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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025



Where there's a Will

By Keith Taylor Sports Editor, Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Will Stein grew up watching and following Kentucky football and remembers the 1994 Peach Bowl, the 1998 Outback Bowl and the Bluegrass Miracle.

He's been in the stands cheering for the Wildcats at Kroger Field and on

the opposite sidelines playing for Louisville competing against the team he grew up admiring He attended Tubby Smith's basketball camps and was a fan of Tayshaun Prince.

"I am honored is an understatement," he said Wednesday at Nutter Fieldhouse. "I really don't know what to say. I thought today was a dream. I thought yesterday was a dream. It's just been an unbelievable, unbelievable last 24-48 hours."

Stein admitted being in charge of his own program is one thing, but to do it at Kentucky is a new reality.

"It's something that a coach can only dream of, to get his first head coaching job, and to do it at a place like the University of Kentucky, it really is truly a dream," he said.

Stein has spent the past three seasons as Dan Lanning's offensive coordinator at the University of Oregon and has a reputation as one of the top playcallers in college football.

He doesn't intend to change that brand at Kentucky.

"We're going to play an exciting brand of football," Stein said. "That's the only way I know how to do it. We're going to take risks ... Our offense, our plan, is to light up the

> scoreboard. Why not? I've seen it done here many a times.

> "That's the goal. It's not easy. Football is not easy. Not meant to be easy. It's the toughest game in the world played by tough men. I know doing it the right way, the way I've seen at the highest of levels in college football, it will be done here at Kentucky."

When looking for a replacement for



Kentucky AD Mitch Barnhart presents new coach Will Stein with a No. 1 jersey Wednesday in **Nutter Fieldhouse.** (photo by Keith Taylor)

Mark Stoops, who was fired after 13 seasons on Sunday, Kentucky Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart's focus was to find an offensiveminded coach.

"The last time this job was open, our focus was more defensive-minded," he said. "Our focus this time was a little bit different. I was very specifically trying to find ways to put points on the

board. I don't think that in today's world, it's really hard to win games in our league scoring 17 or 21 points a game.

"We've got to find a way to be where we're lighting up the scoreboard as Will talked about. And so that was important to us to be able to try and find more of an offensive mindset to what we're doing, and I think it's good for our fans. Our fans are wanting that. They wanted to see us score some points and be more, I' say be more successful at putting the ball on the end zone. So that was the focus. Will fits that scheme and that thought mindset extremely well."

Stein believes he has all the tools in place to be successful at Kentucky.

"We're a national brand," he said. "We work in the best conference in the world. There's no reason why we can't be successful here. Zero. The excuses are done. It's time to get to work. It will work. It does take work.

"I've won at every single level that I've been at: high school, college. Now the goal is to win here. Not to win five years down the road, 10 years down the road. Do it now. The way you do that is you work, right? Success is not free. Rent is due every day that we're here. "

Barnhart is confident Stein can take the Wildcats to the next level and is anxious to follow Stein's progression as a first-time head

"I'm super fired up for him, about the way he is processing this thing and the energy he's bringing," Barnhart said. "I'm really excited about Will Stein and Darby and how their family are going to be here. I don't want that to get lost on anybody. We can sit here and talk about all the nuances of college sports and all the things that we think we're doing or not doing, and about all that today. It's about him. It's about him. It's about a dude that's fired up to be at Kentucky to lead our program, and I'm fired up for him, and I'm excited to have him."

Paducah





KPI Staff Report



Paducah's annual Christmas Parade will take place Saturday, December 6 at 5 p.m. in historic downtown. This year's theme is Sounds of Christmas, featuring music and lights on about 100 entries. Santa Claus will make a special appearance in a Paducah fire truck.

The parade route starts at 14th and Broadway, travels down Broadway to Water Street, turns left, and ends at Jefferson Street and 2nd Street. Road closures begin at 3 p.m.

Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Shea Nickell, a Paducah Tilghman High School graduate, will serve as Grand Marshal. Justice Nickell has served on Kentucky's Supreme Court since 2019 and previously practiced law for over two decades, including time as a trial attorney and appellate judge.

Parade staging areas: Broadway (14th-Fountain), Fountain (Kentucky-Monroe), Jefferson (13th-Fountain). Please avoid parking in these areas to reduce congestion.

The Candy Cane Hunt is sponsored by Banterra Bank this year.



Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Shea Nickell will serve as this year's Grand Marshal.

The award-winning Candy Cane Hunt will be held on the National Quilt Museum lawn (215 Jefferson Street) on Saturday. Children 10 and under can race to find candy canes, with over 5,000 candy canes hidden!

Registration begins at 11:45 a.m.

Races: 12:30 p.m. (ages 3 and under), 12:45 p.m. (ages 4-6), 1 p.m. (ages 7-

Coloring contest: noon-1:15 p.m. with prizes announced next week

Safety note: 2nd Street will be closed between Jefferson and Monroe. Parking available at the Farmers' Market lot (2nd & Monroe). Youth Sports & Activities

REC Way Basketball (K-5th grade, non-competitive) - \$50, registration deadline Dec. 16, practices and games start in January.

Youth Cheerleading (K-5th grade) - \$30, registration deadline Dec. 16, practices begin in January.

Youth Tennis (ages 5-10) – Sessions in January, February, March at Paducah Recreation Center. Costs range \$15-\$20 per session. Bring your own racket. **Additional Holiday Events**

Tiny Tot Christmas Celebration (ages 5 & under) -Dec. 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m., \$5 per child, crafts, games, and activities.

Holiday Market – Dec. 13, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Paducah Middle School, featuring local vendors, gifts, and live music. For youth sports registration or event details, call 270-444-8508, visit online, or stop by the Parks & Recreation Office at the Robert Cherry Civic Center.



Holiday Season at Noble Park Nov. 26th.

(more info on back page / photo via PPS Facebook Page)

AG Coleman Supports President Trump's Deployment of National Guard to Washington, D.C.

Staff Report

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Attorney General Russell Coleman announced today he joined a 24-state coalition supporting President Trump's deployment of the National Guard to support law enforcement as they take on crime in Washington, D.C. In a brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the attorneys general argue all Americans have an interest in the safety of our nation's capital, and President Trump has the constitutional

duty to keep Washington safe.

The National Guard deployment has made the capital safer. Less than 10 days after the deployment to support law enforcement, Washington, D.C. went seven days without a homicide for the first time "in a long time." Since then, carjackings decreased by 83%, robberies by 46%, car thefts by 21% and overall violent crime by 22%.

Soft-on-crime politics and efforts to defund local police left Washington, D.C. open to a surge of

violent criminals. In 2023, violent crime had risen 37% over the previous year, with homicides increasing by 25%. In their brief, the attorneys general recount several recent high-profile crimes, including the murder of an Israeli embassy staffer and his fiancé by a pro-Hamas killer, the murder of a 21-year-old congressional intern, the assault of a Trump Administration official, and the recent horrific killing of U.S. Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and shooting of U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe.

