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www.ky-news.com IN GOD WE TRUST **December 19, 2025**

Theology of Christmas needs more emphasis, profs and pastor say

NASHVILLE (BP) -No matter how many times Michael York preaches on Christ's incarnation, it never ceases to amaze him.

"The eternal God, the second person of the Trinity, entered into humanity as a baby in His mother's womb and was born without the musculature in His neck to even hold up His own head," said York, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Ashland, Ky. "He had to be cradled, and He had to be fed. Jesus was fully human. He is just like we were except without sin. All the struggles and weaknesses of our physical flesh - Jesus experienced that."

For York, the incarnation isn't just a Christmas emphasis. It's a tool to help Christians grow in godliness year-round.

"The incarnation gives me the opportunity as a pastor to say to a congregation that Jesus knows and has experienced the kind of things they are going through," he said.

York hopes more pastors will join him in explaining and applying this doctrine throughout the coming year.

The term "incarnation" refers to the biblical teaching that Jesus is one, undivided person who is both fully God and fully human. He has existed as God eternally, possessing all the same divine attributes as God the Father - omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence and more. He became human when God the Father sent Him into Mary's womb, and He remains human forever, possessing all the



same attributes other humans possess only without sin.

A classic statement of this doctrine was made by a gathering of Christian leaders in A.D. 451 in the city of Chalcedon, in modern-day Turkey.

Jesus is, according to the Council of Chalcedon, "one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, the same truly God and truly man, of a rational soul and a

But should explaining the theological ins and outs of Jesus' incarnation concern pastors? Isn't it enough to appreciate the sentimentality of the Christmas season? Theology professor Malcolm Yarnell's answers are emphatic: yes to the first question, no to the second.

"The incarnation is absolutely necessary for the totality of our salvation, from justification through sanctification to glorification," said

Yarnell, research professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Without the incarnation, there is no saving power in the Christian faith.

"Only one who is truly the perfect man could die for our sins, and only one who is truly God could raise His humanity from death," he said. "After His death and resurrection, Christ took our humanity to His eternal throne so that we could approach the throne of grace in our every time of need."

The incarnation also dignifies our lives in human bodies, says Michael Haykin, professor of church history and biblical spirituality at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"We're not just souls," he said. "The body is to be redeemed. We believe in the redemption of the body and the resurrection of the flesh because Christ became man."

Because Jesus is a

human being with a body, believers should consider "the importance of the human body," the "importance of the material realm" and the "use of the body in worship," including baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Earlier generations seemed to understand the implications of Christ's incarnation more fully than some modern evangelicals, Haykin said. The early centuries of church history saw numerous Christian books and sermons on the incarnation because believers in that era battled false teachers who

In the Middle Ages, theologians began emphasizing that Jesus became man in order to redeem humanity on the cross. Anselm of Canterbury made that argument famous in his book "Why God Became Man." Emphasis on Jesus' incarnation as background for the cross continued into the Reformation era and beyond.

fear early Christian books on theology. "The student is half

afraid to meet one of the great philosophers face to face," Lewis wrote in an introduction to "On the Incarnation of the Word." "He feels himself inadequate and thinks he will not understand him. But if he only knew, the great man, just because of his greatness, is much more intelligible than his modern commentator."

were able to take for

granted. But we must

Apologist C.S. Lewis

urged modern Chris-

tians - laypeople and

pastors alike - not to

pay attention to the

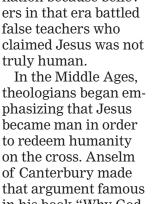
basic truths of the

faith again."

"The only palliative" to repeating the same errors as other preachers in our time, Lewis wrote, "is to keep the clean sea breeze of the centuries blowing through our minds, and this can be done only by reading old books."

York's church feels the breeze of his preaching on the incarnation yearround, sometimes at unexpected moments when people realize Jesus' humanity comforts them in a trial. Preaching on the incarnation, he said, is "equipping people for what's to come."

"This information goes into their minds," York said. "Then sometime afterward – maybe February, maybe March - they go through something, and the idea that Jesus entered into humanity, taking on the frailty of our human nature, hits them in that moment."



attention to the fundamental doctrines of God the Trinity and Christ as truly God and truly man," Yarnell said. "Instead, we have had to spend significant time defending the truthfulness and authority of Scripture, a doctrine which other periods

Christians to return

writings on the incar-

nation to understand

that doctrine's signif-

book on why God the

Son became human is

"On the Incarnation of

the Word," written by

Athanasius of Alexan-

For Athanasius,

"the incarnation is a

victory over the devil

Yarnell agrees that

in many respects,"

today's preachers

have much to learn

from early Christian

on Christ's incarna-

"In modernity,

evangelicals have not

always paid sufficient

preaching and writing

Haykin said.

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unique gift shop that has something for everyone.



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Director named for KDA's Division of Agricultural Economic Development

Staff Report

FRANKFORT, Ky.— Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell has announced Hunter Jones as the director of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's (KDA) Division of Agricultural Economic Development.

"Creating a greater economic presence within and for our agriculture community is the goal of the Agricultural Economic Development Division," Commissioner Shell said. "Hunter's prior

experience and commitment to the growth of Kentucky farmers will be instrumental in the success of this Division. I am pleased to have him onboard and see where he can take Kentucky's farming future."

The Division helps administer the Kentucky Agricultural Economic Development Board, which was established this year through Senate Bill 28. The board was created to strengthen and expand Kentucky's agricultural



Hunter Jones

economy through strategic planning, targeted partnerships, and financial incentives. It will administer programs, such as grants, forgivable loans, and revolving loan funds, to support infrastructure upgrades, market expansion, and value-added agricultural development. The overall goal is to attract private investment, create new economic opportunities, and uplift farming communities throughout Kentucky.

The creation of this board is the result of Commissioner Shell's vision that "Agriculture is Economic Development." In 2024, Commissioner Shell conducted a statewide listening tour, hosting regional meetings with farmers, business leaders, and community stakeholders. The input gathered during those meetings shaped the priorities and design of this new initiative.

Jones, who is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, worked within KDA's Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP) for two years prior to serving as Director of the Agricultural Economic

The Kentucky Agricultural Economic Development Division operates KOAP, under the leadership of Executive Director Brandon Reed. KOAP provides staff support to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation, which together provide grants, incentives and low-interest loans to help farmers and

agribusinesses inno-

vate and grow.

Development Division.

Last-Minute Christmas Shopping Rush Sweeps Stores and Screens

Staff Report

With just days remaining before Christmas, shoppers across the country are racing to complete their holiday purchases, fueling one of the busiest retail periods of the season. From crowded malls and packed parking lots to surging online orders, last-minute Christmas shopping is in full

swing.

Retailers report a sharp increase in foot traffic this week as consumers hunt for gifts, decorations, and festive meals. Popular items include electronics, toys, gift cards, and winter clothing, many of which are selling out quickly. Store employees say extended hours and expedited checkout options are helping

manage the rush, though long lines remain common.

"I always think I'm done early, and then I realize I forgot something," said Maria Lopez, a shopper at a downtown department store. "This year it's stocking stuffers and gifts for coworkers."

Online shopping has also seen a significant spike, with customers relying on express shipping and same-day delivery services to beat holiday deadlines. However, shipping cutoffs and weather-related delays have pushed some consumers back into physical stores. To accommodate demand, many retailers are promoting buyonline-pickup-in-store options and digital gift cards, which can be delivered instantly.

Economists note

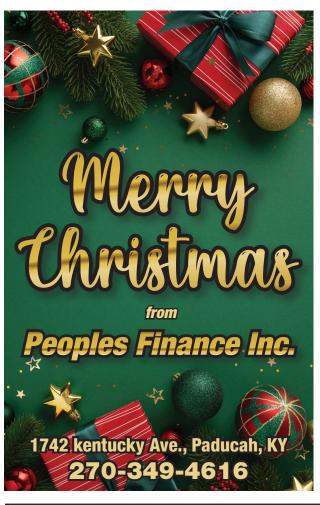
that last-minute spending plays a critical role in overall holiday sales, often accounting for a substantial portion of December revenue. Despite concerns about inflation and higher living costs, early data suggests shoppers are still willing to spend, though many are seeking discounts and promotions.

Retail analysts

advise shoppers to plan carefully, check store hours, and consider alternatives such as gift cards or experiences to avoid stress. As Christmas approaches, one thing is certain: whether online or in-store, the last-minute shopping tradition remains a defining part of the holiday season.











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Johnson receives UT Martin's Meek Leadership Award

MARTIN, Tenn. -Faith Johnson, a fall 2025 magna cum laude graduate in business management and finance from Bartlett, is this semester's recipient of the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Johnson pursued a double-major while working 15 to 20 hours a week to support her education. She had an internship in summer 2024 at the UT Federal Credit Union.

Outside the classroom, Johnson served as secretary for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., utilizing her organizational, communication and leadership skills. She was a member of the Student Alumni Council, National Society of Leadership and Success, Women of Excellence, Black Student Association, Financial Management Association and Flight Crew.

As a leader in the Student Alumni Council and Flight Crew, she played a role in major campus programming for the last three years, working to serve and support her fellow students.

Johnson completed several volunteer hours, including 40 hours at Caris Healthcare, 50 hours with Mid-South Food Bank and 30 hours with Quail Ridge Assisted Living and Memory

In addition to her organizational leadership, Johnson demonstrated professional experience through her work at the Dungan Alumni Center, where she managed

records, assisted guests and maintained data systems.

The Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is given to graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities at UT Martin. Named for former Chancellor Paul Meek and his wife, Martha, the honor consists of a cash award from an endowment set up by their children.

ed at the graduation ceremonies in the fall and spring semesters that the recipient is participating in. The recipients in the previous school year were Bionica Barnes and Lauryn Davis, both of Memphis, in the fall $2024 \stackrel{-}{commencement}$ and Charlie Shipman of Memphis and Isabella Walker of Bartlett in

The award is present-



Faith Johnson (right), a business management and finance graduate from Bartlett, was announced as the fall 2025 recipient of the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award. Johnson is shown with Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, who made the announcement at the commencement exercises Dec. 13. Students are nominated for the award by the professional staff within the Division of Student Affairs. (Photo provided)

the spring 2025 commencement.

Students are nominated for the award by the professional staff

within the Division of Student Affairs. The first recipients of the Meek Award were Barbara N. Johnson

of Waverly and Carl G. Newby of Union City, both spring 1967 graduates.

203 graduate from Union University

JACKSON, Tenn. - Two hundred three students graduated from Union University Dec. 13 during fall commencement services of the 201st graduating class at West Jackson Baptist Church.

Kelvin Moore, who

retired in 2024 as professor of Christian studies after serving Union for 33 years, delivered the keynote address. In a culture that often prizes convenience and the path of least resistance, Moore challenged graduates

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to pursue a different route: the "hard path" that leads to character, integrity and life.

Drawing from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7, Moore contrasted the "wide gate" and "easy way" with the "narrow gate" and "hard way." He warned graduates that while poor decisions are often the result of human nature or deception, the most common trap is simply choosing what is easy.

"You will be tempted in life to take the easy

path," Moore said. "Let me admonish, plead with you this morning: do not do that. ... Choose instead the hard way, and Jesus said this will lead to life."

Located in Jackson, Tenn., Union

University is a liberal arts-based university affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Founded in 1823, Union is the oldest institution relating to the Southern Baptist Convention.

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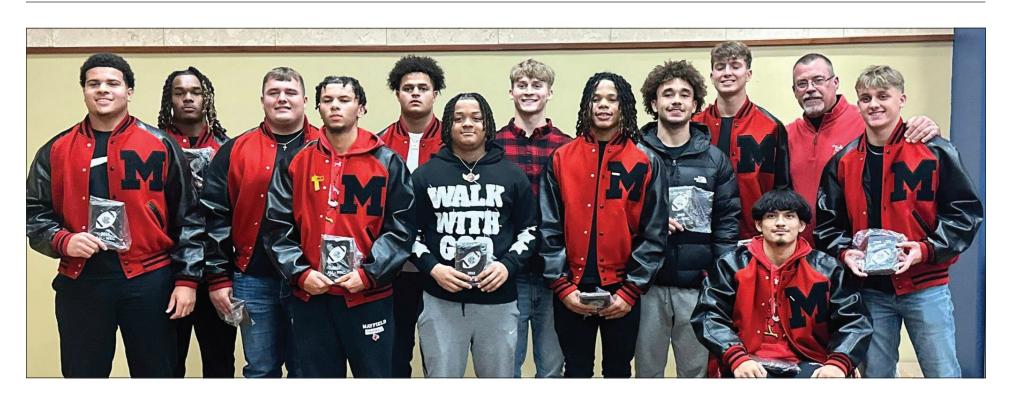
WEST KY SPORTS







Paducah Tilghman High School football seniors Jarvis Strickland (University of Louisville), Ben Myers (University of Kentucky) and Hank James (Troy University) signed their National Letters of Intent during a ceremony held at PTHS on Friday, Dec. 12. (Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School)



Mayfield football players were among the student-athletes honored at the WKC Banquet earlier in the month.

(Photo courtesy of Mayfield High School)



Marshall County girls' basketball head coach Aaron Beth was honored for registering his 300th career win earlier in the month.

(Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School)

Marshall County 74, Northwest (Clarksville, Tenn.) 56

Staff Report

MURRAY — Marshall County defeated Northwest (Clarksville, Tenn.) 74-56 during the Murray Bank Ken-Tenn Classic at Calloway County on Saturday, Dec. 13.

County on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Marshals improved to 5-1 after registering the win.

Marshall County shot 55.6 percent (25-of-45) from the field. The Marshals shot 35.3 percent (six-of-17) from three-point range.

Marshall County shot 75.0 percent (18-of-24) from the free throw line.

Matthew Langhi led Marshall County to the win. Langhi poured in a game-high 31 points for the Marshals.

In another strong performance for Marshall County, Neyland Jezik recorded a double-double. Jezik scored 14 points and cleared out 10 rebounds for the Marshals.

Five players accounted for all of Marshall County's scoring. Rounding out Marshall County's individual scoring, Carson Lovett netted six points, and Maddox Konrad tallied two points.



Senior guard Miles Woodfork was named the player of the game after McCracken County's win over DuPont Manual in the Murray Bank Ken-Tenn Classic at Calloway County on Saturday, Dec. 13. The Mustangs defeated the Crimsons 75-68.

Hickman County 33

© Carlisle County 59,

(Photo courtesy of Calloway County High School)

Staff Report

CLINTON — Carlisle County defeated Hickman County 59-33 in a 1st District boys' basketball game on Friday, Dec. 12.

Following the loss, Hickman County slipped to 3-2 overall and opened 0-1 in the 1st District.

Carlisle County shot 55.3 percent (26-of-47) from the field, missing each of its two three-pointer attempts.

The Comets shot 53.8 percent (seven-of-31) from the free throw

Wyatt Rickard and Kasen Perez shared game-high scoring honors for Carlisle County, netting 11 points apiece.

Accompanying Rickard and Perez in double figures for the Comets, Heath McBride netted 10

Carlisle County received scoring

from eight different players.
The other scorers for Carlisle
County were Brennan O'Neill
(eight points), Jonah Bruer (eight
points), Dax Garrett (seven points),
Jeremiah Neeble (two points) and
Gage Canary (two points).

Hickman County shot 26.0 percent (13-of-50) from the field. The Falcons shot 25.0 percent (six-of-24) from three-point range.

Limited offensively, Hickman County connected on its lone free throw line in the district game.

Nyiahez Irons paced the Falcons. Irons recorded a double-double for Hickman County, scoring 10 points and claiming 11 rebounds.

Contributing offensively,
Brendan Rosas (seven points),
Logan Grimmitt (six points),
Brec Byassee (five points), Kaden
Grubbs (three points) and Jack
Byassee (two points) joined Irons in
Hickman County's scoring column.

Bombers Win Close One Over CFS



By Tim Taylor KPI Sports Writer

The Bombers have found themselves in nail-biters in their early season. After an overtime loss to St. Mary in their prior outing, it came down to another one score game against CFS. Early game jitters have put the Bombers in a hole in their first three games of the year. After getting the opening points of their game with the Eagles, CFS scored the next 8 to gain the 6 point lead. The Bombers settled in and outscored CFS 19-8 the remainder of the half to gain a 5 point lead at the halftime break. CFS battled back and reclaimed a 4 point lead with just over 2 minutes remaining in the game. Grayson Sparacio trimmed the deficit to 2 and he scored another goal off an Eagles turnover to tie the game. After CFS went back up 2 with 1:25 left, Reed Duren spotted up for a left wing trey he drained at the 59 second mark to go up two. Ballard Memorial failed to connect on 4 consecutive free throws while clinging to a 2 point lead despite Sparacio getting an offensive

rebound on one of the misses. The Eagles had a chance to tie or win the game, but the Bomber's defense prevented CFS from getting off a shot late as Ballard Memorial picked up their first win of the season 45-43. They limited the Eagles to 27 points below their season overage in CFS's first 6 games.

Ballard Memorial then went to Livingston Central and could not connect on any field goals in the 2nd quarter. They were outscored 18-3 in the period and found themselves trailing 30-13 at the break. A more energized defensive team in the 2nd half led to some better offense in the final 16 minutes. Sparacio scored 7 of his team high 18 in the third period as the Bombers trimmed the deficit to 7. The Bombers kept plugging away with Duren hitting 4 treys in the 4th quarter and Miller's trey with 26.9 seconds remaining left the Cardinals lead at 52-48. That would be as close as they would get as the Cardinals survived for the 56-51 win. Duren ended with 15 points and Miller added 11. The Bombers dropped to 1-3 on the season.

Lady Comets 68, **Hickman County 38**

Staff Report

CLINTON — Carlisle County dealt Hickman County its first loss in the 2025-26 girls' high school basketball season, defeating the Lady Falcons 68-38 on Friday, Dec.

The Lady Comets prevailed in a 1st District hoops matchup.

Following the loss, Hickman County slipped to 3-1 overall and opened 0-1 in the 1st District.

Carlisle County shot 40.7 percent (24-of-59) from the field. The Lady Comets shot 33.3 percent (nineof-27) from three-point range.

Nearly automatic in a key area, Carlisle County shot 91.7 percent (11-of-12) from the free throw line.

Carlisle County thrived outside and inside, outrebounding Hickman County 44-25.

Rylee Lemons and Macee Hogancamp shared game-high scoring honors for Carlisle County, netting 15 points apiece. Hogancamp registered a doubledouble, securing a game-high 13 rebounds.

Accompanying Lemons and Hogancamp in double figures for Carlisle County, Eden Bruer netted 12 points.

Nine players entered Carlisle County's scoring column. Finishing in single digits, Ella Draper (six points), Bella Hoskins (six points), Olivia Webb (six points), Abree Warren (three points), Sara Thornsbrough (three points) and Lyndee Hogancamp (two points) supplied the rest of Carlisle County's scoring.

Hickman County shot 31.2 percent (15-of-48) from the field. The Lady Falcons made three of 13 three-point field goal attempts.

Hickman County shot 45.5 percent (five-of-11) from the free throw line.

Audrey Tucker scored a teamhigh 12 points for the Lady Falcons. Tucker was the only Hickman County scorer to reach double figures.

Seven different players provided scoring for the Lady Falcons. Bailey Childress (seven points), Kaylee Britton (six points), Jenna Byassee (four points), Ann White (four points), Kylie Meshew (three points) and Lakyn Wilber (two points) followed Tucker in Hickman County's scoring column.

Britton paced Hickman County inside, claiming seven rebounds.

C Lady Bombers **Dominate CFS**



By Tim Taylor KPI Sports Writer

The Lady Bombers of Ballard Memorial took exception to their opening season loss to St. Mary. Possibly overlooking the young Lady Vikings team, they made sure not to duplicate that in their second outing of the season. The Lady Bombers hosted the Lady Eagles from CFS as they started fast and continued to gain momentum throughout the game. Defensively, they locked in and only allowed a single three point field goal in the entire first half of play. Ballard Memorial held the Lady Eagles scoreless in the opening quarter leading 19-0 and led 35-3 at the half. Gracee Beere hit a trey in the opening quarter and another in the 2nd quarter before Kate O'Neill hit a trio of treys in the second quarter. Ballard Memorial was limited to a single trey in their opening game and connected on 8 in their 52-14 win over CFS. Beere came off the bench to score 18 to lead all scorers

while O'Neill added 15 to even the Lady Bombers record at 1-1.

They went to Livingston Central on December 15th for their first road game of the season. The Lady Bombers once again were focused on the defensive end limiting the Lady Cardinals to 13 points in the opening half. Beere remained hot from the outside scoring 11 points in the opening 16 minutes to help Ballard Memorial grab the 9 point lead at the break. Mallie Owens and O'Neill carried the scoring in the 2nd half as they combined for 5 more treys to extend the lead to 37-20 after 3 quarters. Offensively, the Lady Bombers spread the floor in the fourth quarter. Defensively, they gave up a few open look treys as Livingston Central drained 4 long range shots in the final 8 minutes, but it was not enough as the Lady Bombers picked up the 46-35 win. O'Neill led the way with 18, Beere added 11 and Owens finished with 8. Ballard Memorial is now 2-1 following the win.

Swimming and diving nominations sought for Midway/ KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year

Staff Report

 ${\tt LEXINGTON-The\ nomination}$ process for the Midway University/ KHSAA Male and Female Student-Athlete of the Year among swimming and diving participants for 2025-2026 is now open.

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

khsaa.org/ge35-midway-universitv-khsaa-female-student-athlete-of-the-year-nomination-form/.

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

The deadline for nominations for the Midway University/KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year in the sport of swim and dive is January



McCracken County 75, **DuPont Manual 68**

Staff Report

MURRAY — McCracken County pulled away to defeat DuPont Manual 75-68 in the Murray Bank Ken-Tenn Classic at Calloway County on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Mustangs thrived offensively, shooting 56.5 percent (26-of-46) from the field. McCracken County shot 38.5 percent (five-of-13) from three-point range.

The Mustangs shot 75.0 percent (18-of-24) from the free throw line.

Miles Woodfork led McCracken County to the win, scoring a gamehigh 25 points for the Mustangs. Woodford made six of seven free throw attempts.

Following Woodfork in McCrack-

en County's scoring column, Gar-

Accompanying Woodfork and Miller in double figures for Mc-Cracken County, Jackson Klope tallied 15 points.

rett Miller netted 16 points.

Eight different players provided scoring for the Mustangs. The additional scorers for McCracken County were Jay Martin (six points), Aaron Adams (five points), Carter Hawes (five points), Owen Grogan (two points) and Jackson Diaz (one point).

Nearly recording a double-double for McCracken County, Klope claimed nine rebounds.

McCracken County moved to 5-0 after registering the win.

Give blood or platelets and give patients time this holiday season

KENTUCKY, - Time is critical for patients this December. The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply steady over the busy holiday season. Types O positive, O negative and B negative blood donors are especially needed now and in the coming weeks.

December is National Month of Giving, and your Red Cross blood or platelet donation can bring hope and healing. Create a new holiday tradition and help spread comfort and support lifesaving care. When the unexpected happens, it's the blood products already on the shelves that matter.

Redefine the meaning of a gift bag; give something that means something and schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood. org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

For a limited time, those who come to give Dec. 8-18, 2025, will receive a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email. Those who come to give Dec. 19, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. For details on December offers, see Red-CrossBlood.org/Gifts. If you're unable to give, consider making a financial donation to support our lifesaving mission at redcross.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 8-31, 2025:

Altona Baptist Church, 5827 US Highway 62, Calvert City, KY 42029 12/23/2025: 9 a.m. - 2

Calvert City Church

of Christ, 4625 US Highway 62, Calvert City, KY 42029 12/26/2025: 12 p.m. - 5

CFSB Benton Banking Center, 221 W. 5th St., Benton, KY 42025 12/22/2025: 10 a.m. - 3

CFSB Mayfield, 100 Dick Castleman Bypass, Mayfield, KY 42066

12/26/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Concord United Methodist Church, 5178 Hinkleville Road, Paducah, KY 42001 12/24/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 12/29/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 12/30/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

David Taylor, 2052 US-641, Murray, KY 12/22/2025: 10 a.m. - 4

First Presbyterian Church, 1601 Main St., Murray, KY 42071 12/12/2025: 12 p.m. -5 p.m.

Jackson Purchase Medical Center, 1099 Medical Drive, Mayfield, KY 42066 12/8/2025: 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Mayfield Graves County YMCA, 1545 Cuba Road, Mayfield, KY 42066 12/24/2025: 9 a.m. - 2

Murray First United Methodist Church, 503 Maple St., Murray, KY 42071 12/21/2025: 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

Paducah Blood Donation Center, 4635 Falconcrest Drive, Paducah, KY 42001 12/19/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. 12/21/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. 12/22/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 12/23/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 12/24/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. 12/26/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. 12/28/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. 12/29/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 12/30/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 12/31/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Saint William Catholic Church, 860 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064 12/29/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Smithland First Baptist Church, 237 Court St., Smithland, KY 42081 12/23/2025: 11 a.m. - 4

St. John's Episcopal Church, 1620 W. Main St., Murray, KY 42071 12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 2

Twin Lakes Worship Center, 4166 US-641, Benton, KY 42025 12/19/2025: 12 p.m. - 5

In addition to providing lifesaving blood products, the Red Cross mobilizes relief to families affected by disasters, trains people in lifesaving skills and provides services to active and veteran U.S. military personnel and their families. Donors can feel good knowing that by supporting the Red Cross, they can help family and friends in their communities and across the country. How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight

requirements.

Kentucky Center for Statistics breaks down September unemployment data

By TOM LATEK

Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Unemployment rates fell in 116 counties, rose in Clinton, Wayne and Ballard counties and stayed the same in Logan County between September 2024 and September 2025, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky **Education** and Labor Cabinet.

Cumberland, Scott, Shelby and Woodford counties recorded the lowest jobless rates in the state at 3.7 percent each. They were

followed by Fayette and Oldham counties, 3.8 percent each; and Boone, Franklin, Kenton, Spencer, Todd and Washington counties, with 3.9 percent each.

Martin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 8.5 percent. It was followed by Magoffin County, 8.1 percent; Lewis County, 7.5 percent; Elliott and Wolfe counties, 7.2 percent each; Jackson County, 6.9 percent; Harlan County, 6.7 percent; Carter and Lawrence counties, 6.6 percent each; and Knox County, 6.5 percent.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. **Employment statistics** undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The

comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 4.5 percent for September 2025, and 4.3 percent for the nation.

KYSTATS reported earlier this month that Kentucky's seasonally adjusted September 2025 statewide unemployment rate was 4.7 percent. The September 2025 jobless rate was unchanged from August 2025 and down 0.6 percentage points from one year ago.

Statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are adjusted to observe statistical trends by removing seasonal influences such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. For more information regarding seasonal

fluctuations, visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics here.

Unemployment statistics are based on estimates and are compiled to measure trends rather than actually count people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The data should only be compared to the same month in previous years.

Note that the figures have been delayed due to the federal government shutdown.



28 Brownie Rd.

Hardin, KY 42048





Wisconsin Judge Hannah Dugan on trial for helping immigrant does not testify

By TODD RICHMOND AP

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Wisconsin judge accused of helping a Mexican immigrant evade federal authorities did not take the stand Thursday after her attorneys presented less than an hour's worth of witnesses in her defense as she faces obstruction and concealment charges.

The case against Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan was expected to head to the jury later Thursday after closing arguments.

The highly unusual charges against a sitting judge are an extraordinary consequence of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. Dugan's supporters say Trump is looking to make an example of her to blunt judicial opposition to immigration arrests.

Prosecutors have tried to show that Dugan intentionally interfered with members of a federal immigration task force's efforts to arrest 31-year-old Eduardo Flores-Ruiz at the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

Dugan's team filed a motion late Wednesday asking U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman, who is presiding over the case, to find Dugan not guilty without asking jurors to deliberate. Adelman did not immediately rule Thursday on the motion, which is common after prosecutors present their case.

Dugan argued in her motion that she may have inconvenienced the arrest team but she didn't intentionally try to conceal Flores-Ruiz, noting that although he left through a private door, he still emerged into the public hallway where two officers saw him.

Dugan also insisted that long-standing legal precedent prevents civil arrests of people coming or going from courthouses and

immigration removal proceedings are civil actions.

Her attorneys called only four witnesses Thursday morning, including a public defender who took photographs of the arrest team in the hallway and two judges who testified that the draft policy was in flux in the weeks before Flores-Ruiz's arrest.

The last witness was former Milwaukee mayor and Democratic congressman Tom Barrett, who testified that he's known Dugan since high school and described her as "extremely honest." He told jurors under cross-examination that he wasn't at the courthouse on the day of the arrest and was only testifying about her character.

Officers who came to arrest Flores-Ruiz testified that they learned he was in the country illegally after he was arrested in Milwaukee on state battery

charges. Flores-Ruiz was scheduled to appear for a hearing in front of Dugan on April 18. Six agents and officers staked out Dugan's courtroom that morning, ready to arrest him when he emerged from the hearing.

They testified that Dugan and another judge, Kristela Cervera, stepped into the hallway wearing their robes. Dugan angrily told four members of the team to report to the chief judge's office.

As Cervera led them to the office, Dugan returned to her courtroom and led Flores-Ruiz out a private door into the hallway. Prosecutors produced transcripts of audio phones in her courtthat she'd take "the Flores-Ruiz out the

testified that she was

uncomfortable backing up Dugan during her confrontations with the arrest team. She said she was shocked when she heard Dugan led Flores-Ruiz out a private door, adding that judges shouldn't help defendants evade arrest. Cervera also testified that Dugan told her three days after the incident that Dugan was "in the doghouse" with the chief judge, Carl Ashley, because she "tried to help that guy."

Dugan's attorneys have countered during cross-examinations that Dugan didn't

intend to obstruct the arrest team and was trying to follow a draft courthouse policy from Ashley that called for court employees to refer immigration agents looking to make an arrest in the courthouse to supervisors.

They've also argued that the arrest team could have apprehended Flores-Ruiz at any point after he emerged from the courtroom and Dugan shouldn't be blamed for their decision to wait until he got outside.

recordings from microroom that show Dugan told her court reporter heat" for showing private door. Two agents Dugan missed during her confrontations with the team followed Flores-Ruiz outside, and a foot chase through traffic ensued before he was finally arrested. Members of the team testified that Dugan divided them and forced them THE THE TEST TEST TO SEE THE S out of position, leaving BAR-B-Q them too short-handed to make a safe arrest in the hallway. 3415 Clarks River Rd, Paducah, KY Cervera, for her part, 270-446-9978

PUBLIC NOTICE

Peoples Finance Inc. of Paducah, KY is now accepting sealed bids on the following repossession:

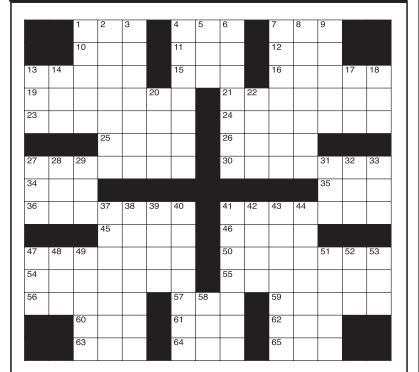
(1) Express 10 x 20 Portable storage building Serial # P0112516-GM1020-89265-KYR3 Model # Portable Office Manufactured Nov 25, 2016 Built in KY

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10 A.M. January 2nd 2026 at Peoples Finance Inc. 1742 Kentucky Ave., Paducah, KY 42003.

Peoples Finance Inc. reserves the right to refuse all bids. For further information or where to view the building you may contact Peoples Finance Inc. at (270) 349-4616



Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. American automotive titan
- 4. Tire term
- 7. Two-year-old sheep
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group 12. Actress de Armas
- 13. Not moving
- 15. Cool!
- 16. Plants of the arum family 19. Connected with touch
- 21. Pen stain 23. Monetary units
- 24. School kids' art project
- 25. Early Bell Canada executive
- 26. Sword 27. Hates
- 30. Fixed in one place
- 34. Pie _ __ mode

- 35. Moved swiftly on foot
- 36. Carrier on vehicle
- 41. A path to get through 45. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 46. Spiritual leader 47. Flowing
- 50. Respectful compliments
- 54. Cure 55. Soft, lightweight fabric
- 56. Building material
- 57. Japanese delicacy 59. A way to cause to be swollen
- 60. One and only
- 61. You might get one in summer
- 62. Wreath
- 63. Thus far
- 64. They
- 65. Employee reference number

Puzzle Solutions on B9

8

5

7

9

4

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Policemen (French)
- 2. Toy dog
- 3. Intestinal condition
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Alphabetical lists
- 7. Takes down 8. Facilitates
- 9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia 13. Engine additive
- 14. Explorers group
- 17. Written account
- 18. Consumed 20. Opposite of first
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. Government lawyers
- 28. NY Giants great 29 Small amount
- 31. A way to save for your future

- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Head pain
- 38. Wildly popular sport 39. "Princess Diaries" actress
- Hathaway
- 40. Boat race
- 41. About fish
- 42. Nursemaid 43. Able to be marketed
- 44. Not as large
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Paddle
- 49. Oneness
- 51. Bitter chemical 52. Not around
- 53. Very fast airplane
- 58. Main tributary of the Rhine

M С Р S Ε G 0 Ν R Ε SOLUTI G S Ε Ε Ε S S ı D G С R G S 0 С 0 Т Н Ε Α Ν Ε R Е Ε R

Crypto Fun

Solve the code to discover words related to food service. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 26 = E)

22 26 17 4 26 Α.

Clue: Waiter/waitress

24 23 19 25 26 11 В. **13** Clue: Cooking room

C. 26 22 13

Clue: Place to dine

D. 19 **25 26** 19 24

Clue: Restaurant bill

Winter Jokes

What do you call a vampire with a snowman? Frostbite!

What kind of math do Snow Owls do best? **Owlgebra**

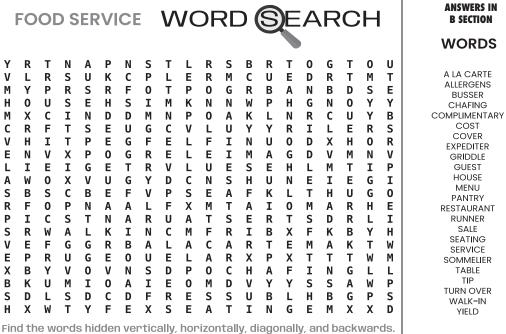
What fish do you catch in the winter? Frozen fish sticks

Answers: A. server

B. kitchen

?

Word Search



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 B SECTION

4

3

5

3

8

TABLE

Word Scramble Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.



Answer: Credit

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in New York on December 19, 1972. I began acting at age 8 after landing a role on a national tour of "Annie." I rose to fame as a teen on a television show about a male housekeeper. I later starred alongside two other "sisters" on a magical show.

Answer: Alyssa Milano

COLORING FUN

6

4

9

7





Town Food Service recalling saucepans

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Town Food Service Equipment Co., Inc. of Brooklyn, NY is recalling aluminum saucepans sold in Kentucky and more than 30 other states, because it has the potential to be contaminated with lead which may leach into food.

