

Entrepreneurs Under 40



Aaron Clayton



Alex Chalker



Avery Hackett



Brock Murphy



Cody Noffsinger



Darla Laird



Erica Rambo



Hannah Lewis



Jon Case



Mallory Johnson



Patrick Judd Malone



Skyler Kanipe

Little Bitty Donuts

A Family-Ran, Madisonville Food Truck

By Kelsey Edwards
KPI Editor

Micha Purdue, a 41 year old family man, works for Patriot Chevrolet & Toyota of Hopkinsville where he is an internet manager, does marketing, and the business development center where he follows up with customers, online questions answered, etc. He has been with the company since 2018 but prior to that he was in retail. He originally is from Madisonville Kentucky and then moved to Clarksville Tennessee for a bit while he was in retail and then moved back to Madisonville.

When Micah is not working at Patriot

Chevrolet & Toyota, he and his family are running their food trunk business, known as Little Bitty Donuts. They have been in business for a little over a year and it started out as them just setting up under tents and some donut equipment. However, Micah and his father in law, Steve Hickman, gutted an enclosed trailer and converted it to a food truck. Little Bitty Donuts is run by his entire family which consist of him, his wife, their three children, along with his mother-in-law and father-in-law. They had the idea from a little random place/grocery store that they had

stumbled upon while on a vacation in Siesta Key and thought it would not only be a great way to make a little extra money to take vacations but also as a way to have the entire family included on something while teaching their children about work ethic, getting them out of the house and into the community, and just being together as a family.

Their oldest, Annsley Purdue, is 14 years old and runs the register and the window, takes orders, tickets, etc. Kylee Litchfield, their middle child who is 12 will make the drinks which have been lemonade shakeups but they



have decided to shift away from that as so many other businesses have that as a product. They will continue serving drinks but it will be things such as

hot chocolate, coffee, butter beers, flavored sweet teas etc. Their son, Oakley, who is four also participates in the business as the family taste tester while being

watched by Micah's mother-in-law. Ashley, Micah's wife also works the window and makes

see **DONUTS**,
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Entrepreneurs Under 40

Jon Case

Financial Advisor for CB Wealth Partners is a division of Clinton Bank

Q. As a Financial Advisor, what are some of the things that you do?

A. I work with individuals, families, and businesses to develop a personalized financial plan that focuses on their needs, wants, and long-term goals. Whether they are investing to build wealth, protect their family, or preserving their assets, we are here to help.



Jon Case

Q. How did you get into this business?

A. I graduated from Murray State University with my Degree in Finance in 2022 and was informed about this job through one of my professors. I had never been to Clinton before coming here to work but after talking with the bank and firm it seemed like a good fit for me.

Q. How long have you been at your job?

A. I have been here for 3 years now.

Q. Where did you go to school?

A. Murray State University with a Degree in Finance

Q. Did you intend to do this while you were seeking a degree: What degree?

A. Yes, I knew I wanted to be in a career that allowed me to offer financial education and guidance when needed. I also wanted to be involved in the financial markets and deal with different kinds of investments.

Q. Did your college experience prepare you for what you are doing today?

A. Yes, I enjoyed my time at Murray State. Murray State has a great business program, and my professors were very educated with a lot of real-world experience. My time in college gave me a great foundation to continue learning and build my career.

Q. What do you like best about what you do?

A. My favorite thing about my job is that I interact with people daily. I enjoy building relationships with my clients and working with them to achieve their financial goals.

Q. What are the challenges you face as you perform your job?

A. The biggest challenge I have as a financial advisor is having no control over what is going on in the economy. However, because we know market volatility is inevitable, we craft our portfolios to protect in down markets, participate in up markets, and be paid to wait in flat markets. So, part of my job becomes keeping my clients focused on their goals and the plans that we have made and not let them make financial decisions based on fear.

Q. Are you married? Do you have any children? (if not, pets count!!)

A. Yes, I am married to my wife, Kennedy Case. We met our first year of college together and have been together for a total of 7 years now, with 2 years being married. We don't have any children yet, but we do have our dog, Enzo, who is now 5 years old and keeps us busy.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. My wife and I love to be outdoors, so I spend a lot of time outside of work going

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ONLINE / NO RESERVE

AUCTIONS

Construction Equipment

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6



DH8734 '07 CATS 988H wheel loader



EF2078 '22 Kubota KX080-4 Super Series 2 mini excavator



DH8735 '10 CAT 772 haul truck



YA1086 '20 Freightliner 114SD vacuum truck



ET3079 '21 Kubota SVL75-2 tracked skid steer



ET3084 '06 Peterbilt 357 grapple crane truck



ET3238 '16 Bobcat T630 tracked skid steer



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EC3812 '10 JLG 1250AJP boom lift