On the same day **Attorney General** Coleman joined the coalition to support President Trump, Governor Andy Beshear took the opposite view. The Governor's office joined a brief seeking to end the National Guard deployment, which could throw the capital back into criminal chaos.

"Even as the Democratic Mayor of Washington recognizes that the National Guard deployment has lowered crime in DC, Governor Beshear is playing politics to undermine

President Trump," said Attorney General Coleman. "Our country is facing threats from abroad and right here at home. We need leaders who are willing to stand up to protect families."

"Our Office joins

Americans from coast to coast in mourning the tragic loss of Army Spc. Sarah Beckstrom and in continuing to pray for Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe. We should honor their heroic sacrifice by going after the violent criminals who pose a threat to Washington, D.C. and

our entire country," Attorney General Coleman continued.

Attorney General Coleman joined the South Carolina and West Virginia-led brief, along with attorneys general from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.

\$\$\$\$\$

(WKCTC Receives \$3,000 Swipe Out Hunger Grant to Enhance Campus Pantry Services

Staff Report

West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from Swipe Out Hunger to strengthen its Campus Cupboard food pantry program and improve support for students facing food insecurity.

Grant funding will go towards the purchase and implementation of a food pantry management system to streamline and improve operation of the Campus Cupboard. The management system will replace manual processes like shelf checks and paper logs with automated tools for inventory tracking, client intake, visit scheduling, and reporting. The system will feature privacy protection for students and help

WKCTC improve pantry accessibility and confidentiality while reducing food waste and improving pantry operation and resource allocation.

"Food insecurity can be a barrier to student success," said Chase Durrance, Dean of Students. "This grant will allow us to provide a more efficient, student-centered pantry experience."

For more information about ABC College's pantry services, visithttps:// westkentucky. kctcs.edu/about/ student-life/campus-cupboard.aspx or call (270) 554-9200.









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Study wants to learn why community college grads don't seek bachelor's degree

By TOM LATEK Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) - The Kentucky Student Success Collaborative (KYSSC), an initiative of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), is partnering with the University of Kentucky Research Foundation to better understand why some community college graduates stop short of earning a bachelor's degree.

Led by Dr. Jungmin Lee, associate professor at the University of Kentucky College of Education, this 12-month qualitative research project will explore the experiences of KCTCS associate degree completers who did not transfer to a university the following academic year. The \$25,000 project is funded by a grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation.

"We want to understand what factors — personal, institutional, or systemic — prevent students from continuing their education after successfully earning an associate degree," said Lee, the project's principal investigator.

The National Student Clearinghouse Tracking Transfer Report found that about a third (34.3 percent) of all entering students who started at a community college in fall 2017 transferred to a four-year institution within six years. Of those who transferred, just over half (52.2 percent) earned a bachelor's degree. In Kentucky, the transfer-out rate for the fall 2017 cohort was 33.2 percent, on par with the national average. The bachelor's completion rate of transfers was 46.0 percent, which lags the national average by about six percentage points.

Through the project, KYSSC hopes to gain a better understanding of transfer intentions, and potential statewide strategies to improve student transitions, retention and degree completion. The project will provide a comprehensive picture of the transfer student experience. The research team will:

--Survey recent KCTCS graduates who completed an associate degree but did not transfer.

--Conduct focus groups with academic advisors, faculty and transfer personnel at all of Kentucky's public colleges and universities.

--Interview at least 30 KCTCS graduates across the state to capture nuanced experiences and barriers

--Review institutional websites to ensure transfer-related information is clear and accessible.

"This work reflects our ongoing commitment to access and student success across Kentucky," said Dr. Lilly Massa McKinley, KYSSC executive director and assistant vice president at CPE. "When

we center student voices in policy and design, we build systems that better serve all learners."



Wrongful death lawsuits to be filed from UPS crash

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) – Internationally recognized Clifford Law Offices of Chicago, along with Sam Aguiar of Louisville, will file the first wrongful death lawsuits on Wednesday against multiple parties in the Nov. 4 crash of a UPS cargo jet shortly after takeoff from Louisville's Muhammad Ali International Airport.

The plaintiffs' firms will file two lawsuits on Wednesday morning in Kentucky state court on behalf of families who lost loved ones when the MD-11 crashed into a nearby industrial park.

Among the plaintiffs are the families of Angela Anderson, a 45-year-old mother who was a customer at a local business when the MD-11 cargo jet lost its left engine and crashed into the industrial park, causing a massive explosion, and Trinadette 'Trina' Chavez, a 37-vear-old mother of two employed at Grade A Auto Parts, one of the businesses destroyed in the crash.

Fourteen people were killed, and at least 23 others were injured. The MD-11 aircraft was on its way to Honolulu, Hawaii, carrying approximately 38,000 gallons of jet fuel.

The lawsuits allege negligence against UPS, UPS AIR, and name GE, the engine manufacturer; Boeing, which acquired McDonnell Douglas, the original manufacturer of the MD-11; and VT San Antonio Aerospace, Inc., the company responsible for certain inspections and maintenance before the crash.

Bradley M. Cosgrove, a partner at Clifford Law Offices, stated, "When an engine detaches from a large cargo jet during takeoff, and the aircraft bursts into a fireball visible for miles, an entire community is affected. Innocent lives are lost, leaving deep holes in families. Impacted survivors are left with injuries and lifelong scars, with their normal lives shattered by an explosion that many people compared to a bomb going off next door. This tragedy is an unacceptable event that indicates a catastrophic failure across numerous safety systems. Clifford Law Offices is committed to securing justice and providing answers for the affected families."

Agular noted, "Through these lawsuits, we aim to get the answers that these family members deserve for their heartbreaking losses."

"The aviation industry needs to learn not to repeat its mistakes," Clifford said. "Families who lost loved ones in this crash deserve the truth and full accountability. Clifford Law Offices has launched a comprehensive investigation to ensure those

responsible face the consequences of their preventable failures."











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WEST KY SPORTS



The McCracken County High School baseball team helped the Community Kitchen prep for its Thanksgiving dinner. The team cut and packaged over 900 pieces of pie. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)



Community Christian (Paducah) is among the teams competing in the 2025-26 archery season.

(Photo courtesy of Community Christian (Paducah))

Christian Fellowship 53, Community Christian 13

Staff Report

BENTON — Christian Fellowship rolled past Community Christian (Paducah) 53-13 in a girls' high school basketball season opener on Monday, Dec. 1.

The Lady Eagles controlled the girls' high school basketball season opener.

Christian Fellowship shot 40.0

percent (four-of-10) from threepoint range in its winning effort.

Kylee Hines led Christian Fellowship with a game-high double-double, scoring 19 points and pulling down 12 rebounds.

Recording a double-double of her own for Christian Fellowship, Kyndal Owen netted 12 points and claimed 12 rebounds.

and Owen in double figures in scoring for Christian Fellowship, Meleah Grigg also scored 12 points.