Lead is toxic to humans and can affect people of any age or health status, and there is no known safe level of exposure to lead. Even low levels of lead exposure can cause serious health problems, particularly in children and fetuses. Consuming food with elevated lead levels can contribute

to elevated levels of lead in the blood.

Children and babies are more susceptible to lead toxicity due to their smaller body size, metabolism, and rapid growth. At low levels, children may not have obvious symptoms but can still experience trouble learning, low IQ, and behavior changes. At higher levels of lead exposure, people may experience fatigue, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, or neurologic changes.

The saucepans being recalled were distributed in Kentucky, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI,



SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, Puerto Rico and Quebec City, Canada through its network of authorized food service equipment dealers, which include retailers, between January 1, 2023 and Nov. 30, 2025.

The four sizes of aluminum saucepans being recalled have capacities ranging from 1 quart to 3 quarts, have indented graduations on the interior, and a plated steel handle riveted to the body.

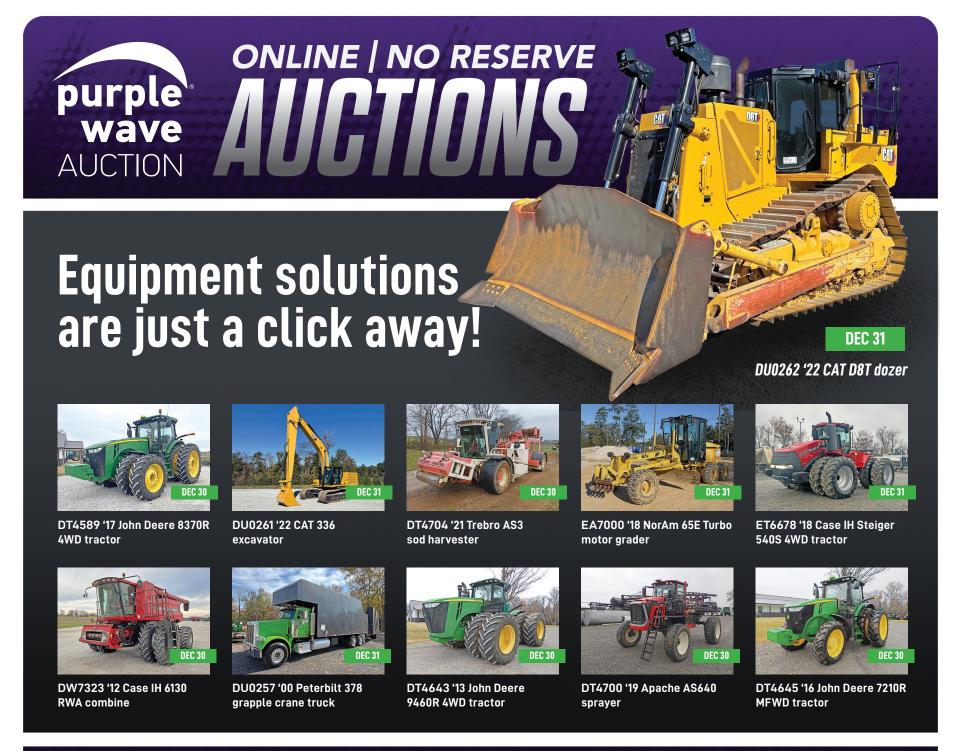
No illnesses have

been reported to date.

The recall was the result of a sampling program by the FDA which revealed that the finished products contained leachable lead. Town Food has ceased production and

distribution of the product as the FDA and Town Food continue their investigation.

Consumers who have purchased and are in possession of any of the items are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact Town Food at 718-388-5650 Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM EST or email their recall coordinators at recall@townfood.com. Updates on the recall will be posted on their recall webpage: https://townfood.com/ recall-alum/External Link Disclaimer





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What Americans think about giving cash as holiday gifts, according to a new AP-NORC poll

NEW YORK (AP) — Welcome to exhausted America 2025: Most adults are more than a little fine with doling out cash as gifts, and many plan to be asleep before midnight on New Year's Eve, according to a new AP-NORC poll.

About 6 in 10 Americans say cash or gift cards are "very" acceptable as holiday presents, but they're much less likely to say that about a gift that was purchased secondhand or re-gifted, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"Cash is OK for the grandkids I guess," said Nancy Wyant, 73, in rural central Iowa. "But I'm a gift giver."

Come New Year's Eve, she'll be fast asleep before 2026 rolls around. "At our age, we don't do anything." the retired bus driver said with a laugh of herself and her live-in partner. "He's set in his ways."

They'll be joined by the 44% of Americans who say they won't stay up to greet 2026, according to the poll. About half of U.S. adults age 45 or older won't make it to midnight, compared with around one-third of adults under age 45.

Consider 23-year-old Otis Phillips in Seattle, an outlier for his age. He, too, will turn in early. "It's one of the holidays that doesn't really feel special to me," said the master's student.

Most say cash makes an acceptable holiday

Cash is a safer gift for younger adults. The poll found about two-thirds of Americans under 45 say cash is a "very" acceptable holiday gift, compared

with 55% of adults age 45 or older.

"Everything's too expensive nowadays. And I don't want to go buy a gift for somebody and then it turns out they don't like it. So cash," said Gabriel Antonucci, 26, a ski resort cook in Alaska, about an hour outside of Anchorage.

Most people at least grudgingly accept various gift types, with about 9 in 10 saying cash or gift cards are at least "somewhat" acceptable and about 6 in 10 saying the same for secondhand gifts and re-gifted items.

Teresa Pedroza, a 55-year-old mom of two adult sons in central Florida, is mostly not on board.

"I don't like it when kids say they want cash, or I should get teenagers gift cards," she said. "It kind of takes some of the charm away from gift giving." But she acknowledged reaching for cards a time or two out of convenience.

About three-quarters of adults under age 45 say secondhand gifts are at least "somewhat" acceptable, compared with about 6 in 10 adults age 45 or older. About 4 in 10 adults age 45 or older say secondhand gifts are "somewhat" or "very" unacceptable.

Many keep holiday decor up beyond the new year

It's not just your pesky neighbors who leave their holiday decorations up into January. About one-third of U.S. adults say they'll leave them up after New Year's Day.

It's more common for people to leave their decorations up after the holiday season than to put them up early, according to the poll. About 2 in 10 Americans say they

put up holiday decorations before Thanks-

"I just had my husband bring down the bins. If we weren't expecting company, I wouldn't even bother to decorate, honestly. I'm tired of doing that," said Pedroza, the Florida mom of two.

Many will celebrate Christmas Day with sports

About one-quarter of U.S. adults say they're planning to watch sports on Christmas Day, while only 5% will head for a movie

Men are much likelier than women to say they'll watch sports on Christmas, and older Americans are much more likely than younger Americans to tune in. About 2 in 10 adults under age 45 say they plan to watch sports on Christmas, compared with about 3 in 10 adults age 45 or older.

Phillips does plan to break out his red sweater with the green Christmas tree that one of his grandmothers knitted for him a couple of years ago.

"She made all kinds of things for me growing up," he said. "This is by far my favorite." Phillips has it in rotation for his part-time job as a grocery checkout clerk.

He's the outlier once again. Women are much likelier than men to say they'll wear a holiday sweater or accessories.

Gifts for pets and Elf on the Shelf

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults say they will give a gift to their pet this year.

In Iowa, Wyant's nearly 3-year-old boxer-Great Dane mix named Indy is among them.

"She's a very spoiled dog," Wyant said.

"She's got too many toys, so she's getting treats this year. She loves her treats."

And the red felt elf that parents move around the house every night as a Santa spy to see which kids have been naughty or nice? Only about 1 in 10 U.S. adults say they'll do Elf on the Shelf.

"Noooo," Pedroza

said when asked if she'd ever done the elf for her kids. "My younger son was very well-behaved. I didn't have to use any kind of tactics."



- 2003 Volvo Semi Truck Day Cab, Cummins ISX 10 Speed Air Ride, High Flow Wet Kit for Bulk Tank Transport, Serial: 4V4RC9T654N366317
- 1999 Freightliner Semi Truck Day Cab, Cummins N14, 10 Speed Air Ride, 2 Line High Flow Wet Kit **HOPPER BOTTOMS, TANK & SEMI TRAILERS**
- 39' 1995 Wheeler Hopper Bottom,
- Serial: 1W9FNGR28TM01 2005 Jet Hopper Bottom, Roll Tarp, Rubber 11R24.5, Serial:

5JNGS382-4-5H00462

- 40' CPS Hopper Bottom Trailer MFWD TRACTORS
- 2014 John Deere 8370R Tractor, IVT Trans., ILS Frontend. JD Guidance, 5 Remotes, Quick Hitch, Weights, Front 420/85R34, Rear 480/80R50, Serial: 1RW8370RCED100554, SF2RTK Antenna (Tanks to be Removed)
- 2011 John Deere 8360R Tractor, IVT Trans., ILS Frontend, 5 Remotes, 22 Weights, JD Guidance, 3,793 Hours, Front Rubber 380/80R38 Rear 480/80R50, Quick Hitch, Serial: 1RW8360RJBD048127
- **COMBINE, HEADERS & HEADER CART** • 2012 Case IH 6088 Combine,
- Pro 700 Outback Guidance, 4WD,

- Chopper, Field Tracker, 2 Speed Hydro, Precision Mapping (screen), Yield Monitoring, Engine Hours: 2,862, Separator Hours 2,028, Front Rubber 20.8R42 Duals Rear
- 2012 30' Case IH 2162 Draper Header, Gauge Wheels, Serial: YCZN34555
- Case IH 2408 8 Row Corn Header 30" Row, Serial: CBJ032665
- 30' Unverferth Header Cart PLANTER & PLANTING SUPPORT Kinze 3600 12/23 Planter,
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- 360 Yield Center, 350 Gallon Saddle Tanks
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- Hvd. Fold 445 Agco Disc Chisel, 19 Shank,
- Serial: 3335 3 Point Noble Cultivator, 6 Row 7 Shank Disc Ripper - Unverferth,
- Rolling Basket On Rear, S/N
- 30' Sunflower 6630 Disc Harrow, Serial: AGCS66300BZVRT066
- Case IH 12 Row Danish Tine
- Cultivator, Hyd. Flat Fold Kuhn 8' Tiller, Model: EL122

FERTILIZER & LIQUID APPLICATION 1000 Gallon Nurse Poly Tank

- Case IH Liquid Applicator, 11 Shank John Blue Ground Driven Pump, Hyd. Fold, 1000 Gallon, Rubber 320/85R38 GRAIN HANDLING & AUGERS
- Unverferth 7000 Grain Cart, New
- 10' Grain King, Swing Away 81', Serial: S-3381 MANURE HANDLING EQUIPMENT

- 1984 Fruehauf Liquid & Bulk Tank, Rubber 11R22.5, Hyd. Control w/ Remote, Serial: 4EK013402
- 1992 Fruehauf Liquid & Bulk Tank Rubber 11R22.5, Hyd. Control w/ Remote, Serial: 4NE026302
- 8000 Nuhn Magnum Liquid Manure Spreader (w/ Flotation Tires) Kronhne & Raven 660 Flow Meter, 8 Injectors, Model: M0016, Serial: 17622
- Nuhn Manure Pump, 8' Length, 8' in Dia. Nuhn Honey Shoot
- WAGONS & FARM TRAILERS

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- 735 Gal., DEF Tank, Elec. Pump
- 4 Wheel Farm Wagon
- Dual Tandem Cotton Wagon
- 2017 Parker Gooseneck 25' Flat x
- 5'Dovetail
- SHOP & SUPPORT FOUIPMENT John Deere Weld Air Generator w/
- Honda 6x 690

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BALLARD

David Porter - Barlow, KY, We honor the life of our brother, David James Porter, who left this earth peacefully on December 12, 2025. Visitation was held at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY, on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. until funeral time beginning at 1:00 p.m., with Rev. Scott Fickes officiating. Interment followed at Barlow Cemetery in Barlow, KY.

Wilbur Dunker, age 86, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Pastor Brad Dunker, Rev. Nate Hillebrand and Rev. Keith Tilford officiating.

Deborah Williams, age 61, passed away on December 5, 2025 at Baptist Health Louisville. Funeral Services were held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter at 12:00 p.m. with Pastor Michael Pryor officiating. Interment followed at LaCenter Cemetery in LaCenter, KY.

CARLISLE

Linda Rose Holt, of Bardwell, Kentucky, passed away on December 11, 2025, at the Parkview Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center at the remarkable age of 88.

A funeral service was held at 1 P.M. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Bardwell with Bro. Stan Durrett officiating. Burial followed at the Roselawn Cemetery in Bardwell.

Penny Sue O'Toole, 64, of Arlington, Kentucky, passed away on December 9, 2025, at her residence. A funeral service was at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington. Burial will follow at Arlington City Cemetery.

CALDWELL

Charles "Red" Howton, beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Caldwell Medical Center. A memorial visitation will be held from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm Saturday, January 10, 2025 at Ogden Memorial United Methodist Church. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, January 10, 2025 at Ogden Memorial United Methodist Church with Bro. Bryan Martin officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

William L. "Bill" Holloway, age 95, passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 12, 2025 at Rivers Bend Retirement Community in Kuttawa, Kentucky.

Visitation was held Wednesday, December 17, 2025, from 4-7 pm at Morgan's Funeral Home. Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 1pm. Rev. David Royality will be officiating the service. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Princeton, KY.

Elmer Lee Gibson, 93 of Kuttawa, Kentucky, returned home to be with his Lord and Savior on December 14th, 2025, peacefully in his home surrounded by his loving wife & family. Expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of flowers or in lieu of flowers, donations to The Salvation Army or St. Jude's Children's hospital would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Jeff B. Wilcox, 57, born on November 16, 1968, in Caldwell County, passed away peacefully on December 12, 2025. A Celebration of Life will be scheduled at a later date.

Ronnie "Ron" Turner, I, a husband, father, brother, and grandfather, passed away on December 12, 2025, at the age of 75 in Marion, Kentucky. Visitation was held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 from 11:00 to 1:00 at Morgan's Funeral Home. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at Morgan's Funeral Home.

Lisa Hughes of Fredonia passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. She will be laid to rest with her beloved dog, Mia. Private services were held. Morgan's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

William Burton Strong, age 94, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2025, in Madisonville, Kentucky. Funeral Services were held Monday, December 15, 2025 at 1:00 with Rev. Pressley Lamm officiating. Burial followed in the McGregor Cemetery.

CALLOWAY

Charles Aaron Jensen Jr., 65, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on December 15, 2025, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital. At this time, there are no services planned.

Edward Grant Clark, age 80, of Dover, Tennessee, formerly of Kirksey, Kentucky, passed away, Friday, December 12, 2025, at his home. A graveside service will be held at 12:30 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Pace Cemetery in Hardin, Kentucky with Russ Crosswhite officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Shirley (Geurin) Enoch Caylor, age 89, of Olive Branch, MS, formerly of Paris, TN and Murray, KY, passed away on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Providence Assisted Living in Senatobia, MS. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 22, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Murray, KY. Pastor Leonard Castleman will officiate, and burial will follow in the Murray Memorial Gardens in Murray, KY. Visitation will be held prior to the funeral service on Monday, December 22, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Patty Kimbro, age 71, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Charles R. Baringer, 86, of Mayfield, KY, passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 in Beulaville, NC. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

Jerry Don Barrett, age 81, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on December 11, 2025, at his home. A funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 15, 2025, in the chapel of the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Rev. Kenny Locke and Rev. Tim Palmer will officiate with burial to follow in the West Fork Cemetery.

Edward Grant Clark, age 80, of Dover, Tennessee, formerly of Kirksey, Kentucky, passed away, Friday, December 12, 2025, at his home. A graveside service will be held at 12:30 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Pace Cemetery in Hardin, Kentucky with Russ Crosswhite officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Paul Vernon Lamb, age 53, of Hardin, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Murray – Calloway County Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Rev. Tim Palmer officiating. Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Edna Mae Bogard McClarty, age 80, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on December 10, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House in Murray, Kentucky. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, 1959 State Route 94 West, Murray, Kentucky 42071 with Rev. Kerry Lambert officiating. Visitation will be held

from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, 1959 State Route 94 West, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

Shirley (Geurin) Enoch Caylor, age 89, of South Haven, Mississippi, formerly of Paris, Tennessee and Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Providence Assisted Living in Senatobia, Mississippi. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Murray, Kentucky.

Gwendolyn Outland, age 91, of Murray, Kentucky passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Passion and Purpose Homecare Assisted Living in Murray. A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Bro. Clint Gentry officiating. Burial followed in the Elm Grove Cemetery.

CHRISTIAN

Ada Marie Anderson, 86, Highpoint Drive, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Bradford Heights Nursing & Rehabilitation, Hopkinsville, KY of natural causes. A memorial visitation was held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home.

J.D. McKee, 97, Seminole Drive, Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Christian Health Center of natural causes. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 19, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home with Cecilia Tucker officiating. Burial will follow in Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from noon until the service hour on Friday, December 19, 2025 at the funeral home.

Anthony Myers, 58, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky passed away Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5:28 p.m. at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Crofton is assisting with arrangements.

Betty Clark Radford, age 93, of Culleoka, TN, formerly of Hopkinsville, passed away peacefully with her daughter by her side on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at her daughter's home of natural causes. Funeral Services were held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Rev. Bill Crick officiating and burial to follow in Riverside Cemetery.

Helen Sue West, age 84, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family of natural causes. Funeral Services were on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Home at 1:00 PM with Gerald Johnson officiating and burial to follow in George West Family Cemetery.

James Massey Majors, 69, Hopkinsville, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, in Hopkinsville, KY. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 17th at 12 pm at the Edgefield Baptist Church on Pembroke Rd. In Pembroke, KY. Burial at Caves Springs Cemetery.

CRITTENDEN

Densiel L. Maraman, 74, of Marion, KY passed away December 9, 2025 at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, IN. A memorial visitation was held from 5-8 PM Friday December 12, 2025 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY.

FULTON

Michael Milner of Fulton passed away Thursday morning at his residence. Memorial services for Mr. Michael Milner will be held at 12 Noon Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the First Baptist Church in Fulton with inurnment to follow in the Enon Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the First Baptist Church from 10 AM Saturday, December 20, 2025, until the hour of service.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Quentin Charles Klinkefus, age 81, of South Fulton, passed away early Thursday, December 11, 2025, at his residence. There will be no services held at the funeral home. A celebration of life service will be held in Boone, Iowa, at a later date.

Rosie Lawan "Wannie" Speight, age 89, of Fulton, KY, passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025, at Lifecare Nursing Facility in Centerville, TN. Funeral services for Mrs. Rosie Lawan "Wannie" Speight were held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2025, in our funeral chapel, with burial to follow in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

GRAVES

Patsy Lou Heath, age 76 of Wingo, KY passed away at 2:58 AM Sunday, December 14, 2025 at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center. Graveside Services were held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at the Little Obion Cemetery with her cousin- Gary Heath officiating. The Brown Funeral Home in Wingo is in charge of the arrangements.

Linda S. Allen, age 81, of Farmington went to be with her savior on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Mills Health and Rehab Center in Mayfield, KY. Visitation for Mrs. Linda S. Allen will be 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. There are no other services scheduled.

Hal C. Stephens, age 89, of Mayfield passed away on Friday, December 12, 2025 at his residence. Funeral services for Mr. Hal C. Stephens will be 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Mark Stephens and Gary Dick will officiate. Interment will follow at Mayfield Memory Gardens. Military graveside rites will be conducted by American Legion Post #26.

J.B. Lamb, age 72 of the Sedalia Community passed away on Friday, December 12, 2025 at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, TN. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at Byrn Funeral Home.

Glynn McClain, 94 years old and a 52-year school bus driver for the Graves County School District, passed away peacefully December 12, 2025, at the Spring Creek Nursing Center in Murray, KY. Funeral services for Mr. Glynn McClain were held at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Dustin McClain (grandson) and Derek Hopperton (grandson-in-law) will officiate. Entombment will follow at Murray Memorial Gardens Mausoleum located at 3223 US-641 S., Murray, KY 42071.

Stella Grey Newsome Drew, age 94, of Mayfield passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 in Sikeston, MO. Graveside services for Mrs. Stella Grey Newsome Drew were held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at New Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Duane Fields will officiate. Interment will follow.

Donna Gough, age 86 of Mayfield, KY passed away at 6:00 PM Thursday, December 11, 2025 at the Clinton Place Nursing Facility. Funeral Services were held at 2PM Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY with her grandson- Chase Gough officiating. Burial will follow in the Highland Park Cemetery.

Gail F. Roberts, age 88, of Dukedom in Graves County, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025 at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House in Murray, Kentucky. Funeral took place at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 10 at the Brown Funeral Home in Wingo, Kentucky.

HENDERSON

Richard Lynn "Rick" Satterfield, age 68, of Henderson, KY, passed away on December 13, 2025, at his home under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice. Arrangements entrusted to Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, A Life Celebration® Home, online condolences may be made at www. bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com.

Marc Edward Crafton, age 59, of Spottsville, KY, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Lucy Smith King Care Center under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice after a short battle with cancer. Relatives and friends are invited to Marc's Life Celebration from 2:30 p.m. until service time on Friday, December 19, 2025 at Community Baptist Church in Henderson. A memorial service will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Friday at the church with friends Andy Fisher and Keith Buckman officiating.

Roby D. Moody left this world for his next adventure on Dec. 10, 2025 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Those who loved Roby will forever carry his strength, his warmth, and his unforgettable spirit. His journey here may have ended, but his love remains-steady, deep, and lasting.

Christopher "Little Bo" Kelley, 41 of Thebes, IL, and formerly of Sebree, KY, passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, in New Orleans, LA, as a result of an accident. A memorial visitation were held on Wednesday, December 17th, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Sebree, KY.

Maurice Forker, 82 of Sebree, KY passed away Tuesday December 9, 2025 at Deaconess Gateway in Newburgh, IN. Services were held at 11:00 AM Saturday December 13, 2025 at Tomblinson Funeral Home Sebree Chapel. Brother Dylan Zahn will officiate. Burial will follow in Shady Grove Cemetery in Poole, KY.

Wayne Cosby Critser, born on May 14, 1938, in Henderson, Kentucky, joyfully departed this life on December 9, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice. Funeral services celebrating Wayne's life were held on Friday December 12, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Tomblinson Funeral Home Henderson Chapel with Bro. Tim Shockley officiating. Wayne will be laid to rest in Fairmont Cemetery with military honors conducted by the American Legion Worsham Post 40 Honor Guard.

Dennis "Denny" Dale Harrell, 91, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and a life lived with purpose. Services were held at 1 p.m. Friday, December 12, 2025, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home. The Reverend Greg Shannon will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

Mary Ann Hamilton Thrasher, 93, of Henderson, Kentucky, died on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, surrounded by her beloved family. Services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church. Father Richard Meredith will officiate. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery.

HICKMAN

Tommy Smith - It is with deep love and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Tommy Smith age 76 of Murray and formerly of Columbus, KY on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Memorial Services were held 1 PM Saturday, December 13, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton, KY with Father Mike Clark officiating. Memorial Visitation were held from 11-1 PM on Saturday at the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton.

HOPKINS

Ann Tichenor, 86, of Owensboro, KY, formerly of Madisonville, KY, passed away, Monday, December 15, 2025, at Heartford House in Owensboro. Funeral services will be 1:00 P.M. Friday, December 19, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home with Bro. Brent Waltrip officiating. Burial will follow in East Lawn Cemetery in Hanson, KY.

Lance Robert Millard, 69, of Madisonville, passed away Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Funeral services were held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel, with Bro. Lon Lorton officiating. Burial will follow at Odd Fellows

Cemetery.

Mary June Hulsey, 100, of Madisonville passed away Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. Funeral services were held at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel with Andy Couch officiating. Burial will follow at Grapevine Cemetery.

Ty Gaston, 48, of Madisonville, KY passed away, Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Deaconess Midtown in Evansville, IN.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 P.M. Monday, December 15, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel with Tommy Basham officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Earlington.

Charlotte Stanford Wyatt, age 87, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Wednesday December 10, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville.

Services for the family will be handled privately for the family by Barnett-Strother Funeral Home. Burial will take place at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville.

Anthony Young, Jr., a cherished member of the Evansville community, passed away on December 9, 2025, in his hometown, where he was born on August 30, 1964. As we remember Anthony, we celebrate a life characterized by love, laughter, and a commitment to family. His presence will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him. There will be no service.

Darrell Berry passed away on December 14, 2025, at home with his wife and daughter by his side. A home-going celebration was held at Bandy Funeral Home, Nortonville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, with visitation from 11:00 a.m. until the funeral at 1:00 p.m. Burial to follow at Salem Cemetery in Mortons Gap.

Linda Fay Rodgers, 59 of Nortonville passed away Friday, December 12, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess. Service were held Wednesday, December 17th at 1:00pm at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville with Bro. Eddie Rodgers officiating. Burial followed at New Salem Cemetery in Nortonville.

Margaret Lou Thornberry, 82, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at her home. A private memorial service will be held. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

Joanne Lawson Sneed Crawford, 85, of Owensboro, KY, formerly of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Wellington Parc Nursing and Rehabilitation. Visitation was from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville, KY. A private burial will follow.

MARSHALL

Carolyn Griggs, age 83, died peacefully after a long illness on December 16, 2025. Funeral services will be at 11:00am on December 20 at Collier Funeral Home, 211 W. 5th St., Benton, KY, Pastor Jim Ewing presiding. Interment will follow in the New Hope Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on December 19 and Saturday for 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Collier Funeral Home.

Larry Dale Sullivan, 71, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Baptist Health in Paducah, Kentucky. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Jim Capps officiating. Private family burial will follow at Calvert City Cemetery.

Frank Gerald Story, 78, of Albany, Georgia, passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Phoebe Putney Hospital. Graveside Funeral Service with Military Rites will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2025 at Marshall County Memory Gardens, Benton, KY.

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Kal "Rickie" Castleberry, 65, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling the arrangements. There are no services scheduled.

Jack Kenneth Evink, age 61 of Benton, KY died on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at his home. A service will be scheduled at a later date in Michigan.

Amy Peal, age 55, of Calvert City, Kentucky went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Thursday, December 11, 2025. A funeral service was held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home with Bro. Charles Frazier officiating. Burial will follow at Paradise Cemetery in Land Between the Lakes.

Anna Gay, 89 of Hardin, Kentucky passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Marshall Co. Hospital in Benton, Kentucky. A funeral service was held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home with David Smith officiating. Interment will follow at Pace Cemetery, Hardin, KY.

Helen Elizabeth (Beth) King, 74, of Benton, was born December 5, 1951 in Memphis, Tennessee and died December 9, 2025 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. There will be no services per her request.

McCRACKEN

B. Lou (Watson) Williams, affectionately known as Lou by her loved ones, passed away on December 13, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah at the remarkable age of 80 years old. A funeral service will be held at 12 P.M. on Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Milner and Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Bro. Stan Durrett officiating. Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. and continue until the service starts at 12:00 P.M.

Stephanie Lauren Stacey, aged 31, of Paducah, passed away on December 13, 2025. Born on August 8, 1994, she leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and infectious enthusiasm that touched the hearts of all who knew her. Funeral services were held at 2:00 pm on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah. Burial will follow at Maplelawn Park Cemetery.

Hattie Tipton, 75, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah. A Celebration of Life

was held from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Paul D. Browning, 69, of Paducah passed away on Friday, December 12, 2025, at his residence with his family by his side. Memorial services will be at 1:00 pm on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Salt & Light Community Church with the Rev. Jeff Russell officiating. Friends may visit the family from 11:00 am to service hour on Saturday at the church.

Johnna Sparks Gomez, 62, of West Paducah passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Mercy-Health Lourdes in Paducah. She will be cremated per her wishes.

James Wayne Blackman, 92, of Paducah died on Monday, December 8, 2025, at his residence. Memorial services were at 11:00 am on Friday, December, 12, 2025 at Lindsey Funeral Home with the Rev. Jeff Wallace officiating. Burial will follow at Hill Crest Cemetery in Blandville, KY. Friends may visit the family from 10:00 am to service hour on Friday at the funeral home.

Kenneth Allen Edwards, aged 85, of Boaz, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on December 12, 2025, at Baptist Health of Paducah. A graveside service was held on December 16, 2025, at Hardmoney Baptist Church Cemetery in Boaz, Kentucky, starting at 11:00 AM, with interment to follow. Bro. Bob Whitter will be officiating. Kenneth's warm heart and indomitable spirit will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

TRIGG

Alene Pitt, age 85, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 12, 2025, in her hometown of Cadiz. Funeral Services will be held Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at King's Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Trigg Memory Acres. Visitation will be on Saturday, December 20, 2025 from 11:00 – 1:00 at King's Funeral Home.

Matilda "Tilly" Marquess, age 75, of Cadiz, KY, passed away Friday, December 12, 2025, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky. Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz, KY where the family received friends after 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Funeral services will be at Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc. at 12:00 PM Friday, December 19, 2025 with the Bro. Richard Sexton officiating. Burial will follow at East End Cemetery in Cadiz.

Larry Bigger, age 68, passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at his home in Cadiz, Kentucky. A memorial service to honor Larry's life will be held on Saturday, January 3rd, 2026, from 12:00-4:00 PM, at White Fence Farm, 1376 Joliet Road, Romeoville,

UNION

Anne Marie Devlin, age of Corydon, KY passed away Tuesday Dec 16, 2025 at her home. Services will be at a later date.

Charlotte Ann Beaven Bradford, age 84 of Morganfield, KY died Monday Dec 15, 2025 at her home. Graveside service and burial was held at 3PM Wednesday December 17th at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield, KY.

Jonathan "JR" Collins - May 5, 1957 -December 12, 2025 - Funeral service was held at 12 PM Wednesday Dec 17, 2025 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Keith Lovell will officiate.

WEBSTER

Shelia Faye Hill, 86 of Clay passed away Monday, December 15, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Graveside services were held Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 2:00 PM at Oddfellows Cemetery in Clay with Brother Jeff McMcain officiating. Visitation was on Wednesday 12:00 PM till 1:45 PM at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay.

Anna Jean Turner, 66, of Henderson, KY, formerly of Providence, passed away on Friday December 12, 2025, at her home in Henderson. Funeral services for Mrs. Turner were held at 1:00PM on Thursday December 18, 2025, in the Lucille Melton Memorial Chapel at Lewis Funeral Home LLC with Bro. Jeff Graham officiating. Burial will follow in White Oak Cemetery near Clay.

Richard Allen "Dickie" Harris, 68, passed away Saturday December 13, 2025 at his home in Providence, KY. Funeral service was at 1 PM Wednesday December 17, 2025 at Providence General Baptist Church in Providence, KY. Bro. Barry Cullen will officiate with burial to follow at Big Hill Cemetery in Providence, KY.

Stewart Randall Herald, 86, formerly of Webster County, KY passed away Thursday December 11, 2025. A memorial service were held Sunday December 14, 2025 at Townsend Funeral in Dixon, KY at 6PM.

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



If you looked at most of my hunting and fishing trips from the standpoint of harvesting game, you would conclude I was unsuccessful. Most of the time, I leave home with great expectations, only to return with the reality of an unfilled tag or an empty live well. I remember a

commercial where a man's wife watched her husband leave each Saturday morning with his fishing rod and Labrador, only to come back home that afternoon, with just his fishing rod and his faithful companion. She wondered why he continued to go. I

can also remember, the days when my children were young, that I would return home from a hunting trip and would be faced by three children with the same question: "Did you get anything?" They got so used to the same answer; they began not to ask. (I'm sure glad that our sustenance was not based on me bringing home the meat) But, what I found out over the years was that I did not become a better hunter or fisherman on days that the harvest was easy, but I became better, most of the time, on

the days I came home empty-handed. Let's face it; it doesn't take much know-how to go out and catch fish when they are biting everything that comes in front of them. Nor is much knowledge gained when that deer meanders by your tree stand 10 minutes after daylight. Knowledge to become a better outdoorsman is gained through the tough times. It happens when we shoot high on that doe or don't set the hook on that bass. It's those times that we come home better than when we left, whether we have

something to show for it or not. And even though we want to fill a tag, it's better to come home better.

This is also the way God works. God is not interested as much in what we do, or what we "harvest" at the expense of what we are becoming. He is interested in us being better. Better husbands or wives, better fathers or mothers, and better followers of Christ. Not because these things make Him love us more, but because they make our lives "better." And most of the time, this doesn't happen during the easy days

but during the days when there is nothing in our hands to show for our effort except the calluses of being faithful.

Gary Miller gary@outdoortruths.

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

VICTORIOUS wing ... in a troubled world

Had I not believed to see God's goodness

By Teresa LeNeave Leneave2@comcast.net

David answered it this way, "I would have despaired, had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord..." (Ps 27:13 AMP). I would have become desperate. I would have fallen apart in fear. I would have lost all hope...except that I remembered the goodness of the Lord.

Where would I be if my parents had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when I was five years old and the doctors looked at my lung x-rays, immediately scheduling surgery just three days out to remove the top half of my left lung? What would my life be like with just half of my lung?

When I was 27-years-old, and totally paralyzed from my neck down, where would I be if I had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord? Would I be confined to a wheelchair or in a nursing facility depending on nurses to feed me, bath me, change my clothes and take me to the bathroom? Like David in the Bible, I would have despaired had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord. Thank God. I was healed and in iust a week. I had recovered. Doctors thought it was Spinal Meningitis, but later ruled it out. Whatever it was, I completely recovered.

Where would the world be if Abraham had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when he put his oldest servant in charge of all his possessions and made him promise to find a suitable wife for his son, Isaac? What if the old servant had decided it was too much trouble to go all the way back to Nahor and expect God to find the perfect wife for Isaac? What if the

old servant had gotten ahead of God and chose just any woman? What if he had not believed to see the goodness of God?

Rebecca, the chosen woman. also had a part in believing. When God put it in her heart to go to the well, so she would arrive at the precise time the old servant arrived, she could have said, "I'm not going to the well right now. I think I'll wait until later in the afternoon when it's cooler. There will be dozens of shepherds waiting for water at the well, so I'll go later." But that didn't happen. She didn't procrastinate. When the nudge occurred in her heart to go, she went. Where would Isaac have ended up if Abraham's reliable servant had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord?

Very often we don't see it, but God is working in our lives all the time. It is "truth of God" that is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet. The truth is God is love and he is watching over you. David said, "I would have despaired (fallen apart in fear), had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (right here on earth) (Ps 27:13, AMP emphasis added).

I'm asking the reader of this

article to take just a moment to think about the things in your own life and ask yourself, "Where would I be if I had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord?" Or, ask: "Where would I be if I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord?" How would your life be different?

It is the truth of God that is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet (Ps 119:105). David knew he'd despair, and not survive, if he had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when he was faced with trouble. The next verse. Psalm 27:14 tells how to believe to see God's goodness awaits us: "Wait for and confidently expect the Lord; be strong and let vour heart take courage: yes, wait for and confidently expect the Lord." (Amplified version).



