding principles of the United States of America. The declaration was issued by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and announced the separation of the 13 British colonies in North America from the United Kingdom.

That significance means the public may want to learn more about the Declaration of Independence. Here are some key facts.

1. While Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was carefully reviewed and modified by other members of the Continental Congress, notably John Adams and Benjamin

Franklin.

2. The Continental Congress actually voted for independence on July 2, 1776. The written Declaration was dated July 4, 1776, but it wasn't actually signed until August 2nd of that year. John Adams thought July 2nd would be marked as the national holiday.

3. Fifty-six delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, but not all were present on that day in August.

4. While many know that John Hancock signed first, with his prominent signature readily visible, it is believed that Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to sign.

5. Others signed according to state delegation and in

columns, starting with the northernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).

6. About 200 copies of the Dunlap Broadside were printed. Today, 26 copies remain.

7. The original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence has been lost.

8. The Declaration of Independence was not universally accepted, and many people in the colonies remained loyal to the British monarchy and opposed American independence.

9. The Declaration of Independence has a message written on the back of it. It reads, "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776."



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# Business Briefs

## **PADUCAH** **Baptist Health** **Paducah** **Announces** **\$19M Surgical** **Expansion**

PADUCAH, Ky. — Baptist Health Paducah plans to invest \$19 million in an expansion and renovation of its Surgical and Central Sterile departments to accommodate growing demand for advanced and robotic-assisted procedures.

The project, expected to be completed in fall 2027, will add three operating rooms, including two dedicated to da Vinci robotic surgery and one equipped with Siemens biplane technology for advanced endovascular procedures. The hospital will also relocate and expand its Central Sterile department, adding new sterilization equipment and processing capacity to support higher surgical volumes.

The investment follows continued growth in surgical services. Baptist Health Paducah performed more than 14,000 surgeries in 2025, including more than 1,700 robotic-assisted procedures. Hospital officials said the additional operating rooms will improve access to specialized care and increase efficiency across the surgical department.

The expansion builds on a \$17 million

surgical services project completed in 2012 and supports the hospital's ongoing efforts to expand surgical specialties and recruit additional surgeons.

Ray Black & Son will serve as general contractor for the project.

## **McCRACKEN** **GLE plant \$1.76** **billion uranium re-** **enrichment facility** **in McCracken** **County**

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Global Laser Enrichment (GLE) plans to invest \$1.76 billion to develop the Paducah Laser Enrichment Facility, a depleted uranium re-enrichment operation expected to create 240 high-wage jobs in McCracken County.

The proposed 665-acre facility would be located adjacent to the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and next to the planned uranium enrichment project being developed by General Matter. If completed, the project would represent the largest capital investment in western Kentucky history.

The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority has approved a preliminary incentive package worth up to \$98.9 million, including tax incentives tied to investment and job

creation targets. The project calls for an average hourly wage of \$62, including benefits.

GLE, a joint venture of Australia-based Silex Systems and Canada-based Cameco Corp., is seeking federal approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the facility. The operation would re-enrich more than 200,000 metric tons of depleted uranium under a U.S. Department of Energy contract, supporting domestic nuclear fuel production while advancing federal cleanup efforts at the Paducah site.

Headquartered in Wilmington, North Carolina, GLE is commercializing laser-based uranium enrichment technology and has invested more than \$550 million in engineering, design and licensing activities. The company has also been selected for up to \$28.5 million in U.S. Department of Energy funding.

The announcement further strengthens Paducah's growing role in the domestic nuclear energy supply chain as multiple uranium enrichment projects advance in the region.

## **HOPKINSVILLE** **Hopkinsville** **officials debate** **potential uses for** **\$20.6 million in** **unassigned cash** **HOPKINSVILLE,** **Ky. — Hopkinsville city**

leaders are weighing how to use more than \$20 million in unassigned cash after the city ended May with reserves well above required levels.

During a City Council meeting on June 16, Chief Financial Officer Melissa Clayton reported the city held approximately \$20.6 million in unassigned cash, representing 44% of the general fund. City policy requires a minimum reserve of 20%, with 25% recommended. While the percentage is expected to decline during the heavy spending months of June and July, Clayton said reserves typically remain above 35% even at their lowest point.

Councilmember Clayton Sumner questioned whether the city should continue maintaining reserves at more than double the required level while facing infrastructure needs and recent departmental cuts. Sumner suggested the city consider investing more in road and sidewalk improvements or reducing taxes for residents.