Chipping in offensively, Bekah Wright (four points), Trinity Carrigan (three points), Michaela Wyatt (two points) and Anna Craig (one point) accounted for the rest of Christian Fellowship's scoring.

High School Football Schedule

Friday, Dec. 5

2025 UK HealthCare Sports Medicine Class 1A State Football Finals

Noon - Raceland vs. Kentucky Country Day

2025 UK HealthCare Sports Medicine Class 2A State Football Finals

4 p.m. - Owensboro Catholic vs. Lexington Christian

2025 UK HealthCare Sports Medicine Class 4A State Football Finals

8 p.m. - Boyle County vs. Franklin County

Saturday, Dec. 6

Murray

2025 UK HealthCare Sports Medicine Class 3A State Football Finals Noon - Christian Academy-Louisville vs.

2025 UK HealthCare Sports Medicine Class 6A State Football Finals

4 p.m. - South Warren vs. Trinity (Louisville)

2025 UK HealthCare Sports Medicine Class 5A State Football Finals 8 p.m. - Pulaski County vs. Owensboro

Houston named 2025-26 KHSAA Soccer Official of the Year

LEXINGTON — Each vear, the Kentucky High School Athletic Asso-

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Finalists in each sport are selected through a combination of not only on-field

performance but also local association activity

and leadership, training

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efforts and the mentoring

of newer officials. One official in each sport is named Outstanding Official of the Year in appreciation of their dedication and service to schools and student-athletes across the state. Winners are selected following consultation with local assigning secretaries, veteran officials' observers and coaches throughout the state, as well as additional staff review.

The Outstanding Official of the Year for the 2025-26 in the sport of soccer is Jordan Houston of East Bernstadt. Each finalist will receive a commemorative watch and certificate courtesy of the Officials Trust Fund, with the Official of the Year receiving an additional recognition award.

With officiating numbers declining at the

national level, the KHSAA is always accepting applications from individuals interested in giving back to their community. Officiating remains a great avenue to stay active, earn extra spending money and ensure that high school athletics are preserved for the current and future generations. To get involved as an official, visit khsaaofficials.org.

2025-26 KHSAA OUT-STANDING OFFICIALS (Winners listed first) Soccer: Jordan Houston (East Bernstadt), Paige Hurst (Morehead)

Field Hockey: Lauren Bauer (Louisville), Matt Sallee (Louisville)

Girls' Volleyball: Amye Adams (Cox's Creek), LuAnne Craig (Butler)

PUBLIC NOTICE

270-217-6131

505 W Highland Dr • Fulton KY 42041 (Located in FULTON KY)

Shri Hari Liquor, Inc. d/b/a Wine Cellar hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a tobacco, nicotine, or vapor product license no later than 12/20/2025. The licensed premises will be located at 505 W Highland Dr, Fulton, Kentucky, 42041.

The owner and president is Umesh Patel, 4327 Champion Rd Naperville, Illinois, 60564. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Street, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

(12-5-25_GG_1X)

PUBLIC NOTICE

1302 S 7th St Hickman KY 42050 (Located in HICKMAN KY)

Shri Hari Liquor, Inc. d/b/a Wine Cellar #2 hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a tobacco, nicotine, or vapor product license no later than 12/20/2025. The licensed premises will be located at 1302 S 7th St, Hickman, Kentucky, 42050.

The owner and president is Umesh Patel, 4327 Champion Rd Naperville, Illinois, 60564. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Street, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

(12-5-25_GG_1X)

WKU's Boone Claims Third Consecutive CUSA Freshman of the Week Selection



DALLAS — Freshman guard Armelo Boone has been named Conference USA Freshman of the Week for the third consecutive week, the league office announced Monday afternoon.

Boone put together an impressive three-game stretch this week in Battle 4 Atlantis in The Bahamas, averaging 17.0 points, 4.7 rebounds, 2.7 assists, 0.7 blocks and 0.3 steals while shooting 45.9% from the field and 82.3% from the free throw line.

Boone opened the week with a season-best outing at the time, posting 16 points and seven rebounds while going 4-of-11 from the floor and 6-of-7 at the charity stripe in just 23 minutes against the #23/24 Commodores. His performance was highlighted by a thunderous alley-oop dunk that was featured in the SportsCenter Top 10 plays from the day, coming in at #6.

He followed that with another

strong effort against South Florida, tallying 13 points, four rebounds, three assists and one block in 26 minutes. He shot 5-of-12 from the field and 3-of-4 from the line.

Boone capped the week with a career night in his first start, leading the Hilltoppers with a career-high 22 points on 8-of-14 shooting and a 5-of-6 mark at the line. He added three rebounds, three assists, one steal and one block in a career-high 35 minutes to lead WKU to a 75-70 victory over Wichita State.

So far this season, Boone is averaging 12.9 points, 4.4 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.9 steals while shooting 44.7% from the field in seven games.

Boone and the Hilltoppers return to action Saturday afternoon, Dec. 6, against Evansville. Tipoff is set for 3 p.m. CT at E.A. Diddle Arena, with coverage live on ESPN+.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission to hold quarterly meeting

Staff Report

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission has scheduled a meeting starting at 8:30 a.m. (EST) on Friday, Dec. 5.

The meeting will take place in the Schaff Room at the Salato Wildlife Education Center on the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources campus in Frankfort, and it is open to the public.

The meeting will be livestreamed and archived on the department's YouTube channel at youtube.com/FishandWildlifeKY. A link to the livestream will be posted on the department's homepage at fw.ky. gov before the start of the meeting.

Among the Action Items on the meeting agenda that the commission will consider is:

- Approve the minutes from the Sept. 19, 2025, quarterly commission meeting.

- Amend 301 KAR 6:030 – Waterway safety requirements to create regulations to define the waterbodies and area of some waterbodies where wakesports will be allowed.

- Amend 301 KAR 1:201 – Taking of fish by traditional fishing methods to modify Black Bass size and daily limits, Shovelnose Sturgeon daily limit, Skipjack Herring daily limit and additions to the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) Program.

- Consider the addition of nine counties to the CWD Surveillance Zone to include Pulaski, Wayne, Whitley, McCreary, Lincoln, Laurel, Rockcastle, Russell and Casey counties, with accompanying related restrictions.

- Amend 301 KAR 3:010 – Public use of Wildlife Management Areas to clarify that the guiding of hunters on a WMA for profit constitutes commercial activity and would therefore be prohibited, and to clarify that fishing tournaments that launch at a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) boat ramp is not a commercial activity under the current WMA regulations. Also, amend 301 KAR 3:001 – Definitions for 301 KAR Chapter

3 to define commercial activity and modify the group definition.

- Amend 301 KAR 2:178 - Deer hunting on public properties to modify deer hunting regulations to allow hunting on properties owned by county or local governments to include wildlife management areas, state parks, other public lands and federally controlled areas.