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Wishing you days that sparkle with joy and a year filled with meaningful connections.

Merry Christmas!



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I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

By William F Holland Jr. billyhollandministries.com

Most people have read or at least heard of a man named Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). He was a literary giant in his lifetime and is still known today in many circles as "The Children's Poet" as several schools around our nation are named in his honor. You may remember some of His original works, which include Paul Revere's Ride, The Song of Hiawatha, and Evangeline, and was also the first American to completely translate Dante Alighieri's Comedy. As one of the fireside writers from New England, he is regarded as the most popular poet of the nineteenth century.

On July 9, 1861, tragedy struck the Longfellow home. His wife, Fanny, was near an open window, placing locks of her daughter's hair in a packet, using hot sealing wax to secure it. It was never known whether a spark from a match or the sealing wax was the cause, but suddenly her dress caught fire, and she was engulfed in flames. Henry was sleeping and was suddenly awakened by her screams

for help. He ran into the room and immediately tried to smother the flames as best he could, first with a rug and then his own body, but the damage from the burns was very severe. She died the next morning.

Henry's burns were so extensive on his face and hands that he was unable to attend his wife's funeral. The scars on his face made shaving nearly impossible, so he allowed his beard to grow, which became associated with his image. The anguish within his soul was beyond what anyone could fathom. His family could see his suffering in his eyes, and they observed his long periods of silence. At times, he feared that he would be sent to an asylum on account of his sorrow.

A couple of years later, in 1863, there was another crisis when his son Charles Longfellow, without telling his family, boarded a train headed for Washington, D.C. to join President Lincoln's Union army to fight in the Civil War. On the first day of that December, Henry was dining alone at his home when a telegram



arrived with the news that Charley had been shot and was being transferred to the Rapidan River. Henry immediately set out to search for his son and arrived by train on December 5th. He was alarmed when informed by the army surgeon that his son's wound was very serious and that Charles would most likely be paralyzed. Longfellow, as a 57-year-old widowed father of six children, was not only witnessing his country fight a war against itself, but his oldest son had been struck down on the battlefield.

Although he was admired for his gift of communicating the human experience, Longfellow still yearned for divine peace, which only God can give. On that Christmas Day in 1863, he heard the Christmas bells ringing in Cambridge and the singing of "Peace On Earth," but he considered the division and violence in his country to be in direct contradiction with a joyous holiday. He sat down and desperately tried to reflect on the joys of knowing that God is not dead or sleeping, and that He is the only one who can heal, save, and give hope to the soul. He was never considered a hymn writer; however, the poem he wrote on that day expresses the agony about the dark condition of a nation, and was later set to music by Englishman John Calkin. The result is one of our most beloved Christmas carols, "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day."

There is a theme of passion and determination within the poem, that expresses how an attitude of confidence and trust in the Lord, can overcome fear and

hopelessness even in the midst of bleak despair. The Civil War was in full swing, and the devastation from the battle of Gettysburg still gripped the nation in a state of trauma. He must have asked himself how we can have peace on Earth and goodwill toward men in this war-torn land, where brother fights against brother and father against son? Yes, the days were grievous, but he includes in one of the stanzas, "The wrong shall fail, the right prevail!" Within these words, we sense a man crying out to God in prayer, just like many of us today who are praying for this world, to please stop the hatred and the evil, and may all people be unified with God's forgiveness and love. This reminds us that eternal peace and harmony shall one day be established when the Prince of Peace shall reign forever.

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

Good news of great joy

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

Good news is hard to come by when you live in a bad-news world. You rarely hear a positive story on the evening news nowadays. Reports of natural disasters, political conflicts, or higher prices dominate the headlines. And because bad news is so prevalent, more and more people are cutting cable or ditching their televisions entirely. It would be encouraging to hear some good news every now and then.

The Jews living during the time of Jesus' birth felt the same way, too. Israel was no longer on top of the world, and Rome was on top of them. And they had waited so long for the coming of the Messiah that holding onto hope grew harder every day. That is when God broke the news cycle by announcing through heavenly messengers that the long-awaited Messiah and Savior had come to earth. Finally, some good news-the greatest news: "Fear not,

for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

There are four features of the good news announced by the angel. (1) First, the good news calms fear. The shepherds were understandably terrified by the visit of a heavenly being. But they had no reason to fear, as the angel assured them, "Fear not." The good news of

Christ's coming eliminates fear. Because of His finished work, you do not need to fear the future, judgment, or death. Christ is the Lord—He controls the future, He delivers you from judgment, and He conquered death.

(2) Second, the good news produces joy. The heart of every saved sinner should leap with bliss and glee when considering all the benefits of His saving work. As Peter said, "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you

do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

(3) Finally, the good news is for all. The good news of Jesus' coming is for "all the people." The free offer of grace is for every tongue, race, and culture. God doesn't pass you by because of how you look or where you come from. Furthermore, He doesn't hold the gospel back because of your sinfulness or supposed saint-

liness. God wants you to be saved whether you spend your weekends at the bar or your Sundays at church. The gospel is for those who believe they are too bad to be saved, as well as those who believe they are too good to be saved. Good news like this is worthy of belief and proclamation. Do you believe it? If you do, have you published it to someone who doesn't?

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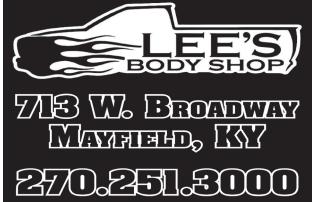
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If you do anything with classifieds next week. there were changes after vou made those. I put the latest files on the server. also copy the text over.

GRAVE PLOTS

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REAL ESTATE

This Incredible Customer

Built 2015 property is amazing! Across the road 1,000 yards from KY Dam Village State Park, Dam, Marina, Restaurant/Lodge. 2,000 yards from the Golf course! Less than 2 miles to Aviation Airfield, & I-24/69. 5 total bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 laundry areas & 3 fireplaces! gas log Cathedral Vaulted & ceilings. Detailed woodwork & moldings, polished marble, unique characteristics! Expansive Living room open to kitchen/ breakfast area. Primary suite offers a custom tiled bath, heated floor & walk-in closet! Covered patio w/ wood burning In-ground pool,

privacy fence & gated concrete drive w/ ample parking, 2 1/2 car garage has apartment, extra lot & huge PRIVACY FENCE!

135 Allegheny Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky \$1,399,900

bedroom/4 bath, 3,682 sq ft custom built, exterior southern living plan, energy efficient. 2 very private lots. Pella quadruple insulated windows & doors, autofull service generator, sprinkler system, sunroom, deck, pation & private back yard! New roof/shingles-2023. Maintenance siding-2024, new Cambria Clovelly Quartz countertop in kitchen. Finished apartment w/full bath, kitchenette & NEW **HEAT** PUMP-2022. 706 Marina Village Drive • Grand Rivers, Kentucky • \$740,000

3 beautiful lots, over 1/2 acre sitting up HIGH on a hill with **SPECTACULAR** BREATHTAKING VIEW OF KY LAKE in Cambridge Shores Subdivision! Build your Dream Home! Magnificent Stunning view of KY Lake! Enjoy all the amenities that Cambridge Shores has to offer. This quiet KY Lake neighborhood is the perfect place to call home!

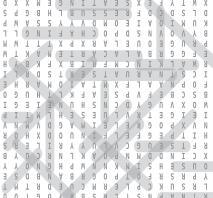
Point 27 **Paradise** Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky \$369,000

135 Allighany ---- Unique Custom Built 2015 Stunningly property. Luxurious with Captivating Elegance across the road 1000 yards from Ky Dam Village State Park, Dam, Marina ,Restaurant/ Lodge. 2000 yards to Golf course! Less than 2 miles to Aviation Airfield, & I-24/69. 5 total bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 laundry areas & 3 gas log fireplaces! Vaulted & Cathedral ceilings, detailed woodwork, polished marble, with unique characteristics! Primary suite offers custom tiled bath, heated floor & walk-n closet! Kitchen island & beautiful cabinetry! Music room, sun room & office! Basement has family room, kitchen, bedroom, storage room & bath. Covered patio with wood burning FP. In-ground pool ,privacy fence, & gated concrete

Sudoku Answers

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Word Search Answers



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drive, 2 & 1/2car Gar, ,apartment, additional lot & massive stately privacy wall. Can be a VRBO!

718 Marina Village Dr. ---- Beautiful Custom Built 3 bedr 3 & 1/2 bath 2006, looks like a new Home sitting on 2 private lots in Prestigious Gated Marina Village Subdivision! Hardwood Floors,9 ft ceilings, many updates, large family room open to Kitchen! 2 Bedrooms on main level

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27 Paradise Point----Wow! 3 beautiful lots , over 1/2 acre sitting up HIGH on a hill with SPECTACULAR WATERVIEW OF KY LAKE in Cambridge Subdivision! Shores Build your Dream Home on these lots. Wow! what IT rooms, 3 laboratory a Magnificent Stunning view of Ky Lake! Enjoy the amenities that Cambridge Shores including 2 boat ramps, a covered picnic pavilion, a swim area with sandy beach, courtesy docks, tennis court, basketball court and Private Club House. HOA fee only \$175.00 annually.

2909 James Sanders BlvdPaducah, KY 42001 Commercial/Industrial MLS Number 124836 • 7,560 sq. ft. The price is \$25.74 psf annually Western Located in Kentucky's

cooled, Storm Shelter, business districts this location is prime for retail, restaurant, or service company. With 4060 net leasable square feet. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-

> 500 S 17th • Paducah, KY 42003 Commercial/ Industrial - \$1,399,000 Number MLS 125918 • 18,900 sq. ft. Outstanding professional office building in the heart of Paducah featuring approximately 15,600 sq. ft. of office space with 26 private offices, 4 bullpens, 2 conference rooms, kitchen/breakroom, rooms, multiple work and storage areas, closets along with 2300 sq. ft. warehouse area. Also has an approximately 1000 sq. ft. detached storage building. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

> US HWY 4 7151 PADUCAH MLS #123564 19+ acres with much potential. Could be used as commercial site, subdivision, or residential estate. Consists of 2 tracts of land. 12+ acres on Hwy 25 and 6+ on Englert for a total of 19.18. Entrance to both on US Hwy 45. Sold as one parcel. A well was installed about 10 yrs ago but has never run on a continuous basis. Has electricity on property. \$189,900 Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

150 REIDLAND DR • PADUCAH 4 BDRMS • 3.5 BA • 3,038 SQ FT. • 0.61AC LOT \$299,900

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100 Acres sold all together. Livingston County, near Elementary school. store, fire department. Can be used for residential or commercial. 10 miles from Ky Lake 270-210-6697 (tfn)

37 Acres, Beautiful Building Site. 5050 Metropolis Lake Rd, W. Paducah. \$10,000 per acre. Call 270-210-4666

4 Adjacent 1 acres lots in Peninsula Subdivision on Lake of Egypt. Great year round fishing with no carp, barges, or big boats. 50 minutes from Paducah. \$29,995 for all four. Might divide into 2 parcels. Call owner 314-239-6676.

Large Ky Lake lot Mature trees, utilities, restricted to new construction or double wide. \$24,900. 270-970-8000 (tfn)

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401 E 12th St., Benton Charming and spacious 2,240 sq. ft. home. property Immaculate centrally located in Benton on a well landscaped corner lot. 3 Bedroom / 2 Bath. Expansive basement includes interior and exterior entrances. Workshop with additional Group at 270-559-8425

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Camper For Sale. 2019 Heritage Glen 26.5 ft

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2015 Mercedes E-350 104,000 miles, Light grey Real nice vehicle, drives real nice. \$13,000 OBO call 270-493-2176

2007 Red Chevy Avalanche Truck, needs transmission and frame rusted.Selling truck for parts. \$3000. Please call 270-217-4980

2017 GMC Sierra Denali Crew Cab pickup, 99,000 miles, loaded, Beautiful truck, \$23,500. Please call... 270-519-3674 or 270-519-1254

outbuilding with concrete 1986 Chevrolet 4 x 4 Contact Carla Bridges flooring for mower etc. Pickup, wrecked but a/c For @ REMAX at 270-559- \$269,900 Call Carla works \$2,000 cash or Upright Piano In Good Bridges REMAX Realty OBO. 327 Motor and 3 Condition \$300.00 Call speed transmission out 270-331-9835 of 1980 Impala \$1,000 1.6 acres with hookups cash or OBO. Call 270- Fiddle/Violin (Karl Knil-804-5399.

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New look for spay or neuter special license plate

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – More than 20 years after it was first introduced, Kentucky's Spay or Neuter special license plate has a new look, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell announced on Wednesday.

"Practicing responsible pet ownership and the need to reduce the stray and homeless pet population are the messages surrounding this new eye-catching plate design," said Shell. "Kentucky has 411 animal shelters and animal welfare organizations making it obvious we,

as a society, need to do more to control the pet population. This plate reminds us of that in a beautiful new way."

The new design, which was crafted by Lexington graphic artist Hayli Strickland, features peek-a-boo images of a kitten and dog on a green background. The bottom features the words "Spay or neuter your pets" with a red pawprint in the shape of a heart overlapping the words.

"I wanted to create something playful that would make people smile while they were waiting in traffic," Strickland stated. "I loved the idea of



'breaking the third wall' by having the cat and dog interact with the driver behind them, peeking from the top and bottom of the plate in a fun, lighthearted way. My hope was simply to

spread a bit of joy."

The new license plate raises awareness of the need to reduce the population of stray and homeless animals in Kentucky. During its lifetime, sales have equated to more than

\$600,000 in grants being awarded to organizations, resulting in more than 17,200 cats and dogs being spayed or neutered.

Proceeds from the sales of the license plates go to the Animal Control and Care Fund, which is administered by the Animal Control Advisory Board. The Board was established in 1998 by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly. The duties of the Board include

making recommendations to the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture relating to animal control issues and evaluating applications for spay and neuter grants to Kentucky counties and municipalities.

The new plate, which can be personalized, is available for purchase at County Clerk offices across the state or on the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's website.

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Merry Christmas to All!



Keeping Christ in Christmas this year

By Wilbur Jackson KPI Writer

As December arrives, homes glow with lights, stores echo with festive music, and calendars quickly fill with parties and preparations. Christmas is a season many look forward to with joy, generosity, and togetherness. Yet amid the celebrations, it is easy to lose sight of the central reason for the season: the birth of Jesus Christ. Keeping Christ in Christmas requires intentional reflection, meaningful traditions, and a renewed focus on faith.

At its heart, Christmas celebrates God's gift to the world—Jesus, born humbly in a manger in Bethlehem.

This event represents hope, love, and redemption, reminding believers that God entered human history to bring light into a broken world. When the season becomes dominated by shopping lists, decorations, and social obligations, the deeper spiritual message can fade into the background. Re-centering Christmas on Christ helps restore its true purpose and lasting significance.

One way to keep Christ in Christmas is through worship and prayer. Attending church services, especially on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, allows individuals and families to reflect on the Nativity story and its meaning. Reading Scripture passages such as Luke 2 or Matthew 1 at home can also be a powerful way to focus hearts on Christ. Prayer during the season—thanking God for His gift and asking for a spirit of humility and gratitude—helps ground celebrations in faith.

Another meaningful approach is to emphasize Christ-like values. Jesus' birth reminds believers of love, generosity, compassion, and service. Practicing these values by helping those in need, donating to charities, or volunteering time reflects the heart of Christ more than any wrapped gift. Teaching children that giving is as important as receiving helps

them understand that Christmas is about love, not just presents.

Family traditions can also reinforce the spiritual focus of the season. Setting up a Nativity scene, lighting Advent candles, or sharing devotional readings together can become cherished rituals that point back to

Christ year after year. These moments create opportunities for conversation, reflection, and shared faith.

Ultimately, keeping Christ in Christmas is not about rejecting celebration, but about enriching it. When Christ remains at the center, Christmas becomes more than a holiday—it becomes a reminder of God's enduring love and the hope that entered the world on that holy night. By focusing on faith, service, and gratitude, the true joy of Christmas shines brighter than any decoration ever could.







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

Christmas and Agriculture

Christmas has become the major holiday in the United States and much of the world over the last 100 years. Besides being the major holiday for the Christian religion, it has become the major sales season for retailers with the gift giving tradition. I think the best parts of the Christmas season are the family gatherings and all the food.

Whatever your beliefs, no one can argue that the Christ-

mas season has grown almost out of control. Store displays and products come out earlier and earlier each year, now before Halloween. Christmas carols start on the radio earlier and earlier. Black Friday, a fairly recent marketing ploy, has turned into a week or more with "cyber Monday" also lasting much longer than the Monday after thanksgiving.

If we take the marketing out of Christmas, it is a holiday

originally timed with the winter solstice on December 21, meaning our days are finally getting longer and spring is coming. Historically, in Kentucky, it was the time that farmers finally got paid for all their work on the tobacco crop throughout the

Here are a few offthe-wall facts about agriculture and Christmas. I pulled them from several sources on the internet so I won't swear that all of them are

correct but if they are not, they will not cause much harm.

There are about 15,000 Christmas tree farms in the US. It takes from 4 years to up to 15 years to get a marketable size tree and between 25 million and 30 million trees are sold each Christmas season. Imagine the number before artificial trees became popular.

It takes about 30 million trees to produce the amount of wrapping paper used each year. I can remember as a kid when we had to be careful and save the wrapping paper.

The average sheep produces enough wool for 6 sweaters.

318 million pounds of ham are consumed during the holiday season. I remember looking for a ham in late summer and no grocery store had any, they were being stockpiled for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

There are 250 mint farmers in the US and they supply 70%

of the world's production.

Eating KFC is one of the more popular Christmas traditions in Japan.

You would get 364 gifts in total if you followed the "12 days of Christmas song"

Only female reindeers still have antlers during the Christmas season as the males drop theirs earlier in the year.

That's probably enough, enjoy the holiday season.









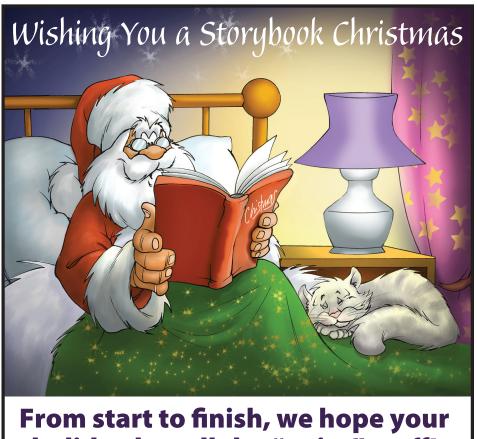
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BUSINESS JOURNAL JOURNAL

TOP 100 CHRISTMAS Issue December '25



Toyota Boshoku America held the grand opening and ribbon cutting for its new \$225 million "smart plant" in Hopkinsville on Tuesday. The state-of-the-art facility, located on 50 acres in Christian County, will create 157 full-time jobs and use advanced, sustainable technology to produce seat-frame components. This plant adds to TBA's lineup of interior systems and filters supplied to automakers like Toyota, BMW, and Subaru, bringing the company's total Kentucky workforce to more than 1,100 across five locations.

photo courtesy of Tom Latek, Kentucky Today

Honoring Western Kentucky's Finest

Celebrating Excellence Across the Bluegrass

By Greg LeNeave

Publisher, KPI Newspaper Group

In December, KPI Newspaper Group publishes the Christmas Business Journal. Each year, our staff wrestles with choosing the right theme for the Christmas issue—a task that somehow becomes even tougher during the holiday rush.

This year, I decided to chart a clear course. We set out to honor up to 100 outstanding individuals across Western Kentucky—people who excel in their professions and contribute meaningfully to their

communities.

Our newspaper group includes seven publications covering 18 Western Kentucky counties every week. Along the way, our staff meets remarkable people from Henderson County to Fulton County, many of whom deserve recognition for their leadership and dedication.

Inside this issue, readers will find profiles of an array of distinguished figures: a Kentucky Supreme Court justice, a United States congressman, state and local officials, judge-executives, mayors, and many other leaders who make the Bluegrass State proud.



Building a brighter future:

DRA Supports Growth in Western Kentucky"

By Laurna ToddBusiness Editor
KPI Newspaper Group

Western Kentucky communities are set to receive more than \$1.6 million in new investments through the Delta Regional Authority's States' Economic Development Assistance Program

(SEDAP). In partnership with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the funding will support four projects focused on infrastructure improvements, workforce development, and expanding access to essential services. SEDAP remains one of the Delta Regional Authority's primary investment tools, designed to strengthen public infrastructure, transportation systems, business growth, and job training across its eight-state region. This year's awards in Kentucky reflect a continued commitment to supporting economic stability and long-term community growth.

Regional and state leaders noted that SEDAP's adaptability allows local communities to respond to a variety of needs—from utility upgrades to skill-building initiatives. The newly funded projects are expected to enhance daily services, increase opportunities for job preparation, and provide resources that help residents pursue stable, well-paying careers. Officials emphasized that this coordinated investment highlights the value of partnerships in advancing progress across Western Kentucky.

The Kentucky SEDAP award recipients include:

Henderson Community College – approximately \$430,000 to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for its new electrical technology training program, preparing students for realworld electrical systems work and supporting workforce growth in Henderson and Union counties.

West Kentucky Workforce Board \$509,000 to expand high-demand workforce training through creden-

workforce training through credentialing, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and work-based learning opportunities, connecting untapped talent to sustainable careers and helping local employers meet workforce needs.

Paducah McCracken County Joint Sewer Agency – \$509,000 for pump station enhancements, addressing critical infrastructure needs, improving wastewater services for vulnerable populations, and supporting economic competitiveness in McCracken County and the surrounding Purchase Area.

Hickman Electric System – approximately \$168,000 to build a fiber-to-the-home network in the City of Hickman, providing reliable broadband and cable access to underserved residents and supporting future growth.

These investments reflect a strong commitment to building stronger, more resilient communities in Western Kentucky, ensuring residents have access to quality infrastructure, workforce training, and essential services.



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Congratulations

2025 TOP OO PEOP OF WESTE KENTUCKY

Grank Bennett

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Frank Bennett, Executive Director of The Leadership Center. The Leadership Center offers training and professional development programs designed to turn today's West Kentucky workforce into tomorrow's leaders, helping build a more resilient and adaptable workforce in our region. As Executive Director, I split time between administering a variety of community leadership programs including Leadership Paducah and Leadership West Kentucky and leading workshops on a variety of leadership topics including supervisory skills, workplace communication, and strategic leadership.



- #2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today? Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits: I grew up in a small business, my dad owned three restaurants when I was a kid, I grew up in the back room of one of his restaurants. I got a master's class in business by watching what happened around me. My first job was doing the prep work for his restaurants when I was a kid.
 - #4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? Spending time with my wife and kids. Last weekend we all went to the exhibit ICE at Opryland
 - #5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? Being kind is free.
 - #6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

As a leader, you hold a remarkable platform to shape the lives of the people around you. The strongest leaders do more than drive revenue. They help their team members reach their goals and strengthen the communities they serve.

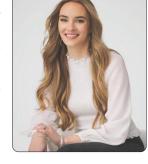
Peris Swanson

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). I am an attorney at Whitlow, Roberts, Houston & Straub. I handle a wide range of cases from criminal defense and personal injury to social security disability and estate planning. Our firm handles all types of business transactions and real estate matters, too. Day to day, that means a lot of different things. Some days I'm at a computer all day researching the law and drafting legal documents. Other days I may be in court all day arguing with other attorneys or defending someone's constitutional rights. I spend a lot of time talking to people and walking them through tough decisions or explaining complicated rules in a way that makes

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today? Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession. One of my very first jobs was freelance writing for the Livingston Ledger and the West Kentucky News. That was a great experience that helped me to get out of my comfort zone, talk to all different kinds of people, and really explore and learn all about Livingston County and Western Kentucky. After I graduated from Murray State University, I had every intent on teaching high school social studies and I spent several years working part time as a substitute teacher and part time as a legal assistant. Both of those jobs provided me with a front-row seat to how people learn, how they respond under stress, and how much clarity matters when the stakes feel high. Subbing taught me patience, structure, and the importance of explaining things in a way people can actually grasp. Working as a legal assistant taught me the nitty gritty of law that law school does not teach.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)We serve clients across every county in western Kentucky and southern Illinois and beyond, with two office locations to make that possible. Our office in Murray is right downtown in the heart of old Murray and

was recently renovated. Our Paducah office sits in the historic 0ldNational Bank building Broadway downtown Paducah, landmark that has stood for more than a century



and still carries its original architectural character.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge) When I am not working, I spend most of my time with my daughter, Josie, or staying engaged in community life. I place a high value on community, and I try to encourage a spirit of collaboration and mutual support wherever I can. We can only do great things when we work together! I am an avid reader, and I also enjoy singing with my husband, Caleb, who is an accomplished musician. On the rare occasion I find a toddler-free moment. I enjoy painting as a creative outlet.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?) Many years ago I came across a simple phrase that has stayed with me: "Do the hard thing." Over time, it has become something of a personal maxim. The difficult tasks, the ones we instinctively avoid, are often the very places where the most meaningful growth occurs. As you lean into those challenges, what once felt daunting becomes manageable, and then you move on to the next challenge with greater capacity. Choosing to do the hard things is what elevates you from competence to excellence.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to **others?** Do the hard thing is definitely a piece of advice that I would pass on to others. The second piece of advice I would offer is: just ask. You never truly know what doors might open or who might be willing to help. Every internship, job, and opportunity I have received came from taking the initiative to ask. The worst possible outcome is that someone tells you no. But the willingness to be vulnerable in that way is a real strength that most people don't have the courage

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Wednesday, December 17 Wright Brothers Celebration Large Community Room 4:30pm-5:30pm

Saturday, December 20 Kid's Movie: Rise of the Guardians Primary tabs Large Community Room 3:00pm-4:30pm

Tuesday, December 30 Bingo Night Large Community Room 5:00pm-6:00pm

Tuesday, December 16 JUNK JOURNALING Large Community Room Tuesday, December 16, 2025 5:30pm-6:30pm



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Congratulations 2025 TOP 100 PEOPLE OF WESTERN KENTUCKY

Charon Clayton

Aaron Clayton is an operator/franchisee of Culver's Restaurant in Paducah, Kentucky. Him and his wife Julie (owner/franchisee/co-operator) manage the day-to-day operations of a quick-service/fast food restaurant. The duties in which they prefer include working on the floor during the week in either the kitchen or front-of-house. Aaron said, "We are open seven days a week from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, so there are always plenty of opportunities to help our team keep the flow of food moving, while still maintaining great customer service and building a personal relationship with our guests. Additionally, we have roughly 60 team members that we manage along with some fantastic leadership we could not do without. From hiring, scheduling, payroll, inventory and everyday logistics of keeping the lights on, it's a 24/7/365 job that can sometimes feel overwhelming, but with the support of our team, we would not have it any other way!"

Aaron graduated from Calloway County High School in 2007 and then graduated with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Political Science from Murray State University in 2011. Aaron stated, "My original occupation out of high school, and something I still thoroughly enjoy doing, is working for a locally owned group of radio stations out of Marshall County, WCBL and WCCK. I worked full-time in the radio business from April 2007 to October 2021. In that time period, I did everything from being an on-air personality, writing and recording news stories, producing commercials, programming the daily logs for the radio stations as well as doing play-byplay broadcasts for high school sports at both Marshall County High School and Lyon County High School." He continued on saying, "After marrying my wife Julie in May of 2021, I decided to step away from the full-time business of radio (while still broadcasting the high school games) to help her run Culver's. She and her father, Dr. David Cassity, purchased the land and the right to be franchisees of a Culver's quick-service restaurant in 2016. In January 2017, Culver's opened on the west side of Paducah where it still stands today serving fresh, neverfrozen ButterBurgers and delicious frozen custard". "While this was a very new venture for myself, it was an easy transition thanks to Julie and the great teammates we have. I enjoy not only getting to work daily with my wife and best friend, but I get to work with people of all ages and help individuals progress through this business as they move into leadership and continue the cycle of helping others."

Aaron said one thing that he also loves is his wife helping him with broadcasts, "I also love that my wife Julie has now joined in on helping me on my radio broadcasts for Marshall County soccer, football, baseball and softball, along with Lyon County basketball. She has become a part of those communities alongside me, while also getting to see the youth of those programs grow into great young men and women outside of the field and classroom." He continued on saying, "Something we both put an emphasis on at Culver's is hiring area high-schoolers that may be applying for their first job to help them get the experience and tools they need to succeed when they graduate and decide what they want to do in adulthood."

Aaron and Julie have recently moved into their new home that they built in Benton right on her family's farm. They also welcomed their first child into the world about four months ago. Aaron said, "A beautiful, healthy baby girl named Chesney Ann Clayton who is the light of our life who takes up all our time and we couldn't be happier!"

Beggs Brothers





Jake Beggs

Luke Beggs

Beggs brothers showcasing a new Sports Medicine Practice in Paducah

Paducah, KY — A new sports medicine and orthopedic practice has opened in Paducah, offering local residents advanced, non-surgical care for musculoskeletal injuries and conditions. Dr. Luke Beggs, MD, PhD, has joined Baptist Health Medical Group and is now seeing patients at 2603 Kentucky Avenue, Suite 401.

Dr. Beggs brings extensive training in family medicine and a fellowship in sports medicine, with a focus on non-operative treatments such as ultrasound-guided injections, platelet-rich plasma therapy, and personalized rehabilitation programs. He is joined by his brother, Jake Beggs, PA-C, as part of the new practice aimed at expanding access to orthopedic care in western Kentucky.

"Whether it's a sports injury, arthritis, or joint pain, our goal is to provide modern, evidence-based care close to home," said Dr. Beggs.

The practice is accepting new patients, including adults and teens, without requiring a referral. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (270) 415-4825.

With a commitment to the local community, the Beggs brothers hope to offer comprehensive, patient-focused orthopedic care that meets the growing needs of Paducah and surrounding areas.

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On behalf of our FNB employees, we want to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and joyous holiday season. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you in 2025 and we look forward to serving you again in 2026.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
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The Congratulations

Rick Hill

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I'm the President of Robertson Hill Inc. dba Kentucky Tobacco Outlet and B&G Liquors. I oversee daily operations for both businesses.



#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today? Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

First job was at 8 yrs old behind the electronics counter and stockroom of my family's retail business downtown (Hillmark). First job outside of family business was at 16 and I helped open the Gap clothing in the mall(1985). My first job after graduating college was being part of opening the first Cellular store in Paducah (Cellular One). My parents where a big influence on my knack for business. I was raised in retail and spent years of my life growing up around it with my parents' businesses throughout the years.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

3821 Hinkleville Road which was purchased in 1992 and remodeled from a former liquor store into a Drive thru Convenience Store, Tobacco Outlet, and separate Drive thru Liquor store. We own 7 acres and some old timers might remember a public RC racetrack that was on the back of the property back in the mid to late 80's.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

I'm very family oriented with a 9 year old girl and 10 year old boy. We spend our summers at the lake fishing, camping and boating. We also enjoy being involved in youth sports year round with our kids. I'm a lifelong UK fan so we love attending games and watching the Cats.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

The owner of a company I worked for in Louisville once told me about hiring employees "It's easier to take the tiger out of someone than put it in them". Find an entegetic spirit and reign them into your plan versus trying to motivate someone who doesn't have that fire

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Never underestimate the power of "Word of Mouth" and the profound effects both positive and negative it can have on any business. It can make or break a business.

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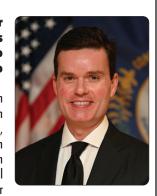
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Allen Wilson

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I was elected as the Livingston County Attorney in 2018 and am a member of Wilson Law Firm, PLIC. As the county Attorney, I am the legal counsel for the Livingston County Fiscal Court and advise all county elected officials and their staffs. I prosecute all criminal cases



in Livingston District court and collect child support and delinquent property taxes. I also coordinate Livingston County's first-ever Teen Court program, which is an incredible opportunity to work with some of the most talented students at Livingston Central High School and teach them about the legal profession.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today? Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

Lifeguarding and reading electricity meters. Lifeguarding taught me a lot about teamwork and customer service. Reading electricity meters let me know the importance of not waking up dogs you can't outrun.

Community engagement is critical to me. I serve on the Livingston Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, the Lyon County Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors, and the University of Kentucky Alumni Association Leadership Advisory Council. I also serve on the faculty of the Kentucky Prosecutors Institute because I believe it is important to collaborate extensively with colleagues and peers to advance one's profession.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

The Livingston County Attorney's Office is located at 321 Court Street; Smithland, Kentucky 42081.

Wilson Law Firm, PLLC is located at 635 Trade Avenue; Eddyville, Kentucky 42038.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

Running gets me outside and away from my desk. Every October, the Grand Rivers Tourism Commission, the Grand Rivers Chamber of Commerce, and West Kentucky Runners host a race in memory of my late wife, Amelia. It's called Amelia's Run, and it promotes organ donation and benefits Donate Life Kentucky Trust. The outpouring of community support is incredible, and it is a beautiful race through Grand Rivers and IRII

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

Treat everyone with respect and courtesy. -my dad

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Find balance. Happiness at work and away from work makes the other better.

Andrea Underwood

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I'm Director of Human Resources and Community Relations for Paducah Power System.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?



approach your job today? Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

My first jobs were in radio, all throughout college (WMOK) and my first couple of years after college (WKYX-WKYQ). I was a deejay and news reporter. I've always been grateful to WMOK owner Gary Kidd who took a chance on me as a kid who had just graduated from high school and walked into his station without an appointment and said I wanted a job. I knew nothing about radio at the time, but he gave me my start. I was also lucky to work at WPSD, first as a producer and then later as the News Director, with Tom Butler, Ron Beaton, and Fred Paxton, who all helped to shape my work ethics and practices as a journalist. Throughout the years, I've served on several boards of community organizations and graduated from Leadership Paducah, all of which enhanced my interest in serving my community and helping to make it a good place to live and thrive.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

Paducah Power System is at 1500 Broadway St., Paducah. Our building is the old Sears Department Store which Paducah Power purchased for a \$1 in the early 90's after it had sat vacant for more than a decade. (Sears moved to Kentucky Oaks Mall when the mall opened.) PPS renovated the building extensively and moved from what is not the police station to the Sears building in 1993.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

My hobbies are photography, travel, and creating little Halloween monsters out of gourds by carving and painting them.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

I've learned a lot of good things from many coworkers over the years, but the best lessons have come from the mistakes I've made, particularly in managing people, and my desire to not repeat those mistakes. Sometimes, the best lessons are the ones learned the hard way.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Try to always remember that people are your greatest asset and everyone performs best when they feel seen and heard. The things that happen in someone's personal life affect how well they're able to perform at work, so, as a supervisor, I try to stay actively interested in the lives of my teammates, help them whenever they're struggling, and treat them the way I want to be treated. Actively listening to what they have to say, giving their thoughts and opinions full consideration, and admitting to them when you're wrong about something builds trust and motivates people to work with you instead of against you.

Congratulations, Winners!

