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Man charged with murder; accused of setting home on fire with woman inside

By: WSIL

A Kirksey, Kentucky man is facing felony charges following a multi-agency investigation into a fire in May.

According to the Calloway County Sheriff's Office, 63-year-old Jody M. Smith was arrested on Wednesday, June 17 for an arrest warrant charging him with murder and first-degree arson.

The sheriff's office said

this comes after a fire at a home on Saddlebrook Lane on May 19. The home was fully engulfed, and first responders found a woman, named Lisa Bebbler, who died inside.

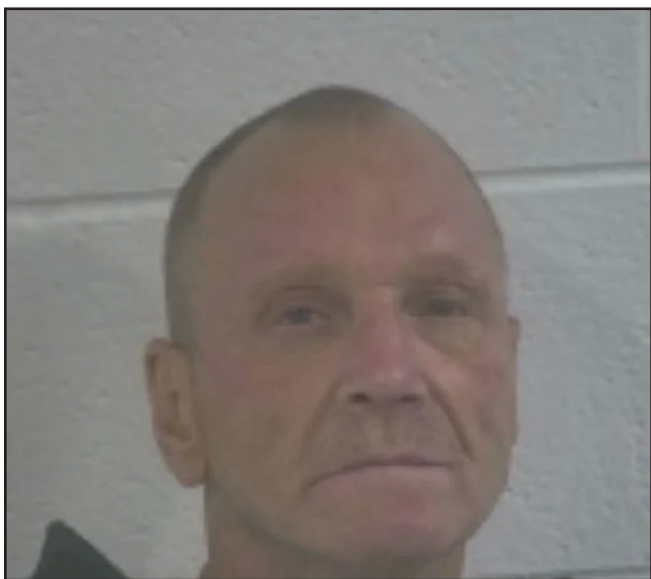
After further investigation, detectives found probable cause to believe Smith intentionally set the fire.

He is currently being held at the Calloway County Detention Center.

The investigation remains ongoing.

The Calloway County Sheriff's Office said the Calloway County Fire Rescue, the Calloway County Coroner's Office, the Kentucky State Police and the Marshall County Sheriff's Office assisted with this investigation.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the sheriff's office at (270) 753-3151 or ccso.office@callkyso.com.



First Annual Shop With A Cop Fundraiser Raises \$3,800

By: Laurna Todd; KPI Writer

HICKMAN, Ky. — The Hickman Police Department's first annual Shop With A Cop fundraiser was a tremendous success, raising \$3,800 to help make Christmas brighter for local children.

The department recently announced its appreciation to the many sponsors, donors, partici-

pants, businesses, organizations, and community members who supported the fundraiser. Funds raised through the event will go directly toward the department's Shop With A Cop program, which helps provide Christmas gifts and holiday experiences for children in the community.

The fundraiser

marked the beginning of what officials hope will become a lasting tradition in Hickman. Community support played a key role in the event's success, demonstrating the area's commitment to helping local families and children during the holiday season.

The Shop With A Cop program not only provides assis-

tance to children in need but also helps strengthen relationships between local law enforcement and the community. Thanks to the generosity of those who participated and donated, the program will be able to make a positive impact on local children this Christmas.

The Hickman Police Department



expressed its gratitude to everyone who helped make the inaugural fundraiser a success and

contributed to the effort to support area youth.

Help Available for Hickman County Residents Struggling With Water Bills

By: Laurna Todd; KPI Writer

HICKMAN COUNTY, Ky. — West Kentucky Allied Services, Inc. is reminding residents that financial assistance is available for eligible Kentucky American Water customers through the H2O Help to Others Program.

The program provides up to \$250 in water and wastewater bill assistance to qualifying households experiencing finan-

cial hardship. The assistance is offered through a partnership between Kentucky American Water and Community Action Council and is designed to help families maintain access to essential water services.

To qualify, households must have an income at or below 225% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, have paid at least \$25 toward their water bill within the last 180 days, and

have an outstanding balance of \$50 or more.

Applicants will need to provide proof of income for all adults in the household, identification for all household members, and a Kentucky American Water bill or disconnect notice.

Officials with West Kentucky Allied Services encourage anyone facing difficulty paying their water bill to reach out and determine whether they qualify

for assistance.

"Seeking help can be difficult, but no one has to face these challenges alone," the agency shared. "Programs like H2O Help to Others can provide relief and help ensure families continue to have access to safe, reliable water service."

Eligible customers may receive assistance once per calendar year while funding remains available.

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As Costs Soar, Ballard County Faces Tough Questions About Jail's Future

By **Laurna Todd**
KPI Writer

WICKLIFFE, Ky. — The Ballard County Fiscal Court will hold a public workshop on Monday, June 22, at noon to discuss the current operations and long-term future of the Ballard County Jail.

The workshop will take place in the Fiscal Court Room at 1718 Barlow Road in Wickliffe and is open to the public.

According to the agenda, Ballard County Jailer Eric Coppess will discuss the upcoming 2027 medical services contract and the 2027 food vendor contract.

The workshop will also focus on the jail's long-term financial sustainability, including potential revenue sources moving forward. A major topic of discussion will be the impact of House Bill 577 failing to pass during the Kentucky General Assembly and

what that could mean for future jail funding and operations.

Judge-Executive Todd Cooper said jail expenses continue to increase while state funding has failed to keep pace.

"The county jail costs continue to skyrocket," Cooper said. "The county medical services bid for 2027 doubled from 2024, and the state legislature decided not to fund any increases this past session."

Cooper said lawmakers considered increasing the state's reimbursement rate by \$4 per day for each state inmate housed in county jails, which would have provided Ballard County with approximately \$100,000 in additional annual revenue.

"The language was pulled out of the bill, and once again the county taxpayers were left footing the majority of jail costs," he said. "Since 2022, the



jail receives on average 30 to 40 percent of its total budget revenue from housing state inmates. The jail population is made up of more than 50 to 60 percent state inmates. We believe the state needs to increase reimbursement fees to counties to reflect the inmate population of state inmates."

A 10-year budget snapshot provided by the county illustrates the growing financial burden on local taxpayers. In fiscal year 2015-16, the county contributed \$321,500 from the General Fund to support jail operations. For fiscal year 2025-26,

that contribution is projected to reach \$619,700 — nearly double the amount from a decade ago. County jail expenses have also climbed significantly during that same period.

Cooper noted that increasing jail expenses affect the county's ability to invest in other priorities.

"The more General Fund dollars contributed to the jail, the less money the Court has to work on other projects in the community, especially projects to help sustain existing services and future growth of the community, from economic development

issues to housing and other quality-of-life projects," he said.

Fiscal Court members will also examine projected expenses should the county eventually face the possibility of jail closure.

According to Cooper, county officials have reviewed past operating costs, future jail expenses and estimated closure costs.

"At this time, the numbers are aligning," Cooper said. "Closure may take place in the future unless the state increases its assistance to local jails."

He added that closing the facility would create challenges for multiple agencies throughout the county.

"Closure would bring hardship on law enforcement operations and add more work to the court system," Cooper said. "The Sheriff's Office needs to have input on

what closure would do to daily operations."

The workshop will also include Ballard County Jailer-Elect James Campbell, who will soon assume leadership of the facility. Officials are expected to discuss not only the jail's current financial challenges but also long-term strategies for maintaining operations and serving the county's public safety needs.

County officials said the workshop is intended to provide information and explore options regarding the future of jail operations in Ballard County. Residents are encouraged to attend and learn more about the challenges and opportunities facing one of the county's largest public safety operations.

The public workshop will begin at noon on June 22 in the Fiscal Court Room at 1718 Barlow Road in Wickliffe.

69-year-old faces multiple charges after authorities investigate missing truck from August of 2025

KEVIL, Ky. (WSIL) -- A man faces theft and failure to comply with the sex offender registry charges after a reported missing truck investigation which started last year in McCracken County.

The McCracken County Sheriff's Office said they responded to a report of a theft from a home in Kevil in August of 2025. Authorities said a victim reported his

truck and \$14,000 in cash was missing.

After investigating the case and using modern technology, the sheriff's office said they ended up finding the reported stolen vehicle in the Memphis International Airport parking lot. After working with airport police, the sheriff's office said the suspect was identified as 69-year-old JD McNew.

McNew is also



JD McNew

registered on the Sex Offender Registry and police said he was in non-compliance with a warrant out for his arrest.

On May 23, 2026, McNew was taken into custody by the New Orleans Police Department.

McNew was then extradited back to McCracken County and faces the following charges:

Failure to Comply with Sex Offender Registry 2nd Offense

(Class C Felony)

Theft By Unlawful Taking Over \$10,000 (Class C Felony)

Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle 1st Offense (Class A Misdemeanor)

The sheriff's office said McNew's criminal charges that resulted in his sex offender registry are

from a 1986 conviction in Missouri for Kidnapping, Rape and Sodomy. McNew was sentenced to 6 years in that case.

Authorities also noted McNew was previously charged with failure to comply with sex offender registry in 2021 in McCracken County.