- Amend 301 KAR 4:090 - Taxidermy and the buying and selling of inedible wildlife parts to incorporate by reference applications and reporting forms for Resident Fur Buyer, Resident Fur Processor, Non-Resident Fur Buyer, and Non-Resident 3-Day Fur Buyer licenses.

- Amend 301 KAR 5:210 - Special agency fundraising permits to update the special fundraising permits drawing regulation to modify definitions and re-order permit drawing sequence. Also, amend 301 KAR 5:022 – License, tag, registration, and permit fees for conformity.

- Consider commission member request to allow for the formation of a limited number of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission committees.

Several Discussion Items and New Business Items will also be presented, but action on those items is anticipated at future meetings of the commission.

The full meeting agenda can be found on the department's Commission Meeting Dates webpage on our website at fw.ky.gov or search "Commission Meeting Dates" on the homepage.

The next quarterly meeting date following the December meeting is to be determined.

The Salato Wildlife Education Center is located on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife main campus at 1 Sportsman's Lane (formerly 1 Game Farm Road) in Frankfort, and the center is a one-story building located at the end of the drive. The main entrance is located off U.S. 60, approximately 1 1/2 miles west of U.S. 127.

Gov. Beshear Announces \$6 Million In Awards To Improve Local Bridges

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 4, 2025) - Today, Gov. Beshear announced over \$6 million for 12 critical bridge projects across nine Kentucky counties and one city. The funding will help Kentuckians get where they need to go quicker and more safely through repairs, replacements and reopenings of locally owned bridges.

This was the latest round of funding from Team Kentucky's County and City Bridge Improvement Program, which has awarded \$38.7 million to local governments since the first round in 2025. A list of the newly awarded projects can be viewed here.

"These bridges connect Kentuckians to their jobs, doctors, school, and more and it's important that we ensure they are safe and modern for folks to travel on," said Gov. Beshear. "Once these projects are completed, Kentuckians will have safer travel, fewer delays and quicker commutes."

This fifth round of awards funds 10 bridge replacements and two bridges that will be repaired or preserved to extend the life of existing structures. All 12 bridges are closed or currently posted with weight restrictions.

Each project was reviewed and validated by Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) engineers to ensure the most effective solutions.

"Our focus is simple: Repair what's failing and restore access where it's been lost," said KYTC Secretary Jim Gray. "These projects eliminate long detours, reopen safe routes for heavy vehicles, and strengthen the transportation network our communities rely on every day."

Among the latest awards are projects in Ballard, Hickman and Crittenden counties and in the city of Flemingsburg that address long-standing needs.

Iong-standing needs.
The city of Flemings-burg received \$510,000 to replace the Cemetery Lane bridge over Town Branch Creek.
The funds will cover the demolition and construction of the new 56-foot structure, as well as the installation of 100 tons of

channel lining to protect from erosion and improve the creek's

water flow.

"I just want to say thank you to Gov. Beshear and his team, Commissioner Bobbi Jo Lewis, and the legislature for putting this City-County **Bridge Improvement** Program together and providing much-needed help to counties and cities in our state," said Flemingsburg Mayor Van Alexander. "This is an important project for those that we serve - our citizens. This improvement makes sure there is safe and reliable access to the Fleming County Cemetery just beyond this bridge."

Crittenden County Fiscal Court received \$780,000 for a total replacement and 30foot extension of the Copperas Spring Road bridge and \$590,000 for replacement of the Nunn Switch #2 bridge. The projects will restore a dependable connection for residents and daily travelers.

"I am deeply grateful to our state legislators for implementing the funding neces-

sary to support the City-County Bridge Improvement Program through which we can ensure pieces of our critically failing infrastructure can be replaced, providing the utmost safety to those traveling our roads and bridges," said Crittenden County Judge/Executive Perry Newcom. "I thank Gov. Beshear and his staff for their implementation of this program that is providing solutions to serious challenges at the city and county levels. This funding will replace two bridges on our critical condition list. On behalf of all cities and counties, I stress the importance of legislators' approval to continue funding this highly successful and needed program."

Hickman County received \$570,000 to replace and nearly double the length of the Springhill Road bridge. The new 64-foot connection will improve safety for school buses and farm equipment that rely on the route.

"We're very appreciative here in Hickman County to be awarded a new bridge that will go right here on Spring Hill Road. Thank you to Gov. Beshear, to Rural and Municipal Aid Commissioner Bobbi Jo Lewis, and to our District One chief district engineer, Kyle Poat," said Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson. "The old wooden piles had deteriorated, and the funds for this new bridge will be our

third from the program to improve the safety for residents, and we look forward to applying again.

Ballard County received \$372,000 for a new Morning Meadows bridge that will replace the old structure and restore traffic.

"I just want to thank the State of Kentucky and KYTC for their hard work, and the state legislature for taking this pot of money and carving it out and making it available for counties," said Ballard County Judge/ **Executive Todd Coo**per. "We also want to thank the governor for his partnership and his care for the people of Kentucky. It is the season of Thanksgiving, so we are thankful and grateful."

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Pursuant to TC 96-159M and KRS 376.280, this is an advertisement of the motor vehicle sale. The vehicle in question is a 2023 Dodge Charger, VIN: 2C3CDXHG1PH697622, owner is Jordan Jackson and lienholders are Chrysler Capital. This sale will take place at Parkest Body Shop, 1885 Brown Badgett Loop, Madisonville, (270)871-2698 and this sale will conclude on 12/18/2025."

(11-27-25 WKN 3x)



Tigers advance to state 3A title game

Staff Report

Volume Value of the Staff

ERLANGER — Murray High punched its first ticket to a Kentucky high school football state championship game since 1994 tonight with a gutty 27-20 win over Erlanger Lloyd Memorial in the Cincinnati suburbs.

Murray High (14-0) seemed to have total command of this game, up 17-6 at halftime on

the host Juggernauts (13-1). A five-yard run by quarterback Wyatt Robbins opened the scoring about three minutes into the game, followed by a short field goal from Hank Fronza and a one-yard plunge from Simon Rickman with about eight minutes left in the second quarter, after the Tigers recovered a fumble after Fronza's kick.

The Juggs, though, were able to stay in the game as the

Tigers were not able to capitalize on other Lloyd miscues and this appeared to turn the game toward the home team in the third quarter. Lloyd scored on a 98-pass play to cut the lead to 17-14. Then, the Juggs took their first lead of the game on a short score off a Tiger turnover in Murray High territory and, at 20-17, seemed in position to notch their own ticket to Lexington.

Instead, a Murray High team now without the services of starting quarterback Wyatt Robbins found extra strength. Freshman quarterback Kenyon Cunningham hit a huge pass to classmate Braylon Patterson that put the Tigers inside the Juggs' 5-yard line and senior receiver Isaiah Martin finished the drive by taking a wildcat play into the end zone from a yard to regain the lead at 24-20 not half-a-minute into the final quarter.