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)



Wayne Remy

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). Barber Ramey's Barber stylist. Cut hair and talk to people

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today? Finis Fulks, my grandfather owned a



full service gas station when I was 10 years old. My first job.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Golf helped me meet people in all walks of life. Member First Baptist Church of Paducah

#3. Where is your business located? 2909 Jackson Street, Paducah Ky

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? Needed a place to work for me and my cousin. Remodeled in 1987, Been bargering 56 years (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

- #4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge) Golf
- #5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

Dad and grandfather said treat people the way you want to be treated and do your very best.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? The same.



Chad Young

1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Chad Young, Doctor of Chiropractic, Young Health Chiropractic & Muscle Rehab. My role is a mix of Chiropractor, Therapist, Psychiatrist, Accountant, Advertising Designer, Custodian, Social Networker, Philanthropist, and Grounds Maintenance Engineer—basically, imagine all of those rolled into one.



2. What were your first jobs, and how did those early experiences shape the way you work today?

My first job was as a Boy Scout camp counselor from 1988-1991. I had to calm the fears of first-year scouts who were away from home for the first time. Today, I calm the fears of people dealing with spinal pain who think surgery is their only option because pain medications haven't worked. I help them understand there's usually another path to relief.

3. Where is your business located? Is there anything unique about how you acquired or developed your space—building, remodeling, special history, etc.?

We're located at 1002 Cuba Road, Mayfield, KY 42003. The space previously housed Hills Bar-B-Que and West Kentucky Telephone. It's large, and we use the extra room for specialized spinal exercises, stretches, and rehab that wouldn't be possible in a smaller space.

4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

I love getting out of town on weekends to enjoy concerts, skiing, hiking, and trying restaurants that aren't available locally.

5. What's the best business advice someone has ever given you?

"Stay out of debt and let your business grow organically."

6. What is the best piece of business advice you would offer to others?

Don't try to offer the cheapest service in town—focus on providing the best service you possibly can.

Cody McCain

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Cody McCain is the owner and operator of McCain's Towing LLC, where he handles every aspect of the business himself—from responding to calls and performing tows to managing client interactions and vehicle storage.



2. What were your first jobs, and how did those early experiences shape the way you work today?

Cody's first experience in towing came in 2018-2019, transporting insurance vehicles to auto auctions while working for Tates Towing and Recovery in Wickliffe, KY. In January 2020, at age 24, he launched his own business, providing accident scene towing for the sheriff's department and Kentucky State Patrol, as well as repossession and recovery services for several local banks. Mentors like Mark Williams and David Vance have been instrumental in helping him gain in-depth knowledge of the towing industry.

3. Where is your business located? Is there anything unique about how you acquired or developed your space?

McCain's Towing is located in Bandana, KY. The business is fully owneroperated, so every customer interacts directly with Cody. Services include lockouts, key programming, roadside assistance, junk vehicle removal, and mechanical work.

4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

Being on call 24/7 year-round doesn't leave much free time, but Cody enjoys hunting, fishing, and riding four-wheelers whenever he can.

5. What is the best piece of business advice you would offer to others?

The best advice for anyone starting a new business is to be honest and keep your word. In a competitive industry driven by price, building and maintaining loyal customers is key to long-term success.

STIFEL CONGRATULATES



Pictured left to right:

Sally Teague, Client Service Associate

Elliot Treece, First Vice President/Investments

Lacey Metzger, Client Service Associate

Adam Chustz, CDFA®, Senior Vice President/Investments

Hanna Rhinehart, Client Service Associate

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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.

The Congratulations

Angela Mathis

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I serve as McCracken Market President for CFSB, where my primary focus is commercial lending and relationship banking. From start to finish, my role centers on building strong relationships with local businesses, understanding their financial needs, and helping them



grow through customized lending solutions. I work closely with business owners, community leaders, and internal teams to support economic development while ensuring thoughtful, responsible banking practices that strenathen our local community.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences shape you?

My first jobs included answering phones and filing, while working as a cashier at a car dealership, and later as a sales associate at a clothing store in the mall. Those early roles taught me the value of strong work ethic, customer service, organization, and clear communication. They also instilled an appreciation for every role within an organization and the importance of treating people with respect.

I've been fortunate to learn from outstanding mentors in banking, including Randell Blackburn, Barry Griffith, Rustin Egner, Todd Myers, Rhonda Batts, Britne Parker, and many others, all influenced my leadership style and reinforced the importance of listening, mentoring others, and leading with integrity.

Community involvement has also shaped my career, including serving on the Paducah Cooperative Ministry Board, participating in BNI Impact Chapter networking group, Business and Professional Women, and Leadership Paducah, all of which have deepened my commitment to service and collaboration.

#3. Where is your business located?

CFSB proudly serves McCracken County through two locations on Park Avenue and Irvin Cobb Drive. Having multiple locations allows us to remain accessible and connected to the community we serve, while continuing our long-standing tradition of local decision-making and relationship-focused banking.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, boating, and attending sports events. These activities help me recharge and maintain balance while creating meaningful memories with the people I love.

#5. What's the best business advice you've ever received?

The best advice I've received is to be a good listener and invest in mentoring others. Several leaders throughout my career reinforced that listening builds trust, and that strong leaders take time to develop those around them

#6. What is the best business advice you would give to others?

I believe anyone can be a leader. Treat people with respect, listen with intention, and focus on helping find solutions. Leadership isn't about titles — it's about how you show up, how you support others, and the positive impact you leave on your organization and community.



Blair Travis

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

As the Director of Marketing, Communications, and Business Development for the City of Calvert City, I work to promote our community's image, amenities, and opportunities to residents, visitors, and businesses. I manage



the city's website and social media platforms to ensure clear, consistent communication, and I build strong relationships with community members, nonprofits, and local businesses. I also plan and coordinate city events that highlight what makes Calvert City a great place to live and visit. Through strategic marketing campaigns, community engagement, and collaboration with city and county leadership, I help attract new investment, support local tourism, and contribute to a vibrant and thriving Calvert City.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

One of my first jobs out of college was at Harrah's Metropolis, where I learned how to thrive in a fast-paced environment and the importance of paying attention to details. I oversaw a staff of 15, and together we organized outdoor concerts, weddings, bridge parties, and many other events. That experience taught me how to work with people from different backgrounds and work styles, how to build a strong team, and how a supportive leader can shape your career. My manager, Renea Jarrett, led by example, always thinking two steps ahead and understanding how to make events flow seamlessly, and I will always be grateful that she took a chance on me and helped me grow as a young professional. After Harrah's, I became the Public Relations Specialist at WKCTC, where I organized special events, managed social media, and oversaw the public relations budget. There, I learned long-term marketing strategy, planning, and targeting from some of the best, including Janett Blythe, who pushed me to think creatively and never settle for "good enough," and Dr. Barbara Veazey, whose high expectations taught me to take pride in my work and to lift others up when they've earned it. I've been fortunate to have incredible female mentors throughout my career, each of whom taught me something different, and together their influence shaped the leader and professional I am today.

#3. Where is your business located?

My "business" is Calvert City itself, and I'm fortunate to work right in the heart of the community I've called home for 16 years. When the opportunity arose seven years ago to serve the city I love, I didn't hesitate, I jumped at it and have never looked back. Calvert City may be a small community of about 2,500 people, but it is big on heart, hospitality, and connection. Spend just a few hours here, whether at one of our city events or inside a local business, and you'll quickly feel the friendliness and pride that make this one of the best places to live and work. Our community is golf-cart friendly and incredibly active, with roughly 20 miles of trails woven throughout the city and into Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. I feel blessed every day to work where I live, to help share "our" story, and to spotlight a community known not only for its strong industrial foundation but also for its growing reputation for outstanding events, beautiful parks, and an unmatched quality of life.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When I'm not working, I enjoy reading, exploring new places, spending time outdoors, watching Kentucky basketball and football with my husband and spending time fishing together.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

The best business advice I ever received came from my mother, who spent 30 years in healthcare administration. She always told me that consistency builds trust and that people will remember how you made them feel long after they forget what you said. She taught me to show up the same way every day with integrity and to always listen with intention. Her example showed me that strong relationships are built through listening and genuine empathy, and those lessons have guided me throughout my career.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

The best business advice... Keep your hours consistent. Be intentional. Show up with integrity every day and make space for others to feel heard and valued.

Brian Parr

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am the Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University. This is an awesome job because I get to interact with so many great people from our region! I help lead a team that makes decisions and implements plans to educate the next generation of



agricultural professionals. This includes working with industry partners, agricultural scientists, secondary school programs, and several 2 year college partners.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today? Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

My first jobs were in the machine tool industry. I worked for eight years in a precision machining company where I had the opportunity to carry out intricate processes that were within very close tolerances to create functional applications. I then went on to be a high school agriculture teacher largely because of the influence that my agriculture teacher had on my life! To a large extent, I am still doing the same job 27 years later, I am just called a dean! I have spent my career trying to help others get to where they want to go professionally through education and experiential opportunities. One of my greatest mentors is Dr. TOny Brannon who was the dean before I took the position.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business

Murray State is in Murray KY and it does have a unique history! The university started in 1922 and our first agriculture classes were taught in 1925 which makes this year our 100th year of agriculture at Murray State!

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When not working, I enjoy feeding and caring for cows. My youngest son and I have a small herd of beef cattle and a herd of Corriente cattle that he uses for roping practice. I also enjoy leather work and working on old trucks (we have a herd of those as well:-)) I also serve as the pastor of Brooks Chapel Community Church where I get the pleasure of serving my second family!

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

This applies to business, education, and most any other aspect of life! Meet people where they are and figure out how you can help them get where they want to go.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Sincere concern for others goes a long way!

Julie Cassity

My education is bachelor of science in nutrition from Murray state and master of science in human development and leadership both from Murray state. Biggest challenges of career would have been running a restaurant during COVID with only been open 3 yrs at the time. Dynamics of staffing has changed over the years so learning what best works for your team.



I worked at chick-fil-a as general manager before embarking on my own journey of owning a restaurant.

As owner you can say you do a bit of everything. If register needs attending or orders need to be ran I'll help in any way I can. I try my best to keep tabs with my managers on what needs to be done or improved on by the staff.

Bart Lewis

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

My wife and I own Puckett's Fine Jewelry in Benton and Murray, Kentucky. We offer fine and fashion jewelry, engagement rings, custom jewelry, and full repair services, along with a curated gift shop featuring serveware, home goods, bags, and children's gifts.



From day to day, I'm involved in every aspect of the business—buying, marketing, e-commerce, financial planning, operations, customer support, and working directly with our team to ensure our stores deliver the experience our customers have loved for more than 50 years.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

My ever jobs throughout high school were a bus boy at the Pasta House Company, a carhop at Harned's Drive In, and in the shipping department at Hancock's of Paducah. All three of those jobs gave me a foundation of strong work ethic, customer service, and teamwork.

At Murray State, I stayed as involved as possible through Sigma Phi Epsilon, Alpha Kappa Psi, Student Government Association, the Student Ambassador Program, and other organizations. Those experiences gave me lifelong friendships and taught me leadership and professionalism.

After earning both my Bachelor's and Master's from Murray State, I moved to Nashville and began in customer service at Summit Professional Education. Within nine months I moved into the Product department and eventually became Vice President of Product, leading the team that developed continuing education courses for physical, occupational, and speech therapists. The CEO became a mentor and taught me invaluable lessons about building, leading, and scaling a successful business wisdom I carry into Puckett's every day.

#3. Where is your business located?

Puckett's Fine Jewelry began in Benton, Kentucky, when Dave and Martha Puckett purchased Hawkins Jewelry in 1973. In the 2010s, my wife Hannah worked at Puckett's while attending Murray State. After we spent a decade building our careers in Nashville, the opportunity arose to move back to western Kentucky —and ultimately, to purchase Puckett's Fine Jewelry. In May 2023, we continued on the legacy of Puckett's with our own special touches, and in November 2025, expanded the business to open a second location in Murray, KY.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

I enjoy camping on Kentucky Lake, cooking, playing golf, and spending time with my family.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

A quote from John Maxwell has always stayed with me: "Consistency compounds." Success is rarely built overnight. It's shaped through years of steady growth, discipline, and showing up every day—both in business and in life.

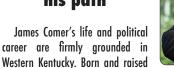
#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

If you want to grow within a company, look beyond your job description and find ways to add meaningful value. My own career grew from an entry-level position to the leadership team because I focused on solving problems, improving processes, and contributing wherever I could—not just completing the tasks assigned to me.

- #1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). Owner of Liberty Fuels Inc, oversee daily activities of the convenience store and gas station, and home delivery of propane.
- #2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today? Welder, toolmaker and production manager. They all helped me with accuracy, timing and cost to a business.
- **#3. Where is your business located?** 825 South Main St. Marion, Ky. My father and two other partners started the business in
- #4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)
- Watching motocross, boating, golfing and being with my close friends. #5. What's the best advice about business that
- someone ever gave you? (And who was it?) Don't let your business take all your time and enjoy life.
- #6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Believe in you people and always work alongside of them. If you can't do the job, don't expect someone else to be able to do it.

Tames Comer

Rep. James **Comer: Western Kentucky** roots that shaped his path





and political identity. Returning home after college, Comer established James Comer, Jr. Farms, a successful beef-cattle and hay operation, and later coowned Comer Land & Cattle Company. His leadership extended beyond agriculture, serving as president of the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce and remaining deeply engaged in local business development.

Comer's Western Kentucky background propelled him into public service. First elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 2000, he built a reputation as a conservative voice for rural communities. In 2011, he became Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture, further cementing his standing as an advocate for the state's farming industry. Since 2016, he has represented Kentucky's 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today, Comer remains strongly connected to the region that shaped him — advocating for agriculture, rural development, and the priorities of the communities across Western Kentucky.

SIDEBAR:

Timeline of Rep. James Comer's Western Kentucky Journey

- 1972 Born in Monroe County, Kentucky
- 1990 Graduates from Monroe County High School
- 1993 Earns B.S. in Agriculture from Western Kentucky University
- 1990s Establishes James Comer, Jr. Farms and becomes active in local agribusiness
- 1999-2000 Serves as President of the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce
 - 2000 Elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives
 - 2011 Elected Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture
- 2016 Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for Kentucky's
- Present Serves as a leading congressional voice on agriculture, rural issues, and Western Kentucky priorities



Brooke (Abner

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Brooke Bailey Abner-

Owner of Brooke Bailey Dance Addiction LLC

Operating Member of Abstract Investments LLC

Real Estate Agent Abstract **Enterprises**

I run day-to-day business

operations for Brooke Bailey Dance Addiction as well as choreograph and oversee the competitive dance company and staff. In Abstract Investments, I run day-to-day operations for all the investment properties.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was working at my mom's dance and gymnastics studio, teaching classes and setting choreography. I was born into the dance and gymnastics business. Although things have changed over time, the mission to provide a space for kids to learn new skills, learn to work hard, and teach valuable life lessons hasn't changed. My second job was NFL Cheerleader for the Tennessee Titans.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits: I watched both my parents and grandparents run businesses. I was born into a family of entrepreneurs. They all influenced me in positive ways. In my early adulthood, I cheered in the NFL for the Tennessee Titans. My NFL coach, Stacie Kinder, changed my life. She taught me how to push through adversity, never give up, and keep a thick skin.

As far as dance goes, I'm seeing shows in New York and Vegas a lot. I'm also a board member of the Pennyroyal Arts Council.

My husband and I are constantly looking at real estate all over the country. We talk about real estate every day.

#3. Where is your business located? Brooke Bailey Dance Addiction LLC is located at 2507 Fort Campbell Blvd, Hopkinsville, KY, and 1788 Canton Rd, Cadiz, KY.

The Hopkinsville location was originally Scott Oldsmobile. We renovated it and created 3 dance studios in the front where the showrooms and offices were. In the back, we turned the body shop into our gymnastics facility. Our Cadiz location was originally my mom's dance and gymnastics facility. It has so much history from her 25 years

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

I love to travel and experience new restaurants and cultures. My husband and I are big Nashville Predators fans! We go to as many games as we can. When I'm not traveling, I'm cooking and vlogging my recipes on my Instagram @recipesandrhinestones.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

Once the ball starts rolling, don't let it slow down! If you achieve one goal, set another!

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Being a business owner is never a 9-5. Be willing to do what others won't to achieve your goals and be successful.

Dave Winder

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business State in baseball from 1983 to 87. Name) and what you do at work (from start to

25th season with Murray State athletics. After a radio TV career of 15 years with Zimmer radio group in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and WPSD television in Paducah. Graduated from Murray State in 1987.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

Associate AD for communications is my title. Have worked primarily with men's basketball handling all communication efforts for the team. Was able to work with outstanding head coaches and promote some great players including Isaiah Canaan, Cameron Payne and Ja Morant.

I have a hand in my areas, but two of the main areas included maintenance of GoRacers.com and managing 95-100 television productions each year on ESPN+ for Racer volleyball, soccer, football, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball.

I lead the Murray State Hall of Fame effort. And many other areas in MSII athletics

First iobs and experiences.

First job was in high school in Jackson, Mo, worked for KZIM radio in Cape Girardeau. I used to run St. Louis Cardinal baseball games, and that's where I first got a chance to do play-by-play.

But really the top two influences on my career in life is my father Jimmie Winder. Who was career Missouri State Highway Patrol and also a United States Marine. And Coach Johnny Reagan. I played for Johnny at Murray

Where is your business located?

Murray State University, Murray, Ky. - one of the greatest universities in the country.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

Family is very important. My wife, Janice and I now have four grandkids

from our daughter Meagan (husband Travis Palmer) and son Matthew (wife, Leah). Woods, Crew, Elsie Mae and Olivia. I like to play pickleball when I can and maybe some racquetball.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

I don't exactly recall who told me these two items, but they have stuck with me for a long, long time.

One is this your job or is this your career? Either one you choose, you will treat it as such.

The other one someone told me one time is if you're in a position of leadership, you need to ask yourself at times "is this wrong or is it just different?" When you look at the people you're working with and leading, you have to let them figure out how best to accomplish the things that are required of them.



Congratulations

Buzz Smith

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I'm the Community Liaison for General Matter. General Matter is an American owned uranium enrichment company that is building a state of the art enrichment plant at the Department of Energy site. I'm establishing our local office and presence here in Paducah.



#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

I spent all my summers as a kid mowing and trimming lawns. I also had a Paducah Sun paper route, the third largest in the City. I learned a lot from that job. You had to sell subscriptions, deliver promptly and accurately and go by monthly to each home to collect. Collecting really taught me about people's personalities. Some people were never happy and some people were always happy and seemed to have a better life. I took note of this and have tried to always be positive with myself and others. My first, punch a time clock, job was at G and O Drug Store. John Oehschlaeger hired me. John or Johnny was a character. He found humor in everything and I also learned that from him.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits:

My Dad instilled my ethic. He never sat still and expected us kids to do the same. I like to be busy and have always enjoyed working with other people. I've had many bosses and learned something from everyone of

Mention personal interests or community activities that's influenced your profession.

I have served on the Paducah City Commission for 15 years. I'm very interested in preparing Paducah to benefit from the influx of new businesses locating here. I want to get new housing into the city and neighborhoods, such as the Southside, revitalized. Bettering our community is, really, the thing I'm most interested in. I love doing this and it's the greatest interest I have.

#3. Where is your business located?

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business)

As I mentioned, I work for General Matter. We are located at the Department of Energy site. We'll have an office in downtown Paducah in the near future. General Matter was created to produce nuclear fuel domestically, right here in Paducah. Right now our country relies on foreign owned companies for almost all of our nuclear fuel.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

That's a hard question because Paducah is my passion and I enjoy the time spent on the City Commission and related city business. I love doing this. I really don't have a lot of hobbies. I enjoy spending time with Janie, working on my home and yard and making our dog Petey, happy. We love seeing our grandkids when we are able.

(hobbies or passions that help you recharge)

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (and who was it)

I was in my early 20s and was hired for sales position. I had zero experience. A potential customer called and left the message they wanted to meet with a sales rep. I went to the owner, who was an engineer and not a sales person and asked "What do I do? I've never done this and don't really know our product that well yet." He gave me great advice in a calming tone, "Just go out to see them, be yourself, talk to them and be their friend. Find out what they need and come back here. We'll figure out how to help them." His name was Ken Regal. He was a great and kind person. The advice of being yourself, being a friend and trying to help is what stuck

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Build friendships with the everyone you deal with. Not just within your organization but also with your customers and constituents.

Vick Patel

1. Tell us about your work and what you do.

My name is Vick Patel, and I've spent the last 17 years in the hotel industry. Over the years, I've done just about every job there is-front desk, housekeeping, maintenance, sales, and management. For the past 15 years, I managed multiple hotels in Paducah and gained a deep understanding of every part of the business. Recently, I chose to step



away from the hotel industry to focus full-time on real estate ventures. I've always had a passion for building, renovating, and improving properties, and now I'm able to devote all my time to that next chapter. I also own several rental properties that I've purchased, renovated, and continue to manage myself, which has given me hands-on experience in both real estate investment and property management. In addition, I run a side business called Paducah Drone, where I capture aerial photos and showcase the city from unique perspectives. Over time, I've grown a large following and made a name for myself locally—many people in Paducah know me simply as the "Drone guy."

2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences shape the way you work today?

My first job was at a restaurant in Universal Studios when I was 16. I was hired as a cashier, but I quickly learned that titles don't mean much you do whatever needs to be done. I made food, washed dishes, bussed tables, cleaned—you name it. That job taught me early on that if you want to succeed, you have to be willing to do every job, not just the one

My first manager, Mike, became an important mentor. I worked wherever he needed me, learned to adapt quickly, and because of that, I moved up fast. His influence shaped a lot of my work habits today.

I also serve on the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau board and a few other local boards. Being involved in the community has helped me grow professionally and has been a big part of raising my family in this area.

3. Where is your business located?

I own several rental properties in Paducah and Metropolis, and I recently purchased a building at 409 Broadway in downtown Paducah the historic Weille & Son Department Store building. It's my first largescale project, and it has already been an incredible learning experience.

I decided to invest in downtown because this is where my family is settled, and I see tremendous potential in the area. The building itself has a unique history—Weille & Son was one of Paducah's early, long-standing department stores, serving the community for decades and contributing to the downtown district's commercial identity. Being able to preserve and re-imagine such a historic space is something I'm proud to take on.

4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

I'm really passionate about technology, so I'm always learning about new tools and gadgets. A recent hobby of mine is 3D printing, which lets me combine creativity with tech. I'm also a big car enthusiast and enjoy going to car shows whenever I can. Outside of that, my favorite moments are traveling with my family and spending quality time taking care of my daughters, Sriya and Vaani. They keep life fun and exciting, and those oments are what truly recharge me.

5. What's the best business advice someone has

The best advice I ever received was: "Don't micromanage. Give people the tools they need—and then trust them."

That mindset changed the way I lead and helped me build stronger

6. What business advice would you give others?

The best advice I can give is this: never stay in a place where you're not appreciated. If the people around you aren't invested in your growth, you're standing in the wrong room. Surround yourself with leaders and colleagues who value your work, challenge you, and give you space to evolve. Loyalty matters, but so does recognizing when it's time to move on so you can reach your full potential.

Clark Legate

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

My name is Clark Legate and I am the President and COO of Legate's Furniture World.

I oversee day to day operations that include furniture deliveries and floorcovering installations. Directing placement of furniture on our showroom floor

and planning and scheduling all advertising.



So I would have to say that he was my mentor and showed me everything that I have learned to run this business. I went to Madisonville Community College to get the basics IE

Accounting and business management, but the real training and learning was working in the store and learning the things that make our business run smoothly

#3. Where is your business located?

We are located at 744 South Main Street, in Madisonville, Ky

Our phone number is 270-821-2050. Our store used to be a car dealership, so we had to do a lot of remodeling and work on the building to turn it into a furniture and flooring showroom from a service department and parts department.

- #4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? The things that I enjoy most outside of work is playing with my 1 year old granddaughter, Miah, and riding my Harley Davidson Road King
- **#5.** What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (and who was it)The best advice that my dad gave me about business is to see everything as money. If there is an odd chair that we need to get the matching sofa to that chair is basically dead dollars sitting there until we can get something to go with it so it will sell. Most people just see a chair. I now see dead inventory that something needs to be done so it can be sold.
- #6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Always treat your customers the way you would expect to be treated when you go into a business. Strive to have the best customer service possible and treat everyone equally.

We have built our reputation and business on the principle of offering the best possible price to be profitable and the best customer service of any business, not just furniture and floor covering but all businesses.

Collett Serrato

Calvert City resident and Food Giant store manager Colette Serrato recently served as arand marshal of the 66th annual Calvert City Lions Club Christmas Parade, believed to be Kentucky's longestrunning Christmas parade.

Serrato has worked in Calvert City since 2003, starting in the deli when the store was Piggly Wiggly, later managing the meat department for 14 years, and being promoted to store manager on Christmas Eve



A mother of three—Diego, 21; Lilyanna, 18; and Camden—Serrato enjoys outdoor activities with her family, including disc golf. She credits the city's welcoming residents, clean parks, and active community life for makina Calvert City feel like home.

In naming her grand marshal, the Lions Club recognized her leadership and neighbor-first attitude. "Colette is a face in Calvert City that everyone knows," said Lions Club President Jeremy Powell. Serrato called the honor "meaningful and humbling" and expressed gratitude for being part of the community.

The Calvert City Lions Club has a long history of civic service, from purchasing the city's first fire truck to funding street signs. In 2025 alone, the club screened nearly 2,000 children through its KidSight program and donated over \$10,000 to those in need.

Congratulations, Winners!

Cody Moffsinger

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am the Controller at HES Energynet a public electric utility and ISP located in Hopkinsville, KY. A CPA by trade, I direct the finance department with a commitment to data-driven insight and strategic fiscal leadership helping shape initiatives that elevate our organization's future and the communities we serve.



#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

Working as a Front Desk Attendant at the Hopkinsville YMCA gave me early experience in customer communication and helped instill the professionalism, empathy, and service mindset I still carry into my work

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

I don't have a single mentor, but I've learned from many professionals over the years. Finding lessons in people and experience, both near and far, has been central to my development.

Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

I enjoy giving my time and talents to improve the lives of youth and to strengthen educational opportunities within our community. I currently serve as the Board Vice-Chair and Workforce Development Chair for the Christian County Chamber of Commerce and as Chair of the local Boys and Girls Club. Previously, I served as Rotary President, President of the Pennyroyal Arts Council, and President of HYPE

#3. Where is your business located? Hopkinsville. KY. Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there

a unique history of your business?) Our business has provided electric service in Hopkinsville since 1942 and now through a recent partnership with PRECC, we now serve highspeed fiber to rural communities in seven counties in Western, KY.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

I enjoy spending time with family, cooking, and listening to live music. #5. What's the best advice about business that

someone ever gave you? (And who was it?) "Show up to work everyday ready to compete. If you don't, someone else will, and you never know when you are in a job interview" - Gary Harris, Former Director of Government & Community Relations, TVA

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

"Say yes and be present! You cannot be a member in the board room, learn a new skill, reach an organizational goal, or find ways to serve that speak to you unless you first say yes!"

The top 100 People in Western Kentucky

Whitney Walker

Whitney Walker serving a vital role as Marketing and Communications at WKCTC

PADUCAH, Ky. — Whitney Walker has joined West Kentucky Whitney Community and Technical College (WKCTC) as the new Director of Marketing and Communications, bringing a wealth of experience in marketing and public relations to the regional institution.



Walker officially began her role on January 2, 2024, succeeding longtime communications veteran Janett Blythe, who retired after 30 years at the college. In her new position, Walker oversees WKCTC's marketing, public relations, and communications efforts, including publications, advertising, television services, student recruitment, and news releases.

A graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis, Walker brings a diverse professional background. Before joining WKCTC, she served as Sales and Marketing Director at the Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center and spent more than seven years in Cincinnati with The Jurgensen Companies, coordinating marketing for 25 affiliate companies.

Walker's own educational journey has been marked by perseverance. She describes herself as a "non-traditional student," pausing her studies for nearly a decade due to personal and work obligations. Returning to complete her degree, she overcame challenges and now emphasizes the transformative power of education — a perspective she hopes to bring to WKCTC students, including those returning to school after time away.

Since assuming her role, Walker has led initiatives such as WKCTC's "Discover Your Path" event, which provides prospective and returning students with enrollment guidance, academic advising, and financial aid assistance. Her work reflects a commitment to increasing awareness of the college's programs and supporting students of all backgrounds.

With her extensive experience and personal insight into nontraditional education, Walker's leadership is expected to help WKCTC grow its regional presence and further its mission to prepare students for workforce and academic success.

Fast Facts: Whitney Walker

Position: Director of Marketing and Communications, WKCTC Started: January 2, 2024 Education: Rhodes College, Memphis **Previous Roles:**

- Sales & Marketing Director, Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center
- Marketing Coordinator/Executive Assistant, The Jurgensen Companies (Cincinnati)

Notable Achievements:

- Oversaw marketing for 25 affiliate companies
- Led WKCTC's "Discover Your Path" student outreach event

Personal Insight: Returned to complete college after nearly a decade away, emphasizing the value of non-traditional student success



Dr. Carolyn Watson

Carolyn Sue Watson, M.D., has practiced medicine for thirtyeight years as a board-certified pathologist. An honors graduate of Livingston Central High School, she completed undergraduate studies at Murray State University before graduating from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1987. She then completed a five-year double residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at the medical school and its affiliated hospitals,



and a year later completed a subspecialty fellowship in cytopathology.

In 1993, Dr. Watson returned to western Kentucky, joining the medical staff of Pathology Associates of Paducah, PSC, a leading independent medical group providing laboratory services to various area hospitals and physicians. Early mentors included the late Drs. Wally Montgomery, Gary McMillan, and William Christopherson, all of whom conveyed to her the importance of a medical doctor's commitment of time, attention to detail, and placement of patient needs above all else. Recognizing her devotion to these professional principles, her colleagues selected her to serve as the medical group's president in 2018.

In addition to administrative responsibilities related to the medical group, Dr. Watson also serves as laboratory medical director for Baptist Health Paducah and Livingston Hospital. Along with her partners, Drs. Todd Stiles and Austin McCuiston, she also provides laboratory services benefitting Marshall County Hospital and Massac Hospital.

As a pathologist, Dr. Watson conducts and interprets laboratory testing and diagnoses diseases by analyzing bodily fluids, tissues, and cells. Duties involve collaborating with other physicians and medical specialists to confirm diagnoses, guide treatment, monitor disease progression, and ensuring maintenance of lab standards. In the past, she has also performed medical autopsies.

As a former trustee of the Kentucky Medical Association and a member of its Executive Committee, Dr. Watson has played an influential role in improving and maintaining the quality of health care across the Commonwealth. To this end, she continues to serve as a laboratory inspector for the College of American Pathologists.

Dr. Watson has also served for many years as a trustee of the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation headquartered in Louisville, which champions preventive and diagnostic efforts while providing medical care and rehabilitative services for Kentucky's low-vision and blind population. In particular, she has served on the agency's eye banking and surgical care committees. A member of the Paducah Lions Club, she chaired the WPSD Local 6-Area Lions Clubs "Telethon of Stars" in 2023, an annual event which supports regional developmental and rehabilitative centers across a four-state area.

When not practicing medicine, Dr. Watson enjoys pursuing her lifelong passion for music. In addition to serving as music director and organist at Highland Baptist Church, located on Paducah's southside, she also serves as a director on the governing board for the Paducah Symphony

Anticipating a fast-approaching and well-deserved retirement from a long and rewarding medical career, Dr. Watson observed that the practice of medicine is among the highest of life's callings and stated she is very grateful for the many blessings of having had the opportunity of being a part of such a noble and worthwhile profession, focused on providing greater health and hope for others.

Best of the Best

David Melson

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

My name is David Nelson. I am a REALTOR and a full-time real estate agent for Purchase Realty Group in Paducah, KY. My work never stops. I work all day, weekends and evenings, too. Being a full-time real estate agent can be very demanding. It is hard to plan "after work" activities because you never know when someone may call and want to tour a home that just came on the market. I have to adjust frequently to my client's schedule and put my plans on hold. But, it's okay with me! I receive calls all the time from people wanting to list their house for sale. In that case, I have to research what houses have sold for in their area with similar size, age and condition. It is important that we don't list the home without knowing what similar homes are selling for in the same area. We don't want to price it too high or too low. My first task of the day is to look to see what properties have come on the market. I have several clients looking to buy and want to share these new listings with them quickly. If I see one that might work for them, I try to e-mail them the details immediately! After all, they are not the only people looking to buy. Real Estate is a time sensitive business. You have to stay on top of things and know what the market is doing at all times!

I also try to follow up with my clients as much as possible. Some clients have very specific in features they are looking for in their next home. I have to convince them that it may take time finding the "right one". Communicating with my clients on a regular basis reminds them that I am trying to help. Needless to say, I am on the phone or e-mailing my customers all day long!

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was being a middle school teacher. Later, I started the business Wood Whittlers here in Paducah. I worked as a repairer, refinisher and did custom mill work for 32 years. I met a lot of people in both of these positions. Mr. Emitt Bowman, one of the older wood workers, was a great mentor to me. He had a cabinet shop in Paducah. He had one arm and could do anything I could do with two arms.

#3. Where is your business located?

Purchase Realty Group is conveniently located at 2650 Holt Road in Paducah, KY. I have 25 years real estate experience.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

I do have several hobbies that keep me active. When I want to get away and relax. I go sailing. Three days a week I play racquetball. I have met many good people while enjoying these hobbies.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

My father, John Nelson, gave me the best advice. He said, "Tell the Truth". It's that simple.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Jesus Christ taught us to find no fault, look for the good and go about doing good, never criticize nor condemn, enslave no one, speak not of yourself, be truthful, have compassion, eliminate the negative, mediate, and work. I try my best to live everyday by these principals.



Congratulations

Fyler Coleman

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

1. My name is Tyler Coleman. I am the Office Manager and loan officer at Farmers Bank & Trust Company in Salem, Kentucky. I have been with the bank for almost 9 years. I am responsible for managing our team as well as the day to day operations within our office to ensure that everything runs smoothly. I am able to serve our customers in many ways on both the deposit and loan side of our institution. I also serve our business customers and enjoy being involved in community relations. I love working in our community and serving our friends and neighbors on a daily basis. One minute I may be opening a new checking account or certificate of deposit for someone, the next minute I may be working on helping someone purchase their first home, the next minute I may be loaning someone the funds to buy a new tractor. I love the fact that my job can be something different with every customer. I serve on multiple community boards and with several organizations that act as a humble reminder that our community is the heart of our entire operation here at Farmers Bank.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

For my first job, I was hired help to a farmer who had been a family friend for years. I steepled his fences all summer and when that was completed I helped him with his hay. This job taught me the value of hard work as well as the importance of supporting our local farmers who put food on our table. For someone who was raised in town and did not have any connections to farming as a child, getting crapped on by a cow did a lot more for me than I expected. I learned that our farmers do not have it easy,

they do literally get crapped on at times, and even though I chose a career in business and not on a farm, I know what it takes to be a farmer and I have a life long appreciation for farmers and the work that they do. Who knew I would later work for Farmers Bank? Growing up, I knew I wanted to do a job someday where I could constantly be helping others. When I think of a career of helping people, I instantly think of the healthcare industry, our military, police, firemen, EMS, etc. God had a plan for my life. My career at Farmers Bank was part of his plan for me. Though I am not saving people's lives, I enjoy the feeling of knowing that I help people in some way every single day. I live and work with the intent of making a positive impact on others however I can.