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Also located on the property is a double-wide manufactured home offering 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a spacious living room, sitting room, large eat-in kitchen, and utility room. This home is also in need of repairs and presents an excellent opportunity for renovation, rental income, or additional living space.

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Sisters Capture State Crowns

By **Laurna Todd**
KPI Writer

Sisters Haley Faith Allen and Melanie Dennis-Lyle are celebrating an extraordinary achievement after both earned state titles during the 2026 National American Miss Kentucky State Pageant, held June 5-7 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Nashville.

Haley Faith Allen was crowned 2026 National American Miss Kentucky Queen, earning the top title while competing against contestants from across the Commonwealth. The daughter of Chris Allen and Blair Lyle, Allen received an official

crown and banner, a cash scholarship, and the opportunity to represent Kentucky at the National American Miss National Pageant in Orlando, Florida.

In addition to winning the state crown, Allen captured several special awards, including Casual Wear Winner, First Runner-Up in Dream Model, First Runner-Up in Miss Personality, and Second Runner-Up in Photogenic.

Joining her in the winner's circle was sister Melanie Dennis-Lyle, who was crowned 2026 National American Miss Kentucky Jr. Teen Queen. Melanie is

the daughter of Mark Dennis and Shane and Blair Lyle.

Melanie earned numerous honors during the competition, including Casual Wear Winner, Best Resume Winner, Photogenic Winner, and Dream Model Winner. Her accomplishments also earned her a \$128,000 college scholarship to Midland University.

Both sisters will advance to the National American Miss National Pageant, scheduled for Thanksgiving week in Orlando, where they will represent Kentucky against state titleholders from across the nation.

National American Miss is one of the

country's largest pageant organizations, focusing on personal development, leadership, confidence, communication skills, and community involvement while providing scholarship opportunities for women and girls.

The sisters' success has brought pride to their family and the Ballard County community. As they prepare for the national competition, supporters from across western Kentucky will be cheering them on as they represent Kentucky on the national stage later this year.



Man wanted on 29 charges caught by deputies in Willisburg

By **TOM LATEK**
Kentucky Today

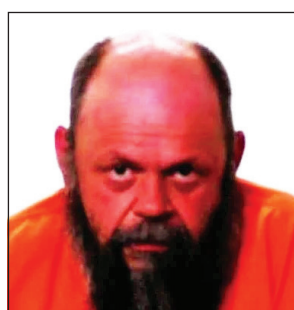
SPRINGFIELD, Ky. (KT) – A man who is facing numerous charges in Woodford County, was taken into custody by deputies with the Washington County Sheriff's Department on Tuesday.

According to the Sheriff's Department, while conducting routine patrol on Tablow Road in Willisburg,

Deputy Ian Justice observed and stopped a vehicle being operated by Roney McKinney, 49, of Versailles, Kentucky. During the investigation, Deputy Justice discovered McKinney was wanted on seven active warrants issued by Woodford County.

The warrants included a combination of indictment warrants and bench warrants involving

numerous felony offenses and probation violations. Collectively, the warrants contained twenty-nine total charges, including allegations of receiving stolen property, persistent felony offender offenses, burglary-related charges, criminal possession of forged instruments, fraudulent use of credit cards, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and probation



Roney McKinney

violations.

Deputy Justice, assisted by Deputy John Spaulding, took McKinney into custody without incident.

McKinney is currently lodged in custody at Marion County Detention Center and will be held to answer the charges in Woodford County.

"Our Washington County Sheriff Deputies cannot know who they may encounter during the course of a shift, but remaining vigilant and actively patrolling our communities helps identify individuals who are

wanted by the courts and keeps criminals from using Washington County as a place to avoid accountability," said Sheriff Jerrey Poulston said in a Facebook post. "We are committed to keeping our roads, neighborhoods, and communities safe for our citizens."

No word yet on when McKinney will be returned to Woodford County.

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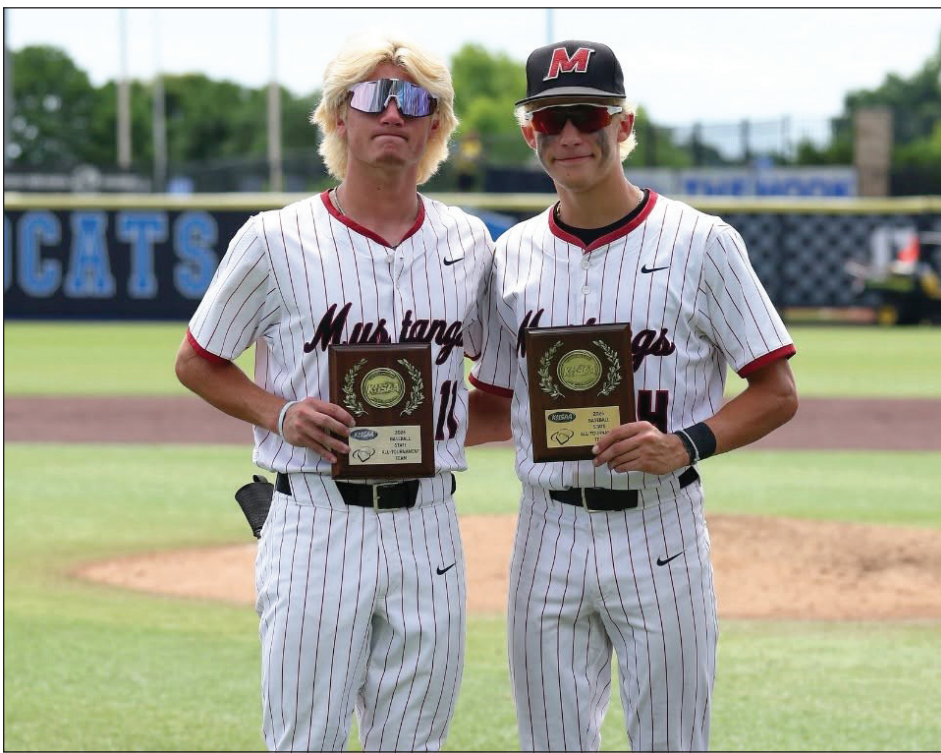
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WEST KY SPORTS



Mustangs fall to Boyd County in state tournament's semifinals



Caden Kern (left) and Lucas Gagnon (right) represented state semifinalist McCracken County on the Morgan & Morgan All-Tournament Team. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — McCracken County's postseason run ended in the semifinals of the KHSAA Baseball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare. Boyd County beat McCracken County 6-2 during the semifinals of the KHSAA Baseball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare at Kentucky Proud Park on Friday, June 12. Grant Slater started on the mound for Boyd County and earned the win. Slater pitched five innings and recorded six strikeouts. Following Slater,

Jake Dixon pitched the final two innings in relief for Boyd County and claimed the save. Dixon fanned one McCracken County batter. Joshua Penrod pitched one inning in relief for McCracken County and took the loss on the mound. Penrod struck out one Boyd County batter. William Fox started on the mound for McCracken County and pitched six innings. Fox recorded 12 strikeouts. Boyd County scored six runs on eight hits. Slater (two hits, two RBIs), Brody Biggs (two hits), Cole Adams

(one hit, one RBI), Josh Kelley (one hit, one RBI), Jace Manning (one hit, one RBI), Kaleb Kelley (one hit) and Cameron May (one RBI) each delivered offensively for the Lions. McCracken County plated two runs on seven hits. Fox (one hit), Caden Kern (three hits, one RBI), Lane Grace (one hit), Brady Thompson (one hit), Kendrick Dunning (one hit) and Briar Hall (one RBI) each contributed offensively for the Mustangs. McCracken County exited the 2026 high school baseball season with a 33-9 record.



McCracken County reached the semifinals of the KHSAA Baseball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School)

Class 3A All-State honors announced

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The Kentucky Softball Coaches Association has announced its All-State honors in Class 3A. The Class 3A honorees for the 2026 high school softball season follow. Class 3A Player of the Year: Layla Ogden (South Warren). Class 3A Coaching Staff of the Year: South Warren. Class 3A First Team All-State: McLaine Hudson (South Warren), Layla Ogden (South Warren), Hadley Borders (South Warren), Courtney Norwood (South Warren), Annie Newman (Davies

County), Lilliana Hill (George Rogers Clark), Kaitlyn Dixon (Highlands), Molly Hancock (Davies County), Kenzie Williams (South Laurel), Haley McGuire (Frederick Douglass), Kate Drury (Madison Central), Maleya Giddens (Assumption). Class 3A Second Team All-State: Jordyn Abner (George Rogers Clark), Payton Brown (Highlands), Sadie Kirk (Madisonville-North Hopkins), Aubrey Batts (Oldham County), Storey Hume (Davies County), Abigail Myszak (West Jessamine), Kamryn Timmons (Henderson County), Karsyn Rockvoan (Bryan Station),

Macie Murray (Greenwood), Natalie Alimento (East Jessamine), Josie Feebeck (Campbell County). Class 3A Honorable Mention All-State: Cali Huff (Greenwood), Hadley Swint (Scott County), Ayden Bennett (Henderson County), Saniya Shields (Henderson County), Kaelyn Ledford (Meade County), Averie Lightner (Conner), Alivia Cooper (Bullitt East), Shelby James (Ballard), Layla Zepf (Highlands), Lexi Messer (South Laurel), Callie Smith (Davies County), Hope Hamilton (Campbell County), Mollie Julian (Apollo), Jarynn Bowman (Frederick Douglass).