Tiger defensive end De'Erik Jackson then recovered a Lloyd fumble in Tiger territory and led to Fronza's 20-yard field goal with 6:22 left to raise the lead to 27-20. That led to the final blow.

Kentucky Class 3A State High School Football Playoffs; Against all odds ...; Tigers survive all kinds of adversity to earn 3A title shot

By Steve Springer Sports Reporter Murray Ledger and Times Special to WKN News

ERLANGER —If last week's Murray High football drama was not enough to elevate Tiger fans' blood pressure, Friday night's game sent those readings off the chart at Dees Memorial Stadium

in the Cincinnati suburbs.

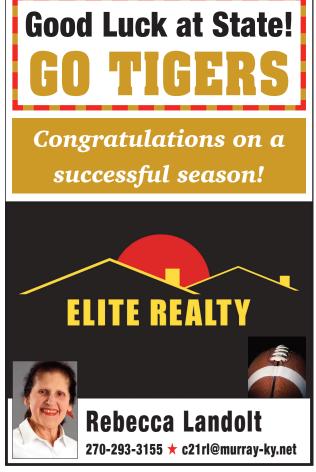
Undefeated Murray High needed every bit of junior running back Gage Chapman's 206 rushing yards and a few breaks that it created to survive a gut-wrenching third quarter and, somehow, power through to a 27-20 win over undefeated host Erlanger Lloyd Memorial in a

Congratulations

on a Winning

Season!!

Kentucky Class 3A Playoffs Sub-State championship game. The reward for the Tigers' resilience is the program's first state championship appearance in more than three decades with Murray High remaining perfect this season at 14-0 and Lloyd Memorial ending its season at 13-1







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December 5, 2025 \star A7



Kentucky Class 3A State Championship Game Saturday, December 6 · 12:00 PM EST · Lexington, KY

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STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, December 5

Class 1A (Noon ET) | RV Raceland vs. Kentucky Country Day Class 2A (4:00 ET) | No. 13 Owensboro Catholic vs. No. 9 Lexington Christian Academy Class 4A (8:00 ET) | No. 4 Boyle County vs. No. 5 Franklin County

Saturday, December 6

Class 3A (Noon ET) | No. 2 Christian Academy-Louisville vs. No. 22 Murray Class 6A (4:00 ET) | No. 3 South Warren vs. No. 1 Trinity Class 5A (8:00 ET) | No. 10 Pulaski County vs. No. 8 Owensboro



The road to Lexington

The Murray Tigers will play in the KHSAA state championship on Saturday, December 5 at 12 PM ET at the Kroger Field in Lexington.

This is their first ppearance in state play since 1994.

The Tigers will take

on Christian Academy of Louisville in the 3A State title game.

Murray has had to overcome a lot adversities to get to the state championship.

The Tigers won in overtime against Lexington Catholic for the state quarterfinals

win after being down

They lost their starting quarterback and their lead in state semifinals against Lloyd Memorial but rallied to win their state title bid with the teamwork of untested

VURRAY TIGERS

on a successful season.

Good Luck at State



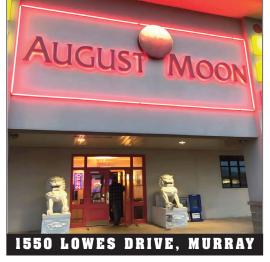


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ON A GREAT SEASON.



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GOOD LUCK





DOORDASH 270-759-4653

Tigers looking for first title since 1974

The Murray Tigers haven't been to the football state championships since 1994. They haven't

won a title since 1974. But Murray has heart and talent.

The Tigers' quaterback Wyatt Robbins has totaled 3.199 vards and 35 touchdowns through the air this season.

Robbins is second on the team in rushing with 533 yards and

four more scores. Isaiah Martin is his favorite target, recording 1,230 yards

through the air. Defensively, six different Tigers have

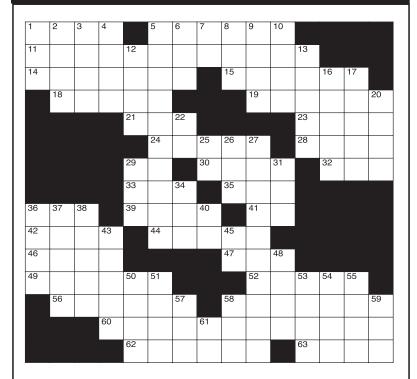
and 19 touchdowns

over 100 tackles, led by 163 and eight sacks from Simon Rickman. Gage Chapman has 149 tackles, five sacks, and three INTs to his name this season.





Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dough made from corn flour
- 5. Rise
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. A low wall
- 15. Kidnap 18. A cup golfers want to win
- 19. Outgoing 21. "Partner" to flow
- 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
- 24. Proverb
- 28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 29. Helps a body recover

- 33. Offensive baseball stat
- 30. Baseball Cy Young winner
- 32. Very fast airplane
- - 56. Jewish salutation

47. Post office box

35. Body of water

39 Signs a contract

41. Atomic #24

42. Bind securely 44. French Jesuit theologian

36. Record of one's heartbeat

46. Fragrant brown balsam

49. Sells tickets at inflated prices

- 58. Yellow fruits 60. Poorly educated
- 62. Microorganism 63. Talk show host Barrymore

52. Places to hang coats

Puzzle Solutions on B9

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to plan 2. Three-banded armadillo
- 3. Mobile
- 4. Romanian city
- 5. Making sour 6. Take a seat
- 7. "The Golden State"
- 8. When you hope to arrive 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Extinct flightless bird 12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 13. Nape of neck
- 16. Problems (Spanish slang) 17. Narrow carpet
- 20. To avoid the risk of
- 22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.) 25. Equally
- 26. Traditional cars still need it 27. Eligible voters

PUZZLE SOLUTION

- 29. Greek alphabet letter
- 31. Body part
- 34. Referee-declared outcome
- 36. Means to moving money 37. Popular footwear brand
- 38. Cockatoo
- 40. NFL's big game
- 43. Botswana currencies
- 45. News-reporting organization
- 48. Batman villain
- 50. Urgent request
- 51. Not all
- 53. Hallmark's specialty 54. Knot in a tree
- 55. Satisfy
- 57. Notable space station 58. Baby's dining accessory
- 59. Stitch clothing 61. __ and behold

S С Ε N D M S Α Α Е Α Ρ Т D С Υ D Ε R 0 С 0 Κ Ε В Н Α D G L Ε s s Ε E C G R 0 Α Ρ G В 0 L U 0 С Α L R Α С Н Т Ε R Α Ε R 0 В R Ε W Ε

Word Search

ANSWERS IN THE WORD SEARCH **BUSINESS B SECTION WORDS** ACQUISITION S L Y S Ι ASSETS 0 BRAND CASH FLOW COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR S EQUITY C U GLOBAL INNOVATION INVESTMENT N LIABILITIES LOCAL N S MARKET SHARE М Н Α 0 U D В MERGER OUTSOURCING L U **PERFORMANCE** PROFIT 0 Ε S М N RETURN REVENUE н Ε R U Ι R Ε N R SCALABILITY Ε Ι R F Q Ε ٧ W D W F 0 STAKEHOLDER U N ٧ Ε R Н Υ Ρ R М L Ν R SUPPLY CHAIN Ε Ε R L D G М R G Ε Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards

2

8

6

1

5

5

9

3

1

9

5

8

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a

sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only

once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by

using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it

gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck! ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION

9

6

2

6

3

VALUE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to business.