#3. Where is your business located? Hopkinsville,

Our office is located in Salem, Kentucky, in Livingston County. Our office was built new and opened in 2003. Our main office is headquartered our of Marion , Kentucky and has been on the same corner of main street since it was founded in 1899. We currently have 10 locations in 7 different market areas (counties).

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I am not working I enjoy spending time with my wife Emma and our little boy Crew. I also enjoy golfing in the summer with friends.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

One of the best pieces of advice I have been given was that I am able to determine my own success. Here at Farmers Bank, we do not have a standard employee growth model. When I was given the opportunity to work here, our management team shared this advice with me and I now share this with our Salem team all of the time. Hearing this and understanding it are two different things. With this being said, there are no limits to what someone can accomplish and I am reminded of this each day that I come to work. We have to make a decision as



leaders in our community to do more than our jobs require and go above and beyond for each other. I am so thankful for this piece of advice I was given as a new/young banker as it helped me land in the position I am in today doing what I love.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Some of the best advice I would give is to do more than your job requires at all times. By doing this, you add value to yourself and your organization. I would also stress the importance of integrity. Never allow a lapse in your integrity. I believe that we should always do the right thing when people aren't watching and we should also do the right thing when people are watching. If you truly value your integrity and take it seriously, no one will ever be able to question your integrity. Last but not least, represent your company in a professional way. When serving the public you have your company name written all over you at all times, even when you are not at work. The way you conduct yourself when you aren't at the office can affect the trust your community has in you in a negative way or a positive way. Always remember to represent your company with an owners mentality.

Cory Carter

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

As the Human Resources and Purchasing Manager for Arkema, I oversee two critical functions that support organizational success: workforce management and procurement operations. My responsibilities include developing and implementing HR strategies, managing recruitment and onboarding processes, administering employee benefits, and ensuring compliance with company policies and labor regulations. I also lead initiatives to foster employee engagement and maintain a positive workplace culture.

On the purchasing side, I manage vendor relationships and oversee procurement activities to ensure timely delivery of materials and services while optimizing cost efficiency and quality standards. By aligning HR and purchasing strategies with business objectives, I help drive operational excellence and support sustainable growth.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first professional experiences were in the fast-food industry and the banking industry, and both played a significant role in shaping my approach to leadership and operations today.

Working in the fast-food industry taught me the importance of efficiency,

adaptability, and teamwork in high-pressure environments. I learned how to prioritize tasks, maintain composure under tight deadlines, and deliver consistent customer service—skills that translate directly into managing HR processes and procurement challenges effectively.

My time in the banking industry reinforced the value of accuracy, compliance, and professionalism. Handling financial transactions and sensitive customer information required precision and integrity, which continue to guide my approach to policy adherence, vendor management, and employee relations.

These early experiences provided a strong foundation in service excellence, operational discipline, and accountability, all of which influence how I lead and support organizational success today.

#3. Where is your business located? Hopkinsville, KY. Our business is in Calvert City, Kentucky, within the Calvert City Industrial Complex. The site has been in operation for over 75 years and holds a unique distinction as the first company to establish operations in the complex. This pioneering presence helped lay the foundation for the area's growth into a major industrial hub. Today, we continue that legacy by focusing on safety, sustainability, and operational excellence, contributing to both the local economy and the broader industry.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not

working? (hobbies passions to help recharge) Outside of work, I am passionate about golf, which I enjoy both as a sport and to relax and challenge myself. I also value spending quality time with my wife and our two children, whether it's at home or engaging in family activities. These moments allow me to recharge and maintain a healthy balance between my professional and personal life.



- #5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?) The best advice I ever received was from a mentor in the banking industry who said "Always focus on building strong relationships - because trust and collaboration are the foundation of long-term success.
- #6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? The best piece of business advice I would give to others is "Invest in People". Your team is your greatest asset. Hire well, develop talent, and create an environment where people feel valued and empowered.



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Kent Cadwell

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am a franchise owner and travel advisor with Cruise Planners-Kent Cadwell. I've travel planned for friends and family for 20+ years but am only in year three of being a small business owner in the travel industry. My family instilled a love of travel in me when I was still in diapers. As far as what I do, I see it as my job to book exactly what a client wants when they know, and help them through the process, leaning into the 40 years of excellence and experience of the Cruise Planners brand, when they don't know where or when. Of course we book cruises (ocean/river/expedition, mass market tier, premium and luxury tier), but we book so much more. Multi island Hawaii vacations. Honeymoons in Greece, Barbados, Cancun, Punta Cana, St Vincent, and so many more. Family vacations in the Disney family of parks. Adventure travel to national parks, well known and obscure countries, and plenty of all-inclusive stays all through the Caribbean. We work with clients from planning to travel completion.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

One of my very first jobs was installing swimming pools for a local company. We worked long hot hours, but I loved working outside and making good money as a 16-year-old. We began the day school ended for the summer and worked 6 days a week until just a few weeks before school started again. I usually made enough that I could enjoy playing sports during the school year and not have to flip burgers to cover my expenses. Year three I was put in charge of an installation crew after some mentoring the year before. Being 18 years old, meeting up with backhoe operators in the wee hours of the morning and leading them to a job site was good for me, it instilled responsibility and a sense of customer focus at a young age.

#3. Where is your business located? Hopkinsville,

My franchise is a home-based business, but I can work from anywhere that I have access to the internet. I've worked for clients from cruise ships, multiple beach locations, Glacier National Park in Montana, and a host of spots in the Caribbean. The home office for the Cruise Planners brand is in Coral Springs Florida

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

My hobbies include travel with my wife/family, I'm a hopeless pickleball addict (to the extent that I'm now a certified coach), spending time with our granddaughter Lydia, and I'm a brandnew sourdough bread baker.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

The best business advice I've received has come in a few different pieces. "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right". "You are your only competition". "Find a way to add value in any scenario".

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Don't wait until you think you are ready, the opportunity may pass you by. As one that does not believe in luck or coincidence, I believe luck is preparation meeting opportunity. Do the prep the other guys won't.

Josh Abner

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Principal Auctioneer/Broker of ATLAS Real Estate & Auction Services.

Operating Member of Abstract Investments: A holding company.

Firm and Brokerage management.

Actively selling real estate and personal property at auction and practicing traditional list-and-sell real estate in KY TN FL IN.

10 traditional agents & 3 auctioneers on staff.

Represent the Department of Justice as the broker for US Marshsls Service seizures in KY.

Abstract Investments manages a portfolio including farm, commercial, and both single and multi family rental assets.

There is no such thing as a regular day in my world. Every day is different.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits:

Mention personal interests or community activities that's influenced your profession.

As a kid I worked on tobacco, hog and produce farms. This instilled wok

ethic I didn't realize I was getting at the time.

I focused the rest of my attention on football and track. Playing 2 years in college lead to my coaching career. As an athlete and coach I learned to get the most out of myself and how to help those around me achieve their goals. All of this carried over into the development of the Firm and Brokerage.

My wife Brooke is my inspiration. My mentor and friend, Justin Ochs brought me into the real estate and auction business more than a decade ago and we're still at it to this day working with the US Marshals and at a weekly car auction together. I owe Justin a lot for my development and for where I am today

When it was time for a career change from teaching and coaching I knew I had to find a path to continue to help people. Through the grace of God and my good friend Ray Hubner the auction and real estate business somehow found me

In many ways I've become a professional problem solver.

I'm now firmly in a position to help families navigate the most complex situations of their lives and I find it very rewarding.

#3. Where is your business located?

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located?

(i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of $% \left\{ 1,2,\ldots ,n\right\}$

your business)

As a first generation auctioneer and broker, the business has been built from the ground up. We operate in KY, TN, FL, and IN with affiliates across the country.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions that help you recharge)

recharge)
Traveling with Brooke both domestic
and abroad and spending as much time at the beach or on the water as

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (and who was it)

1. The best deal you'll ever do is the deal you don't do.

2. Everyone has the same 24 hours.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Do not sit and wait. Go create what you want. And, if you can figure out how to do it with someone you love you'll find happiness.





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Deana Gschwind

1. Tell us about your work as Director of the Graves County Public Library and what you do from start to finish.

Director, Graves County Public Library

Being the Director of the Graves County Public Library means wearing many hats! It's a job that requires flexibility and a love of problem-solving. I often hear other directors describe it as a role where you "put out fires," and I think that's any manager's role. On any given day, I might be addressing a building concern or emergency, handling a technical issue, or planning a new service for the community.

I'm fortunate to lead a wonderful team that keeps our library running smoothly and serves our community in so many ways. My responsibilities include administrative tasks such as developing and implementing library policies, managing library insurance and employee benefits, filina annual reports and state-required documents, maintaining statistical data, and reporting to the Library Board of Trustees. As a Kentucky public library, we operate under the oversight of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, to which I also report. I promote our services and build partnerships with local government, schools, and organizations.

On a regular basis, I handle everything from hiring and onboard new employees to troubleshooting technical issues, overseeing projects and staff matters, marketing our library materials and programs, addressing building concerns, and answering endless emails. One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is selecting new books, movies, and digital materials for our

2. What were your first jobs, and how did those

experiences shape the way you approach your job today?

My love for libraries began early. I was greatly influenced by my great aunt and uncle, who often took me to the local library when I was a child. My great uncle, a retired teacher, read to me regularly and sparked my lifelong love of reading. In high school, I had a wonderful English teacher who deepened my appreciation for literature, and in college, I worked in the Interlibrary Loan Department as part of a work-study job. That was my first real experience working in a library.

Before that, my early jobs were in retail. I started working part-time when I turned 16, and those experiences taught me how to interact with the public and provide good customer service—skills that are essential when working

My parents also played a big role in shaping my work ethic. They worked hard all their lives and taught me that no matter what job you do, you should always do it well. Those lessons have stayed with me and continue to guide me in my work today.

3. Where is your business located?

The Graves County Public Library is located at 601 N 17th Street, Mayfield, Kentucky 42066. The current building was completed in 1993 under the direction of then-Director Marion Crislip.

Before that, the library was housed in the historic Edana Locus home. which the city generously provided. However, as the library grew, the old house began to suffer structural damage, so it was time for a new space and that's how the library came to be in its current location.

I started working at the library in 2002 and became Director in 2014. Since

then, we've renovated the interior, added a larger community room, and created beautiful outdoor spaces including gardens, a literacy trail, and a fountain. Our community room is now used by local businesses and organizations for meetings, training sessions, and events, in addition to the library's own programs. It's wonderful to see how much the library continues to grow as a gathering place for the community.



4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not

My husband and I love to travel and explore new cities whenever we can. Some of our favorite destinations include Atlanta, Chicago, and Miamiplaces full of cultural attractions like museums, botanical gardens, live performances, and festivals.

Getting away for a bit helps me recharge and often gives me fresh ideas to bring back to the library.

6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Hire people who complement your strengths and fill the gaps in your skill $% \left\{ \left(1\right) \right\} =\left\{ \left(1\right$ set. Trust them to do their jobs well.

Also, maintaining a friendly but respectful distance with employees allows you to have honest and productive conversations when difficult issues need to be addressed.

Tim McPeake

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

State farm agent, we help people protect their assets and income.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

After graduating from Murray state and playing football I coached high school football for 12 yrs my high school my high school football coach had the most influence on my life, he also want to work with state farm.

- #3. Where is your business located? Office is at 1401 Broadway Paducah
- #4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? TPlay golf sometimes and watching college football
- #5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (and who was it) ire people to do things you don't like to do, a fellow agent gave me that advice early in my career
- #6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Find something you enjoy, hire good people to help you and pay them well

Timmy (Allen

Allen Auto Sales: A Paducah **Family Legacy Still Going Strong**

PADUCAH, Ky. — For nearly eight decades, Allen Auto Sales has been a familiar name in Paducah. The business began in 1945, when James Allen Sr. started selling used cars in the post-war era with just three vehicles and a simple idea: provide honest, quality cars at a fair price.

From those humble beginnings, the dealership gradually grew and changed locations several times — first on Kentucky Avenue, later on Broadway, and eventually settling at 1225 Jefferson Street, where it has operated for more than 50 years.

In 1968, James E. "Jimmy" Allen Jr. joined his father in the family business. He learned the car trade from the ground up, spending years buying, selling, evaluating, and preparing used vehicles for customers across western Kentucky. Eventually, Jimmy purchased the dealership and continued the family tradition with the same principles his father instilled: hard work, fair dealing, and treating customers with respect.

Today, Allen Auto Sales is considered the longest-running used-car dealership in Paducah. The business was formally incorporated in 1962 and continues to operate as a trusted source for used vehicles ranging from affordable transportation to well-maintained late-model cars, trucks, and SUVs.



Through decades of change in the automobile market and fluctuations in the local economy, Jimmy Allen has remained firmly in the car business his father started — and he and the dealership are still going strong.

With a commitment to customer service, reliable vehicle selection, and deep roots in the Paducah community, Allen Auto Sales stands as a local example of business longevity and multi-generation success.

Eddie Tones #1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business

finish). I am a partner in the litigation law firm known as Boehl Stopher & Graves. I handle most of the firm's litigation services in western, Kentucky.

Name) and what you do at work (from start to

I also serve as a County Commission on the McCracken County Fiscal Court. #2. What were your first jobs, and how did those

experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced

My first actual job was delivering furniture for Todd's Furniture in Madisonville, Kentucky. That was followed with a summer jobs at Big Rivers Electric Corporation during my college and law school years. My first legal job was for Ronald G. Sheffer who was one of the best trial attorneys in western, Kentucky.

#3. Where is vour business located?

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

Our law firm is located in real estate located at 410 and 412 Broadway Street in Paducah, Kentucky. Rick Walter (also a lawyer with Boehl Stopher & Graves) remodeled 410 Broadway in 2002. In 2010, he and I purchased the adjacent property (412 Broadway) and expanded our building's footprint.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I am not practicing law, I am generally involved in some form of local government project.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

"Answer the phone when a client calls." – Ron Sheffer

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? The world is full of smart people who stopped trying.



Western Kentuckij's Best of the Best

Troy Cartwright

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). I am the owner and President of a Managed IT Services Company, Diversified-Concepts, Inc. 1 provide a wide array of Information Technology services including but not limited to computer sales and support, VoIP and telecommunications sales and support, helpdesk management,



network configuration and troubleshooting, email service and support, print management services, wireless network configuration, network camera sales and support, cloud services, infrastructure cabling, software sales and support, Microsoft and Apple end user support.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today? I had the pleasure of working as a Defense Contractor several years ago, teaching a new Aviation Management Program to US Military Servicemembers. This role was highly technical and gave me a pathway to becoming an IT professional.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

During my time as an Army Servicemember and Defense Contractor, Chief Warrant Officers often mentored me. Mr. Henry Song, retired Chief Warrant Officer, and Mr. Charles Schneider, retired Chief Warrant Officer, were early mentors to me. They gave me the confidence to accept complex challenges and allowed me to be innovative with my approach to solving work difficulties.

I am a former member of the American Legion, and a current member of the VFW, or Veterans of Foreign Wars. These professional military veteran organizations do a lot for our local communities. Being a part of such highly respected organizations has afforded me the opportunity to work with a diverse group of veterans and civilians.

#3. Where is your business located? My business is currently located in Todd County, Kentucky and I am looking to expand to the Grand Rivers and Paducah, Kentucky area.

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? As an entrepreneur, I do not have a huge office. I work onsite at my client's businesses and I work remotely.

During the early days of Diversified-Concepts, I was awarded my first government contract to troubleshoot and repair computer workstations for an Army Inspection Team at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. This opportunity was unique because I was a fairly new business at the time, and this contract offered me a lot of support for my small business.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

I love listening to smooth jazz and cooking; my specialty is Buffalo Wings!

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

My father is a huge supporter of my business. His advice to me was never to become complacent and to follow

my course. He advised me that taking risks are part of my success plan.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? I would advise others who are businessminded to start with a good business plan as well as a marketing strategy. Technology offers several tools for businesses to showcase their products or services. Social media has become a game changer for advertising.

Suzy Gilland

My name is Suzy Gilland. I have been a Real Estate Agent in the Paducah/Western Kentucky market for almost twenty years. I recently joined the Fern Leaf Group, an affiliate of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate. I have always enjoyed assisting people through the process of what is likely the largest financial transaction they will ever



In my first job as a high school student. I worked at the candy

counter inside the downtown Arcade and Columbia movie theaters. I enjoyed interacting with so many who were out for an evening of fun! In fact, this is where my husband claims to have first noticed me....

When I'm not working, Andy (my husband) and I enjoy traveling and spending as much time as possible with our six grandchildren! Both of our adult children and their families actually live in the same neighborhood as us, making our family get togethers very convenient.

I was fortunate to have worked in the beginning of my real estate career with several hard working, successful agents who were willing to help me learn more about the business. I found that hard work combined with integrity will almost always win.

Congratulations, Winners!



Mike Heneisen

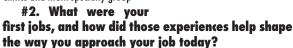
#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Business Manager, Tri-Rivers Healthcare, PLLC

1997 - Current

Manage finances, operations, credentialing and certifications.

Composed of 3 Rural Health Clinics and multi-specialty group



First jobs as a teen mowing lawns, putting up square bales and a life guard.

First management jobs with top 10 retail chains and then transitioned to health care.

Have worked in health care management for 40 years.

#3. Where is your business located?

Business located in Marion, Salem and Smithland Kentucky.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

Was involved as a Boy Scout leader approximately 15 years which included hiking and camping.

Enjoy outdoors, cattle ranching and Bible study.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

Best advice, Don't try to create an elaborate excuse, just admit you

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Be strait forward with the facts and be honest.





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\$149,900

7151 US HWY 45 2 Tracts Sold as 1 Parcel. 19.18 Total Acres \$189,900



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carlabridges@gmail.com







LAST WEEK ENDS 12-18 Zootopia 2 (PG)

Showtimes: Fri 7:00pm; Sat & Sun 2:00pm/7:00pm Mon thru Thurs 7:00pm



ONE WEEK ONLY! Five Nights at Freddy's (PG-13)

Showtimes: Fri 7:00pm; Sat & Sun 2:00pm/7:00pm Mon thru Thurs 7:00pm



Starts 12.19.25 The Spongebob Movie: PG **Search for Squarepants**



Starts 12.19.25 Avatar: Fire and Ash **PG-13**

Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Shea Mickell

Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Shea Nickell has represented the twentythree county First Appellate Judicial District on the Commonwealth's highest tribunal since his initial election in November 2019.

The Supreme Court of Kentucky is the state court of last resort and the final interpreter of Kentucky law, deciding all manner of controversies, including criminal cases involving the death penalty. In addition, the Supreme Court oversees operations of the statewide judicial system and establishes rules of practice and procedure for all Kentucky judges and attorneys while addressing professional discipline. Though working from judicial chambers located within their respective districts, the seven justices also convene in Frankfort during most months to address administrative matters, consider motions, render decisions, and hear oral arguments.

Justice Nickell chairs the Supreme Court's Appellate Rules Committee and its Continuing Judicial Education Commission and is a member of the judicial branch Audit Committee. His influence was previously felt as a Judge on the fourteen-member Kentucky Court of Appeals, where he served for thirteen years, beginning with his election in November 2006. While there, he chaired the Personnel Committee and was a member of state's Judicial Compensation Commission. Ultimately, his colleagues recognized his legal wisdom and leadership skills by selecting him as their Chief Judge Pro Tempore.

Before becoming an appellate judge, Justice Nickell practiced law 22 years. Licensed in all Kentucky state and federal trial and appellate courts and the United States Supreme Court, he served as a plaintiff and defense civil trial attorney, an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney (21st Judicial Circuit), an Assistant McCracken County Attorney, and a Public Advocate.

He also taught insurance and risk management at Murray State University and jurisprudence at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. In 1995, the Kentucky Bar Association named him the "Outstanding Kentucky Young Attorney"

A native of McCracken County, Justice Nickell graduated from Paducah Tilghman High School in 1977. He earned a bachelor's degree from DePauw University in 1981, with a double major in communications and political science. At DePauw, he served as Student Body President, Editor of a campus newspaper, and received the "Walker Cup Award," presented annually by the faculty to the graduating senior who has contributed most to the campus community. A former member of the University's Board of Trustees, he currently serves on the Advisory Board for the institutions College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In 1984, he earned his juris doctor degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he was elected to serve as President of the Student Bar Association.

Over the years, Justice Nickell has been affiliated with numerous professional, historical, and civic organizations, and is a Life Fellow of the Kentucky Bar Foundation. He was inducted into the Kentucky Lions Hall of Fame in 2015, served as an international director on the 39-member Board of Lions Clubs International from 2019-22, and was named an International Ambassador of Good Will, the Association's highest honor, in 2022. A 1972 Eagle Scout and former Board member of the Shawnee Trails Boy Scout Council, he received the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award from the National Eagle Scout Association in 2020. A member of the Sons of the American Revolution, he formerly served on the Board of Paducah's Market House

Museum. In addition, he is a Silver Life Member of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a Life Sponsor of Ducks Unlimited, a 32nd Degree Mason, a Gideon, and a deacon at Paducah's Highland Baptist Church. A popular regional singer and recording artist, he formerly served as music director at Paducah's Concord United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church.



Whenever swearing in new attorneys or hiring staff, Justice Nickell always offers the following advice, gleaned from his lifelong personal and professional experiences: "Perfection is not required, nor is it achievable. However, good enough is never good enough, and only one's best efforts in any relationship and every situation is acceptable."

As a young person, Justice Nickell was confronted with deciding between a career in the ministry or the law. He ultimately realized he was called to minister through the law, in accordance with the Greatest Commandment announced in Matthew 22:37-40, which is simply to "Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind" and to "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The First Supreme Court District is comprised of the Commonwealth's westernmost counties, including Ballard, Calloway, Caldwell, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Davies, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean.

Fori Rogers

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish.)

Hi! I'm Tori Rodgers, the owner of Tortitude Cat Café. We are a foster home for rescue cats and kittens looking for forever families. We provide a home-like atmosphere that allows you to visit with our fur babies and learn their personalities. If you make a bond, you can fill out an adoption application. If not, you still played a very important role in the lives of our rescues by helping us socialize them. Plus, it's a wonderful stress-reducing experience for people of all ages. We also offer prepackaged snacks and drinks, including specialty cat cookies from Kirchhoff's Bakery and we have party packages for a unique get together experience for any occasion.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

I've wanted to own a cat café for several years. I visited one called The Naughty Cat Café in Chattanooga Tennessee and fell in love with the whole idea. Doing research, I learned that there were less than 200 cat cafes across the United States in 2023. None were within a 3-hour driving distance from Paducah. We officially opened our doors on September 20, 2024. As of late 2025, the number has grown to over 300 making the US a leading country for cat-themed coffee shops. Café

owners typically partner with animal shelters and rescues to facilitate adoptions and to educate on the importance of spay and neuter programs. Our rescue partner,

All About the Cats is a 501c3 not for profit that helps spay and neuter every cat that is adopted out of the café. We also partner with other local not-for-profits, Jackson Purchase Forgotten Felines and Huntingdon TNR & Camp; Kitten Rescue who spay/neuter every feline they bring to the café for adoption. In our first year of operation, we have found homes for more than 500 cats and kittens!

#3. Where is your business located?

You can visit us at 2420 New Holt Road, Paducah, KY Tortitude gets it's unique name based on the personality trait of the owner's tortoiseshell cat, Nala. It's a word used to describe this color of cat's famously feisty, sassy, and strong willed personality. They are often described as divas who know what they want. They are vocal and energetic and affectionate but demanding.

What great traits to establish a business on!

Fony Copeland

#1. Tell us about your work (Stores Supervisor/Maintenance Supervisor) and what you do at work (Manage Arkema Storeroom).

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

As a Purchasing Agent, I understood that you build relationships with the customer and the supplier. When there is trust and honesty within the group, everyone looks out for the

interest of the team as a whole. Relationships with community groups allow you to network and obtain valuable information in achieving ones' goals.

#3. Where is your business located?

Calvert City , KY

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

I would golf everyday if time permitted.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

No matter the situation, be



totally honest with all parties involved.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Know the people you deal with and get to know them on a personal level.

The top 100 People in Western Kentucky





Fodd Cooper

1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

My name is Todd Cooper. I am the Ballard County Judge Executive. The job of a Judge Executive is complex and the judge wears many hats. Management of County government and county finances is the top priority. The Judge works with other county elected officials and department heads to reach the goals and mission of each department, which to provide the best county services to the residents. The Judge serves on numerous boards as well in the county and the region. For instance the Judge serves on the County Health Board, the Purchase Health board. The judge serves on the Purchase Area development District Board and several committees or boards at the PADD. The judge serves on the Sr Citizen Board of each county and some serve on the public library boards. The judge serves on the UK Extension District Board, West Ky Allied Board and the Economic Development Board or Boards. In the Purchase area of West Kv. the Judges created WAVE(West Ky Alliance for a Vibrant Economy) in 2016. The judges meet monthly to work with each other on projects, support one another at the state and federal level and work across county lines to make our region better and stronger. The second most important job of the Judge Executive is to advocate for your county and people at the state and federal level.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way youMy first job was

to work with my father—Dick Cooper—in his home remodeling and new residence construction business. It was great to see something come out of the ground and in a few months be turned into a place for people to live. During my work with my father, the work and business taught me how to work, along with the discipline to stick with the project until its completion. My second job was in County government—law enforcement—to be exact. The job showed me how to work with people, treat people with dignity and respect and build relationships with others. Three mentors in that arena were Sheriff Herby Vance, Sheriff Jack Stevens and LaCenter police chief Roy Batts.

My wife and I have worked with the youth of our church—Wickliffe First Baptist Church—since 1990. The experiences of working with young people and their parents was paramount in learning how to serve others and placing others needs ahead of your own.

#3. Where is your business located? Our business is cohabitated with 2 other businesses. We are located in a building shared by Zito Media and the Ballard Co. Sheriff at 1718 Barlow Road, Wickliffe, Ky 42087. We were looking for a property to house county government offices if an emergency arose. We contacted Zito about their property. It was large enough to house 4 county offices. It was built in 1992. At first Zito declined to sell to the County but after some time agreed to sell the property to the County for very little. We gave them a 99 year lease on their office space in the building and a drop yard on the

rear of the property for their operations. We spent four years remodeling the office into a space we can use for 50 or more years. It is an amazing property.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? My passions are my grand kids and family and our church family. All hours not spent at work, is spent with my family or my church family. We also help



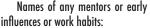
with maintenance on family owned properties and at church.

- **#5.** What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (and who was it)A) My uncle, who was a part owner at Graves Brothers Plumbing in LaCenter for 30 or so years... advice was "Never hire any relatives. Relationships can be ruined and you don't want to lose family over work!" B) My father said to "Treat others
- **#6.** What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? People notice your work ethic. Go above and beyond for the people you are working for (customers/clients) and they will be gracious to you and stick with you. Be honest and open with your customers!

From Moodie

1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). Mayor City of Grand Rivers KY - manage all city operations

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?



Mention personal interests or community activities that's influenced your profession.

United Iron Workers Local 601 also worked at Carbide Graphite Group, Celenace Chemical Companyand was VP at Green Turtle Bay Resort

#3. Where is your business located?

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business

City of Grand Rivers KY

- #4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions that help you recharge)
 Outdoor Activites
- #5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (and who was it)
 Concentrate, communicate and apply yourself and be creative

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Always look for reasons to do the things that need to be done, "NEVER" look for reasons not to do things.

Congratulations

Tom Curtsinger

#1. Tell us about your work—your job title, your business name, and what your role looks like from start to finish.

I work in the wine industry as a grape grower and wine maker. I am the owner/ operator of Fancy Farm Vineyard and Winery in Fancy Farm KY. My personal role started as a grape grower, which I planted in 2008. Currently I am growing five different varieties of grapes. Most years, the crop begins in late January/ early February with pruning back last years vines and making room for new vine buds. Throughout the spring and early summer, most of the work consist of spraying the vines and training them to grow straight up. A good year for grapes is a summers that all other farmers hate, drought and dry. With deep roots and loose soil, grapes thrive in dry weather. In the fall, each variety matures causing the grapes sugar level to increase, the acid level to decrease. After picking, the grapes are de=stemmed and crushed and put into tanks to ferment. At the right time, the finished wine is filtered and bottled. Sales and events for this wine at the winery I leave to Robbie Felker who is my better half, takes control and markets the wine and winery.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those early experiences shape the way you work today?

My first jobs were working in a tobacco patch, hauling hay, and mowing yards. L ;earned about hard work and developed a strong work ethic. Tobacco give you a sense of pride as well when you can grow and market high grade tobacco.

My father was my strongest influence, yeaching me how to set and attain personal goal, adapt and try new things, and focus on the important tihings each day and the rest will work themselves out. My uncle also was a huge influence and help as he had the farm which I started working on and am still working today. My experience with tobacco did instill pride to do hand work and nuture the crop. In some places, there could be some ribbing about growing ssome new crop but my community was 100% behind me. Sight seerers and volunteers were pretty common when we first started.

#3. Where is your business located? Is there anything unique about how you acquired or developed your space—building, remodeling, special history, etc.?

The winery is located at 115 Hayden St, Fancy Farm, KY, built on the property formerly owned by my great uncle. The name of the winery was a result of a thought that on a regular farm you grow corn and soybeans but

wine grapes you grow on a fancy farm. The label icon comes from a question of "what do you see on a fancy farm?" The answer was "instead of a scarecrow in straw hat and bib overalls, you would see a scarecrow in tophat and tails. The watermark on the side of the label is the symbol I first drew on the bottle of the scarecrows head. That icon has 4 stitches in his smile for my 4 sons, and the bow tie has a "C" in it for Curtsinger.



Fancy Farm Vineyard and Winery is the first "licensed alcohol producer in the county(Back in the 1800's there was a distillery but they didn't need a licenses back then)

The building is styled after a barn and has a chandelier in the front loft window which is something you would see in a fancy barn.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? Share any hobbies or passions that help you recharge.

When I am not working at the winery, I do have a full time job as an industrial trainer, which I really enjoy. My hobbies include hunting and fishing and traveling with Robbie. She doesn't hunt but she does out-fish me most of the time. We enjoy family gatherings and being with our friends on adventure trips

#5. What's the best business advice someone has ever given you? (And who shared it with you?)

My father gave me some very simple advice about work, and goals: Don't be afraid to try something new because you may not succeed, because falling short means you gave it your best and sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. Not trying never works."

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would offer to others?

I am very lucky to have good group of fellow wine makers beside me, always there if I need anything. My advice is to get to know people who can be a resource and support, learn from them and be thankful for your relationship.

Broadway Dental Care 130 Lone Oak Road | Paducah, KY 270-443-9099

broadwaydentalcarepaducah.com





Dr. James Hunt



Dr. Ethan Shelton



Dr. Allison Reed

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2021 JOHN DEERE 8RX 410 **\$359,500**

1696 HRS, 18" TRACKS, 5 SCV, 1000 PTO, QUICK HITCH, E23 TRANSMISSION, JD 4600 DISPLAY, STARFIRE 6000 RECEIVER, 84 GPM HYD PUMP, S/N 1RW8410DJLK801687



2020 JOHN DEERE 6155R \$155,000

2020 JD 6155R TRACTOR, IVT TRANS, C/H/A, MFWD, 540/1000 PTO, 3 SCV, 3PT WITH TOP LINK, 683 HOURS, 420/80R46 REAR DUALS, 380/85R30 FRONT TIRES, SN 1L06155RHLP960224



2013 JOHN DEERE 8310R **\$146,500**

5251 HRS, ILS, 480/70R34 FRONT DUALS, 480/80R50 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, QUICK HITCH, IVT TRANSMISSION, 60 GPM HYD PUMP, S/N 1RW8310RJCD067670



2024 JOHN DEERE 6110M **\$139,500**

12 HRS, 420/70R28 FRONT TIRES, 520/70R38 REAR TIRES, JD 620R LOADER W/ BUCKET, 3RD FUNCTION, TRIPLE LINK SUSPENSION, 2 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 24 SPEED COMMAND QUAD, S/N 1L06110MPRX418771



2012 JOHN DEERE 9460R \$139,500

2012 JOHN DEERE 9460R TRACTOR, 4WD, 4216 HRS, 800/70R38 DUALS, 5 SCV, 18 SPEED POWERSHIFT, S/N 1RW9460RKCP004029



2021 JOHN DEERE 6155M **\$115,000**

1465 HRS, 420/85R28 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R42 REAR TIRES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, QUICK HITCH, 20 SPEED COMMANDQUAD, LHR, S/N 1L06155MKMX115032



2011 JOHN DEERE 8270R **\$105,900**

6503 HRS, 380/80R38 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R50 REAR DUALS, 5 SCV, 1000 PTO, 16 SPEED POWERSHIFT, 60 GPM HYD PUMP, S/N 1RW8270RKAP011731



2018 JOHN DEERE 6155R \$97,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 2748 HRS, 380/85R28 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R38 REAR TIRES, 110" AXLES, RACK & PINION REAR AXLES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, 4100 PROCESSOR, ATR, S/N 1RW6155RCJA033329



2009 JOHN DEERE 8330 \$86,000

2009 JOHN DEERE 8330 TRACTOR, 7010 HRS, 480/46 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 18 SPEED POWERSHIFT, ATR, S/N RW8330P047376



2005 JOHN DEERE 8120 \$75,500

6542 HRS, 420/90R30 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R46 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, POWERSHIFT TRANSMISSION, S/N RW8120P031064



2004 JOHN DEERE 8120 \$65,500

MFWD, 8351 HRS, 420/85R30 FRONT TIRES, 520/85R42 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, QUICK HITCH, POWERSHIFT TRANSMISSION, S/N RW8120P027273



1994 CASE IH 7220 \$54,500

2WD, C/H/A, 5467 HRS, 14L-16.1 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R42 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 19 SPEED TRANSMISSION, S/N JJA0055595







December 12, 2025 ness Journal Western Kentucky

TOP 100 ★



5 TOP 100 PE

Tashena Hill

Introduction

My name is Tashena Hill, and I am an independent pharmacy owner and pharmacist dedicated to serving my community at Glenn's Prescription Center in Salem, KY, as well as Glenn's Apothecary in Marion, KY. My career in pharmacy began as a junior in high school, where I worked as a cooperative education student at Glenn's Apothecary. My early responsibilities included stocking vials, making local deliveries, working as a cashier, and maintaining a clean environment. After graduating from high school, I accepted a full-time position at Glenn's Prescription Center as a pharmacy technician and pursued my certification while simultaneously attending college. My commitment to the field led me to pharmacy school, and after working full time through my undergraduate studies, I was accepted into the PharmD program at Samford University, where I graduated in 2011. In 2014, after a challenging period working for a chain drug store, I purchased the pharmacies I grew up in from Norris Glenn, the founder of these businesses, which have been serving their communities since 1954.