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Class 1A All-State honors announced

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The Kentucky Softball Coaches Association has announced its All-State honors in each of the state's three classes.

The Class 1A honorees for the 2026 high school softball season follow.

Class 1A Player of the Year: Addison Tramble (Livingston Central).

Class 1A Coaching Staff of the Year: Cumberland County.

Class 1A First Team All-State: Addison Tramble (Livingston Central), Erica Branham (Cumberland

County), Molly Fahm (Belfry), Kenzie Wallen (Cumberland County), Hadley Hargrove (Livingston Central), Madi Cooksey (Cumberland County), Kyndall Johnson (Bracken County), Sami Noble (Hazard), Jenna Coursey (Lyon County), Irelynn Burns (Livingston Central).

Class 1A Second Team All-State: Peyton Fields (Hazard), Ryleigh Griffith (Hazard), Gracie Myatt (Cumberland County), Lily Logdson (Owensboro Catholic), Courtney Collins (Lyon County), Taylor Clark (Owensboro Catholic), Baylor Hall (Belfry),

Breyleigh McDaniel (Elliott County), Olivia Moore (Lyon County), Maggie Music (Paintsville).

Class 1A Honorable Mention All-State: Kira Ratliff (Paintsville), Blair Byassee (Hickman County), Audrey Carnes (Hancock County), Chloe Longwell (Clinton County), Gabby Luckett (Bethlehem), Ella Morris (Whitesville Trinity), Grace Rogers (Menifee County), Addilyn Simmons (Owensboro Catholic), Jordyn Waltrip (Hancock County), Claire Whitley (Elliott County).



On Saturday, June 13, during its Summer Slam Pickleball Tournament, Calvert City Elementary School was presented with a donation from the Calvert Area Development Association.

(Photo provided by Calvert City Elementary School)

Trinity baseball wins KHSAA state championship



Trinity (Louisville) repeated as the high school baseball state champion. Ranked number one in the nation, Trinity shut out Boyd County 12-0 in five innings in the KHSAA Baseball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare championship game at Kentucky Proud Park in Lexington on Saturday, June 13.

(Photo provided by KHSAA)

South Warren wins KHSAA softball state championship



South Warren shut out Bullitt East 8-0 in the KHSAA Softball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare championship game at John Cropp Stadium in Lexington on Saturday, June 13. The Lady Spartans capped off a perfect season, finishing 45-0.

(Photo provided by KHSAA)

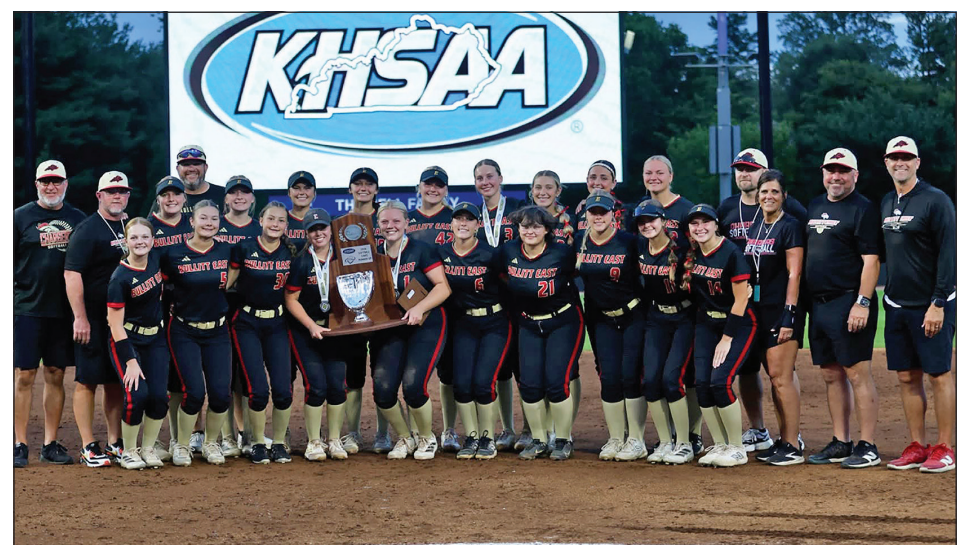
Boyd County baseball finishes as KHSAA state runner-up



Boyd County finished runner-up in the KHSAA Baseball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare at Kentucky Proud Park in Lexington on Saturday, June 13.

(Photo provided by KHSAA)

Bullitt East finishes as KHSAA softball state runner-up



Bullitt East finished runner-up in the KHSAA Softball State Tournament presented by UK HealthCare on Saturday, June 13.

(Photo provided by KHSAA)

Railroaders roll past Chiefs

Staff Report

FULTON — Fulton pulled away to defeat Paducah 15-5 in an Ohio Valley League game at Lohaus Field on Tuesday, June 16.

Caleb Warren collected three hits in five at bats and led Fulton to the win. Warren hit a solo home run to right field in the second inning, singled in the fourth inning, and singled in the seventh inning.

Fulton overcame a slow start to win convincingly. Paducah jumped ahead early and led 4-0 in the second inning.

The Chiefs opened the scoring in the top of the second thanks to three singles. Paducah first got on the scoreboard when Carson Reed singled, scoring one run.

Fulton made the score 4-2 in the bottom of the second inning

when Warren hit a solo home run to right field, and Matt Herlick drew a walk, scoring one run.

The Railroaders plated seven runs on five hits during the bottom of the fourth inning to move ahead 9-4. Ben Kauffman doubled and drove in three runs for Fulton during the fourth inning.

Fulton scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth on a home run to right field by Jeremiah Bowman.

Troy Joslin earned the win on the mound for the Railroaders. Pitching out of a relief role, Joslin gave up one hit and one run (zero earned) over three and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking six.

Avery Starks took the loss on the mound for the Chiefs. Starks, the starting pitcher for Paducah, went three

and two-thirds innings, allowing eight runs on seven hits, striking out five and walking four.

Zander Smith started on the mound for the Railroaders. The Fulton starting pitcher allowed five hits and four runs over three innings, striking out four and walking two. Luke Haener also appeared in relief for the Railroaders.

Fulton connected for 12 hits in the game. Kauffman and Thomas Kuhn each drove in three runs for the Railroaders. Bowman collected two hits for Fulton in four at bats.

Andrew Dixon led Paducah offensively, finishing with three runs batted in. The left fielder went 1-for-4 on the day.

Troy Dooley and Maddox Hope each collected two hits for the Chiefs.

Racer Athletics receives anonymous \$1 Million gift

Staff Report

MURRAY — Murray State Athletics has received a transformational investment of \$1,000,000 from a generous family of Racer supporters in Tennessee, it was announced on Monday, June 8.

The gift counts towards the Vision For Excellence Fund as part of the department's Leading The Pack capital campaign that the Racers publicly announced in March. The campaign supports numerous strategic initiatives, capital progress and revenue share.

"We are grateful for this extraordinary family for their \$1 million investment towards the future of Racer Ath-

letics," Murray State University President Dr. Ron Patterson said. "As we continue to lead the pack in everything that we do, we are reminded that our success is made possible through the generosity of visionary supporters and the unwavering commitment of Racer Nation."

"As we continue building momentum toward the \$100 million goal of the Leading The Pack campaign, generous investments like this help fuel our pursuit of excellence and position Murray State Athletics for sustained success for years to come," Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. "We want to thank

this family for their extremely generous \$1 million investment in the future of Murray State Athletics."

Murray State Athletics has raised \$44 million dollars in support of new facilities, initiatives and championship resources, a total that has been made possible by 16, seven-figure gifts.

The \$44 million is committed towards the department's bold, comprehensive \$100 million fundraising campaign, Leading The Pack, which was created to further position itself for the future by investing in student-athlete success and wellness, revenue share and competitive resources and world-class facilities.

Four administrators appointed to NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee

Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — A third of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee will be made up of first-year members after four administrators were appointed to the group Wednesday. Notre Dame Athletics Director Pete Bevacqua, Ole Miss Athletics Director Keith Carter, Missouri Valley Conference Commissioner Jeff Jackson and Northwestern Athletics Director Mark Jackson will begin their terms later this year.

They will replace Sun Belt Conference Commissioner and current committee Chair Keith Gill, Alabama Athletics Director Greg Byrne and Minnesota Athletics Director Mark Coyle, whose terms expire at the end of August, as well as Syracuse Athletics Director John Wildhack, who is retiring from the university July 1.