Word Scramble

LPAOLRY

Answer: Payroll

Guess Who?

I am an actor born on December 3, 1968 in Indiana. I made my acting debut in a crime reenactment for "America's Most Wanted." I'm a star who made it big in the 1990s with various action movies, including a trilogy about mummies. After a hiatus, I made a strong comeback and even won an Academy Award.

Answer: Brendan Fraser

Winter **Jokes**

5

What are little snowmen called? Chill-dren.

What did one snowman say to the other? Do you smell carrot?

their beds? With sheets of ice and blankets of snow.

What can you catch in the

How do polar bears make

winter, even with your eyes closed? A cold. What is the Mexican dish

that snowmen like?

Burrr-ito.

Where does a snowman get the weather report? The winternet.

Crypto Fun

Solve the code to discover words related to business. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = S)

16 24 **14 16** 10

Clue: A company

13 18 18 В. 15 10 **22**

Clue: Records or statements

3 21 15 26 14 C.

Clue: Worker

13 5 21 4 D.

Clue: Map of how to proceed

A B C D E F G H i J K L M N O P Q R S T U V

vers: A. business B. accounts C. employee D. plan

Ans

COLORING FUN



From linguist to landscape: Air Force veteran finds a new mission at the University of Kentucky

By Jordan Strickler University of Kentucky

When Liz Feight raised her right hand in 2007 to take the Air Force oath of enlistment, she expected a 20-year military career. Ten years later — after learning Arabic and French, managing logistics in fast-paced operations and serving at posts from Monterey, California to Wiesbaden, Germany — she set her sights on a different kind of mission: reshaping areas where people live, work and gather.

Today, Feight is a second-year student in the University of Kentucky Department of Landscape Architecture (UKLA), bringing the precision of a linguist and the practicality of a logistics planner to design solutions across the Commonwealth.

Feight's Air Force path began at the Defense Language Institute, where she trained as an Arabic linguist before adding French as U.S. attention shifted toward North Africa. As her career progressed, she moved into financial logistics and administration — disciplines that required clear communication, careful scheduling and respect for constraints.

In 2017, after 10 years of service, Feight hung up her uniform and transitioned to civilian life.

"I thought I'd do 20 years so that I could earn my retirement," Feight said. "After I reenlisted at year six, I realized even if I did make it that long, I'd only be 38 and would still want to work. I thought about the things that matter the



Feight showing design work to community leaders

most to me and knew that I wanted to start making a difference more immediately."

That line of thought led her home to Ithaca, New York, to obtain her associate's degree in environmental science, followed by a year at Cornell. The pandemic disrupted that plan, and Feight and her husband — also a veteran, now a city planner — moved to Lexington to be closer to family.

A pause for health and family needs became a reset. When Feight returned to school in the fall of 2024, the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment offered a clear fit: Science she could apply, drawings that led to buildable solutions and clients with tangible needs.

"Policy is interesting, but I didn't want to be a lawyer," Feight said. "Full-time field research matters, but it wasn't the right path to start at 35. Landscape architecture offers a tangible way to apply my science background

to solve real-world problems."

Putting landscape architecture and military skills to use

This semester, Feight's second-year studio is working with the Kentucky Horse Park on water and drainage challenges near the older dressage grounds by the visitor center. The collaboration began with a department-wide, three-day visit in late September. Students walked the site, met with park staff, mapped constraints and presented early concepts. The solution is straightforward to describe and complex to execute — reduce water use for dust control and wash areas, capture rain where it falls and fix storm drainage within tight physical and budget limits.

"You can't move arenas or relocate buildings," Feight said. "The task is to find practical ways to capture and reuse water, improve drainage and respect (Photo by Sabrina Hounshell) At 36, Feight is a

nontraditional stu-

dent who balances

studio deadlines with

family commitments.

She and her husband

help care for family in

need, and she stops by

source Center gather-

ings when schedules

"It helps to meet

other students who

are juggling more

around your same

see that your busy

lot of people."

age," she said. "You

week is normal for a

Feight says the draw

of the UKLA program

is simple: Kentucky

problems, Kentucky

points to the range of

partners. She also

faculty experience,

private residential

from public parks to

work to scholars who

study the history of

as a strength.

designed landscapes,

"You can stand on

people who use it, and

changes the solutions

you propose. It's not

an abstract exercise.

It's useful to hear

a site, talk with the

test assumptions,"

Feight said. "That

sites, Kentucky

than classes and

align.

the UK Veterans Re-

how the site already works. It's a good test of listening first and drawing second."

Ask what skills transfer from the Air Force, and Liz offers a short list that reads like a designer's tool-

First, a deliberate study. Intensive language training taught her how to learn in layers and retain information over time.

Second, clear briefings.

"What's the goal, what's the status, what's next?" Feight said. "That pattern still works, whether you're updating a commander or pinning up a site plan."

Third, the designers need a working relationship with feedback from those who need assistance.

That mindset has shaped how Feight takes critiques, revises drawings and helps a team move from concepts to viable options.

All roads lead to Kentucky

are different, but the need for clear thinking is the same.' To UKLA departbackground is a

ment lecturer Jordan Phemister, Feight's strong bonus.

from people who've

sat across the table from a parks depart-

ment, a homeown-

er, or a community

group. The questions

"I was fortunate to have Liz in my Introduction to Landscape Architecture class during her first semester," Phemister said. "She brought an invaluable perspective as a non-traditional student, with a positive presence and sense of leadership within our class. Liz possesses a wonderful combination of curiosity, intellect, passion and a strong work ethic that reminded me of how rewarding teaching can be and will serve her well in our program, as well as her future career.'

After graduation, Feight and her husband hope to open a small practice that blends urban planning and landscape architecture. Their focus is pragmatic: Water, streetscapes and public spaces where small design decisions make daily life better.

"Kentucky is home for us, and we want to both care for it and improve it," she said. "We're passionate about helping to translate (no pun intended) academic theory into solutions that address the environmental and social challenges facing all of us. It's a really exciting time to a student, especially in landscape architecture."

18 Kentucky families receive new homes from Samaritan's Purse after deadly 2022 flood

By Keith Taylor Kentucky Today

LEBURN, Ky. — Three years ago, catastrophic flooding tore through eastern Kentucky — claiming more than 40 lives and leaving entire communities devastated. On Friday, Dec. 5, Franklin Graham, president and CEO of Samaritan's Purse, will be in Knott County to welcome 18 families into brand-new homes built and provided at no cost by the Christian, international disaster relief organization.