DH8733 '08 CAT 770 haul truck



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DONUTS,
from page B1

the drinks while Steve works the fryers and Micah dresses the donuts with the proper toppings as well as keeping everything stocked and filled.
Little Bitty Donuts are typically set up on Saturdays only in the area as well as community events and vendor fairs such as Squash and Gobble in Greenville Ky, and Harvest Fest in Madisonville Ky. Their fall menu consists of toppings such as caramel apple, pumpkin pie, apple cider drinks, sweet tea plus yummy fall flavors, butter beers, and for winter of course hot chocolate and coffee. Micah stated that their best seller is the french toast donuts which

include maple syrup, cinnamon sugar, and powdered sugar. When they are not selling donuts, you can catch them watching the Great Food Truck Race Show on Food network or vacationing. Micah and his wife try to take at least one trip as a couple together and at least one family vacation and they will soon be heading to Disney World. If you are ever in Madisonville on a Saturday or happen to see them at a vendor fair or community event be sure to get you some of their mini donuts and be sure to check out their facebook page as they post all locations, times, events, etc on their page!



CASE,
from page B2

to the golf course. Depending on the time of year, I also enjoy hunting and fishing.

Q. What are your plans for the future?

A. My plans are to continue down the

financial advisor pathway. I'd like to gain more financial certifications like my CFP (Certified Financial Professional). I am excited to work with my clients for many years ahead and to be there with them when we reach important financial milestones.

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Entrepreneurs Under 40 | Avery Hackett

CEO & Founder - Revere Security Services

Q. Where did you go to school?

Completion of high school, completion of EMT school in college, Completion of Guard Academy at Guard Company 8th & I (USMC)

Professional and Community Organizations

Paducah Breakfast Club, Paducah Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1191

Acceptance and completion of the Presidential Support Program within the US Marine Corps Security Forces.

Q. What do you like best about what you do?

To always treat everyone with respect. Particularly to ensure

employees realize they are an integral part of the team.

-Lee Howard Jones
"Uncle Lee"
J. M. Jones Lumber Company

As a squad leader in the U.S. Presidential Support Program, I was tasked with leading a team of Marines as the quick response force for the President of the United States and successfully completed all associating assignments.

Q. What are your plans for the future?

As the CEO and Founder of Revere Security Services, I set the example and lead my staff in providing the citizens of this great country with the security they deserve. As a company

providing security in many forms including armed, unarmed security officers as well as residential and commercial system solutions my job description is broad

across all these products. I strive to stay in tune with this ever growing and adapting industry to bring the best training to employees as well as the utmost peace of mind to our customers.



Avery G. Hackett

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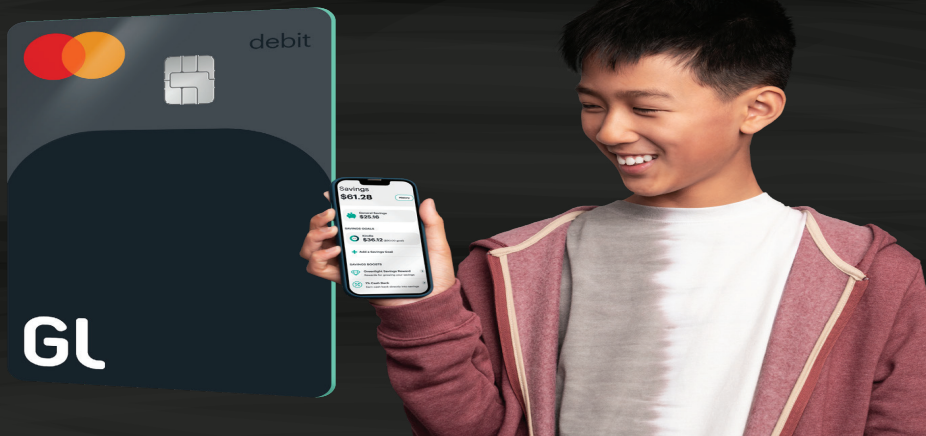
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Area Deaths

• CALDWELL •

Harry W. Porter, known affectionately to all as Harry, left a lasting legacy of devotion to his family, an admirable career, and contributions to his community. He was born on the 17th of May 1927, in the Bronx and passed away on the 7th of October, 2025 In Princeton, KY at the age of 98 years old. There are no services scheduled. akeland Funeral Home in Eddyville, KY in charge.