Primary Responsibilities as a Pharmacist

As a pharmacist, my primary duty is to ensure the safe and effective dispensing of medications to patients. Patient care is central to our mission, and we support it through medication management and adherence programs designed to optimize therapeutic outcomes. I work collaboratively with other healthcare providers to deliver coordinated care, administer immunizations, and strive to provide outstanding customer service to every individual who comes through our doors.

Business Ownership Duties

In addition to my clinical responsibilities, I am the owner of both pharmacies, which means it is my responsibility to ensure that all professional and legal standards are consistently met. I oversee the financial management of the businesses, order supplies and manage stock, and am directly involved in hiring, training, and supervising pharmacy staff. By maintaining these high standards, I help ensure that our pharmacies continue to thrive and serve our communities effectively.

Mentorship and Influence

Norris Glenn, pharmacist and previous owner, played a significant role in inspiring my interest in pharmacy. He was an exceptional mentor who instilled in me a passion for patient care, independent pharmacy, and business ownership. Mark Wurth, pharmacist at Glenn's Apothecary, also provided constant encouragement to pursue higher education and the pharmacy profession, further shaping my career path.

Community Roots and Personal Reflections

Glenn's Prescription Center is located at 119 East Main Street in Salem, KY, and Glenn's Apothecary can be found at 520 West Gum Street in Marion, KY. Few businesses can claim the heritage of serving their communities continuously

since 1954, and I take great pride in the legacy of these small, local independent pharmacies. In my free time, I enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, kayaking, and gardening, which provide relaxation and fulfillment. Spending quality time with family and friends is also important to me, as these relationships keep me grounded and joyful.

Guiding Philosophy

Throughout my career, I have learned many valuable lessons from mentors like Mark and Norris. One piece of advice that has stayed with me is, "you cannot win them all." As a business owner, it is easy to take things personally, whether it's a dissatisfied customer or an unforeseen challenge. However, it is important to always consider the perspective of others, strive to give one's best, and not lose sight of the positive impact made. I believe that as a small-town girl turned pharmacist and pharmacy owner, every prescription represents a neighbor who trusts me. The values I grew up with-kindness, honesty, and genuine connection-continue to guide my care. In our small community, the relationships we build are just as meaningful as the medicine we provide.

Susan Sullivan

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

My name is Susan Sullivan. I have been Ballard County Property Valuation (PVA) Administer for two terms and will be running for a third term in 2026. My job is assessing all real and personal property within Ballard County at 100% fair cash value for tax purposes.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

After graduating from Ballard Memorial High School, I got my first job at Snower & Company, a garment factory in Cario, Illinois, where my job was to sew uniforms. My parents encouraged me to go back to school so I enrolled at Draughon's Business College in Paducah, While at Draughon's, I worked part-time at Furniture City where I was an office assistant.

After graduating from college, I was hired as a loan teller at a bank in Cairo where I worked for twelve years. When I retired from banking, I had worked my way up to Loan Officer. I believe, the factory job, the office job, and my banking career helped me, early in life, to learn how to work with the public. I have used those skills throughout my career as an elected official.

During my last year in banking, I began my own cleaning business and had several employees on payroll. Today, I continue to run my cleaning business but on a much smaller scale. I get satisfaction from cleaning, and after all these years, I still enjoy it.

In 2000, I was hired, part-time, by Deloris Hatler, former Ballard County PVA to work as a deputy in the PVA Office. After 11 years I became a full-time employee and was moved up to Chief Deputy. I am honored to have worked for two Ballard County Property Valuation Administers, Deloris Hatler and Anita Campbell, both of whom are to this day an inspiration to me. Both ladies were true mentors and had a dedication to the PVA office that they passed on to me. The great job they both did as elected PVA administrators continues to influence me to do my very best, every day.

#3. Where is your business located?

The Ballard County PVA office is located in the basement in the Ballard County Courthouse.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

My personal interests include playing a weekly card game with several wonderful women, many of whom I have known since I was very young. I have been married 30 years to Sonny and one of our favorite past times is motorcycle

riding on our Harley Davidson. Always, at the top of my fun things to do is going to the beach and spending time with my grandchildren.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? The person whom I'd like to think has given me the best advice, and influenced me the most in life, is my dad. My

dad owned & operated Freeman's TV in Kevil, KY. He taught me to be honest, to work hard, to treat people fairly and to be the best person I could be.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

The best advice I could pass along to anyone - young or old - comes from my dad: be honest, work hard, treat people fairly and be the best person you can be. Look to God for guidance. He is always giving us instructions if we ask and listen to him.





Dipel Patel

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

As a restaurant owner, my work begins with planning. review reservations and staffing, check inventory levels, and coordinate supply orders. Before opening, I ensure the dining area, kitchen, and bar are clean, stocked, and fully prepared. I



meet with my team to review the menu, specials, and any customer notes.

During service, I manage both front and back of house operations. I monitor food quality, timing, and customer satisfaction, step in when the team needs help, and resolve any issues that arise. At the same time, I handle administrative duties—such as bookkeeping, budgeting, marketing, scheduling, and compliance with health and safety regulations.

At closing, I review sales reports, confirm deposits, oversee cleanup, check remaining inventory, and prepare notes for the next day. From opening to closing, my role is to coordinate all parts of the restaurant to keep it running smoothly and successfully.

IN SHORT My job is a mix of management, teamwork, customer service, and a lot of problem-solving.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

During my carrier as a Software Programmer, I have done a couple of side small roles in the food industry—like retail clerk and helping with basic prep work in the kitchen. I also worked as a server for a while. These jobs taught me how every position in a restaurant is important. Because of those experiences, I treat my staff with respect, stay patient, and understand exactly what it takes to run a smooth and efficient restaurant today.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

Two of my life mentors "My Father" & "My Husband" taught me attention to detail and the importance of keeping a clean, efficient workspace. Later I met "Mr.Roy Trimble & Ms.Kathy Trimble" showed me how to connect with customers and handle busy shifts with grace and confidence.

I've always enjoyed cooking at home, trying new recipes, and exploring local food markets. I'm also active in community events like food fairs and charity meals. These interests helped spark my passion for fresh ingredients and local flavors, which directly influence how I run my restaurant today.

#3. Where is your business located? Lone Oak Little Castle- 3460 Lone Oak Road Paducah KY 42003

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located?

(i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

Since 1999 Lone Oak Little Castle is a popular, family-friendly diner known for its traditional, scratch-made, homestyle Southern and American cooking

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I'm not working, I focus on hobbies that help me recharge. I enjoy cooking at home, trying new restaurants for inspiration, spending time with family, and getting outdoors for walks or bike rides. I also like reading and exploring new food trends. These activities help me unwind and return to work refreshed and motivated.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

The best business advice I ever received was to "take care of your people, and they'll take care of your business." Treating staff with respect, giving them support, and creating a positive work environment has helped my restaurant succeed.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

The best advice I would give is to stay consistent and take care of your team. Good food or good ideas matter, but consistency and strong teamwork are what keep a business running and customers coming back.



Tohnathan Hoover

Local Auctioneer Jonathan Hoover builds reputation across Kentucky

Hopkinsville, KY — Jonathan Hoover, owner and principal auctioneer of Hoover's Auctions & Real Estate, LLC, has become a recognized name in the auction industry throughout Christian County and beyond. Based in Hopkinsville, Hoover runs a diverse range of auctions, including estates, real estate, livestock, and farm equipment.



Licensed under Kentucky Auctioneer License #256416,

Hoover has earned accolades from the Kentucky Auctioneers Association, being named among the Top Ten Auctioneers in both 2020 and 2021. In 2018, he was also a finalist in the national auctioneering competition hosted by the National Auctioneers Association, highlighting his expertise in bid collina.

Hoover's auctions cover a broad spectrum: estate sales of homes, vehicles, and personal property; farmland and commercial property sales; and livestock events including horses, mules, and farm equipment. Many of his auctions are conducted both in-person and online, allowing remote participation via simulcast bidding. Popular events such as the Spring Roundup and Mule & Horse Sales are often held at local venues like the Christian County Agriculture Expo Center.

Clients consistently praise Hoover's professionalism and attention to detail. One testimonial notes:

"I met Jonathan when he was doing an estate auction for the family ... He always was in contact with us keeping the family well informed. ... I would highly recommend Jonathan Hoover to anyone wanting to have an auction."

Another added,

"Very professional ... first class horse and mule sale."

Hoover's Auctions at a Glance Contact Info: (270) 305-2807 jhoover741@gmail.com

Services Provided:

Estate Auctions: houses, vehicles, household goods, personal property Real Estate Auctions: farmland, houses, commercial properties, land racts

Livestock & Farm Equipment: horses, mules, farm machinery Online & In-Person Auctions with remote bidding options

Notable Recognition:

Kentucky Auctioneers Association: Top Ten Auctioneer (2020, 2021)

National Auctioneers Association: Finalist in Bid Calling Competition
(2018)

Popular Venues: Christian County Agriculture Expo Center, 2850 Pembroke Rd., Hopkinsville, KY

Jules Harrison

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

My name is Jules Harrison. I am the agent/owner at Harrison Agency-Shelter

Insurance in Henderson, KY.
My days are spent answering
emails, writing insurance policies,
and the best part is meeting new
people like you!



#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was as a waitress in a small-town country restaurant. This job taught me how to talk to anyone and to learn how to relate with not so happy customers. I love to help others and have always served in that type of role. I was an EMT after college, then a pharmacy technician, and then on to the mental health field for 12 years. I decided to give insurance sales a try in 2019. I have found a great way to help others and serve my community. I enjoy supporting the community and always look forward to finding new ways to help serve.

#3. Where is your business located?

You can find me at Shelter Insurance located at 417 S Main St Ste 5, Henderson, KY 42420. I look forward to meeting you!

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When I am not working, I enjoy outdoor adventures like hiking, kayaking, and camping. I am a regular at the local gym and utilize my time there to unwind and release stress. My favorite thing to do is spend time with my adorable grandbabies!

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

The best advice about business that I've been given was a quote from Jim Kwik. "The two most powerful words in the English language are the shortest: 'I am.' Whatever you put after those two words determines vour destiny".

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

The best piece of business advice that I can give is to do your least favorite thing about your job first, that way the worst part is out of the way and the rest of the day will be easy!

Western Kentucky's 2025 Top 100

Congratulations, Winners!

Gini Grace

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am an attorney, and have a solo practice. Gini G. Grace, Attorney At Law. It would be considered a general practice firm with a strong concentration in public service law, My practice varies from business law to family law to civil practice. I am the firm, because I do all of my administrative work, research, documentation preparation and electronic filing, meeting and advising clients along with appearing in court for hearings and trials.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

My first jobs were in retail and service industries. Before attending law school, I was employed at USEC, Paducah Kentucky, where I was a control room operator in the central control room. Additionally, I worked at Roadway Express as an operational supervisor. My mentors were teachers who influenced and guided me to continue my education and gave me the importance of continuing to learn and develop. That would include Gerald Collie, an early teacher, and Doctor Winfield Rose, a professor in the Public Administration Department at Murray State University. I am a member of the Kentucky Bar Association.

#3. Where is your business located?

For the majority of my legal profession, my business has been located in a rural setting. I have a home office. It is calming and serene and a nice

contrast to the intensity and demands of the courtroom.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When I am not working, I enjoy dancing, exercise classes, traveling, photography, writing, and pets.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

I do not think there was one specific person that gave me business advice.

My work background allowed me to work with many knowledgeable and inspirational people, which I took and applied what I learned from each of them

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

This may be simplistic, but do the best you can every day at whatever type of work or profession you are engaged in. If you are entrepreneurial make a plan to guide you but be flexible enough to respond to changes in your business environment. Just when you think a profession or business will not change, it does - At the moment, AI, artificial intelligence, is making ways into all types of work, including the legal profession.

Karen Stone

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am a licensed Realtor in the state of Kentucky. I also am a Graduate of the Realtor Institute (GRI) which is training that helped perfect my skills. I have been in this business since 2007 and have had a wonderful time



assisting people in buying and selling homes, farms, and businesses. I also have represented many business owners in leasing their properties. I have a 96% return rate with my clients, generally representing them 2 or more times during my career. I am most proud of this statistic as it is a good indicator of a job well done.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

I started working at a young age, first washing dishes in a cafe in Lone Oak that I walked to from my house. When I was attending Lone Oak High School I had three jobs during my senior year and while attending Western KY University I worked as a nursing home aide. So as you can see I have been working practically my entire life. I enjoy working and I enjoy doing a good job for people.

#3. Where is your business located?

The real estate business is like many others these days, we used to have offices where we gathered and documented information about our listings and sales on paper. In today's world we spend a lot more time out in the community and work from home. Realtors are self employed and while we have a broker who we associate our licenses with, each and everyone of us is a business owner. This is something that many people do not understand about the business. You must be able to organize yourself and your money. Realtors have to calculate and pay quarterly taxes, their own insurance and hopefully save for retirement. I learned important lessons in my early years from several people, including Bob Griffin, Betty Higdon, Roxie Jarvis and Toni Stricklin. I am blessed that they took the time to share their experiences with me.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When not working I spend time with my children and grandchildren, we all enjoy water sports and lake time. My husband and I golf, not well, but we still enjoy it and spending time with friends. We enjoy travel and hope to do more in the coming years.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

I was once told to treat this business as my own, and if you do you will be successful. I will say, when your name is your business, it gives you something to work hard for.

Eric Bitterbaugh

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am the Franchise Owner at our local Stanley Steemer in Paducah, KY, Marion,IL and Cape Girardeau, MO. As a company, we do floor and upholstery cleaning, air duct cleaning, water damage remediation, and flooring sales. Now for me, the day to day of the job varies a lot, but I start almost every morning opening the shop with the guys and getting their day going. I think it's very important to be there to help build and foster relationships. as well as to create accountability.

After the trucks leave the shop in the mornings I'll review the work from the day before, manage our bookkeeping, pay bills, work on payroll, plan for advertising, or talk business with my managers. Of course, in between all those tasks, the phones are ringing and we're booking jobs. In the afternoons, I try to make myself available for when the crews get back in to talk about their day and see how their jobs went.

Again, I think creating and maintaining that personal connection is key to building great relationships with employees as well as staying close to the day-to-day business.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was working at Penn Station East Coast Subs in Paducah when I was 16. Of course, in any food service job, you'll learn about customer service, cleanliness, etc. But, most importantly at Penn Station (for me at least) was the quality and consistency of our food and the pride we took in that was key.

We had a great group of young kids who really cared about the product, and that made the job even more fun. Surrounding yourself with people who have like-minded goals makes the job so much more rewarding. I was there for nearly 3 years before I took my second job - cleaning carpet at Stanley Steemer! My girlfriend's dad, Kirk, owned it and I jokingly asked late one spring if I could work for him that summer, and he excitedly gave me a shot.

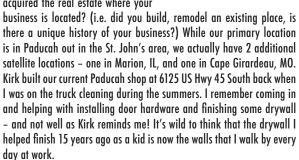
Now, little did I know that my girlfriend, Heather, would one day become my wife, Kirk my father-in-law, and Stanley Steemer our future! I cleaned carpet for 3 summers between semesters at college and truly loved it. Again, our emphasis on quality and customer service is what set us apart. Kirk always had a great positive attitude, and he was a worker. He'd do whatever it took to make sure that the business was successful, even if that meant doing a late-night water extraction himself because he couldn't get the crews to pick up the phone. Kirk taught me humility, but also accountability. If the job wasn't done right, you can bet that you'd be going back and doing it again.

After graduating college, I spent 8 years working in technology

before Kirk came forward with the news - he's ready to hang it up and retire. We had always joked about potentially buying the business, but then it became real. So, me and Heather made the choice to take the plunge in February of 2023 and haven't looked back since!

#3. Where is your business located?

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your



#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I'm not working, I love spending time with my wife, Heather, and my 2 boys Emmett (age 6) and Jude (age 1). We like going to Kentucky Lake with family and friends, fishing, and spending time outside. When I need time to relax and focus on myself, I really enjoy woodworking and cabinetry. My wife is a designer and always has ideas for cool projects to build for our home – so that definitely keeps me husy!

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

Kirk, my father-in-law and business mentor, would say "if owning a business were easy, everyone would do it". That's something that I think back to a lot on the tough days. What sets us apart is the grit, having a level mind, and staying focused on the business and the employees. With the right mindset, you can always rise above.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Take care of your people, your employees. And not just financially you need be there for them professionally and emotionally. While there are employees who will take it for granted or take advantage of your kindness, you can't let that jade you. Those employees will be short-term. At Stanley Steemer, we say that we're a family and we look out for each other. And we truly mean that.



Congratulations, Winners!



270-556-3697



Hank Garner

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I'm the Executive Pastor at Lone Oak First Baptist Church. The scope of my job is hard to explain, but I serve the church by ensuring that we are good stewards of all of the resources that the Lord has provided to us



- financial, human, facility, and educational.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was washing golf carts at Twin City Country Club in Sandersville, Georgia, my hometown. I've also worked in a men's clothing store and as a radio DJ and eventually an operations manager for a radio network in Atlanta. I went into full-time ministry at a church in Atlanta as I was finishing my degree at the University of Georgia (GO DAWGS!), and I have been privileged to serve churches in Atlanta; Fort Myers, Florida; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Columbia, Tennessee. We moved to West Kentucky seven years ago, and we have enjoyed making this area "home."

#3. Where is your business located?

Lone Oak First Baptist Church has been around for a long time (since 1881), and our campus at 3601 Lone Oak Rd has been in use since 1967. We're in the process of updating the entire facility through our "TO EVERY GENERATION" building project. When the current phase is completed, we will have a brand new facility for preschoolers and children, as well as a welcoming lobby space. It has been my job (and joy!) to shepherd this project along, and we're very excited about it.

Harold Monroe

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). I am the CEO for Pennyrile Allied Community Services. We are a community actin agency "Empowering whose mission to low-income individuals to become self-reliant through community assistance, education, service. and partnerships".



#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today? The first job I had was running my own hay crew with my twin brother Darrell. Since we were only 15 I had to have someone on the crew that was 16 or older to drive the hay truck on the highway. My first job off our farm was picking tomatoes in Colonel Moore's Farm in Possum Trot for the summer. Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits: There was no one I looked up to more or respected more than my own father, J.C. Monroe or Pewee to those who knew him. He was the hardest working and most honest man I ever knew and like many of his generation he could fix or make anything. Dad was part of the Lola gang and I also thought the world of his cousin from Lola, Bobby Williams who we hauled many a hay bale over the years I came to PACS after having held a few positions over the years. I had worked in the economic/investment area n and have held the Certified Financial Planner (CFP). After several years of working with Caterpillar in Peoria where I was fortunate to travel the world I as well as Nashville where I was oversaw the investments for the Southern Baptist Foundation my family longed to return to west Kentucky. I saw a posting for the position I currently hold at PACS and I have been leading this wonderful group of people since March 2015.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? We have been in our central offices for over 25 years. We did acquire the Peek Law Building a few years ago in Smithland. There is very limited space in Livingston County so we decided t purchase this for our current needs and possible expansion if ever needed. We are building a maintenance office building in Hopkinsville to better maintain our current fleet of 130 plus vehicles (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business)

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions that help you recharge) I really do not have many hobbies other than being active at church. I sing in church and hope to start playing golf. Otherwise I pretty much follow our only granddaughter who will graduate from high school and is on the swim team.

would give to others? First, to always do more than expected and whenever you are asked to try something new or a new position to be willing to learn and try. Secondly, do not do any job you dread or despise. I never understood folks who work year after year hating what the do but stay "because the benefits or retirement is god". Life is too short to be miserable every day.

James Peck

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). James Peck. Owner of Peck's Customs. Peck's Customs is a community minded Mechanic Shop that offers a one stop shop, from oil changes to engine swaps and everything in between. James spends countless hours researching new issues to stay up to date on customers vehicles, finding the best way to fix things to save them the most money and keep them safely on the road.

Due to a motorcycle accident many years ago, James has had to limit the physical aspect of being a mechanic, but he spends his days teaching and guiding the next generation of mechanics, passing on his decades of knowledge, hoping to leave a legacy of quality workmanship, and working with is daughter in the office, keeping everything on schedule to get vehicles back to their owners as quickly as possible.

- #2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today? James has been working on cars with his father since he was big enough to hold a wrench. He has always loved anything with wheels, he raced bicycles as a child and moved onto cars as a teenager. If it's got tires, there's a good chance James has driven it, and he turned that lifelong passion into a business. He's worked other jobs through his life, but he always comes back to cars.
- #3. Where is your business located? Peck's Customs is located in the old family dollar building in Wickliffe. James had been interested in buying the building since the dollar store closed and missed out on it for years. When the opportunity presented itself at the end of 2023 he jumped on it. The whole family pitched in to remodel it into a dream space. We have loved being in a bigger space and being able to better serve our customers. We've done our best to create a welcoming and comfortable waiting area for stop and go oil changes, which has been a long time goal for James. We are currently remodeling to make our children's area even better for our little visitors.
- **#4.** What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? James' love of vehicles extends to smaller pursuits. In his off time he loves to build and drive remote control cars. You can often find him helping his grandchildren rock climbing or racing tiny versions of the vehicles that go through the shop every day.
- **#5.** What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? Be honest and work hard, James' Grandfather told him that as a young man. Dishonest business people don't have to work as hard, but it'll eventually catch up with them.
- **#6.** What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Be careful who you hire, your employees directly reflect on your business, and hiring the wrong person can be costly.



Steve Everly

Steve Everly, Store Supervisor at Food Giant Supermarkests, Inc.

Food Giant Leader and Former Earlington Mayor

The long path from Carry-Out Boy to Store Supervisor

Steve Everly began his career in the grocery business in a humble role
— working as a carry-out boy.

Over the years, through hard work and commitment, he rose through the ranks. From 2005 to 2015 he served as Store Manager for Food Giant Supermarkets, Inc.

Since May 2015 he has held the position of Store Supervisor at Food Giant.

Steve is recognized as someone who understands the grocery business from the ground up.

Steve Everly also served two full terms as mayor of Earlington, Kentucky.

Why His Story Matters

Earlington is a small town — one of the many communities in rural Kentucky with deep roots in coal mining and small-town life. Having someone like Steve Everly — who bridges both the commercial world (via Food Giant) and civic life (as former mayor) — helps maintain a connection between local business, community governance, and everyday citizens.

His path from grocery-store beginnings to management and public office is emblematic of local leadership grounded in everyday work and community service.

Tasmine Pickard

#1 Tell us about your work—your job title, your business name, and what your role looks like from start to finish.

I am a small business owner. I opened "Renewed Coffee & Tea" a local coffee shop located in Jackson Purchase Medical Center. My role consists of working in the shop daily, as well as maintaining the inventory and running the shop day to day as smoothly as possible, and overseeing all aspects of the business.



#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those early experiences shape the way you work today? Feel free to mention mentors, influences, personal interests, or community activities that helped guide your professional path.

I am an older sister and have helped take care of my siblings all my life. I was a server in a restaurant for a time in high school and I was a nanny for 4 years out of high school for a family with two kids while going to college. I loved working for them and it really taught me what it looks like to be there and take care of others needs. I then became a barista in a coffee shop and loved learning the process of running a coffee shop. I come from a big family, so I have always been ready to jump in and lend a hand and that has definitely played a role in my work ethic today. Seeing a need and doing my best to fill it. My parents and grandparents are business owners so I have been blessed with the opportunity to learn from them and see the hard work and dedication it takes to run your own business.

#3. Where is your business located? Is there anything unique about how you acquired or developed your space—building, remodeling, special history, etc.?

We are located in the hospital at Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield, Ky. It is such a unique space because they have never had a coffee shop in the hospital. I am so blessed and grateful to have been able to be the first to open one up! It has been such a great experience with the staff, patients, and now outside customers who I have built relationships with. It is very important to me to create those relationships and meet new people and provide a service for them that they need and enjoy.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? Share any hobbies or passions that help you recharge.

I serve in my youth ministry at Heartland Church in Paducah, Ky. I have a passion for the younger generation and serving others. I also am very active and love to go to the gym. I am passionate about serving others through mission work and have volunteered on many domestic and international trips overseas. I also love traveling and learning new places and cultures. With any down time I have, I love spending it with family and friends.

#5. What's the best business advice someone has ever given you? (And who shared it with you?)

To seek the Lord in everything I do. No matter where life takes you or how things work out, He is consistent and will lead you where you are meant to be. My mom has played a significant role in who I am today and has always taught me to put the Lord first in all things and the rest will fall into place.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would offer to others?

No one will run your business the way that you will. Always have a close eye on things and stay informed with what is going on. Accept feedback from your customers and create relationships with them. They are the ones who support you and keep you going so appreciate them. They could be supporting any other business but choosing yours so be super thankful for them! They are a blessing!

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Tason Wilson

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, **Business Name) and** what you do at work (from start to finish).

Assistant Superintendent of Operations for Christian County Public Schools. I oversee all of the operational departments for the school system such as facilities and maintenance. transportation, food services, health/nurses, and technology.



Our district is currently in the final stages of construction of a new consolidated high school and I oversee the day-to-day operations of that project for the district.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

As a teenager, I mowed lawns and did a little landscaping. However, my first real job with an employer was a student worker in the technology department of Christian County Public Schools during the summer between my junior and senior year of high school. I did this for several summers and later transitioned over to the maintenance department.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

Early on, my father, Ted Wilson, pushed me. My dad was a professor at Hopkinsville Community College but outside of work, he is a jack-ofall-trades and always pulled me along on the many projects saying, "You're going to need to know how to do this one day." In high school, I was pushed and shaped by coaches such as David Joiner, Kevin Crider, and Josh Hunt. These gentlemen help to form a work ethic and persistence that carried from the ball field into real life. They had a genuine interest in me becoming a better young man in the end no matter what happened on the field.

Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

As an educator, coach, and administrator for the past 20 years community involvement with the youth has been important to me. I am active in my church volunteering and serving. I have done work with a local mentoring group called Men to Be and I am active in the Leadership Christian County program. I currently am serving on the board for Leadership Christian County but have been a participant as well as the Program Coordinator. I also serve on other boards throughout the community.

#3. Where is your business located? Hopkinsville, KY Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

I work for the public schools. We are currently building a new consolidated high school will open in August of 2026. I am the district lead on this project.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I am not working I enjoy spending time with my wife and 2 daughters. We enjoy the lakes and traveling together, mainly to the beach. I also like to play golf and will occasionally get out and do a little hunting.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

When I decided to leave the classroom and coaching and get into school administration, Mr. Tim McGinnis gave me the advice of always making decisions based on what is right for kids, this is not what is always easy for adults but in the end your decision will work out if it's what is best for kids.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

I would encourage anyone in any field to find your values and your core beliefs and make decisions based on those. You are going to be squeezed as a leader but it best to fall back on your core values and heliefs and making decisions that are alianed with those when you are pressed.

Tennifer Palmer

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, **Business Name) and** what you do at work (from start to finish).

All my days are different; some days I'm showing a family 10 homes in 3 different counties. Or, going to a closing of a property at a title company or Attorneys office. Sometimes I spend a day calling Buyers and Sellers to find out how they



are doing and addressing their concerns. Some days I'm listing a property, having Seller's sign paperwork, taking pictures, and getting everything uploaded on several websites. Some days I'm putting out fires between a Buyer and Seller.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was teaching riding lessons at my Dads barn when I was a senior in high school. I was very fortunate that I had parents that went above and beyond to make sure I started showing horses and pony's when I was 6 years old. My Dad would take me to every county fair horse show in Western Ky every summer. If I fell off my pony my Dad would put me right back on. I learned when I got knocked off from a pony or any tough experience in life to get back up and start over and never give up! Horses taught me how to work hard, sportsmanship in the show ring, persistence, patience, plus this gave me a lot of self-esteem when I was young. I taught lessons off and on for many years. I also worked as a Dental Assistant. This absolutely taught me to be at work on time.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

My parents, my older brother, my uncle retired Supreme Court Judge Bill Cunningham, and a few teachers.

Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

I'm a member of the Paducah Lions Club because I wanted to be a part of something that My Dad did. I love helping out on different projects that we try to accomplish. I started a Silent Auction for the Telethon back in 2017. I work to gather Baskets and Gift cards from area businesses to sell in the auction. Its very challenging and rewarding. We raise money for children and adults with special needs. This has allowed me to meet more business people. About 15 years ago I started making a donation to my Buyers and Sellers favorite charity, school or church in their honor. This has turned out to be very rewarding, inspiring and remarkable in many different ways that is hard to put into words.

#3. Where is your business located?

It's at my home and in my car.

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located?

Fortunately, I met and married a great man, moved to his 7-acre farm in Farmington, Ky. One of Gods greatest blessings.

(i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

I love taking care of my horses every day, flowers, plants, going to church, visiting my children and 10 grandchildren.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

Work hard, always finish a job, go above and beyond of what is expected of you and always keep your word. Probably my dad.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Work hard, always finish a job , go above and beyond of what is pected of you and always keep your word.

Tessica Mewman

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, **Business Name) and** what you do at work (from start to finish).

Jessica Newman is the President and CEO of Advantage Insurance, an independent serving agency Kentucky. With more than 21 years of industry experience, she leads with a blend of strategic clarity, integrity, and



a genuine commitment to serving families and businesses. Jessica oversees the agency's vision, growth, and operations while cultivating a strong, service-driven culture within her team. Known for making complex coverage understandable, she advocates for clients through life's unexpected moments and ensures they're protected with solutions that truly fit their needs. Her leadership reflects her core values of faith, purpose, and entrepreneurship, guiding the agency forward with excellence and heart.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

Jessica's work ethic and leadership roots trace back to her very first job as a cashier at Gore's Grocery Store. There, she learned the value of genuine customer service, showing up with consistency, and treating every person with respect. Managing long lines, handling money, and keeping the check out lines running smoothly taught her confidence, responsibility, and grace under pressure. Those early experiences shaped her people-first mindset and sparked the desire to serve her community — qualities that continue to define her leadership as a business owner and CEO today.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

#3. Where is your business located?

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

Jessica chose to build her agency in Lone Oak, Kentucky, because it's more than home — it's where her story began. Growing up in this community gave her a deep appreciation for the people, the values, and the small-town connections that shaped her life. The memories she cherishes from Lone Oak fuel her commitment to serve the families and businesses who make this place special. By keeping her agency here, she honors her roots, invests in the community that raised her, and ensures her work continues to reflect the heart of Lone Oak.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

Outside the office, Jessica can usually be found with a good cup of coffee in hand or spending time with the people she loves most. She cherishes slow mornings, great conversations, and any opportunity to connect with friends and family. Those everyday moments of joy and community keep her grounded and inspired in her work.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?). Jessica credits some of her strongest business guidance to her mother, who taught her not to carry every worry alone. "Don't worry about it - pray. God has already got it figured out." That simple but powerful advice has shaped Jessica's leadership and grounded her throughout her entrepreneurial journey, reminding her to lead with faith, trust, and a steady heart.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? Jessica's own best advice is simple: make a plan and put it on paper. She believes that clarity creates momentum, and that "a plan without a map is just a wish." It's the philosophy that guides her leadership and the intentional way she approaches business, growth, and purpose.

Kenny Pratt

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Coroner of Marshall County, Kentucky. The coroner serves as a bridge between the living and the deceased. It is my responsibility to give the deceased a voice in the manner of their passing. The coroner strives to investigate all deaths with professionalism, integrity, and efficiency. Professionalism is used in every aspect of the investigation process. Integrity is instilled in every step of the investigation in your loved one's death. As the death is researched and investigated, efficiency is called upon for the death certificate to be completed as quickly as possible. These three cornerstones guide our office in treating all deceased cases with respect, equal treatment, and compassion. The coroner is here to serve the citizens of Marshall County during their darkest times.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

Upon graduation of Marshall County High School, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Where I served for 10 years. During those years I deployed in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom four separate times. I was later selected to be the Guard Chief of Presidential retreat Camp David. Where I oversaw the security for President Bush and all presidential guest and dignitaries. My service in the military instilled discipline, leadership, and teamwork. It broadened my worldview by exposing myself to diverse cultures, built my confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of purpose.

#3. Where is your business located?

Marshall County Coroner Office is located at 107 B Street, Benton, Ky,

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I am not working my greatest joy is spending time with my beautiful wife Yvonne, my children (Jordon, Faith, Cameron, Hope, Easton, Aubrey), and grandchildren (Stetson and Karoline). I also enjoy

the outdoors where I scuba dive, ride horses, explore the outdoors, and work on our small farm.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

Best advice is to cultivate critical thinking, attention to detail, and

strong communication skills while maintaining objectivity and emotional

resilience. Always treat others the way you want to be treated.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

My best advice is to focus on balancing personal growth, long-term health, and family time while navigating challenges with a resilient mindset.



Kate Russell

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I'm the founder, co-owner, and one of two brewers at Hopkinsville Brewing Company. In addition to brewing beer (which is my favorite part of my job), my duties involve packaging (kegs and cans), selling and delivering to our commercial accounts, as



well as working behind the taproom counter when needed. The more mundane parts of my job are the day-to-day administration of running a small business - I scrub floors, clean bathrooms, file taxes and licenses, strategize marketing, plan events, coordinate musicians - the list is pretty much endless.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was as a cashier at a boating supply store. (I grew up living on a boat, so this made total sense for teenage me.) I learned little things about customer service that I still use today - the importance of greeting customers when they walk in the door, making eye contact, listening to feedback and constructive criticism.

My first grown-up job was as an intelligence analyst in the Army. I served with G2, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and deployed to Iraq during OIF 05-07. Deployment taught me a lot about perspective - nothing I've handled running a small business has risen to the level of life or death. Serving in the Army taught me the importance of seeing a mission through to completion (definitely important when I found myself trying to troubleshoot a malfunctioning glycol chiller in the middle of the night), as well as 'embracing the suck,' and how much it helps to keep a sense of humor when things aren't going according to plan.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

Definitely my parents, Dave and Maria Russell. Living on a boat, my dad handled all the mechanics, and taught me the importance of maintaining equipment and how to go about fixing just about anything. My mom founded a group for women in boating, with an emphasis on women's influence on consumer behavior. I think this combination gave me a different perspective on how to market a product traditionally aimed at men toward women.

Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

Being a mom has influenced how I run the brewery - I want our space to be family-friendly and welcoming to everyone, whether or not they drink alcohol. My interest in - and determination to be a part of - downtown revitalization drove my decision to purchase property downtown and continue investing in this part of the city. I try to partner with organizations that are doing good in the community and can use my platform to increase their visibility - Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library, Christian County High School Baseball and Volleyball teams, Aaron McNeill House, the Boys & Girls Club, Christian County Master Gardeners, etc. - I like being able to give back to groups that are helping to make Hopkinsville a better place.

#3. Where is your business located?

102 E. 5th Street, downtown Hopkinsville

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located?