Bevacqua will be Wildhack's replacement as the Atlantic Coast Conference representative. Bevacqua, who will serve a four-year term, will officially join the committee July 1, while the others will have five-year terms that start Sept. 1.

Bevacqua, who is a 1993 graduate of Notre Dame, returned to

campus in July 2023 as a special assistant to the president before being named director of athletics in March 2024. Before that, Bevacqua served as chair of NBC Sports, leading to its unprecedented collection of assets and platforms, and was the network's chief steward of exclusive broadcast rights agreement with Notre Dame football.

He previously served as chief executive officer of the PGA of America, global head of golf at Creative Artists Agency, chief business officer for the United States Golf Association and first managing director of the U.S. Open Championship. Bevacqua is also the eighth person to serve on the committee and the College Football Playoff management team.

The Southeastern Conference will be represented by Carter, the Ole Miss athletics director. The Perryville, Arkansas, native has been a part of the Ole Miss community since enrolling as a freshman in 1995. A four-year starter for the Rebels basketball team, Carter led the squad to a pair of SEC Western Division titles in 1997 and 1998 while earning all-conference honors twice and garnering All-America honors following his

senior season in 1999. He also played in the 1997, 1998 and 1999 NCAA tournaments, scoring 22 points and grabbing 11 rebounds in a loss to Valparaiso in the famous 1998 first-round game, and then recording 18 points and seven rebounds in a win over Villanova a year later.

Carter won a gold medal as a member of the United States national team at the 1998 Goodwill Games and also played professionally in Italy for seven years. He joined the Ole Miss Foundation in 2008 and then the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation in 2009. After three years, he was named executive director. By 2018, he was the school's deputy athletics director for development and resource acquisition, overseeing the Athletics Foundation while also serving as chief revenue officer and as the sport administrator for baseball and men's basketball. A year later, he moved to his current role, where his tenure has seen the Ole Miss athletics department reach unprecedented heights that include the school's three best finishes in the Learfield Directors' Cup.

Missouri Valley Conference Commissioner Jeff Jackson was also appointed

to the committee. Jackson has extensive basketball experience, having spent 30 years coaching, including seven years as a head coach at Furman and three more in the head position at New Hampshire. He also served as an assistant coach at Vanderbilt for seven seasons, helping the Commodores reach the Sweet 16 in 2004, and had stops at Stanford, Colorado State and St. Bonaventure.

The 1984 Cornell graduate has been at the Missouri Valley since 2021. Before that, he spent three years as the executive associate commissioner of the Big 12 Conference, which included having oversight of men's basketball and game management, coordinating the conference's post-season tournament, and working with the league's coaches, administrators and officials. He previously spent four years as deputy commissioner of the Big South Conference, overseeing external operations, championships and sports administration, with a primary focus on men's and women's basketball. Jackson was also responsible for the league's strategic plan and assisted with branding efforts and broadcast matters.

The Big Ten Confer-

ence's representative will be Mark Jackson, the director of athletics at Northwestern. Jackson had a brief stint on the committee in 2024 when he was athletics director at Villanova and was appointed by the Big East Conference to replace former Butler Athletics Director Barry Collier, who retired soon after the 2024 Men's Final Four. However, Jackson accepted his current role that September, ending his short tenure.

Jackson held positions at Southern California (senior associate director of athletics and chief innovation officer) and Syracuse (executive senior associate athletics director) before going to Villanova in 2015. While he was at Villanova, the Wildcats captured the Division I men's basketball national championship in 2016 and 2018. A native of Boston, Jackson played defensive back on the football team at Colby and received his bachelor's degree in 1995. He earned a master's degree from Trinity (Connecticut) in 1997. He also worked as a coaching assistant for the New England Patriots and as director of football development for the Oakland Raiders.

Jackson oversees

21 varsity sports with more than 500 student-athletes, plus recreational and intramural programs at Northwestern. In his two years at the school, the Wildcats won national championships in field hockey (2024, 2025) and women's golf (2025) and last month captured the women's lacrosse national title.

The 12-member committee will be the first to select, seed and bracket a 76-team field. The NCAA last month announced the expansion of the tournament from 68 teams to 76 starting in 2027. The new members will be joined by Irma Garcia, the director of athletics at Manhattan; Stu Jackson, the commissioner of the West Coast Conference; Arthur Johnson, the director of athletics at Temple; Zack Lassiter, the director of athletics at Abilene Christian; Martin Newton, the director of athletics at Samford; Lee Reed, the director of athletics at Georgetown; Chad Weiberg, the director of athletics at Oklahoma State; and Tom Wistrick, the commissioner of the Big Sky Conference. Newton will chair the committee for the 2026-27 season.

SUMMARY OF KEVIL CITY ORDINANCE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEVIL, KENTUCKY ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD JULY 1, 2026, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027, BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT.

Adopts, by incorporated Exhibit, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget of the City of Kevil, Kentucky as follows:

Estimated Revenues

Property Taxes	\$149,240.00
Vehicle Taxes	\$26,000.00
Franchise Taxes	\$52,000.00
HB413	\$5,000.00
Road Aid	\$8,000.00
State Aid	\$14,500.00
Misc Income	\$11,660.00
Rentals	\$2,500.00
Bandana Water	\$41,600.00
Water City/County	\$193,000.00
Sewer City/County	\$182,000.00
Total Estimated Revenue	\$685,500.00

Proposed Expenditures

Employee Wages	\$260,000.00
Payroll Expenses	\$132,000.00
KLC Insurances	\$48,000.00
Sheriff Donation	\$7,200.00
Cameras	\$3,000.00
Utilities Expense	\$46,000.00
Office Expense	\$44,300.00
Shop Expense	\$119,000.00
Road Fund	\$8,000.00
Fire Expense	\$18,000.00
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$685,500.00

This summary has been prepared and certified by Stacey A. Blankenship, Kevil City Attorney, who is licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PREPARED AND CERTIFIED:

Stacey A. Blankenship
Keuler, Kelly, Hutchins, Blankenship and Sigler, LLP
100 South 4th Street, Suite 400
Paducah, Ky 42001
(270) 488-8888

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Murray State Football receives \$100,000 investment from Racer Football Alumni Association

Staff Report

MURRAY — The Murray State football program has received another \$100,000 investment from the Racer Football Alumni Association (RFAA) that was presented to Director of Athletics Nico Yantko and head coach Jody Wright during the organization's annual golf tournament.

This generous contribution will have an immediate impact on the program by supporting new competitive resources including roster management and other initiatives.

"This remarkable gift from the RFAA reflects the tremendous commitment that this outstanding organization has to the success of Murray State football and our student-athletes," Murray State University President Dr. Ron Patterson said. "We are deeply grateful for the leadership, generosity and passion that the RFAA continues

to demonstrate, and are appreciative of their willingness to strengthen the future of our university and football program for years to come."

"We are incredibly grateful for the continued investment that the RFAA makes in the success of Murray State Athletics and our student-athletes," Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. "The leadership of the RFAA and all of our dedicated football alumni consistently give of their time, talents and treasures to elevate our program and create transformational opportunities for our student-athletes. This generous \$100,000 gift is another example of their unwavering commitment to our future."

Founded in 2018, the RFAA continues to have a positive impact on Racer Football through significant donations given by its membership.

Previous investments from the RFAA have allowed

the department to invest in educational benefits for football student-athletes and make much-needed enhancements to the team's facilities, including updates to the team meeting room, team lounge, coaches suit, locker room and more.

Over the last two years, Murray State has raised a school-record \$43 million dollars in support of new facilities, initiatives and championship resources. That total was made possible by 15, seven-figure gifts, which also amounts to the most in department history.

The \$43 million is committed towards the department's bold, comprehensive \$100 million fundraising campaign, Leading The Pack, which was created to further position itself for the future by investing in student-athlete success and wellness, revenue share and competitive resources and world-class facilities.



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UK offers FAA certification workshop and exam for agricultural drone pilots

By Jennifer Elwell
University of Kentucky

MADISONVILLE, Ky. - A two-day drone pilot certification workshop and exam are being offered July 8-9 by the Kentucky Agriculture Training School (KATS), a program of the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

According to KATS coordinator Lori Rogers, the workshop will prepare candidates for the certification required under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Small UAS Rule, Part 107.

“This is an intense prep course for the Drone Pilot Certification Exam as required by the FAA, for those who plan to use drones



The workshop is designed for drone pilots looking to earn their certification, which is needed to provide professional agricultural drone services. (Photo by Matt Barton)

commercially,” Rogers said. “Drones are an increasingly popular tool in agriculture to help save time and increase production. They are used in mapping, spraying, scouting, crop and livestock monitoring and more.”

The prep course is designed for trained drone pilots looking to earn their certification, which is needed to provide professional agricultural drone services. Mandy Briggs of the Institute

of Aviation at Parkland College teaches the course, and her students have a 99% pass rate on the FAA exam. The course does not cover drone-flying instruction.

The workshop will be held on day one at

the Hopkins County Extension Office, 25 Mahr Park Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Instruction will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CDT, and participants should expect to complete practice exams that evening.