Roger Sigler, age 75, passed away on October 6, 2025, at his home in Benton, Kentucky. Visitation for Roger Sigler will be held at Morgan’s Funeral Home in Princeton, KY, from 4 PM to 7 PM on Thursday Oct.30, 2025. Funeral services will be held on Friday Oct. 1, 2025, at 11:00 AM with Bro Brad Walker officiating and Bro. Dennis Wynn assisting. Burial will follow in Rowland Cemetery in Fredonia, KY

William Johnson “B.J.” Guill, 51, passed away Saturday, October 25, 2025, at his home in Fredonia. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Danny Sherrill officiating. Visitation was held from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at Morgan’s Funeral Home.

Lynn Randall Imbrunone, 50, of Eddyville, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky. There are no services scheduled at this time. Morgan’s Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Lou Cotton, age 80, of Princeton, passed away October 24, 2025 at Baptist Health in Paducah. Visitation were held from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Angela Marie Mullins, age 49, of Fredonia, passed away October 24, 2025. Visitation and services will be private and held at a later date.

Jerrod Ramsey “Monkey” Cooper, age 34, of Princeton, passed away October 23, 2025. Visitation was held Monday, October 27, 2025 at Morgan’s Funeral Home from 4:00 pm until 8:00 m. Funeral services was held at 11:00 am Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Bro. Mark Faughn and Bro. Anthony Dyer officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Debbie Morris, passed away on October 22, 2025, at the caring establishment of Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Center. Visitation was from 10:00 AM to 12:30 AM at Morgan’s Funeral Home, 301 W. Washington Street, Princeton, KY, Saturday, October 25, 2025. Graveside services were held Saturday, October 5, 2025 at 1:00 PM, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church Cemetery, 1124 Pleasant Valley Road, Providence, KY 42450 with Bro. Ronnie Sivells officiating.

• CALLOWAY •

Steven Michael Van Mierlo, 54, of Murray, KY, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 7, 2025 in his daughter’s home, surrounded by his loving family. A celebration of life will be held at Imes Funeral Home and Crematory 311 N. 4th Street, Murray, KY 42071 on Sunday November 2, 2025 from 11am-1pm

Jerry Lee Hopkins, 86, of Murray, KY, passed away on Friday, October 24, 2025 at his home. The funeral service honoring the life of Mr. Jerry Hopkins was held on Tuesday, October

28, 2025 at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray. Dustin McClain will officiate and burial followed at Jeffrey Cemetery. Pallbearers include Eddie Caldwell, Keith, Kevin, Brage, Kerry and Jeremiah Hopkins.

Forrest William Grabarczyk, 52, of Murray, KY, passed away on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

Brian Keith Harrison, age 55, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Friday, October 24, 2025, at his home. Visitation were held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Murray. A funeral service followed at 1:00 p.m., Rev. Keith Inman, and Rev. Boyd Smith will officiate. Interment followed in the Murray Memorial Gardens.

Michelle Carie Chadwick, age 54, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at her home. J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Frances Maree Williams Pennington, age 97, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, October 27, 2025, at her home. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

William Sullivan, age 63, of Almo, Kentucky, passed away on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at his home. Arrangements are currently incomplete at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Mary L. Synagogue, age 77, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at the Spring Creek Health Care in Murray, Kentucky. J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Mary L. Synagogue, age 77, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at the Spring Creek Health Care in Murray, Kentucky. J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Debra Sue “Debbie” (Sanders) Coles, 65, of Murray, passed away Friday, October 23, 2025, surrounded by loved ones at home. Funeral services for Debbie were conducted Monday, October 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, with Bro. Sammy Cunningham and John Dale officiating. Interment followed the service in the North Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

Gene Arlton Hill, 75 of Murray, KY, passed away Thursday, October 23, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House in Murray. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home with John Dale officiating. Burial followed the service in the Coldwater Church of Christ Cemetery.

Martha Sue Belcher, 85, of Murray, passed away Wednesday, October 22, 2025, surrounded by her loving family at Passion and Purpose Homecare, Murray, KY. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, with Bro. James Stom officiating. Burial followed the service in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Kirksey, KY

• CHRISTIAN •

Linda Kay “Nanny” Sowards, age 83, of Benton, KY, passed away on Saturday, October 25,

2025, at Lakeway Rehab and Healthcare Center in Benton of natural causes surrounded by loved ones. Funeral Services were at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Bro. Jacob Davidson officiating and burial followed in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West. Visitation was at the funeral home on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

Billy O’Neal Irwin, age 68, of Hopkinsville, passed away on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Jennie Stuart Health of natural causes. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 31, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with burial to follow in Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home has been entrusted by the family to handle the arrangements.