(i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

I bought a tiny building at the north end of downtown Hopkinsville because I believed the area could be amazing if 'someone' invested in it. The building was being used as office space for a carpet cleaning business, it had once been a barber shop and - way back in the day - had been a filling station. We gutted it down to the bare brick walls and built it completely back, from the concrete floor to the second story to the roof. The community responded well to our business model and we outgrew the space within two years, so we purchased the auto body shop next door, renovated it (while still running the existing brewery), and opened it at the beginning of 2020.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

I enjoy being active - working out, running, walking my dog. I'm a baseball and volleyball mom, so I spend a lot of time going to my kids' games. I love to read.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

It wasn't about business at the time, but I've lived by this Margaret Mead quote ever since my sociology professor said it in class: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." I've adapted this mindset to my business: if I want to see downtown revitalized, or if I want Hopkinsville to have its own brewery, or make sure the baseball team has money to rebuild a damaged dugout, or make sure there's a place in Hopkinsville where everyone feels welcome, I can do my own small part to make those things happen. I truly believe that, in a world full of big-box corporations, small mom and pop stores still change their communities every day.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Learn everything you can about whatever business you're going into, but know when it's time to bring in the experts - spending money on a good engineer or attorney or accountant will save you time and money in the long run. Oh, and always treat your customers the way you would like to be treated.

Kenley Ringstaff-Hefner

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am Principal of North Livingston Elementary School and the Athletic Administrator for Livingston County Schools. At the elementary school, I'm working to encourage both teachers and students to be their very best and push themselves. I'm really here to help. Good teachers



show up and teach, no matter what. It is my job to ensure that they have the supports that they need to help them be successful. Our students deserve the very best and I want to help open up as many avenues as I can for them. As an Athletic Administrator, I'm doing just about the same. I'm working to take some of the load off of players and coaches so that they can focus on building the programs that we have here.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

My very first "job" was working with my papaw and dad (Don and Greg Ringstaff) when they worked as commercial fishermen. I can remember being five or six years old and running up trot lines, trying my best to filet a fish, and going out on the river with them to pull nets. I thought I had hit the lottery when I was paid in grape soda and a bologna sandwich on the way home. But truly, that's where I learned that you work hard, no matter the job in front of you, and you do your job right. I learned that people were counting on me. I was taught that there are no short-cuts or doing things halfway... They also ensured that I knew that there was no job that I was "too good" to do. Today, if there is a need or a job to be done, you will never hear me say "that's not my job" or "that's above/below my pay grade". You'll see me grab the mop, shovel, or what have you and get to it. If there is anything that my parents and grandparents, or that first "job" taught me, that I'm grateful for, it's that.

My grandfather taught Health and PE at Livingston Central for over 30 years. I have several other relatives who went into education, filling a variety of roles and responsibilities. While things have changed throughout the years, this job just feels right. It feels right to serve a community that helped raise me.

#3. Where is your business located?

My elementary school is located in Burna KY. It was built in 1995 and, fun fact, my class is the first group that attended Kindergarten through 6th grade here. So, it's really neat to come back here as principal. I used to be one of these students. Our backgrounds are similar, and I think that really helps when we are talking about expectations and growth.

Livingston County Middle School served as the high school until 1984, when the new high school was built in Smithland.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When $\bar{l}'m$ not working, l'm a full-time mom. My kids, Elsie and JackDon, are my biggest blessings and they keep me busy. We travel. My daughter feels that her year isn't complete without a trip to the beach. I enjoy reading and cooking. We eat dinner as a family every Sunday, I think that's extremely important.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

Dr. James Duane Bolin, a Murray State History professor and friend, once told me that the day I show up to work and I'm not excited, a bit nervous, or passionate about what I'm working towards is the day that I should look for a job somewhere else... and that has stuck with me for sixteen years. Bad times happen... but, in education, if you can't find one of those things anymore, this isn't for you. Too many people are counting on you. The future is counting on you. That might sound dramatic, but it's true

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Speak to people. Not through text, email, or through any other screen or device. Meet people. Have a conversation. Build relationships. Everyone you meet has something that you can learn from... good or bad. I think one of the most important things that you can do is understand people from all walks of life and be able to sit down and just talk.



Kate Russell

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I'm the founder, co-owner, and one of two brewers at Hopkinsville Brewing Company. In addition to brewing beer (which is my favorite part of my job), my duties involve packaging (kegs and cans), selling and delivering to our commercial accounts, as



well as working behind the taproom counter when needed. The more mundane parts of my job are the day-to-day administration of running a small business - I scrub floors, clean bathrooms, file taxes and licenses, strategize marketing, plan events, coordinate musicians - the list is pretty much endless.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was as a cashier at a boating supply store. (I grew up living on a boat, so this made total sense for teenage me.) I learned little things about customer service that I still use today - the importance of greeting customers when they walk in the door, making eye contact, listening to feedback and constructive criticism.

My first grown-up job was as an intelligence analyst in the Army. I served with G2, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and deployed to Iraq during OIF 05-07. Deployment taught me a lot about perspective - nothing I've handled running a small business has risen to the level of life or death. Serving in the Army taught me the importance of seeing a mission through to completion (definitely important when I found myself trying to troubleshoot a malfunctioning glycol chiller in the middle of the night), as well as 'embracing the suck,' and how much it helps to keep a sense of humor when things aren't going according to plan.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

Definitely my parents, Dave and Maria Russell. Living on a boat, my dad handled all the mechanics, and taught me the importance of maintaining equipment and how to go about fixing just about anything. My mom founded a group for women in boating, with an emphasis on women's influence on consumer behavior. I think this combination gave me a different perspective on how to market a product traditionally aimed at men toward women.

Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

Being a mom has influenced how I run the brewery - I want our space to be family-friendly and welcoming to everyone, whether or not they drink alcohol. My interest in - and determination to be a part of - downtown revitalization drove my decision to purchase property downtown and continue investing in this part of the city. I try to partner with organizations that are doing good in the community and can use my platform to increase their visibility - Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library, Christian County High School Baseball and Volleyball teams, Aaron McNeill House, the Boys & Girls Club, Christian County Master Gardeners, etc. - I like being able to give back to groups that are helping to make Hopkinsville a better place.

#3. Where is your business located?

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(i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

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#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

I enjoy being active - working out, running, walking my dog. I'm a baseball and volleyball mom, so I spend a lot of time going to my kids' games. I love to read.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

It wasn't about business at the time, but I've lived by this Margaret Mead quote ever since my sociology professor said it in class: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." I've adapted this mindset to my business: if I want to see downtown revitalized, or if I want Hopkinsville to have its own brewery, or make sure the baseball team has money to rebuild a damaged dugout, or make sure there's a place in Hopkinsville where everyone feels welcome, I can do my own small part to make those things happen. I truly believe that, in a world full of big-box corporations, small mom and pop stores still change their communities every day.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Learn everything you can about whatever business you're going into, but know when it's time to bring in the experts - spending money on a good engineer or attorney or accountant will save you time and money in the long run. Oh, and always treat your customers the way you would like to be treated.

Lisa Terry

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

My job title is a family nurse practitioner. I started my career as a family nurse practitioner in 2007. have only had the privilege to work with Dr. Jeff Riney, since I graduated as a family nurse practitioner.



#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

My job at work is to see patients in the office. I diagnose and treat multiple illnesses. My job includes not only to treat but to educate my patients on their disease process, teach them about their medications and why they need their medications.

My first job was a certified nurse's aide at the local nursing home in my hometown of Rosiclare, Illinois. I started my CNA career as a senior in high school. I worked after school on the weekends at the nursing home. Being a CNA is very hard and demanding work. But it made me realize I truly enjoy helping others.

During my nursing program at Southeastern Illinois college in Harrisburg Illinois one of my clinical instructors was Ms. Maria Pavilonia's. She was a true inspiration to the nursing field. She taught us how to carry ourselves in the clinical setting, how important it was to be presentable to our patients, the importance of courtesy and respect to the patients that we took care of.

#3. Where is your business located?

I work at the Riney family practice at 2413 New Holt Rd., Paducah, KY. We have been at that location since November 2021.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

Hobbies include reading, crafting, staying busy on the farm and enjoying family time.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

The best advice I was given was Dr. Riney. He always told me when the patient comes to see you they are seeking help. They are looking for someone to listen and help figure out what is going on with them.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

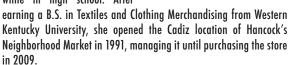
The best advice is to always listen to your patient. Allow your patient to be involved with the plan of care for them.

Mallory Lawrence

Mallory Lawrence Hancock's

Hancock's Neighborhood Market, Cadiz, KY

Mallory Lawrence began working in her family's Princeton, Ky., grocery business while in high school. After



Since then, Lawrence has expanded Hancock's from 16 to 50 employees and added new services, including a deli department in 2007. The store now caters events ranging from 20 to 350 guests, making catering a major part of its operation.

Lawrence is active in community leadership, having twice served as president of the Cadiz/Trigg County Chamber of Commerce and the Cadiz Rotary Club. She has also served on the Trigg County Hospital Board, the Chamber Board, the Trigg County Tourism Commission, and is currently a member of the Trigg County Hospital Foundation.

In 2023, she became co-owner of The Persnickety Pig, a gift shop and boutique in Cadiz—a longtime goal inspired by her WKU degree. She saw a need in the community following the closure of Broadbent's Food and Gifts.

Lawrence and two partners plan to open The Crusty Pig in Hopkinsville in summer 2026, offering brick-oven pizza, salads and sandwiches as they join the downtown business community.



Tason Workman

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

President at Workman Bins, Inc

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?



Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits: My father, Sammy Workman, helped me become who I am. I guess that I can blame him for some of my faults. A lot of times we might not know how to do something, but I would try anyway and he would be right there with me. Sometimes it would cost more to fix the things I messed up, but at least we learned what not to do.

Mention personal interests or community activities that's influenced your profession. I have an uncle that farmed while I was young and loved being out there with the tractors and combines, I just enjoyed being around farming and farmers.

#3. Where is your business located?

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? First location was out of my shop behind my house. In 2014 I purchased Perry Farm Supply in Palmersville, TN and then in 2021 I purchased 6 acres in Mayfield, KY at the old General Tire site for our 2nd location of Workman Bins, Inc. (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business)

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When I'm not at work, I enjoy working on the farm. For the last 3 years my wife and I have chased our daughters around the country (or so it feels). (hobbies or passions that help you recharge)

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

Sell it, we'll figure out how to build get it built! - Robert Perry

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

As a business owner, especially getting started, there aren't regular business hours; and don't try to get too big too fast. Just because you're the owner doesn't mean that you can always push it off on someone else. I truly think those kind of thought processes are why some businesses fail. I get phone calls after hours, weekends, and holidays and if I need to run to shop to get parts I will. Don't just call and have someone else do it.

Mark Edwards 1

I am Mark Edwards. I'm a Lawyer at Edwards and Kautz. We represent people who have been accused of criminal offenses and those who have been injured or are disabled. I do everything necessary to pursue or defend those cases. I first started working at the age of six for my father who started a construction rental and supply company named Kitmo Rental and supply. I believe I learned



my work ethic from my father and from the demands he put on me and all my siblings. I have worked at a number of jobs while growing up and attending college. I have worked with a sod company, at a tobacco redryer company, Kmart, a tire store, as a bartender, delivering furniture, making and putting in counter tops, delivering beer to retailers, driving an ambulance, as a security guard and I'm sure a few I've missed. I went to Southeast Missouri State University and played football as a freshman. I transferred to Western Kentucky University as a sophomore and started playing rugby for the first rugby team at WKU. While at Western my first child Michelle was born. When I graduated I went to OCS in the Marine Corps and after I graduated from OCS I went to UK to law school. After law school I spent five years on active duty in the Marine Corps and two years in the active reserve as an infranty officer. At that time I was practicing law in Paducah. I started working for Charlie Saladino and after four years I started my own practice. I began racing dirt late model cars as a hobby. At some point I started buying Commercial Property. I eventually got into the business of owning liquor stores. Somehow I started racing horses. I was very lucky in that I bought into a filly which I named after my granddaughter. The horse's name is Thorpedo Anna.

She won the Kentucky Oaks, the Breeders cup distaff and Horse Of The Year in 2024. The best advice I can give you about business is work as hard as you can taking care of your clients. And as far as advice I would say do what you know how to do and when someone brings you an idea that you are comfortable with the go for it.

Melanie Quinn-Moffsinger

1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am the Executive Director of the United Way of the Pennyrile. We facilitate an annual fundraising campaign to support 16 local non-profit organizations that serve 3 counties. These agencies provide programs focused on health and wellness, youth education, support for active service members, assistance for the elderly, aid for abuse victims, and help for those facing economic hardships. Guided by its mission, "uniting people and resources to improve lives and strengthen communities throughout the Pennyrile", the organization invests donor contributions in essential health and human service programs to create a stronger, more supportive community. United Way of the Pennyrile also works to bring awareness to the programs provided by our agencies and advocate for them in our community.

2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

I have worked in the hospitality industry for almost 13 years, working as an event sales manager at The Bruce Convention Center, managing 2 privately owned wedding and event centers- Southern Springs Events and The Silo Event Center, and most recently as an auction and marketing manager for Bolinger Real Estate and Auction.

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Working in the hospitality industry has taught me to think quickly, solve problems efficiently, and anticipate customers' needs before they arise. My experience serving people from diverse backgrounds has strengthened my ability to connect with others and sharpened my customer service skills. Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession. Since returning to my hometown after college in 2011, I knew I wanted to become more involved and give back to our community. Over the years, I have served in a variety of leadership and volunteer roles, including:

- Pennyroyal Arts Council Board of Directors (2016–2020)
 Museums of Historic Christian County Honkinsville Board
- Museums of Historic Christian County Hopkinsville Board of Directors since 2019; Vice Chair (2021); Secretary (2025)
- Pennyrile Children's Advocacy Center Board Member (2020–2023);
 Vice Chair (2022)

Christian County Chamber of Commerce – Board Member since 2022; Non-Profit Organization Representative beginning in 2024

I am also active in several civic and professional organizations,

including the Hopkinsville Rotary Club (member since 2022), Hopkinsville Young Professional Engage (HYPE) (member since 2017), Junior Auxiliary of Hopkinsville (2012–2015), and served as a Chamber Ambassador from 2011–2015, receiving the Bob Kelso Ambassador of the Year Award in 2015.



Each of these opportunities has allowed me to support our community

through both volunteerism and financial contributions. Volunteering has opened my eyes to the many needs within our community and has strengthened my commitment to continue giving back.

- 3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?) We rent our office space and it is located at 1110 S Main Street in downtown Hopkinsville, KY.
- 4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

In my spare time, I enjoy being with my family—my husband, Cody, our almost three-year-old daughter Isabelle, and our dog, Penny. With most of our relatives living nearby, we also spend a lot of time with our extended family. I love unwinding with a good book, attending Broadway shows or local theater productions, traveling, and binge-watching great movies and series. I also enjoy crafting and baking whenever I get the chance.

5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?) Know your worth—and don't be afraid to ask for it.

Advocate for yourself. Negotiate. Speak confidently about what you bring to the table.

My mother gave me this advice. She is a retired lawyer and District Judge for the 56th District in Kentucky.

6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Surround yourself with people you lift you up! Celebrate your wins & have colleagues and friends in your corner who challenge, support and motivate you.

Mike Williams

1. Tell us about your work and what you do from start to finish.

Double-U Properties, LLC - I own and manage nine rental homes. My responsibilities include coordinating repairs, addressing tenant needs, and overseeing all financial operations.

Panhandle Park, LLC - I own and manage a mobile home park and storage units. I focus on maintaining a safe, family-friendly environment, managing resident contracts, and handling the finances.

Lawn Enforcer Lawn Care, LLC - I operate a lawn care company where oversee employees, equipment, scheduling, and customer service. My crew handles daily operations while I support equipment maintenance and manage invoicing and finances for about 50 customers.

Williams Enterprise, LLC - I serve as an independent distributor for Pepperidge Farm in the McCracken County region. I manage vehicles, trailers, orders, personnel, payroll, and equipment needs. I also oversee route checks, sales, inventory, and ensure customer satisfaction.

Livingston County Judge/Executive - I manage the daily operations of county government, including budgeting, roads and infrastructure, departments, employees, and the wide range of issues brought forward by residents. My goal is to keep Livingston County responsible, competitive, and—above all—a great place to raise a family.

2. What was your first job, and how did that experience shape the way you work today?

My first job was hauling hay for Calendar Farms—long before I was old enough to drive. Anyone who has hauled hay knows it's tough work, but the camaraderie made it worthwhile. That job taught me a lesson that has shaped every career I've had: set the goal, make sure the team is working toward the same mission, push through until the job is done, and enjoy the good moments along the way.

Mentors & Influences:

Without question, my father, Tommy Williams. As a Kentucky State

Trooper and later Livingston County Sheriff, he showed me-not just told me—how to treat people. He taught me to be fair, to do the right thing even when no one is watching, and that respect is earned through consistency and character.

Personal Interests or Community Influences:

I didn't always plan to become a police officer, but the calling eventually found me. Wanting a better life for my family is what pushed me to start my first business. I've always worked multiple jobs, and that drive has

3. Where is your business located, and is there anything special about how you acquired your properties?

Double-U Properties: Livingston County Panhandle Park, LLC: Ledbetter, Kentucky

Lawn Enforcer Lawn Care, LLC: Operated from my residence

Williams Enterprise, LLC: Based in Ledbetter, distributing in McCracken

Livingston County Judge/Executive: Livingston County Office & Library

How it all began:

Lawn Enforcer LLC started simply from a need for additional income then grew into something larger than I ever expected.

Double-U Properties began due to the 2011 flood. After being forced to relocate, we planned to sell our home—until someone asked to rent it instead. That opportunity opened my eyes to the potential. We purchased another house, remodeled it ourselves, and repeated that process until we built a portfolio.

Most properties we bought needed major work—because those were the homes we could afford. Each one has its own story. Many times during renovations, former residents would stop by, share memories, and thank us for restoring the home.

The other businesses grew naturally from being active in the community. I know a lot of people, I listen, I ask questions, and I'm always learning. Folks recognized that I had a business mindset and a knack for making deals happen. If you had told me five years ago that I'd own a business responsible for putting Goldfish Crackers on the shelves of major grocery stores, I would've laughed. But here we areand that business now earns more than I ever did as a police officer.



4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

Free time isn't something I have a lot of, but I genuinely enjoy serving as Judge/Executive. Every day brings new challenges, and I thrive on that.

When I do get downtime, there's nothing better than spending it with my family. And when I really get a chance to unwind, I love taking my Jeep out for some rock-crawling adventure.

5. What's the best business advice someone has ever given you?

"Never take advice about money from someone who has none." I've heard it from several people over the years, and it has stuck with me every time I've made a major decision.

6. What business advice would you give others?

Learn to take calculated risks, and always stay ready for the next opportunity that might land in your lap. Find a spouse or partner who shares your goals and understands the long hours and sacrifices required. Working as a team toward the same mission is far easier—and far more rewarding—than trying to do it alone.

Mick Daugherty -

1. Tell us about your work and what you do from start to finish.

I co-own The Golf Complex with my brother-in-law and also operate a Golf Instruction business based within the facility. In the golf industry, no two days are the same, but most of my time is dedicated to providing golf instruction and helping players improve every aspect of their game including full swing, pitching, chipping, and putting. Having grown up playing golf, I always aspired to teach the game and to one day own The Golf Complex, so being able to do both is truly a dream come true. When I'm not working directly with students, I focus on managing Accounts Payable and overseeing our corporate logo apparel and hat projects.

2. What was your first job, and how did that experience shape the way you work today?

After leaving college, I began my career at the Country Club of Paducah under the leadership of Chad Martin. He taught me invaluable lessons about what it means to be a PGA Professional and how to effectively manage a golf shop. His influence shaped my understanding of the profession—from merchandising to customer service—and I remain deeply grateful for the guidance he provided.

Following my time at the Country Club of Paducah, I joined The Golf Complex to pursue my passion for golf instruction. From a young age, I admired Todd Trimble and Barry Kight, who served as exceptional mentors and role models. When I started at The Golf Complex, I was simply a shop employee with the dream of becoming a full-time instructor.

The golf boom of 2020 played a significant role in accelerating my path, allowing me to transition into full-time instruction much sooner than I anticipated. After several years of teaching full time, my brother-in-law and I were presented with the opportunity to purchase a portion of The Golf Complex. We didn't hesitate and embraced the challenge wholeheartedly.

3. Where is your business located, and is there anything special about how you acquired your properties?

We are a true one-stop destination for golfers of all levels, offering a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, professional club fittings, strength and conditioning training, and a state of-the-art driving range with both indoor and outdoor hitting areas. One of the unique advantages of The Golf Complex is that we are among the few facilities where golfers can see full ball flight year-round, regardless of weather conditions. Whether indoors or outdoors, players can watch the ball fly and accurately evaluate their shot shape and performance. The practice range at The Golf Complex spans thirty acres and is conveniently located just one mile west of Kentucky Oaks Mall. The facility features a 200-yard-wide natural Bermuda arass tee that stretches more than 300 yards in length, fifteen artificial hitting mats, and eight heated indoor/outdoor bays. Fifteen distinct target greens provide precise and purposeful practice opportunities for both amateur and professional golfers, accommodating shots from 25 to 250 yards.

Our dedicated short-game area includes a Champion ultra-dwarf Bermuda green and a sand trap designed primarily for chipping. This space allows players to practice a variety of challenging lies-side-hill, uphill, downhill, deep rough, and zoysia fringe.

Unlike most facilities, The Golf Complex is intentionally oriented north to south, mirroring the design of premium PGA Tour ranges. This

alianment protects golfers from the glare of the late day western sun during the summer and shields them from harsh northern winds during the cooler months when utilizing our indoor bays.

4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

In my free time, I enjoy playing golf and spending quality time with my wife and stepdaughter. In the fall, we love watching football together,

and throughout the rest of the year we enjoy following the PGA Tour and tuning in to whichever event is on that week.

5. What's the best business advice someone has ever given you?

In business, we understand that not every decision will please everyone, but we remain focused on what best supports our mission and customers.

6. What business advice would you give others?

We always strive to exceed customer expectations and appreciate the positive feedback we receive from satisfied clients. However, we have to recognize that feedback from dissatisfied customers is equally valuable. Their insights highlight opportunities for growth and improvement. By listening carefully to their concerns, we can continually refine our services and strengthen our businesses.

Western Kentuckijs 2025

BARGE CONSTRUCTION & REPAIR

- Dock Barges
- Deck Barges
- **Crane Barges**
- Dry Docks
- **Barge and Towboat Repair**



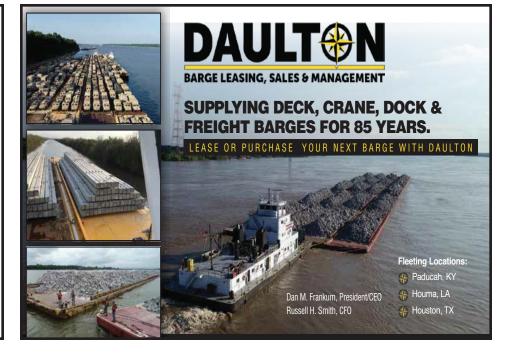


Ohio River Mile Marker 752.6 OR 5001 Hwy 2830 Owensboro, KY 42303

David Graves 270-231-4684 david.graves@mulzer.com

Jeff Hamilton 270-903-6439

jeff.hamilton@mulzer.com



Larrah Workman

1. Tell us about your work

(MARKETING DIRECTOR, KPI
Newspaper Group) and what you
do at work (Handles all aspects
of Advertising: • Ad Sales •
Manage ky-news.com website •
Coordinate Marketing efforts for
Kentucky & Indiana Newspapers;
along with all Special Sections •
Assist in Layout & Design • Help
with Accounting Dept. whenever
needs arise).



2. What was your first job, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was at Whipple's Grocery in LaCenter, Kentucky, where I worked as a cashier, stocked shelves, and spent time in both the deli and produce departments. Those different responsibilities taught me early on how to multitask and recognize when someone needed help—what we'd now call cross-training.

I learned a great deal from my bosses, Joe Brooks Whipple and Glen Wildharber. They always reminded me that "the customer is always right," and that if a problem came up, I needed to stay calm, get the facts, and handle the situation with patience.

Working in the public showed me how far compassion can go. I remember watching Joe Brooks treat people with understanding, even on their hardest days. He taught me that my attitude and words can shape how quickly a conflict either settles or escalates.

Now, in my sales role, those lessons guide me daily. I don't face much conflict, but when something does arise, I know how to approach it with patience and a level head. I even have a subscriber who calls from time to time just to catch up, and I make it a point to listen. That compassion might seem small, but it can make a real difference in someone's day.

3. Where is your business located? Our Headquarters in located at 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY

4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When I'm not working, I stay busy with my other business, Bin Livin' in Mayfield, KY. I also love traveling with my family whenever I get the chance—preferably somewhere warm with an ocean and a nice beach. Spending time with my husband, Jason, and our girls, Laurna and Abbi, is one of my favorite things.

My creative hobby started years ago when my daughters were little. I called it Abbikat Kreations, and over time it grew to the point that I needed my own dedicated space. When we built the Mayfield location, Jason suggested using the upstairs office, and that's how Bin Livin' officially came to life.

I enjoy painting furniture and creating custom pieces with chalk paint, as well as crafting and making items with sublimation or vinyl. I'm also hoping to start making candles for the shop next year. I love offering unique items that no one else has—because each piece is something I've created myself.

5. What's the best business advice someone has ever given you? One of the best pieces of advice I've received is that not everyone can bake, paint, or be creative—and that's exactly why they buy handmade or custom items. People either don't want to do it themselves or simply can't, and that doesn't make the work any less valuable. Just because I know how to create something doesn't mean everyone does or wants to.

I was also told to stock my shop with things I personally like and have tried myself. That way, when customers have questions, I can honestly share my own experience and help them feel confident in what they're buying.

6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others? The best advice I would give—whether you're working for a company like Kentucky Publishing or running your own business like Bin Livin'—is don't give up, even when you hit a funk. We all have days when motivation is low, but the key is to get up, shift your focus, and work on something else until the momentum returns.

I also believe it's important to learn every part of the business you're involved in. The more you understand, the more valuable you become. Make yourself someone your bosses and customers can rely on. Being dependable, adaptable, and willing to grow goes a long way in making yourself not easily replaceable

Melinda Humphries

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Melinda A. Humphries, Christian County Clerk. I have worked at the Clerks Office for almost 25 years and going into year 4 as County Clerk.

Ensuring that every record, license and elections is handled with integrity and care.



#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today? Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

My first job was at Bartholomew's Restaurant in Downtown Hopkinsville at the age of 16. Working with the public has helped me develop in my career.

My grandparents were my mentors growing up. Be Kind and Be On Time, they would say.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

Historic Christian County Courthouse at 511 S. Main St. in Honkinsville KY

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

Spending time with my kids. Just being outside, especially during the spring and fall months.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone has ever given you? (And who was it?)

My grandmother would reminder me.....No one is perfect, but you can Be Better & Do Better than the person you were yesterday.

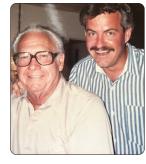
#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Listen to people....don't just hear what a person is saying, listen to what a person is saying. There is a difference.

Mike Love

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am currently Chairman of the Board for the Love Family McDonald's Organization. A short description of my job is that I am constantly monitoring how our great team is serving customers



every day in our restaurants and communities.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first job was sweeping floors in a warehouse. My boss shared the philosophy of Ray Kroc, "If you have time to lean, you have time to clean." It is a good business practice that I have carried over into my business. There is never a reason not to be productive.

#3. Where is your business located?

Our 10 restaurants are in the counties of McCracken, Graves, Calloway and Marshall in western KY and Massac county in southern IL. An eleventh one will soon open in Murray, KY. Our main main office is in Paducah.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I can get away, everyone knows my love of fishing and that being in a boat on the water is my favorite way to recharge. But in the last year, I have discovered a whole new way to have fun as I have been able to spend time with my first grandson, what an adventure! And, if time allows, some will see me on the golf course when possible.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone has ever given you? (And who was it?)

The best piece of advice that I have ever received came from Kevin Dunn, regional McDonald's manager, who oversaw 800 McDonald's restaurants. "Always take time to make a business plan. Create a plan that can be measurable by time frames," He believed that making that plan with solid means of measuring success of the plan was crucial to being in the business world.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

My advice to young people coming into the business world would be to see the value of making a business plan and to make lots of friends who inspire and challenge you. Most important, get to know your own people, the people who work in your own business. Doing that creates the best teams.

Sonya Williams

1. Tell us about your work.

I proudly serve as the Livingston County Clerk, where my duties include motor vehicle registration and titling, documenting and recording legal instruments, overseeing delinquent property tax collections, and managing all aspects of local elections. Every day brings something new, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to help our citizens with the services they depend

2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences shape you?

My early work experiences were wonderfully diverse. In my teen years, I worked sales at local malls, then spent my college summers at a private children's camp in upstate New York. Later, I worked at Drake Creek Golf Course, served as a high school cheerleading coach, and spent nine years as an elementary school teacher.

Each of these roles taught me patience, adaptability, and the importance of serving others—skills that prepared me well for working with the public and ultimately stepping into my role as Livingston County Clerk.

3. Where is your business located?

The Livingston County Clerk's Office is located on the first floor of the county's combined library and office building, built in 2011. Our address is

321 Court Street, Smithland, Kentucky. We're fortunate to work in a building that serves both practical needs and remains an important hub for our community.

4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

Nothing makes my heart happier than spending quality time with our sons, especially when we are traveling

out west with our rock-crawling Jeep family. I also love preparing our annual Bayou Bluff Bales display with my family. What started as a fun project has grown into a community tradition that has raised thousands of dollars and countless canned-good donations for Livingston County families. Giving back together has become one of our favorite ways to spend time.

5. Best business advice someone has given you.

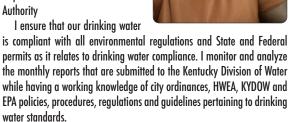
The best advice I've ever received is simple but powerful: "Give it to God." It keeps me grounded, centered, and focused on what truly matters.



Mikki Chambers

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Drinking Water Environmental Compliance Coordinator/Class IV-A Water Treatment Operator; Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority



#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your **job today?** Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits. Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

My first job began at HWEA in August of 1996 as a co-op student in high school. I was able to develop a work ethic that ensured that I would have longevity in this field. The initial job as customer service representative moved on to a transfer to drinking water operations at the water treatment plant. From that point, I developed a passion for the field of drinking water and making sure that #1 goal of protecting public health through safe drinking water was followed.

I am certain that I will accidentally leave someone out but in those early years at HWEA, I learned from everyone who I came in contact with. so I consider them all mentors. I was able to pick up something from every one of them. LaDonna Downs, Len Hale, John Rittenhouse, Connie Sue Isom, Derrick Watson, Melissa Kempa, Debra Bailey, Becky Armstrong, Tonya Blanton, Edwin Ford, Lynn Kates, Randy Hunt, Joe Chewning, Butch Hancock, Tommy Joslin, Richie Bowman, Leslie Rogers and Billy McNichols.

I have a personal interest in anything that will help my community. My role at HWEA has allowed me to volunteer in different aspects of our community. I am the current Western Chapter President for the Kentucky Water and Wastewater Operators Association. Immediate Past Chair for the Christian County Chamber of Commerce, Immediate Past President of Hopkinsville Kiwanis, Past Chair of the Hopkinsville Christian County Human Rights Commission and current board member, Immediate Past President of the Dyslexia Association of the Pennyrile, Immediate past President of the Hopkinsville League of Women Voters, Environmental Chair for the Kentucky League of Women Voters, Vice Chair for Leadership Christian County and Co-coordinator for Christian County Youth Leadership both through the Christian County Chamber of Commerce

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

401 E 9th Street Hopkinsville KY. I do not own this business. It is a privately owned municipality.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I am not working, I love to serve the community and help anyone in need. If I need to recharge, I listen to music either at the gym or doing yard work. I love to read when time allows. During NCAA basketball season, I love to watch teams play. Go DUKE!

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

You can only do so much to help customers. Do your best and walk away knowing you did what you could. (Many have told me that, one particular person doesn't come to mind)

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Try to be aware of what is going on around you and what the need is. Network! You never know what person that you will come in cont that may have the solution or answer to what you are looking for.

Paige Paylor

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Paige Taylor, City Clerk for the City of Salem, KY. I am responsible for all water and sewer billing and collecting, property taxes billing and collections, payroll and HR, reporting payroll taxes, reporting



sales and school taxes, keeping all records, financial records, meeting

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

My first "real" job was an assistant manager of a convenience store in Fredonia KY at 17, John Ray Baker was the proprietor. This job taught me how to handle finances and handle daily deposits. Later, I worked at the Caldwell County PVA Office for a time for PVA Administrator Jimmy Wallace. I worked closely with his wife Bettie Sue Wallace and Assistant Ann Barnwell. This job introduced me to "office work" and showed me what work the PVA office does and what it means for citizens and their property taxes. I attend North Livingston Baptist Church and am strong in my faith. My faith teaches honesty and integrity. In dealing with people's money and private information, my faith steps in and takes over.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located?

Salem City Hall is located at 111 Court Street, Salem, KY. My daughter Sadie and I came to live in Salem in 2005, I later had my daughter Katie and married Jon Taylor and gained a son Rett Taylor. I began work as Assistant City Clerk for the City of Salem KY in July 2010. In July 2017 I was put in the Clerk position at the retirement of Hazel Croft who had held the clerk position for 20 years.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I am not working I enjoy spending time with my family, gardening, quilting and needlework, and cooking.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

It is important to be honest, organized and keep receipts, all of my aforementioned managers were insistent on that. My Dad always said if you are going to do a job do it right or don't do it at all. That is always how I have approached work. If I cannot do my best, it is time for me to move on. My main example of good work ethic came from my parents. My father Houston Peek worked out of the Labor Union and co-owned and operated a saw mill with his Brother Billy. He also worked in the logging industry his entire life and drove the school bus for the Crittenden County School System for years. My mother Sue Peek carried the mail out of Fredonia KY, drove the school bus for Crittenden County School Systems, cleaned the Caldwell Springs Baptist Church and took care of her ailing parents, Carl and Elizabeth Knight. There were points in her life she was doing all of these jobs at the same time. Yes, I have been fortunate to have some wonderful managers and coworkers, but my parents are who instilled in me the importance of doing a good job and the importance of your word.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Pretty much the same I was given. Organization and receipts are very important in life in general. Also, do a job you love. We spend the majority of our lives at work and if you don't love it, it will make for a miserable life. I love my job, there is a lot to it, especially for 1 full time position; but with this job what I do helps the town I live in, my neighbors and my family. That being said, it holds a special place in my heart. I am not sure how much longer I will be Salem City Clerk, I'd like to say I will be here until I retire; but I have learned all too well to take one day at a time. I lost my oldest daughter Sadie last November, unexpectedly. After that I do not look too far into the future, I just get up every day, put one foot in front of the other and see where the day and the Good Lord take me.