Participants will return to the Extension office at 8 a.m. for day two. The optional two-hour exam will be held following lunch at Madisonville Community College’s North Campus, 2000 College Drive.

The fee for the workshop is \$400 and includes lunch and study materials for both days. A separate fee of \$175 is required to take the exam on location. Certified crop advisors will earn 12 CEUs.

Pre-registration is required by July 1 and is limited to 18 participants.

Contact Lori Rogers at lori.rogers@uky.edu or 270-365-7541 ext. 21317 for additional information or visit the UK KATS website.

AG UPDATE

Tom Miller,
Ballard County Ext. Agent

Most Kentucky snakes are harmless. Knowing the difference matters.

Sources: Steven Price, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources chair

Few animals in Kentucky are more misunderstood than snakes.

They turn up in gardens, woodpiles, barns, creeks, ponds and backyards. They startle people. They move quickly. They do not blink. And for many Kentuckians, the first thought is often the same: Is it venomous?

Most of the time, the answer is no.

Kentucky is home to 33 snake species, and only four are venomous: the copperhead, timber rattlesnake, pigmy rattlesnake and western cottonmouth. That means most snakes people see across the state are harmless to humans and play an important role in the environment, especially by eating mice, rats and other small animals.

Still, telling snakes

apart is not always easy. Many people rely on simple rules they have heard for years: triangular head means venomous, round head means harmless; thick body means dangerous; snake near water means cottonmouth.

Those shortcuts can be misleading.

Venomous snakes in Kentucky often have a triangular or spade-shaped head, with the head wider at the back and narrowing at the neck. They also have elliptical, cat-like pupils, while nonvenomous snakes in Kentucky have round pupils. But these traits are not always practical for the average person to use, especially from a safe distance. No one should get close to a snake just to examine its eyes.

Head shape can fool



people, too. Many non-venomous snakes, including watersnakes, flatten their heads when threatened. That defensive behavior can make them look more like a venomous snake. Body shape can be just as confusing. Some harmless snakes are heavy-bodied, while some venomous snakes may not look especially large at a quick glance.

This is why range, habitat, pattern and

behavior all matter.

The western cottonmouth, often called a water moccasin, is one of Kentucky’s most misidentified snakes. It is venomous, but it is not found across the state. In Kentucky, cottonmouths are limited to the Jackson Purchase and parts of the Western Coalfields. They are associated with swamps, wetlands, lakes and floodplains, especially in the warmer months.

There are no verified cottonmouth records around Lexington, Richmond or throughout Central and Eastern Kentucky.

That matters because many snakes reported as cottonmouths in those areas are actually harmless watersnakes. Watersnakes may be defensive if handled or cornered, but they are not venomous.

The safest approach is also the simplest: Leave snakes alone.

Do not try to pick them up. Do not try to kill them. Give them room to move away, keep pets and children at a safe distance and take a photo from several feet away if identification is needed.

Fear of snakes is common. But fear does not have to lead to panic. A little knowledge can help Kentuckians recognize that most snakes they encounter are not a threat, and even venomous snakes are best handled with distance, caution and respect.

In most cases, a snake in the yard is not looking for trouble. It is looking for cover, food or a way out.

You can learn more about snake identification by visiting <https://kysnakes.mgcafe.uky.edu/>.

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Safety Drives Design of New Roundabout Near Cairo

By **Laurna Todd**
KPI Writer

CAIRO, Ill. — A new roundabout will be constructed south of Cairo as part of the U.S. 51 Bridge Replacement Project, a major infrastructure investment designed to improve safety, traffic flow and long-term transportation access between Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet recently announced that the roundabout will be built on the Illinois side of the new bridge crossing connecting Wickliffe, Kentucky, and Cairo, Illinois.

Transportation officials selected the

roundabout design after studying traffic patterns, safety data and future transportation needs throughout the tri-state region. According to project planners, the roundabout will reduce delays, improve traffic movement and help decrease the likelihood of serious crashes compared to a traditional intersection.

The design also ensures that no single direction of travel is favored, allowing traffic from Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri to move more efficiently through the area while supporting future economic growth and freight transportation.

To accommodate



larger vehicles, the roundabout will include a truck apron, allowing tractor-trailers, school buses, emergency vehicles and farm equipment to safely navigate the intersection.

Project officials have also released an

online video showcasing the planned bridge and roundabout, giving residents a preview of how the completed project will look and function. The presentation highlights the extensive planning and engineering

efforts that have gone into the design.

According to transportation officials, every decision surrounding the project has been guided by one primary goal: keeping travelers safe in the event of the unexpected. From

improved traffic patterns to modern roadway design features, safety has remained at the forefront of the planning process.

The new bridge and roundabout are intended to serve the region well into the future, providing a reliable connection between Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri while meeting modern transportation needs. Officials say the project represents thoughtful planning today to create infrastructure that will stand firm for generations to come.

Transportation officials have not yet announced a construction start date for the roundabout.

Kentucky AG accuses prediction market platforms of breaking KY laws

By **TOM LATEK**
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) — Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman announced Wednesday that he has filed three lawsuits against prediction market platforms, including a sweepstakes gambling platform and a cryptocurrency platform.

Coleman accuses each of the companies of operating unlicensed and

illegal sports betting and gambling platforms in Kentucky.

The lawsuits were filed in Franklin Circuit Court against:

--Kalshi, a prediction market platform, and its affiliates including Coinbase.

--Polymarket, a prediction market platform, and its affiliates.

--VGW, an online casino platform with brands including Chumba Casino, Global Poker and

LuckyLand Slots.

"Kalshi and Polymarket are operating illegal sportsbooks in Kentucky and breaking our laws," Coleman said. "These multi-billion dollar corporations and their legal fictions don't pass the sniff test. As one of our state legislative leaders said it best, 'If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck...'"

The prediction market lawsuits also allege

Polymarket and Kalshi and its affiliated entities, Coinbase, Robinhood and Webull offer users few or no resources to identify or seek help for a gambling problem, which is mandated under Kentucky law.

VGW and its affiliates operate unlawful sweepstakes casino websites that use two different types of virtual gambling chips. The sweepstakes casino games are designed to look

and feel like traditional casino games with slot machines and blackjack games. A study cited in the complaint, says they also exploit the same psychological triggers related to addiction.

The online casinos offer two types of chips — one for free and one with a cash value. Users pay real money for so-called Sweeps Coins just like gamblers pay for poker chips at a real casino. They are also

able to cash out their winnings.

"This company may use new technology and a new scheme to hide, but the reality is the same," Coleman noted. "Our Office has a duty to stop illegal gambling in Kentucky regardless of how it's packaged."

All three lawsuits allege violations of Kentucky's Consumer Protection law, the Loss Recovery Act and the state's gambling laws.

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Ballard County Cemetery Restoration

Cane Creek Historic Cemetery Cleanup

By Betty L. Johnson
bettyjohnsonky@yahoo.com

Cane Creek Historic Cemetery, fourteen years ago was a massive growth of weeds, downed limbs, and unimaginable amount of debris. A challenge beyond description. But our dedicated community volunteer workers tackled this histor-

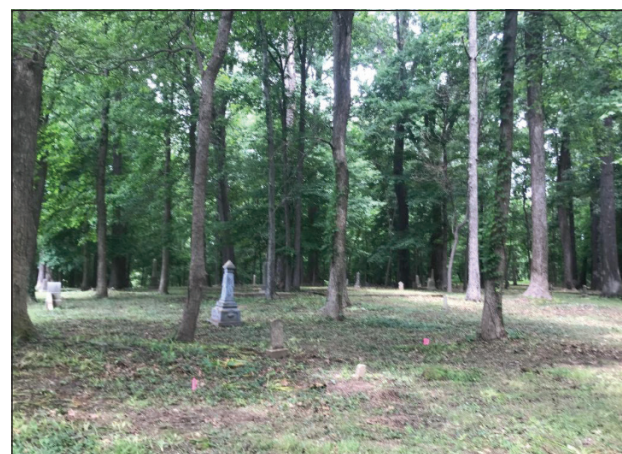
ic cemetery with a desire most people do not know about. Over the years, our volunteer workers continued dedication has made a difference in a true Slater Community landmark.

Pictured, you can see the cemetery is neat as a pin now; not only looking good to the community,

but appreciated by many out of state descendants. That is the way we like it. Job well done by caring volunteers. We are looking for a permanent volunteer caretaker for this very historic cemetery, full of mysteries and unique stories. If interested as a responsible caretak-

er, please text 270 210 3538.

Some early settlers and well known community leaders listed in the Ballard County Cemetery Book, Volume III are: Brunson, Buchanan, Gay, Hilston, Lee, Mayberry, Phillips, Rollins, Stom, Sullivan, and Stovall ... too many to list all of the burials.