Clayton cautioned against committing funds based solely on current balances, noting that reserve levels fluctuate throughout the year and are typically lowest in September after summer expenditures are paid.

The discussion comes as the City

Council approved the continuation of the Future Funding Committee, a seven-member panel that reviews budget and funding issues. Councilmember Chuck Crabtree proposed that the committee examine potential uses for excess reserves, including flood mitigation projects and road improvements.

Mayor James R. Knight noted that Hopkinsville Public Works could face future budget pressures due to changes in Municipal Road Aid funding. Clayton said some of the reserve funds could potentially be budgeted for city priorities while still maintaining a healthy financial cushion, but



Major Jason Swain

emphasized that the decision ultimately rests with the council.

## **Hopkinsville** **Salvation Army** **names new corps** **officer**

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. — The Salvation Army of Hopkinsville has appointed Major Jason Swain as its new Corps Officer, effective June 22.

Swain arrives from Ashland, Kentucky, where he served for the past five years. He previously worked at The Salvation Army's National Headquarters as an editor for The War Cry and has held leadership, finance, and youth ministry roles throughout his career.

A Salvation Army officer for 28 years, Swain brings more than four decades of involvement with the organization. He said he looks forward to serving the Hopkinsville community and continuing the organization's mission of meeting local needs.

"Each city has its unique strengths and local flavors," Swain said. "I'm excited to experience both of these."

The Salvation Army will host a Welcome Sunday Service at 11 a.m. on June 28 at its facility at 310 E. Seventh St. Community members are invited to attend and meet the new leader.

Swain succeeds previous leadership following a reassignment and emphasized that The Salvation Army remains committed to responding to community needs through its various programs and services for individuals and families in Christian County.



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**Hopkinsville businesses to see changes in net profit license fees beginning July 1**

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. — Hopkinsville businesses will see changes to the city's Net Profit License Fee structure beginning July 1 under a recently approved ordinance aimed at reducing fees for many filers while streamlining the process.

Under Ordinance No. 09-2026, the net profit license fee rate will decrease from 1.5% to 1.3%, while the minimum license fee for businesses grossing more than \$25,000 annually will drop from \$250 to \$100.

The ordinance also introduces a new \$25 processing fee for businesses with annual gross receipts of \$25,000 or less, which were previously exempt from renewal fees. Businesses that file returns after the deadline may be subject to penalties and interest charges.

The changes will first affect businesses with a March 31 fiscal year-end, whose net profit license fee returns are due July 15, 2026.

City officials said they are working to notify businesses and tax professionals through updated forms, direct communication, and public outreach efforts ahead of the implementation date. Businesses are encouraged to review the new requirements and prepare for the upcoming changes.

**MURRAY Data Center development under review**

Officials in Murray are considering new regulations for potential data center projects as interest in large-scale technology and infrastructure developments grows in Calloway County. The city's planning commission recently scheduled a public hearing to discuss proposed rules that would govern future data center construction and operations. The move signals increasing interest in technology-related investment in the region.

**PRINCETON Meat processing facility expands operations**

A major investment in Princeton's agricultural sector

is moving forward after Better For Butchery acquired a 27,000-square-foot USDA-inspected meat processing facility. Company leaders say the operation will help strengthen supply chains for independent meat producers and support economic growth in rural communities. The facility is expected to increase processing capacity and create opportunities for local farmers and producers.

Cadiz: Former Ascend Elements Site Under New Ownership Economic development leaders in Trigg County are focusing on future job creation after a new owner assumed control of the former Ascend Elements site near Cadiz. Local officials say they are optimistic the property can attract new industrial investment and employment opportunities, though details about future development plans have not yet been announced.

**MAYFIELD Regional economic momentum continues**

While no major business announcements were reported in Mayfield this week, the broader western Kentucky region continues to benefit from strong economic development activity. State officials reported more than \$7 billion in announced and approved investments during the first quarter of 2026, including several major projects in western Kentucky that are expected to strengthen regional supply chains, workforce opportunities, and business growth.

**REGIONAL**

Western Kentucky continues to attract significant industrial and manufacturing investment, highlighted by a \$1.76 billion uranium enrichment project planned in Paducah that is expected to create 240 jobs with average wages exceeding \$60 per hour. Economic development officials say large-scale projects like this could generate secondary opportunities for suppliers, contractors, and businesses throughout the region, including Calloway, Trigg, Graves, and Caldwell counties.