William Ray “Billy Ray” Thompson, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Tennova Healthcare in Clarksville, Tennessee. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at Grace Episcopal Church, 216 East 6th Street, Hopkinsville, Kentucky with Rev. Stephen Spicer officiating. Visitation was held at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the service hour. Burial at Riverside Cemetery followed the funeral.

Ide Bouldin, 77, Lovers Lane, Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Friday, October 24, 2025 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. A celebration of life was held at 12:00 p.m. Thursday, October 30, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home with Dr. Joe Bufford officiating.

Vera Lee Bacon Gilmer Johnson was born on September 7, 1928, in Gracey, KY to the late Especulia Russell Bacon and George Townsend Bacon. She departed her earthly life on October 21, 2025, at 10:20 AM in the care of Christian Health Center.

David Kendall Stricklin, 61, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 11:14 a.m. Friday, October 24, 2025 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center. Memorial services will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 1, 2025 at Olivet Baptist Church with Pastor Mike Bullard officiating. Visitation will be from 12:00 p.m. until the service hour. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville is in charge of the arrangements.

Wilma Louise Gaither, 93, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 7:45 a.m. Monday, October 20, 2025 at Alive Hospice in Nashville, TN. No services will be held. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville is assisting with the arrangements.

• CRITTENDEN •

Clifford Cecil Shoemaker, 68, of Marion, passed away Saturday October 25, 2025 at Crittenden County Health and Rehab. Clifford enjoyed playing music in his band The Gypsy Crossing, gardening, farming and continued education. Cremation has been chosen by the family.

Michael Wayne Little, 60, of Shawneetown, IL, formerly of Marion, KY passed away unexpectedly October 24, 2025 at Deaconess Healthcare of Marion, IL. Services were held at 1 PM Wednesday October 29, 2025 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY. Inurnment will be held at the West Kentucky Veterans Cemetery in Hopkinsville, KY on Monday November 3, 2025.

Sherry Lee Cox, age 51, of Marion, KY passed away Thursday, October 23, 2025. She was a member of Repton Baptist Church and was a coal miner. Visitation will be Friday, October 31, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion KY. Funeral services will be at

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

the funeral home on Friday at 1:00 pm with Bro. George Hollis officiating. Burial will follow in Asbridge Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Monty Keith Hollis age 64 of Sturgis, KY passed away October 22,2025 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital, Evansville, IN. Visitation will be held Monday November 3, 2025 at Myers Funeral Home between the hours of 5 and 7 PM with services to follow at 7 PM.

• **GRAVES/FULTON/HICKMAN** •

Mr. James “Michael” Brown, age 66, of Mayfield passed away on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at Ray and Kay Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY. Funeral services for Mr. James “Michael” Brown were 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 26, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Richard Dowdy will officiate. Interment followed at McKendree Cemetery.

Mr. Daniel Jefferson Tynes, age 74, of Mayfield passed away on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY. Funeral services for Mr. Daniel Jefferson Tynes were 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Keith Allred and Rev. Wayne Rambo will officiate. Interment followed at New Liberty Cemetery.

James Allen Davis, age 54 and a resident of Mayfield, passed away at 12:15 A.M. Monday, October 27, 2025 at his residence. Graveside services will be conducted at a later date at the Unity Baptist Church Cemetery in Dublin. Memorial contributions may be made to Brown Funeral Home to help cover expenses. The Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

Algernon S. Weatherspoon, a cherished matriarch, and esteemed educator, transitioned peacefully on October 26, 2025, in Kokomo, Indiana, at the venerable age of 86. Funeral Services will be held 1 PM Saturday, November 1, 2025 at the Green Valley Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 12 - 1 PM on Saturday at the Church. Brown Funeral Home in Clinton are in charge of local arrangements.

Michael Chester Grant, age 68 of Wingo, Ky passed away on Friday, October 24, 2025 at 6:30 AM at the Clinton Place Nursing Facility. Funeral Services were held on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, Ky with Rev. Mike Miller officiating. Burial followed in the Calvary Community Cemetery.