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PREVIEW: AUCTION PREVIEW Items can be viewed Monday June 15th through Monday June 22nd from 8^{AM} to 6^{PM} CST.
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LIVING ESTATE AUCTION

THURS., JUNE 25TH • 10:07 AM • 1867 & 1869 US HWY 60 E • SALEM, KY • ±103 ACRES IN 6 TRACTS W/6 LAKES & PONDS! • ±32 ACRE HORSE FARM FABULOUS ±8500 SQ. FT. HOME • IDEAL AIR BNB/EVENT CENTER • HIDDEN INDOOR POOL • NEAR NASHVILLE, MARION, PADUCAH, SMITHLAND, BENTON, LAKE BARKLEY, & KY LAKE



PREVIEW: MON., JUNE 22ND 5:07-7:07 PM

Tract 1: ±8500 Sq. Ft. under roof; ±3500 Sq. Ft. living area; ±3 yr roof; ±4 Bedrooms, 4 ½ baths, large family room, dining room, & kitchen that adjoins the large gathering room with 10-person breakfast bar, vaulted ceiling, fireplace, and 15-window panoramic view of lakes & farm; ±2672 Sq. Ft. event center with hidden indoor pool; ±1414 Sq. Ft. 2 car garage/drive-in, poured wall basement; ±1000 Sq. Ft. rec-room; ±120x40 Ft. square post building with horse trailer-, motor home-, or camper-high clearance, storage, plus ±40x16 Ft. heavy insulated shop area; ±10.47 acres; blacktop drive & much more; from ±10- up to ±103-acres in combination. Interconnected roads to all parts of the farm and county water to the back of the farm. Hwy 60 road frontage. Indoor concrete pool is properly covered with pine decking - easily removable. **Tract 2:** Fabulous ±31.41 acre horse farm (leased to BMSS for 2 yrs at \$14,400 annual/\$1200 monthly, with lyr renew option) begins with a front entry and parking lot to the first building - the prestigious Bob Marshall Sports Saddle Manufacturing facility. The facility features a heavily insulated square post building, a nice showroom, offices, brea room, layout room, storage rooms, and more! The second building this tract, also a heavily insulated, well-lit square post building, is the horse barn with 22 stalls & a fantastic, well-lit arena. The third square post building is an open machinery shed. All is situated on ±31.41 acres with excellent trails, views, 1 stocked pond, some woods, plus gravel roads to the home, to the back, and all areas of the farm, plus hundreds of ft. of Hwy 60 road frontage. On county water. **Tract 3:** ±16.01 Acres. Beautiful shared pond; trails; woods; gravel road from Hwy 60 to property; picnic area; county water access nearby. **Tract 4:** ±10.75 Acres. Gorgeous shared pond; trails; fabulous views; many building sites; park-like grounds; county water access nearby. Gravel road from Hwy 60. **Tract 5:** ±20.44 Acres; Beautiful shared pond; trails; woods; gravel road from Hwy 60; park-like grounds; beautiful building sites. **Tract 6:** ±13.16 acres. In-ground hunting lodge built from storage containers with city water; excellent views; ponds; trails; roads; good hunting season rental income producer; Hwy 60 road frontage. **Terms of Auction:** 10% Buyer's Premium added to the final bid(s) and included in the total contract price(s). 15% Deposit due day of auction; balance within 45 days. Survey fee split 50/50 between buyer(s)/seller. **Auction held at the home on Tract 1.**

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

THURS., JULY 9TH • 10:07 AM • 1540 CULP ROAD • PADUCAH, KY • ±1400 SQ. FT. • 3 BR, 1 BA • ±3 ACRES • 2 TRACTS • ±1165 SQ. FT. FUTURE APARTMENT/EFFICIENCY

Location: Traveling I-24, take Exit 16 - Hwy 68 W; turn right onto Hwy 62 E - Kentucky Dam Rd.; turn left onto Culp Rd. Signs posted. Widowed, 32-yr owner downsizing. The Bowlins enjoyed everything about their ±3 acre get-away. **Tract 1:** Situated on a pretty, well-landscaped, one acre home site is this attractive brick home that begins with a ±19x6.5 Ft. front porch with wrought iron columns and a ±21 Ft. Bedford stone planter; into the ±22.5x13 Ft. living room with ceiling fan, great front yard view, and arch top doorway. The ±15.25x15 Ft. kitchen and dining room combination steps out to the ±30x14 Ft. carport/covered patio and is furnished with a smooth top electric range, refrigerator, and dishwasher; natural finished pine cabinetry, and tiled floor; an oversized ±11x10.25 Ft. utility room with a surplus of built-in cabinetry with lots of counter space, plus the recently purchased GE washer & Whirlpool dryer is included; the utility room steps out to the chain-link fenced backyard. Down the hall is a coat closet and a linen closet, plus the ±11x7.5x4.5 Ft. ceramic tiled full bath. The first bedroom is ±15x12 Ft. (w/offset) with a ceiling fan and hardwood under laminate; the second bedroom is ±11x11 Ft. with hardwood under laminate; the third bedroom is ±11x10 Ft. with hardwood floor. Just behind the fenced yard is a ±1165 Sq. Ft. close-to-stormproof building, with ground level entry to the ±17x15.5 Ft. shop/rec room, etc. with a ±16.5x7 Ft. storage room; on the second level is an ell room ±23.5x9.25 Ft. and ±10.25x7.5 Ft.; plus a ±16.5x10.5 Ft. enclosed back porch with concrete floor. This second floor also walks out ground level - future apartment or mancave/she-shed. **Tract 2:** ±2 Acres; nice, grassy hill-side to level woods; has ±25 Ft. easement from Culp Road; city water available. **Terms of Auction:** 15% Deposit day of auction; balance within 45 days. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the total contract price.



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AMERIBRATION

JULY 4
MEMORIAL PARK
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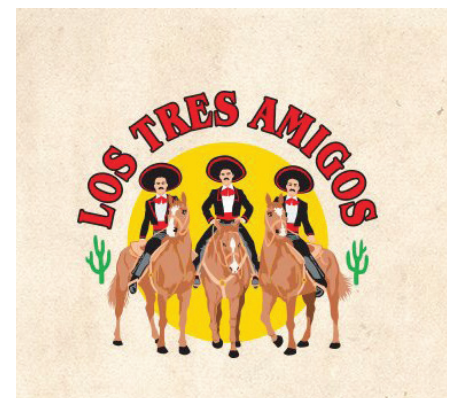
State Farm
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 CALVERT CITY AGENT

LAKE CHEM



JUNE 22
AMERIBRATION PAGEANT
 Registration is online only, visit calvertcityky.gov to register! Begins at 6 PM at the Calvert City Civic Center. \$5 entry fee.

CADA
 Calvert Area Development Association



JULY 4

CFSB VETERANS BRUNCH
 Food provided by 50's Cafe. Veterans eat free. \$10 per person. Civic Center July 4 - 9 AM - 11 AM

CADA CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
 Calvert City Memorial Park Registration 9 AM - 9:30 AM 10 AM, \$20 per team to register Bring your own boards and bags!

CALVERT CITY MUSEUM AND COOLING CENTER
 Calvert City Civic Center July 4, 10 AM - 4 PM

LIVE MUSIC
 Calvert City Memorial Park - Bring a chair, tent, and stay the entire day!

11:30 PM - Mitch Knight
 12:30 PM - Sticky Bones
 2:00 PM - Flatmounds
 3:30 PM - Underdogs
 5:00 PM - Deja Blues
 7:00 PM - Marty Brown

FOOD TRUCKS, ARTISANS & CRAFTS
 Calvert City Memorial Park 11 AM - DUSK

FREE INFLATABLES
 Calvert City Memorial Park 11 AM - 8 PM

FREE PETTING ZOO
 Calvert City Memorial Park 11 PM - 5 PM

POP UP MINI-GOLF
 Calvert City Memorial Park 12 PM - 6 PM



SPLASH FOUNTAIN FUN
 Calvert City Memorial Park ALL DAY

CC MASONIC LODGE KID PARADE
 12 PM - Memorial Park Amphitheater Bike, stroll, walk, skip, or ride around in your best 4th of July decorations!

CALVERT CITY PARADE
 WE THE PEOPLE - Parade Theme Along Calvert City 5th Ave 6:00 PM Line up is at Pathway Baptist Church beginning at 5:00 PM, free to enter and no registration required! No controversial items may be used during the parade.

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY
 Calvert City Civic Center After the Parade 7 PM Free Birthday Cake!

CALVERT CITY FIREWORKS
 Watch the BEST fire works in Western Kentucky at Doctor's Park at DUSK!

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B SECTION

June 19, 2026

Western Kentucky
Business Journal

★ ★ ★ AMERICA'S 250 ★ ★ ★



Area America 250 events

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

Paducah's Independence Day

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

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

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

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

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

By Laurna Todd
 KPI Writer

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

Mayor David Phillips

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

Council approved the

April meeting minutes and April Treasurer's Report.