The dedication will mark a significant milestone in the region's long road to recovery and a powerful example of God's love and hope for the families still recovering, according to a Samaritan's Purse news release.

Samaritan's Purse

constructed these homes in the Chestnut Ridge neighborhood, "a 57-lot subdivision being built from the ground up to restore stability, hope and to show these families who lost everything that God has not forgotten them. Thirteen homes are move-in ready, with five additional homes scheduled to be dedicated next week after final inspections. Each fully furnished home — built by Samaritan's Purse staff and dedicated volunteers — stands as a tangible expression of God's love and faithfulness. Samaritan's Purse has committed to fully furnishing every home in the Chestnut Ridge community."

"We thank God for the opportunity to dedicate these 18, newly built homes in Jesus' Name," said Graham. "These families have

An aerial shot of the 2022 flooding in eastern Kentucky. Recovery efforts continue in areas that have

been hit with disaster in Kentucky endured unimaginable side. I pray each of loss and many fled with only the clothes on their backs. We want them to know come." they are not forgotten.

God loves them and

He has not left their

these homes becomes a blessing to their families for generations to

Samaritan's Purse and its army of volunteers responded to the flooding in 2022, helping more than 620 families mud out flooded homes, clear debris and recover from the storm. More than 2,000 volunteers served over 54,000

hours over the course of three months. Following the disaster response, Samaritan's Purse launched its rebuild program.

(Photo courtesy of Kentucky Todayl)

The Ingram Distillery Opening for Tours in 2026, Including The Chartered Experience

By Thomas Mulgrew thomas@tsgnashville.com

COLUMBUS, KY – The Ingram Distillery announced today that it is officially opening its grounds in Columbus, KY to the public in April 2026. Visitors can tour the only floating barrelhouse in the country with a Barge to Bottle Tour or The Chartered Experience and get a glimpse into the unique River Aging process that has produced numerous award-winning whiskies. Guests will also take in stunning views of the mighty Mississippi from the grounds of The Ingram Distillery. Climb aboard the original floating barrelhouses – your lifejacket awaits!

For those that are feeling online shopping fatigue, The Chartered Experience represents something off the beaten path just in time for the holidays. This elevated private tour will give visitors an exclusive behind-thescenes view of not only Ingram's barge and distillery but also a tasting of curated whiskeys, all with the grounds to themselves. The Chartered Experience is now available to book for \$250 for parties of up to ten people.



The historic grounds of The Ingram Distillery

"When we purchased this pristine acreage overlooking our aging operations on the Mississippi, the goal was to always turn it into the hospitality arm of The Ingram Distillery," said Founder Hank Ingram. "After making some needed restoration to the property, we are now ready for the public to experience the magic of River Aging for themselves. Whether you're a bourbon aficionado or simply interested in the beauty

and history of Western Kentucky, our tours, just like our bourbon, are uniquely Ingram."

Ingram."
Those interested in booking tours can go to The Ingram Distillery's Visit page to learn more about the different offerings.
Availability is limited, so parties are encouraged to make their booking sooner than later.

The launch of hospitality experiences continues an especially exciting year for The Ingram Distillery. It released its latest vintage of the ultra-premium O.H. Ingram Flagship Bourbon in October, and added Uncharted, a new Kentucky wheated bourbon, to its fleet in September. The Ingram Distillery also added distribution in Alaska and Texas, making its award-winning whiskies now available in eight states.

To learn more about The Ingram Distillery and to sign up for updates, please visit IngramWhiskey. com. You can also follow on Facebook and Instagram.

About The Ingram Distillery

The Ingram Distillery was founded in 2015, when Hank Ingram pioneered the first permanent floating rickhouses to age award-winning whiskies in Western Kentucky.

Moored on the banks of the Mississippi River in Columbus, KY, The Ingram Distillery's barrelhouses were custom built inside former (Photo provided)

grain barges. They now house a 2-story barrel maturation operation that never leaves the water. While having a similar look to those on land, Ingram's barrelhouses have a very different feel.

The Ingram Distillery creates the only bourbon in the world that spends its entire life on the water – years of exposure to the microclimate and humidity of the river, along with its constant motion, creates complexity through a unique interaction between whiskey and

Presently available on shelves in Alaska, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin, as well as online through Ingram's shop page.





Did you know?

Advent calendars are a common sight in many households each December, and some historians believe this unique tradition can be traced to a creative nineteenth century German housewife. Though Britannica notes the precise origins of Advent calendars are still debated, one theory behind the popular tradition suggests a woman in Munich created the Advent calendar as a way for her young and impatient yet excited son to count down the days to December 25. Though details are fuzzy and difficult if not impossible to confirm, this legends suggests the crafty German mother filled 24 different small boxes with a baked treat, allowing her son to open one each day during Advent, the nearly monthlong period of preparation for Christmas that begins on the fourth Sunday before the holiday and ends by Christmas Eve. While this origin story connects Advent calendars with Christianity, and many Christians still make it part of their Christmas celebrations, many modern people with no such affiliation also incorporate the calendars into their holiday season routines.

OCTC Announces Winners of RAD Scholarships Supported by CPE and OH



Roxy Cunningham

By Bernie Hale

OWENSBORO, KY Last December, Owensboro Community and Technical College (OCTC) announced a new \$150,000 boost for its Radiography Technology program. The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education awarded OCTC a \$75,000 grant, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by Owensboro Health, to provide comprehensive scholarships for radiography students.

"We are thrilled to partner with Owensboro Health and the Council on Postsecondary Education to make this significant investment in our

Radiography Technologv program." said Dr. Scott Williams, President of OCTC. "These scholarships will open doors for talented students to pursue rewarding careers in healthcare and help meet the growing demand for skilled radiography professionals in our region."

Today, we are excited to announce that Roxy Cunningham, Sarah Houston, and Baylie Mitchell were selected to receive this award. They will each receive \$5,000 a semester for a total of \$10,000.

Roxy Cunningham is from Owensboro.



Baylie Mitchell

KY, and a graduate of Greenwood High School, Bowling Green, KY. She works in the Radiology Department at Owensboro Health. She is on track to complete the program and sit for the national exam in 2026. Roxy has accepted a postgraduate position at Owensboro Health and states that she is grateful for this opportunity to continue serving her community.

Sarah Houston is from Owensboro, KY, and is a graduate of Owensboro Catholic High School. She is on track to complete the program and sit for the national exam

in 2026 and is excited to begin her career in radiology in her home community.

Baylie Mitchell is from Owensboro, KY. and is a graduate of Daviess County High School. She is on track to complete the program and sit for the national exam in 2026 to begin her work in the profession here in Owensboro.

"Our radiography program offers students the opportunity to gain in-demand skills and hands-on experience to excel in this dynamic field," said Michelle Tudor, Radiography Program Coordinator at OCTC.