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# U.S. 68 at Interstate 24 Exit 16 in McCracken County to close on June 22nd

## Truck detour between US 62 and US 68 using KY 131/284

PADUCAH, Ky. — As a reminder, U.S. 68 at the Interstate 24 Exit 16 Interchange in McCracken County will close to traffic on Monday, June 22, weather permitting. This closure includes the I-24 Exit 16 ramps in both directions and the U.S. 68 overpass over the interstate, or U.S. 68 mile point 0.7 to 1.3. There will be no through traffic.

A contractor for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) plans to start work on the district's first roundabouts on state highways. The closure could remain in effect for up to 120 days, weather permitting.

Closing the interchange allows crews to complete the project more efficiently and in a shorter timeframe than would be possible with lane restrictions and multiple temporary closures.

Those traveling along I-24 needing to reach U.S. 62 near Paducah's Southside and U.S. 68 near Reidland should exit the interstate at Exit 11.

An official truck route will be signed at the signalized intersection on U.S. 60/62 near the Ledbetter Bridge. Commercial and larger vehicles should follow U.S. 62 to KY 131 in Reidland, then continue along the KY 131/KY 284 corridor to U.S. 68.

Detour signs will also be posted at KY 131/Said Road at its intersection with KY 284 (near Traders Mall Flea Market) and at U.S. 62 at its intersection with U.S. 68 (near Mercy Health Reidland).

Local traffic and passenger cars have several options to choose from when traveling from U.S. 62 to U.S. 68, including the following routes:

KY 1887/Park Road to KY 131/Reidland Road (Near Smile Station).

KY 787/Calvert Drive to KY 131/Benton Road (Near Huck's).

KY 1201/Culp Road and KY 787/Rosebower Church Road.

KY 1042/Sharpe School Road (in Marshall County).

KY 1610/Mt. Moriah Road (in Marshall County).

Passenger vehicle detours will not be signed.

A roundabout is a circular intersection where traffic travels counterclockwise around a central island.

Roundabouts are a nationally-proven innovative intersection design that provides a 37% reduction in overall crashes and a 75% reduction in injury crashes by reducing conflict points and the risk of right-angle, or more severe, crashes.

According to Kentucky State Police crash data, over the last five years, 71 crashes were recorded on this stretch of U.S. 68, with 30% resulting in injuries.

Roundabouts are designed to safely accommodate all vehicle types, including passenger cars, tractor-trailers, school buses, and vehicles towing boats or trailers.

The design features a truck apron, which helps large vehicles safely navigate the turns. The apron is raised slightly above the roadway and constructed with a

different color or texture material to distinguish it from the regular travel lane. This paved ring around the central island allows trucks, buses, and other large vehicles to safely track over it while turning within the roundabout.

Learn more about roundabouts on the KYTC's SAFERoad Solutions website at <https://transportation.ky.gov/saferoadsolutions/>.

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

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# June is Dairy Month in KY

By **TOM LATEK**  
*Kentucky Today*

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell joined dairy industry representatives and dairy producers, to sign a proclamation honoring the dairy industry and June as Dairy Month in Kentucky.

The proclamation was signed during Dairy Night at the Ballgame with the Lexington Legends on Friday, where Shell also threw out the ceremonial first pitch. “Kentucky’s dairy industry is a fantastic foundation for the

Commonwealth’s agricultural success,” Commissioner Shell said. “In June, we honor these hard-working individuals and an industry that brings us wholesome, delicious, and nutritious products each and every day. Through the years, our dairy partners, as a group, have made the necessary changes to adapt to a changing environment. For that and the products the industry provides, I’m happy to declare June as Dairy Month in Kentucky.”

Like the cattle industry, the dairy cattle industry decreased slightly in 2026, from 41,000 milk cows the previous years to 38,000 at the beginning of January. Despite the decrease, Kentucky remains

a significant dairy producer. Kentucky’s 38,000 dairy cows produce milk – the Official Beverage of Kentucky since 2005 – along with ice cream, artisan cheeses, and other tasty dairy products. Dairy farmers help provide Kentucky families with the calcium, protein, vitamins, and minerals they need to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

On average, each dairy cow produces nearly 6.5 gallons of milk a day, meaning Kentucky dairy cows produced more than 92 million gallons of milk last year. Milk ranks eighth as a Kentucky agriculture product with Kentucky dairy producers receiving more than \$174.9 million in cash receipts from sales

of dairy products. Kentucky has about 325 licensed dairy farms. On average each dairy cow generates more than \$13,700 in economic ripple effect each year.