Perry Newcomb

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, **Business Name) and** what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am proudly serving the citizens of Crittenden County as County Judge Executive, an honor I have experienced for the past 15 years. My days generally start early and finish late and



are rarely the same. The primary focus of my work is to ensure the county government operates as fiscally responsible and as efficiently as possible. Although county government is managed by locally elected officials, many of our duties are subject to State guidance and directives. Therefore, as locally elected officials we must have a clear understanding of State laws as they apply to the operations of local government to ensure we remain within the parameters set forth.

2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

After graduating from Murray State University with a degree in Agricultural Business and Business Administration, my first job was with a regional farm, home, and industrial retail business where I was able to begin my real education. The four years spent in this environment prepared me well with respect to working with the public and doing all I could to help solve problems. The next four years I spent serving in the United States Air Force as a satellite operations specialist at Global Weather Central located on Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha Nebraska. My time serving in our country was one of the highlights of my career path. I was able to learn how to better manage personnel and work in a team atmosphere focused on ensuring critical timelines were met and accurate information was available across the globe in support of Air Force operations. Following my service with the Air Force, I came back to the retail management field working for another regional company in the field of agronomy and transportation for three years. I then was fortunate to purchase an existing agricultural retail business and carry that on for the next 16 years, after which I was asked to consider a candidacy for Crittenden County Judge Executive. Through all my work, I have been able to focus on service to others, and I am privileged to be able to continue

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located?

Not applicable.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

With my job as the chief elected official of Crittenden County, there are few times when I am not working. The work is constant throughout the 365 days of the year and 24 hours a day, much like my work for the Air Force. We are always on call and ready to respond as needed when needed; or at least that has been my philosophy as Judge Executive.

When I do get a bit of time to participate in a non-work-related activity I enjoy golfing, working in my yard, and most importantly spending some quality time with my wife and daughter.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

The best advice was to put in 110% effort, don't worry about trying to know everything because that is impossible - the most important thing is to know where to find answers to questions and problems, and to know managing employees is the most difficult part of any supervisory job.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

Ensure business is your passion and one of which you will enjoy. If we aren't doing what we enjoy it will more than likely not work out

Ronda Smith

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Tell us about your work. Mayor City of Corydon, Ky. The mayor's job consists of overseeing the day-to-day operations of the city, administering the budget, preside at council meetings, and so much more.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

What was your first job? The Dairy Bar at 15 years old. It taught me how to work with the public and gave me a sense of independence. There have been many influences in my life, who helped shape my work ethic, parents, grandparents, and

co-workers. One of my early lessons in hard work came from my dad.

It was during the blizzard of 1977-1978. We were snowed in for weeks. My dad walked 3 miles down a tunneled path every day to hitch a ride to work and then 3 miles back home. That instilled the importance of hard work and providing for your family.

#3. Where is your business located? We are in Corydon, Ky., which is in Henderson County. The

City of Corydon was incorporated in 1867. Corydon is the birthplace of A.B. Chandler. He served as Governor of Kentucky and was the commissioner of baseball.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

What do you enjoy doing when you're not working. Genealogy research, gardening,

reading, and spending time with the grand kids.

What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

What's the best advice about business that someone has ever given you? To treat everyone the same, regardless of their role.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give others? Don't ask anyone to do anything you wouldn't do.



Russ Guffey

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I wear many work hats, ranging from business owner to elected official to entrepreneur.

For 17 years, I have been a Little Caesars Pizza franchisee, with locations in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and Clarksville, Tennessee (and formerly in



Madisonville, Kentucky). For the past three years, I have also served as the Magistrate for District 7 on the Christian County Fiscal Court. And just this year, my wife and I (along with another couple) opened up The Wellness Collective, an all-natural health and wellness business in Hopkinsville.

Collectively, this can create quite a full calendar... But it especially creates so many different ways to serve.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits.

Mention personal interests or community activities that have influenced your profession.

After graduating from Centre College, some of my first jobs were teaching/coaching and construction. I later worked in banking, insurance, and community development. The knowledge and experience gained from these professions were invaluable to my growth as an employee, employer, and public servant.

I was fortunate to have wonderful parents that taught me firsthand the ethics and habits necessary to contribute and succeed in society... While also helping others to do the same. My father, Danny, was a model of work ethic and providing for his family. As a good balance, he also instilled in me the importance of levity. My mother, Anna Caryl, epitomized what it meant to serve others, create networks, and love unconditionally.

I strive to draw from my blue and white collar experiences and my parent's example; and in turn, share the same with my wife, kids, and community.

#3. Where is your business located? Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located? (i.e. did you build, remodel an existing place, is there a unique history of your business?)

We purchased our first Little Caesars location in Hopkinsville from an existing franchisee. It was opened in 1989 on our city's main thoroughfare, and in 2017 we relocated across the street with a complete remodel. In 2011, we built our second location in Clarksville. Then, in 2025, we opened The Wellness Collective in the heart of our historic downtown Hopkinsville.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions to help recharge)

When I'm not at work, I love to cook and occasionally play golf. More than anything, though, my wife, Mandy, and I enjoy watching/supporting our kids and their activities.

Our oldest daughter is 21, and in addition to studying at Asbury, she is heavily involved with our church. She has also started three business ventures of her own. Our middle daughter is 18, and attends the University of Kentucky, where we try to visit and attend football and basketball games. Our youngest daughter is 12, and keeps us busy with her school and club volleyball schedule. We are also blessed with a five year-old son... who keeps everyone on their toes!

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? (And who was it?)

My grandfather always said, "Any job worth doing, is worth doing right the first time." As a member of "The Greatest Generation" and war veteran, his words always resonated with me. And the older I get, the more they continue to do so.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

"You can't control what other people say. You can only control whether it is true or not."



Rita Dotson

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). I am the Mayor of the City of Benton. I meet with citizens to try to help them with any issues they may have. I also meet with department supervisors throughout the day and staff to brainstorm and resolve issues. I plan for the future,



inventory our equipment and replace it as needed. I drive the city streets and work with our maintenance supervisor to mill and pave the ones that need it the most every year. I look for grants for different projects, upgrade our park system, upgrade water and sewer lines and work with our gas department for expansion of our system. I have been involved with the Kentucky League of Cities and served as their president this past year. I traveled throughout the Commonwealth visiting other cities, talking with their mayors, administrators and staff. It was so interesting to see how other cities operated, their park systems and all their unique assets from each end of the state. I also served as chair person for the past 2 years for our ADD and served on the board of our state ADD. I'm a member of multiple boards and committees. I have worked with our Judge Executive to resurrect our Senior Citizens Center as we have sought a CDBG grant to upgrade their building and get them back in it. They currently meet at our Community Building for bingo every week. We are also working to build a park that will be dedicated to our first responders. They are the real backbone of our community.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today? My first job was a car hop at a K&N Root beer stand at the age of 13. I worked for several years at our hospital in Paris, Tn as a nursing assistant through out high school. It was hard work but it taught me job skills and work dedication.

My mother was one of my mentors. She worked hard every day and I watched and learned.

My husband Doug was also my mentor. He was involved in City Government and the Kentucky Motor Vehicle Commission and made a real difference with both. He also worked very hard as a car dealer to provide for our family

Mike Miller, Marshall County Judge Executive was also a mentor politically. The advances he made for our county was remarkable and I knew when I wanted to run for Mayor that if I was elected I wanted to run the city similar to the way he ran our county.

#3. Where is your business located?

This question is answered with #1.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

I love to golf with my husband, grandkids and our kids. I also love to go on golf trips with our friends. We swim in the summer and hang around the pool. We love to cook as well as restaurant hop. I love to read and catch a few good tv shows. I'm also always up for travel.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

My husband probably gave me the best business advice: work hard, make sure everything is done and work within your budget. Treat your employees well and you get what you pay for. In other words, if you want good employees, treat them well and pay them well.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

The same advice that was given to me in #5.



Pete Conrad

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

I am a Compliance Specialist with Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA). KRWA is an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association, along with all 50 states and Puerto Rico. I was brought on to work with



water systems in the state of Kentucky to help them complete their Service Line Inventory (every water system in the nation had to complete these). With my background running a water system for 10 years, my job varies day to day. KRWA. has folks here who work as advisors to water and wastewater systems across the Commonwealth. I have the honor of being part of that team. I get to help systems with regulator paperwork one day. Next, I might be helping write policies and ordinances, or working with systems to find and/or fix water leaks.

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

Names of any mentors or early influences or work habits: Mention personal interests or community activities that's influenced your profession. I had a few jobs as a kid, from maintenance work to mowing lawns. My first real "adult type" job was when I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as a Light Armored Vehicle Crewman (0313). I had quite a few mentors there, Cpl. Bennie Wagers probably had the greatest influence on me. The Marine Corps instills a lot of great habits in a person, but Bennie really helped me focus those habits to make me a better Marine. He always made me strive to be the best in everything I did and, in turn, built a reputation and set of personal standards for how "I" make sure things are done. I have a standard of how work is done right. Also, taking responsibility for mistakes, along with never being anything but totally honest at all times. Anyone can fix mistakes, but lies get you nowhere, and they just make a mess of everything. As a licensed water operator in the state of KY. I have been entrusted with a certain amount of trust that I will follow the rules and regulations to ensure customers receive the best quality drinking water possible. I, and all the drinking water professionals I know, take that charge very seriously, and that started for me in the Marine Corps.

#3. Where is your business located?

Anything special about how you acquired the real estate where your business is located?

The KRWA Office is located about a mile away from the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green. I drive past it every time I go to the office. My "official daily office" is here on my farm in Henderson, KY. However, I work lots of days from City Halls, Water District Offices, or out in the field out of my pickup truck; it's all dependent on the needs of the water system I am currently working with.

One thing that KRWA has done over the years is hire individuals around the state, so I have counterparts that are fairly close to systems wherever they are across the state. When there is a disaster or a need for help, there is typically a Rural Water Staff member close by who can usually stop in in a few hours to lend help and see about pulling in resources to get through an event.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working? (hobbies or passions that help you recharge)

I love what I do, so sometimes it is just to work (2 years ago, I stayed on a job getting the water back on on my birthday- no one knew-because I was having fun and the work needed to get done). When I get the time, I collect and build Lego sets. I absolutely love them, and I have hundreds of sets. I have also been working on the farm, planting trees and pollinator-friendly plants for the wildlife and my bees, as I'm also a beekeeper.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

This isn't per se advice about business, but in the end, it really does affect business. When I was a kid, my dad told me you only have one name, it takes years to make it, and minutes to destroy it. At the end of the day, all you have is your name; don't mess it up.

I interned for the City of Paducah (with the city manager James Zumwalt during the ice storm of 2009) and, after that, moved to Owensboro to work at the Green River Area Development District. At the time, I basically didn't know a soul in Kentucky. I have worked hard over the years to learn and grow as a person and professional, and through that work, I now get to work with individuals around the state, and as far as I know, my name is still in good shape and it helps me help the water systems I am working with

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

I was in a class years ago for utility managers, and a basic skill you are taught as a child was covered. For some reason, it truly resonated, stuck with me, and shaped how I did things as a manager. Quite simply, treat everyone decently/ with respect, as you never know where they will be next.

I push that a bit further and remind folks to treat everyone like they are talking to their own family. That difficult customer or person is someone's family member. Would you want someone to be rude to your family members? That person you just treated either rudely or with respect, you may have to work with their son/mother/daughter/father next week, and how do you think that interaction will go? Treat everyone you meet decently, and in the long run, it will work out.

Russell Mills

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Auctioneer/Broker/Co-Owner along with my wife Sandy Mills of Mills Real Estate & Auction Co LLC

I oversee the day to day operations of our auction division and mange

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

I began working at Smith Grove Horse Sale & Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction in Smiths Grove Ky as a teenager in high school. That inspired me to become an auctioneer. In 1995 I attended Missouri Auction School and got my Auctioneer license followed by getting my real estate license in 1997. I worked for Bud Greenup Real Estate & Auction Co for 9 years before opening up Mills Real Estate & Auction Co in 2004. I also worked as an auctioneer at dealer auto auctions for over 25 years across KY,TN,&IN I'm thankful for Glen Stanley who gave me that first job at the stockyard,Mike Hatcher who let me auctioneer for the first time,Tim Haley for allowing me to start out as an apprentice,and Bud Greenup for teaching me the auction business.

#3. Where is your business located?

Are main office is located in Scottsville Ky where we have been since 2004. We recently expanded to three other locations located in Bowling Green, Glasgow & Gamaliel Ky. We are licensed in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama & Indiana.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When not working at auctions I enjoy spending time and my wife,family and playing with our 3 grandchildren. I also Pastor Freedom Hill Church in Scottsville Ky.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

My Dad, James Mills gave me the best advice for business and life. Treat all people the same and fair, the way you want to be treated. All we have is our good name and reputation. It's easy to lose it and hard to get it back.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

My best advice for someone in the business world is work hard,treat people right and most importantly live for The Lord. Don't get discouraged , keep doing pushing forward and dont be afraid to try something different than everyone else is doing. Also pay attention to your business. Don't be concerned about your competition. Your only competition should be yourself to do your best.

Steve & Lori Bunch

STEVE:

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).
Bunch Brothers Auctioneers & Realty, Inc.

President, Licensed Auctioneer in several states

Sign Up & List Auctions, Get Auctions ready, Auctioneer at the auctions. Handle settlement after the auction.

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

It seems like I have always worked, I farmed when I was young, I worked in the tobacco fields, raised cattle, hauled hay etc. When I got out of high school, I went to work for Ferry Morse and did a lot of traveling and learned to pinch my pennies so I could support the family.

#3. Where is your business located?

Our office is in Wingo KY. Our Auction barn is the old Feed mill next door to our office.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When not working (not very often) I love spending time with my 10 year old grandson and 7 year old granddaughter. I enjoy spending time on my farm, and just relaxing.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

Be honest, be humble, work hard, treat people the way you expect to be treated. I worked for James R Cash when I became an Auctioneer and learned a lot from him and his wife Cindy. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity he gave me.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

When you work with family as closely as we do, Steven, myself, and our son Joe, it can sometimes be a little difficult. Be Honest, humble & work hard!! Owning your own Business is pretty much a 24-7 job. But remember to take time for your family, friends, & have a little fun!!

IORI

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Lori: 1. Bunch Brothers Auctioneers & Realty, Inc.

Secretary/Office Manager, Licensed Auctioneer

Write Up & List Auctions, Get Auctions ready, handle advertising, Accounting, Cashier at Auctions & More!

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach



your job today?

First National Bank of Mayfield, bookkeeping. My aunt Marilyn Boyd was the Vice President and was a wonderful teacher. My sister & I grew up on a farm with Cattle & Horses. Since there were only us girls, we were taught to work from a young age no matter the job. My dad taught me how to work, build, shoot & ride. All of my family were hard workers. I learned from the

#3. Where is your business located?

Our office is in Wingo KY. I ran a printing company for a few years in a building that was an old gas station. We remodeled it and made it our office.

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When not working (not very often) I love spending time with my 10 year old grandson and 7 year old granddaughter. I love watching them play soccer, softball, basketball, etc. I enjoy playing golf, but never seem to have time. I have always coached or helped coach little league baseball, softball, asketball etc.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you?

Be honest, be humble, work hard, treat people the way you expect to be treated. Steven has Probably taught me the most about working hard and the benefits of it. I don't think I know Anyone who has worked harder than he has all his life.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

When you work with family as closely as we do, Steven, myself, and our son Joe, it can sometimes be a little difficult. Be Honest, humble & work hard!! Owning your own business is pretty much a 24-7 job. But remember to take time for your family, friends, & have a little fun!!

Sebastin Hank

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish).

Sebastian Hawk. Owner of Smithland Tire since July 28 1991. we do batteries, tires, oil changes, brakes, minor mechanic work, service calls, alignments shocks struts lift kits, leveling kits, tractor tires and tractor tire repairs out in the field, anything suspension,

#2. What was your first jobs, and how did those experiences that helped shape the way you approach your job today?

Worked at dry docks boat and barge repair, my Father in Law at the time was Dale Buford and he and I went into business together until I bought him out after a few months. I have a sense of commitment to my community and my customers are my friends.

#3. Where is your business located? Located right in Smithland, KY, I bought a very small cinder block building and ran my business which was primarily tires and tire repair for several years, then I was able to purchase the lot beside my shop which at the time was a huge hole in the ground, after years of having fill donated I was able to get turn the hole into a usable lot, then I was able to purchase a little strip of property that ran parallel to hwy 60, then after 3 years of trying to get a bank to loan me the money I had a new shop built by Jimmy Smith and his crew. we've been in the new building now for about 7 years



Sharee Schoonover

#1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work (from start to finish). Agent for 4-H Youth Development, Livingston County Cooperative Extension

#2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences help shape the way you approach your job today?

For the past five years, I have served as a 4-H Youth Development Agent, providing a wide range of in-school and out-of-school educational opportunities for young people in my community. I lead Classroom Club meetings for 3rd-6th grade students during the school day, offering handson leadership and STEM learning. Beyond the classroom, I coordinate numerous special-interest clubs—including Sewing, Crafts, Gaming, Cooking, Homeschool, Cloverbuds (ages 5-8), Community Service, Shooting Sports, and Outdoor Exploration—giving youth meaningful ways to explore interests and build life skills.

I also support leadership development for 6th–12th graders through programs like Teen Leadership Academy, a multi-county partnership that exposes students to workforce opportunities and local industries, and Area Teen Council, which brings together teens from 11 counties across our region. Many of our youth also participate in statewide leadership experiences such as Teen Summit and Teen Conference.

Throughout the year, I help organize and support a variety of contests and competitive events, including the Communications Contest, Trash Sculpture Contest, and Shooting Sports competitions, many of which advance to area and state levels. I also oversee and train volunteers who make 4-H programming possible.

One of the biggest highlights of the year is 4-H Camp, where I help coordinate and lead an immersive, week-long summer experience for youth. Altogether, my role focuses on empowering young people, expanding access to hands-on learning, and building strong youth-adult partnerships within the community.

My first job was lifeguarding, and the most impactful place I worked in that role was as a 4-H Camp staff member in 2016, where I taught canoeing. That experience was truly the spark that pushed me toward the career I serve in today. Teaching youth at camp showed me how powerful hands-on learning can be—how a unique experience can build confidence, leadership, and responsibility. It reinforced my passion for creating safe, meaningful opportunities where young people can explore, try new things, and discover their strengths. The patience, communication, and quick decision-making I learned as a lifeguard still show up in my daily work with youth and valuateers.

A major mentor and influence in my journey has been Wanda Paris, a

Livingston County native who served as the 4-H Youth Development Agent in Lyon County. I deeply admire the way she showed up for her students—not only while they were in school, but as they grew into young adults. Her compassion, consistency, and commitment set a standard for the type of agent I strive to be.

I was also a very active 4-H member in Lyon County from 3rd to

member in Lyon County from 3rd to

12th grade, and I continued volunteering at 4-H Camp and events like the
Area Communications Contest throughout the years between graduation
and stepping into my current position. The skills, support, and experiences
I gained in 4-H as a youth made a tremendous impact on me. They shaped
my work habits, my leadership style, and ultimately my desire to give back
to the program in the same way it poured into me. My personal connection
to 4-H—through camp, leadership roles, competitions, and community
involvement—continues to influence the way I approach my job. I carry with
me a deep appreciation for positive youth development, a belief in hands-on
learning, and a commitment to offering the same life-changing opportunities
that shaped my own childhood and career path.

#3. Where is your business located?

Our Office is located at 803 US 60 East in Smithland, Kentucky. It positions me in the middle of our schools and allows me the opportunity to adequately serve them

#4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

In my free time, I enjoy hiking in LBL with my husband, visiting national parks, thrifting, creating handmade gifts for close family and friends, and spending time with my family.

#5. What's the best advice about business that someone ever gave you? The best advice I received about business and my career overall also came

from Wanda Paris. If you consistently show up and let your heart lead your work, you will not only make an impact on the people you work with, but they will make an impact on you.

#6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

I would have to echo that as my piece of advice, too. Show up, give back, and care about what you're doing. People can tell when you're being genuine; the rest will work itself out.

Dr. Ryan Beck

Dr. Ryan T. Beck:

A Leader in Sports Medicine With Local Roots

Dr. Ryan T. Beck, a Marshall County native, has built a respected career in sports medicine and orthopedic surgery by combining advanced training with a strong



commitment to patient care. His path began at the University of Kentucky and continued at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree in 2010.

Following medical school, Dr. Beck completed elite fellowship training at Brigham & Women's Hospital through Harvard Medical School—an experience that sharpened his skills in treating complex orthopedic and athletic injuries. Today, he specializes in everything from shoulder injuries to total knee replacements, using the latest surgical techniques and evidence-based treatments.

Dr. Beck's approach is defined by precision, innovation, and compassion. He works closely with athletes of all levels, from local high school programs to professional organizations, helping them return to peak performance as safely and quickly as possible. His dedication to the community and to the advancement of sports medicine has made him a trusted resource for active individuals across the region.

Whether treating a young athlete or an adult seeking to stay active, Dr. Beck brings world-class training and a hometown commitment to every patient he serves.

Stan Humphries

Stan **Humphries:**

Trigg County Leader

Stan Humphries, a farmer, educator, and longtime public servant from Cadiz, Kentucky, currently serves as Trigg County



2023. Born on August 2, 1969, Humphries earned a bachelor's degree in education from Murray State University and remains active in teaching, coaching, and operating his family's farm. He became the first Republican in decades to hold the Judge-Executive

office and oversaw key local initiatives, including the 2009 vote to allow alcohol sales, boosting county revenue. After serving in the Kentucky Senate from 2013-2021, where he championed county funding, infrastructure, and rural development, Humphries returned as Judge-Executive in 2023. His current focus includes economic development, broadband expansion, and infrastructure improvements. In 2024, he was named chair of the Cadiz-Trigg County Economic Development Commission to further support business growth in the region.

Sidebar: Key Milestones

- 1969 Born in Cadiz, KY
- 1990s Graduates Murray State University; teaches, coaches, and
- 2006 Elected Trigg County Judge-Executive (first Republican in decades)
 - 2009 Oversees vote to allow alcohol sales
 - 2012 Elected to Kentucky Senate (1st District)
- 2013-2021 Serves two Senate terms; focuses on county funding and infrastructure
 - 2021 Announces run for Judge-Executive
 - 2023 Begins current term as Judge-Executive
- 2024 Named chair of Cadiz-Trigg County Economic Development Commission
 - 2025 Announces re-election bid for 2026



Sonia G. Osman

1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business Name) and what you do at work from start to finish.

My name is Sonia G. Osman, SHRM-CP and I am the Owner and Principal HR Consultant at SG Consulting and SR HR Business Partner at Bristol Industries, LLC. My work centers on helping



organizations build strong, legally compliant, and people-focused HR systems. A typical project begins with a discovery meeting where I assess a client's needs—everything from organizational structure and compliance gaps to culture challenges or leadership development. From there, I design customized HR strategies, develop policies, implement performance management tools, and facilitate training for managers and staff. Throughout the process, I coach leaders, ensure regulatory compliance, and provide ongoing HR support so businesses can grow with confidence and clarity.

2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences shape your approach today? Mentors, early influences, work habits, and personal/community interests.

My very first job was working as a car hop, and while it may seem simple. it taught me foundational lessons that I still rely on today customer service, accountability, clear communication, and the importance of staying calm and positive under pressure. Those early experiences sparked my interest in how people work, interact, and succeed in their roles, which ultimately led me into the field of human resources. Over time, with mentors who encouraged my growth and modeled professionalism, I pursued training and became a certified HR professional. Additionally, my involvement in community organizations, women's leadership groups, and local professional networks helped shape my belief that meaningful work is built on respect, empathy, and strong relationships—values that guide my HR practice every day.

3. Where is your business located? Anything special about the real estate or history?

My business is based in Paducah, KY, housed in a home office space. I intentionally chose this location because I wanted my office to feel accessible and rooted in the community I serve. My space was redesigned to be warm, modern, and people-focused—reflecting the way I strive to approach HR consulting: clear, comfortable, and built to support growth.

4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

When I'm not working, I recharge by enjoying traveling, training for 1/2 marathons with my husband, smashing weights in the gym, and spending quality time with family and friends. I also love participating in women's leadership groups and community events, which continually inspire me both personally and professionally.

5. What's the best business advice someone ever gave you, and who was it from?

The best business advice I ever received was from a mentor Lyle Hanna from Hanna Resource Management: "People may forget your words, but they will remember how you made them feel-lead with that in mind." That reminder keeps me focused on empathy, clarity, and professionalism in every interaction.

6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

The best advice I can offer is this: Build your business around values, not trends and meet people where they are. When you operate from integrity, communicate clearly, and genuinely invest in people, you create an organization that attracts talent, earns trust, and stands the test of time.

Me Congratule All Our MAY Winners

Sonny Evans

I must begin by saying that I am not very good at or comfortable talking about myself. I look at what we do at Livingston Co. EMS as a team effort. I am extremely proud of the service we provide and none of it would be possible without the contributions and sacrifices that everyone here makes.



1. Tell us about your work (Job Title, Business

Name) and what you do at work from start to finish.

I am the Director of Livingston County EMS, and I do work on an ambulance as a Paramedic regularly when needed. The most basic duties of the Director are administrative and include overseeina all staff, operations, performance and training, logistics, finances, quality assurance and improvement, compliance, public relations, as well as working interdepartmentally with other emergency services both in and out of county which helps ensure continued positive relationships and quality collaborative care. Although, none of this is possible without the contributions of all team members here. Ultimately, the team at Livingston County EMS and I work together to ensure the highest quality care for the people of Livingston County and doing so in the most efficient manner possible. I genuinely care about the citizens of Livingston County, and to simplify the above, in my position I manage this ambulance service using both head and heart to make sure we are here to help both patients and their families through some of their toughest days.

2. What were your first jobs, and how did those experiences shape your approach today?

EMS is the only job I have had as an adult. Prior to my career in EMS, I was a volunteer firefighter, sometimes working along side of EMS crews in certain situations. This did get me interested in the field. During a discussion with Andy Oliver, the fire chief at the time, he encouraged me to become an EMT-B, even if I wasn't planning on a career in it. I thought this would be a good idea to further my knowledge within emergency services and help the fire department with medical assists. I then got bit by the EMS bug and fell in love with the field, which led me to this fulfilling career.

I do have to thank Andy Oliver, a previous chief of Smithland Fire Department, for seeing a spark in me that I did not and helping to guide me to a career I love when I likely would not have otherwise found it. He was an exceptional example of leadership early in my career and I cannot express how grateful I am to him for everything he has done for me.

I also must thank David Koon, an EMT-B who has now retired from Livingston County EMS. David took me under his wing as my career in EMS was just beginning and later, we were partners at work for the last eight years before he retired. Not only a remarkable EMT-B, but David also truly cares about his community. He has shown unbelievable dedication to this county and has sacrificed far more than most would for the citizens of it. Although not related, David has become a part of my family, and I am honored to have worked beside him and to have him as a friend.

I am eternally grateful to my father, Hershel Evans, and my mother Marletta Evans, for raising me within a family of love. I believe they are the reasons I enjoy this career as much as I do. My father loved people and never met a stranger. He also was a leader of many things throughout his life, the most difficult being a family, and he shined at this, always knowing how to handle any situation with words of wisdom and love. My mother has always been the most caring person I know. She has shown this unfailingly throughout her life, not only to her family, but to anyone she has met. Her kindness, selflessness, and love are something that I will always admire and appreciate, and I hope to be able to show the same to those around me.

3. Where is your business located? Anything special about the real estate or history?

Livingston County EMS operates two stations. The main station is at 1227 luka Rd, Smithland, KY. The second station is at 1441 US 60 East, Burna, KY.

4. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

If I am completely honest, I don't have much time away from work for hobbies, and it's not exactly the job you can't take home with you. Because of that, being with my family is my hobby and how I recharge. They are my world.

5. What's the best business advice someone ever gave you, and who was it from?

I tend to look at EMS as more of a service than a business. However, you must still have a business mind and operate as fiscally responsibly and efficiently as possible to provide a service. I think the best advice I have been given was not spoken but it has been shown through the actions of many people I have worked with or been around over the years, including those discussed above. Seeing someone be a living example sticks with me more than words, and I am thankful for all of those that have been that example for me.

6. What is the best piece of business advice you would give to others?

The best "business" advice I would give to others:

If you lead with only your heart, you will fail. If you lead with only your head, you will fail others. Use both and everyone will succeed together.

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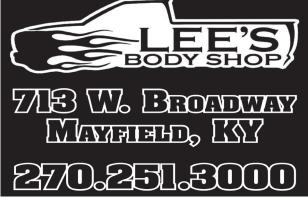


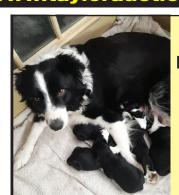
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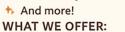




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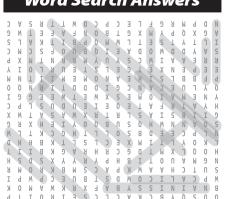
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University of Kentucky finds Antarctica's toughest insect is already eating microplastics

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— A global research team led by researchers from the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has found that Antarctica's only native insect is already ingesting microplastics, even in one of the planet's most remote regions.

The study, published in the journal Science of the Total Environment, is the first to examine how microplastics affect an Antarctic insect and to document plastic pieces inside wildcaught midges.

Jack Devlin, who led the work back in 2020 as part of his Ph.D. before moving to Scotland to work as a marine ornithologist, said the project started after a documentary on plastic pollution left him stunned.

"Watching that film just blew my mind," Devlin said. "I started reading about plastic's effects on insects and thought, 'If plastic is turning up everywhere else, what about rare places like Antarctica?'"

A tough little midge in a changing environment

Belgica antarctica is a non-biting midge (a small fly) about the length of a grain of rice. It is the southernmost insect on Earth and the only one found exclusively in Antarctica. Its larvae live in moist patches of moss and algae along the Antarctic Peninsula

and can reach densities of nearly 40,000 per square meter, helping break down dead plant material and recycle nutrients through the soil.

"They're what we call polyextremophiles,"
Devlin said. "They
cope with intense
cold, drying out,
high salt, big swings
in temperature and
UV radiation. So, the
big question was:
Does that toughness
protect them from

a new stress like microplastics or does it make them vulnerable to something they've never seen before?"

see **INSECT**, from page B17



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Jack Devlin working on microplastics effects in 2022 as part of his Ph.D.

Photo by Jordan Strickler.

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One UK alum visited one of the harshest places on Earth for his work on microplastics' effect on Antarctica's toughest insects.

INSECT, from page B17

Although Antarctica is often seen as a pristine wilderness, earlier studies have detected plastic fragments in fresh snow and surrounding seawater. Concentrations are lower than in most regions, but ocean currents, long-distance wind transport and

human activity from research bases and ships still carry plastics into the continent.

Putting microplastics to the test

The research team put the midges through a battery of tests, and the results were unexpected, Devlin said.

"Even at the highest plastic

concentrations, survival didn't drop," Devlin said. "Their basic metabolism didn't change either. On the surface, they seemed to be doing fine."

A closer look revealed a subtle cost. Larvae exposed to higher microplastic levels had lower fat reserves, while carbohydrate and protein levels remained about the same.

Devlin believes slower feeding at low temperatures and the complex natural soil the insects live in may limit the plastic they consume. Because of the logistical challenges of working in Antarctica, the exposure period lasted only 10 days. Longer-term experiments are needed to further understand the potential impacts of microplastic exposure, he said.

Hunting for plastic inside wild Antarctic insects

The project's second phase focused on a more basic question: Are wild Belgica larvae in Antarctica already ingesting microplastics?

During a 2023 research cruise along the western Antarctic Peninsula, the team collected larvae from 20 sites on 13 islands, and preserved them to prevent further feeding.

To search for plastics inside the larvae, Devlin collaborated with Italian microplastics expert Elisa Bergami at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and imaging expert Giovanni Birarda at Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste. The team dissected the five-millimeter larvae and analyzed their gut contents using imaging systems capable of identifying chemical "fingerprints" of particles as small as four micrometers — far below the threshold of human vision. After examining 40 larvae from across the region they found only two microplastic fragments.

Finding just two

see INSECT, from page B19





INSECT, from page B18

pieces may seem minor, but Devin views it as an early warning.

"Antarctica still has much lower plastic levels than most of the planet, and that's good news," Devlin said. "Our study suggests that, right now, microplastics are not flooding these soil communities. But we can now say they are getting into the system, and at high enough levels they start to change the insect's energy balance."

Because the midge has no known landbased predators, any plastic it ingests likely does not travel far up the food chain. The concern, Devlin said, is what may happen if long-lived larvae continue ingesting microplastics throughout their twoyear development, especially as warming and drying add additional stress.

A global problem reaching the ends of the Earth

For Devlin, the findings show how far human pollution has spread.

"This started because I watched a documentary and thought, 'Surely Antarctica is one of the last places not dealing with this," Devlin said. "Then you go there, you work with this incredible little insect that lives where there are no trees, barely any plants,

and vou still find plastic in its gut. That really brings home how widespread the problem is."

Devlin said future work will track changes in microplastic levels in Antarctic soils and test longer, multistress experiments on Belgica antarctica and other soil organisms.

"Antarctica gives us a simpler ecosystem to ask very focused questions," Devlin said. "If we pay attention now, we might learn lessons that apply far beyond the polar regions."

This work was supported by the Antarctic Science International Bursary, the U.S. National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

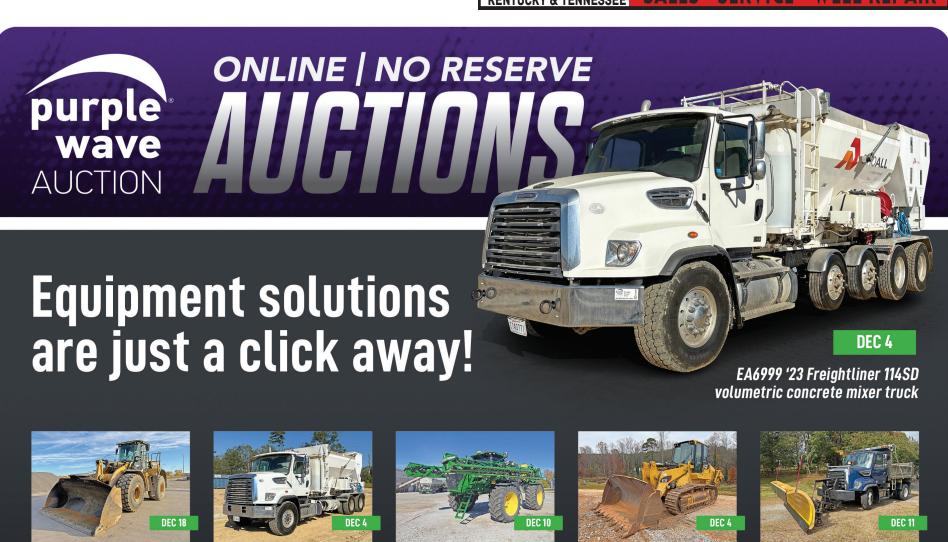
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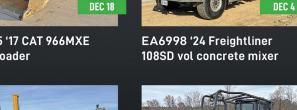
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