Sarah Houston

"These scholarships will enable more aspiring radiographers to access the education they need to launch fulfilling careers. We look forward to seeing Roxy, Sarah, and Baylie thrive in our program and beyond."

Eligible candidates had to be Kentucky residents entering their second year of the Radiography program. The scholarships will cover reasonable educational expenses, including tuition, books, fees, and other attendance-related costs.

Recipients will receive support in the fall 2025 and spring

2026 semester. As part of their commitment, scholarship recipients will be required to work in their field at Owensboro Health for a designated period after graduation. Applications were open and taken through April 2025. The grant, funded through the Kentucky General Assembly's Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund, aimed to strengthen Kentucky's healthcare workforce by supporting students pursuing careers in radiography.

For more information please contact Michelle Tudor at michelle.tudor@kctcs.

Toy types to avoid when gifting kids under 5

The holiday season presents plenty of opportunities to spread cheer and bring joy into the lives of others. That's particularly true for parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles of young children. Few things are more enjoyable come the holiday season than watching a youngster's eyes light up upon receiving a soughtafter gift.

Well-meaning adults and even older kids anxious to give a younger sibling or cousin a coveted gift must remember to keep safety in mind when shopping for especially young children. Certain toys may pose a threat to children age five and under. As holiday shoppers begin to search for gifts for children in that age group, they might want to avoid the following types of

• Toys with lots of small pieces: Toys with small. detachable pieces can be hazardous



to kids age five and under because kids might intentionally or mistakenly put the tiny pieces into their mouths, which increases their risk of choking. Legos are a wildly popular gift come the holiday season, but it's important that shoppers read the package and purchase a Lego set that's age-appropriate. According to a recent

report from Consumer **Product Safety** Commission, 9 percent of toy-related injuries in kids age four and younger occurred while the children were playing with building sets. Though building sets provide a host of benefits, not the least of which is the fun children get from playing with them, it's imperative to purchase ageappropriate sets.

• Toys with an electronic component: Toys with electronic components can pose a number of dangers to children five and under. Such products can heat up. potentially causing burns. And wire coverings can fray over time and thus expose children to electrical currents. When shopping for children five and

younger, skip toys with an electrical component.

 Motorized gifts: Motorized gifts like scooters, cars and non-traditional bicycles also pose a threat to children five and younger. Motorized gifts may reach speeds that kids cannot safely manage, as youngsters' motor skills are not fully developed by age five.

• Toys with sharp points: Sharp points also pose a threat to children five and younger. Kids can easily suffer lacerations, eye injuries or other issues that pose a threat to their physical safety when playing with toys with sharp points or edges. Toys with soft, rounded edges and no points are ideal for children age five and under.

• Projectile toys: Toys that shoot projectiles pose a danger to children and anyone who happens to be in the room with youngsters playing with such items. Eye injuries and bruises are two injuries that can occur when children five and under play with projectiles.

The chance to light up a child's eyes with the perfect gift is part of what makes the holiday season such a special time of year. But it's imperative that shoppers find age-appropriate toys for children.

If it matters to you, it matters to us 270-442-7389

Christmas lights and the young entrepreneurs

by Greg LeNeave Publisher, KPI Newspaper Group

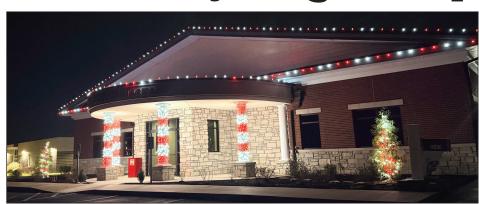
Each holiday season, homeowners across Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois look for help decorating and installing outdoor lights. Finding reliable workers can be a challenge, but every now and then you meet someone who is willing to go the extra mile.



Kyle Hampton

One of those people is Kyle Hampton of Ledbetter, Kentucky. Hampton, in his early 20s, specializes in hanging Christmas lights and providing a variety of residential and commercial services. A 2020 graduate of Livingston Central High School, he teamed up with business partner Morgan Mayo, a 2021 Paducah Tilghman graduate. The pair met while working at Barbecue on the River and have been friends ever since.

Many might wonder how two young men can build a business around Christmas lighting alone. The answer is simple — they don't. Hampton and Mayo offer a wide range of services, including handyman work, light construction, and general outdoor projects. Their goal, Hampton said, is to



Christmas lights at Kentucky Publishing Newspaper Group is a welcoming holiday sight when people enter the Paducah Commerce Park. The KPI newspaper office is located at 1540 McCracken Blvd.

(KPI photos by Greg LeNeave)

do any job well, with professionalism and fair prices.

"When it comes to Christmas lights, not many people do this around here," Hampton said. "And the ones that do, people are finding out they're being overcharged. We want repeat business, not just onetime customers. We want to sell the idea of Christmas"

Hampton first learned the holiday lighting trade in Texas, where a mentor introduced him to the business. He credits his father, Danny Hampton, for instilling a strong work ethic and a willingness to "hustle" to earn a good living. That drive helped Hampton overcome a life-threatening illness that sidelined him for six to eight months. He recovered and returned to work with more determination than ever.

Outside of business, Hampton enjoys target shooting and is a regular on area golf courses, including Drake Creek, Deer Lakes, Silos and Paxton Park.

A prime example of their work can be seen at night at the Kentucky Publishing Newspaper Group office at 1540 McCracken Blvd. The Christmas lighting display on the building showcases the quality and professionalism Hampton and Mayo bring to every project.

For residential or commercial holiday lighting — and other licensed, insured professional services — contact Hampton and Mayo at 270-816-5713. They are young entrepreneurs committed to doing the job right, one light at a time.

Paducah Power continues holiday outreach

KPI Newspaper Group Staff Report

The holiday season in Paducah kicked off in bright style on Wednesday evening as Paducah Power System flipped the switch to illuminate Bob Noble Park, marking the start of the annual "Christmas in the Park." The lighting ceremony began at 5:30 p.m., bringing together community members to celebrate the transformation of the park into a festive winter wonderland.

Better than half a million twinkling lights now line the park's paths, trees, and displays — turning the 135-acre grounds into a dazzling spectacle for families, friends, and holiday visitors.

After the official lighting, attendees were invited to walk through the park from 5:30 until 7 p.m., enjoying the lights and festive atmosphere on foot before the park

opened to vehicular traffic.

Once again this year, PPS encourages guests to donate canned goods or money at the volunteer-staffed Santa House. Proceeds go to local charities including Paducah Cooperative Ministry, Family Service Society, The Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul Society — helping neighbors and families in need during the holidays.

The lights will be on nightly through December 31, inviting anyone looking for a warm holiday experience to drive or walk through the park. Sunday through Thursday the display runs from 6–9 p.m., with extended hours until 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

For many in Paducah, this event is more than decoration — it's a tradition that brings the community together, spreading holiday cheer while supporting meaningful local causes.



Free Carriage rides were sponsored by Signet Federal Credit Union.

(photos via Paducah Power System Facebook page)