Barren County has the most dairy cows, followed by Adair, Logan, Christian, and Todd counties.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) helps Kentucky dairy farmers and processors find new markets for their products and conducts dairy cattle shows across the state. For a list of dairy producers and products across the state, visit KDA’s directory of dairy products at [kyagr.com/agbus/category.aspx?group=7](http://kyagr.com/agbus/category.aspx?group=7).

### NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE

Big Rivers Electric Corporation will hold an open house on Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM Central Daylight Time (4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time) as an opportunity to provide written feedback related to Big Rivers’ 2026 Integrated Resource Plan. The open house will be held at the Big Rivers Training Center located 300 North Water Street, Henderson, Kentucky. The information available at the open house and instructions for written feedback will also be available on June 25, 2026, on the Big Rivers website, [www.bigrivers.com/irp](http://www.bigrivers.com/irp).

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# Study analyzes buyers' assumptions about carpal chips in Thoroughbred yearlings

*University of Kentucky research confirms that surgical removal of carpal osteochondral fragments may help protect a yearling's sales price and racing future.*

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— See the vet reports during any yearling sale and you'll hear it — a ripple of concern when a veterinarian flags a bone chip on a radiograph of the horse's leg. Buyers often step away. Prices drop. The horse, in the minds of many, is already compromised.

However, findings from a study out of the University of Kentucky Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center are challenging that assumption, which for sellers and consignors carry real financial weight.

The research, published in the *Equine Veterinary Journal*, is the first study to directly compare sales and racing outcomes in Thoroughbred yearlings with carpal osteochondral fragments (COF) — more commonly known as knee chips — against a control population of radiographically clean horses. The results paint a more nuanced picture than the industry's default response of

writing off a horse with a chip.

"The idea came from seeing a large number of these cases get significantly marked down in price, just because people assume a chip means the horse won't perform," said Bruno Menarim, a Gluck Center researcher and one of the study's senior authors. "That was possibly true in the '80s and part of the '90s, but not with current arthroscopic surgery approaches."

Using clinical records from Hagyard Equine Medical Institute spanning 2015 to 2018, the team identified 46 Thoroughbred yearlings with dorsal osteochondral fragments of the radial or intermediate carpal bones. Twenty-six of those horses underwent arthroscopic surgery to remove the fragment before going to sale; 20 were managed conservatively. The team then assembled a control group of 138 sire- and year-matched siblings — horses from the same bloodlines and sale years that

showed no radiographic abnormalities.

Racing records were then tracked through June 2023, giving researchers a near-complete picture of each horse's competitive career.

The team measured a range of outcomes: sales price, total career earnings, average earnings per start, number of starts, number of seasons raced, best speed figure achieved and the highest class of race each horse reached.

When horses that had surgery were compared with the control group, their sale prices showed no statistically significant difference. The same held for total earnings. But horses that went to the sale with their chips untreated (the No-SX group) told a different story: They were highly penalized at auction and earned significantly less across their racing careers.

"The number of horses with carpal fragments in this study was small when you think of the nature of this sport and the odds of spotting a



**Knee chips don't affect a horse's racing career as much as they once did thanks to improving technology.**

Photo by Mark Pearson

big runner that could translate into major differences between horses that had surgery and those that didn't," Menarim said. "While the dollar difference for both sales and total winnings between surgery and no-surgery groups was not striking, it was palpable, and untreated horses were significantly different when compared to clean horses. If you don't have surgery, you are significantly affected. That doesn't hold for the horses that went through

with the procedure."

In other words, the gap between a surgically treated horse and a clean horse was not statistically significant. The gap between an untreated horse and a clean horse was.

### *The economics of a decision*

"The purpose of removing a fragment at yearling age is to preserve joint health, prevent lameness down the road and increase the odds of that horse having

a successful racing career," Menarim said. "You're trying to avoid the need for therapeutic intervention when the horse is already in training."

The study shows that the history of COF is enough to affect sales appeal, but surgery meaningfully shifts the odds for a racing career. The study identified that when treated and untreated horses were compared in isolation from the control population, horses treated conservatively earned significantly less than horses that had the procedure.

The study also found that the average sales price difference between surgically treated and untreated horses was close to \$2,000 — just over the cost of the surgery itself.

"That difference is almost the cost of removing the fragment," Menarim said. "So go ahead and do the surgery, and you're increasing the likelihood that this horse is going to have sales appeal — and a better chance of a meaningful racing career."

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