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

Mayor Reports Cost Savings and Upcoming

Street Work

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

see **COUNCIL**, page B3

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

By Laurna Todd
 KPI Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

see **BARLOW**, page B9

Average gasoline price falls below four dollars per gallon

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

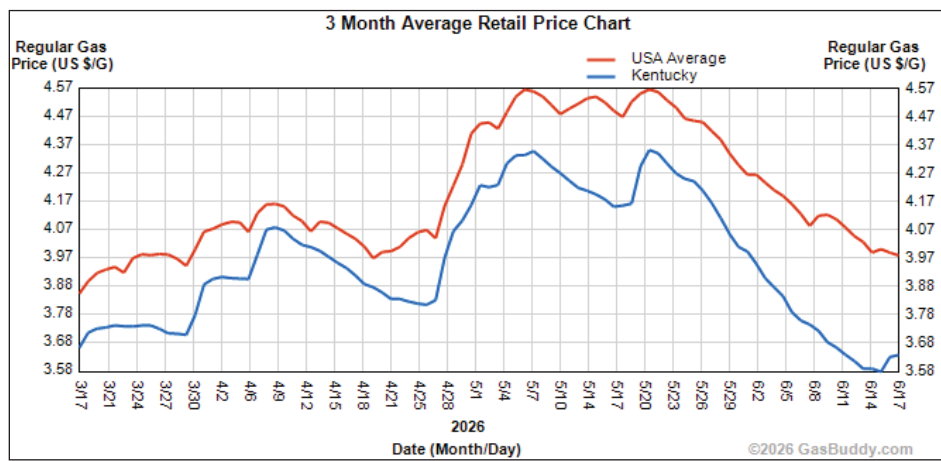
FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – The average price of gasoline nationwide fell 9.3 cents over the last week and stands at \$3.99 per gallon, according to GasBuddy data compiled across the U.S.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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CUNNINGHAM, KY



2022 JCB 409 T4 compact wheel loader



2013 Trebro AutoStack II sod harvester



2022 Bobcat T770 tracked skid steer



2015 Case 580 Super N backhoe



2024 Takeuchi TB250-2 mini excavator



2013 Komatsu PC360LC-10 excavator



2014 Case 580 Super N backhoe



2015 Caterpillar 930K wheel loader



1985 Chevrolet K10 pickup truck



2022 Caterpillar 299D3 tracked skid steer

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How businesses have changed in the last 100 years

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

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

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

see **BUSINESSES**,
page B11

COUNCIL, from page B1

Water and Sewer System Remains a Priority

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

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

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

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

Dunning provided

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

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

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

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

failures.

Other water and sewer updates included:

Completion of water line mapping throughout the city.

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

Ongoing work with James Marine regarding wastewater pretreatment requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

New Water Billing Software Training Underway

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

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

Budget Planning Begins

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

ATV Complaints Prompt Action

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

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

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

STIFEL CONGRATULATES



Pictured left to right:

Sally Teague, Client Service Associate

Elliot Treece, First Vice President/Investments

Lacey Metzger, Client Service Associate

Adam Chustz, CFPA®, Senior Vice President/Investments

Hanna Rhinehart, Client Service Associate

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Corvette Museum has 32nd anniversary in September

By **CHIP HUTCHESON**
Kentucky Today

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

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

The museum has hosted an anniversary

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Located in the Museum's iconic Skydome, guests will

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

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

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June 19th thru June 25th

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

June 19th thru June 25th

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

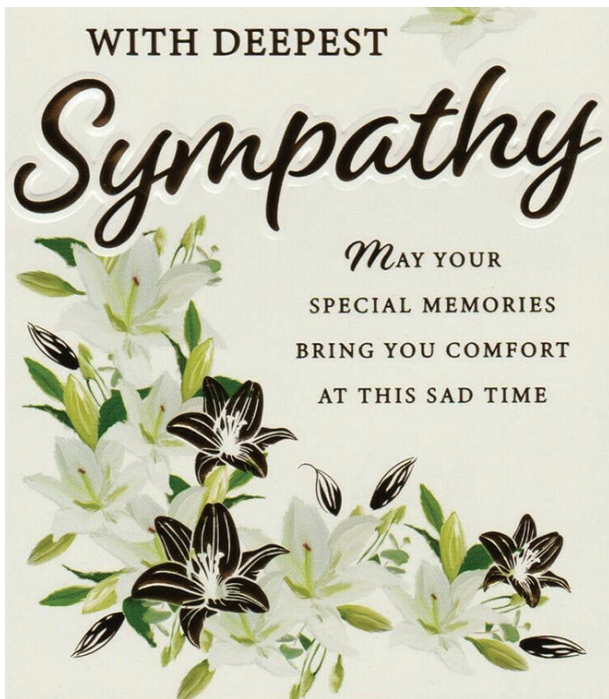
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CALDWELL

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

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

CALLOWAY

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

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

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

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

CARLISLE

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

CHRISTIAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

CRITTENDEN

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

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

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

FULTON

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

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

GRAVES

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

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

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

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

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

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

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

HENDERSON

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

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

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

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

HICKMAN

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

HOPKINS

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

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

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

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

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

LIVINGSTON

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

LYON

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

MARSHALL

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

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

McCRACKEN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRIGG

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

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

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

UNION

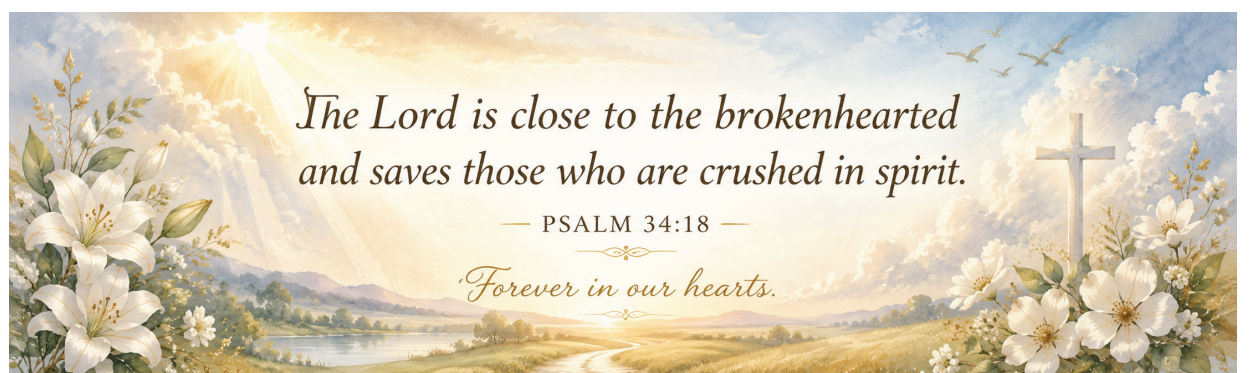
William Bryan "Bill" Johnson Sr., 76, of Henshaw, Kentucky, passed away on June 12, 2026. Funeral was held at 3 PM on Thursday June 18, 2026 At Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Josh Dossett officiated. Burial was held in Caseyville Cemetery in Sturgis, KY.

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

WEBSTER

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

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



VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Is paying your bills getting increasingly harder?

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

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

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



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

Ramsey said if you want to be debt free

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

Ramsey says if you

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOMENTARY AFFLICTION

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A - Admit to God That You Are A Sinner

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

B - Believe Jesus Died for Your Sins

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

C - Confess Jesus is Lord

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

OUTDOOR Truths

By Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org

Our world is not meant to be perfect

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

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

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

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

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

Contaminants identified by the list are not yet regulated but



AG Coleman. (Kentucky Today/Lawrence Smith)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Coleman did not respond to a request for comment.

BARLOW,
from page B1

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

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

Following an executive session

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

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

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

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Tips to trace your own history while celebrating America's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



- Letters
- Diaries
- Photographs/photo books
- Scrapbooks

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

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

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

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

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

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



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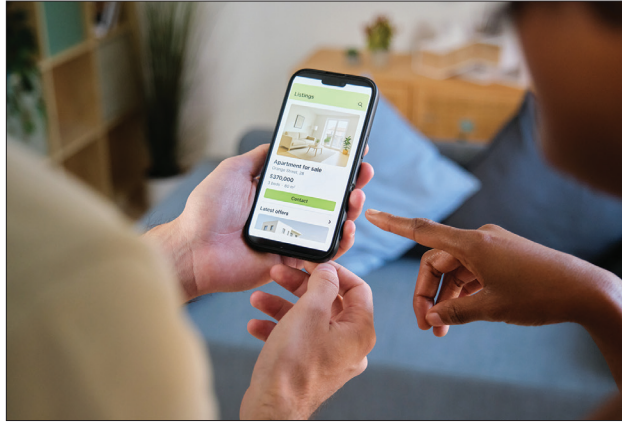
BUSINESSES,
from page B3

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

strengthen customer trust and long-term success.

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

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

9 facts about the Declaration of Independence

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

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

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

Franklin.

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

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

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

5. Others signed according to state delegation and in

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

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

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

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

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





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Business Briefs

PADUCAH Baptist Health Paducah Announces \$19M Surgical Expansion

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

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

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

The expansion builds on a \$17 million

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The discussion comes as the City

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

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



Major Jason Swain

emphasized that the decision ultimately rests with the council.

Hopkinsville Salvation Army names new corps officer

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

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

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

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

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

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



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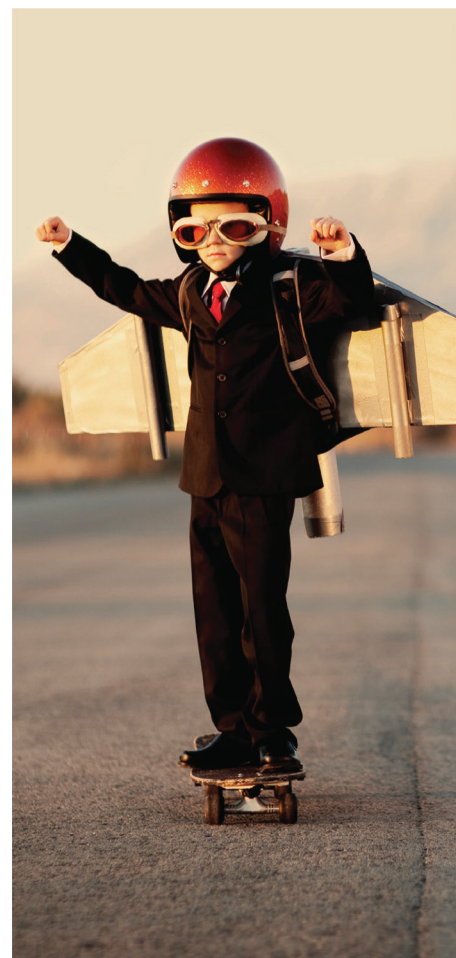
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Hopkinsville businesses to see changes in net profit license fees beginning July 1

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

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

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

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

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

MURRAY Data Center development under review

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

PRINCETON Meat processing facility expands operations

A major investment in Princeton's agricultural sector

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

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

MAYFIELD Regional economic momentum continues

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

REGIONAL

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



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MEDICAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passenger vehicle detours will not be signed.

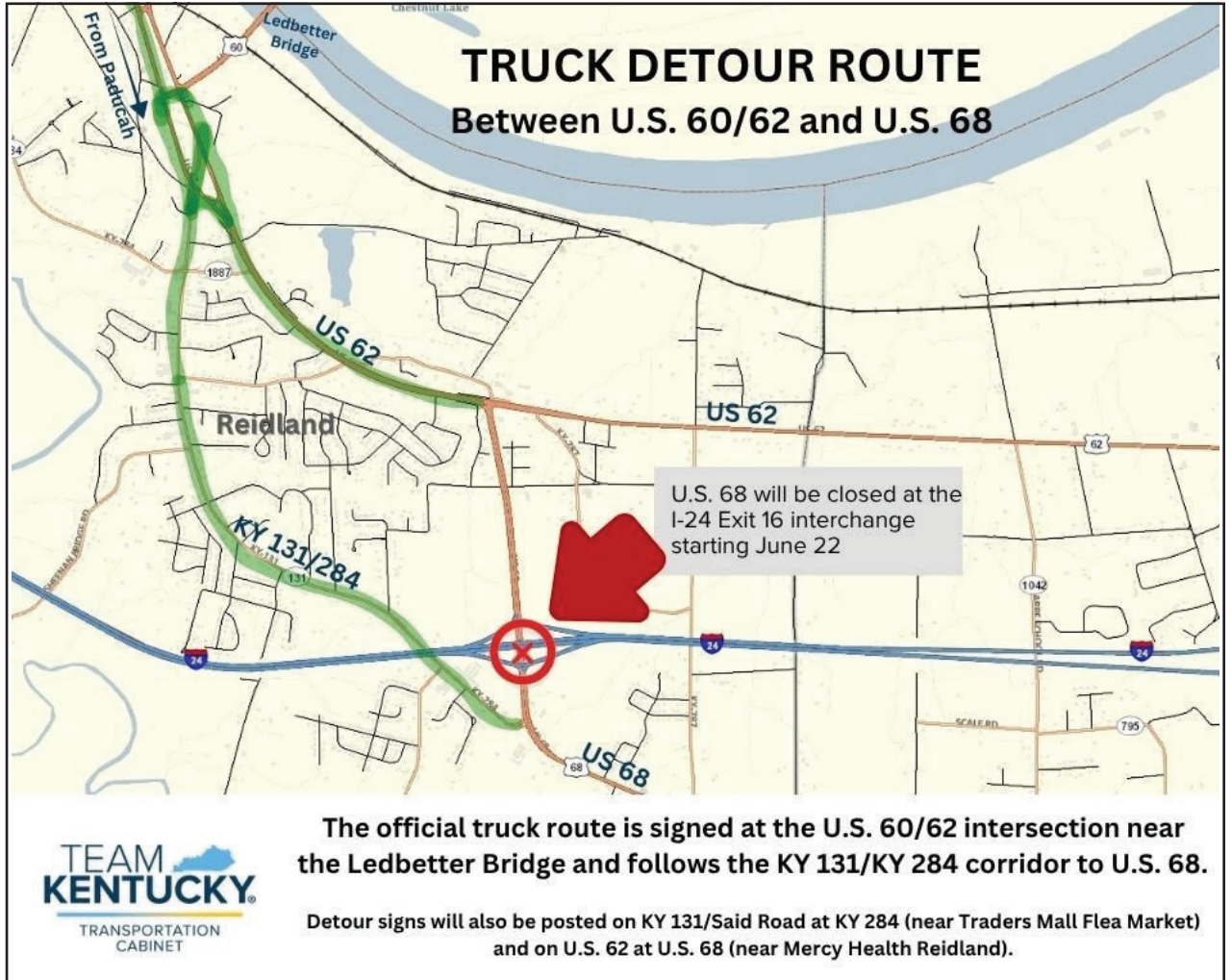
A roundabout is a circular intersection where traffic travels counterclockwise around a central island.

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

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

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

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



TRUCK DETOUR ROUTE
Between U.S. 60/62 and U.S. 68

U.S. 68 will be closed at the I-24 Exit 16 interchange starting June 22

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The official truck route is signed at the U.S. 60/62 intersection near the Ledbetter Bridge and follows the KY 131/KY 284 corridor to U.S. 68.

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

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

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

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

the specialty corridors you travel. Check your SPAM filtering to ensure Gov Delivery is on your approved list.

Timely traffic

advisories for the 12 counties of KYTC Highway District 1 are available by going to www.facebook.com/kytcdistrict1. Please LIKE or FOLLOW

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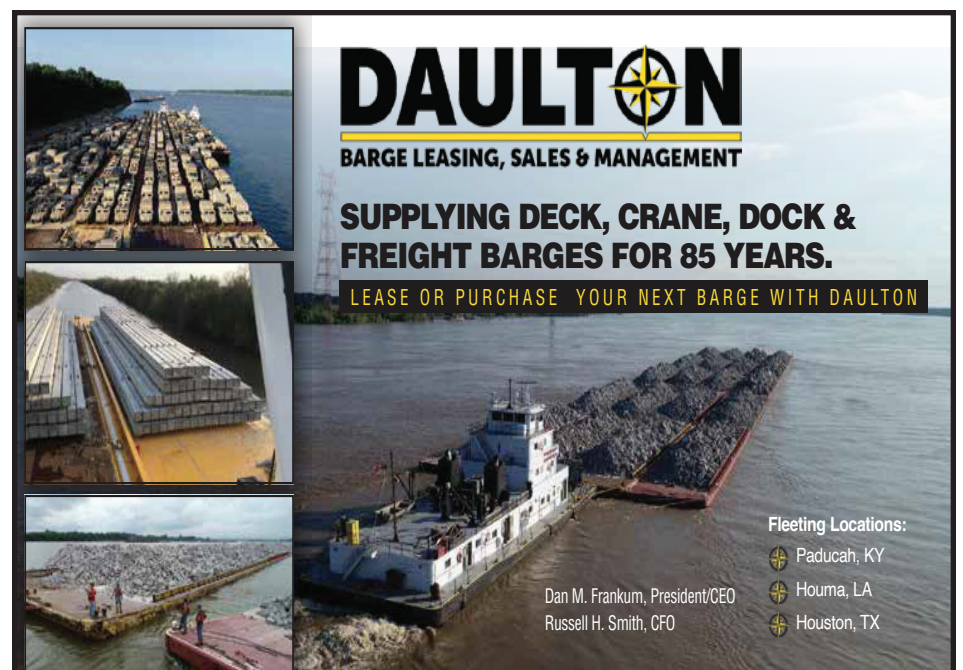
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June is Dairy Month in KY

By **TOM LATEK**
Kentucky Today

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE

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

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Study analyzes buyers' assumptions about carpal chips in Thoroughbred yearlings

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

By Jordan Strickler

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

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

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

writing off a horse with a chip.

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

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

showed no radiographic abnormalities.

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

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

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

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



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

Photo by Mark Pearson

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

with the procedure."

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

The economics of a decision

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

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

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

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

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

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