David Neal Williams, age 67, of Kevil, KY, passed away Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield, KY. Memorial services for David will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at the East Hickman Baptist Church, 1522 Liberty St., Hickman, KY 42050. Friends are asked to call at the East Hickman Baptist Church at the service time on Sunday. The Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of the arrangements

Darline Louise Hunter, age 71, of Hickman, KY passed away Monday, October 27, 2025, at her residence. There will be no services held at the funeral home and Hornbeak Funeral Chapel in Hickman, KY are in charge of cremation arrangements

Brady Dwane Smith, age 51, of Wingo, KY passed away Thursday, October 23, 2025, at his residence. Memorial services were held at 1PM Friday, October 24, 2025, in our funeral chapel.

• **HENDERSON** •

Shirley Ann King, age 77, of Henderson, KY passed away at 4:30 a.m., Sunday, October 26, 2025, in the extraordinary care of Redbanks

Skilled Nursing Center and St. Anthony’s Hospice. A celebration of Shirley’s life will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, A Life Celebration® Home.

Terry L. Potter, age 64, of Henderson, KY, passed away on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at Deaconess Henderson Hospital. Relatives and friends were invited to Terry’s Life Celebration from 9:00 until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025, at Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home. A graveside service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY with Brother Randy Jones officiating. Burial will follow after.

Shirley Wallace Ranes, 95 of Sebree, KY passed away Friday October 24, 2025 at his home under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice. Services were held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday October 28th at Tomblinson Funeral Home in Sebree. Brother James Shuck will officiate. Burial followed in Slaughters Cemetery with military rites by American Legion Worsham Post 40 from Henderson, KY.

Bonnie Jean Travis, 98, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away at her residence on October 22, 2025. Visitation was held from 9:30 to 12:00 on October 30, 2025 at Tomblinson funeral home funeral services followed at 12:00. Reverend Jeff Coursey will officiate. A private burial will be held at Little Wabash Cemetery in Crossville,Illinois.

Joyce Faye Randolph, 87 of Henderson, KY passed away October 22, 2025, at Redbanks Skilled Nursing Home. Visitation wasTuesday, October 28, 2025, from 2-4:30 pm at Tomblinson Funeral Home Henderson Chapel.

Wilma Dempewolf Hatchett, 92, of Henderson, passed away Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at her residence. Services will be private. Tomblinson Funeral Home Henderson Chapel is handling arrangements.

Eddie Garrett, 82, of Henderson, Kentucky, departed this life on October 21, 2025, due to natural causes. Visitation were held at Grace Point Church on October 24, 2025, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, followed by a funeral service at the same location at 2:00 PM with Brother Eric Fannin officiating. A burial took place at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

William Edward “Eddie” Madden, 70, of Corydon, KY, passed away on Monday, October 20 at Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, IN. Visitation were on Thursday, October 23, from 3 – 7 pm, and Friday, October 24, from 10 am until the time of the service at 12 pm at Tomblinson’s Funeral Home. Burial immediately followed at Roselawn Memorial Cemetery.

Thomas “Tom” E. Springer, II On October 21, 2025, Thomas “Tom” E. Springer, II, of Henderson, Kentucky, passed away at the age of 80 after an extended illness, surrounded by family, while under the care of St. Anthony’s Hospice.

Funeral services for Tom were at noon Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home, 604 Center Street, Henderson, Kentucky 42420. David Richard Burnett and David Salisbury will officiate. Burial followed in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Boxville, Kentucky.

• **HOPKINS/MADISONVILLE** •

Anna (Ann) Claire Neese Walker, 93, of Madisonville, passed into the arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ-the hope and joy of her life-on October 26, 2025, surrounded by her beloved family. A celebration of her life was held at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 30th at Madisonville First United Methodist Church, with Ken Hundley and Reverend Doctors John and Loletuth Kalz

officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. before the celebration. A burial service was held later that day at Maplewood Cemetery in Paris, Tennessee, where Ann will be laid to rest with her loved ones.

Mary E. McCay, 83 of Madisonville, KY passed away, Friday, October 24, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A visitation will be held from 12:00 P.M. until 2:00 P.M. Saturday, November 1, 2025 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel.

Larry Rushing, 58, of Madisonville, KY passed away, Friday, October 24, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Funeral services were at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel. Burial followed at Bethlehem Cemetery.

Rita Jo Morrow, 77, of Nebo, KY passed away Friday, October 24, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. Funeral services were held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday October 29, 2025, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home – Madisonville Chapel with Eddie Fleming officiating. Burial followed at Concord General Baptist Church Cemetery in Manitou.

Thomas Roland Bean, 75 of Madisonville, KY passed away, Thursday, October 23, 2025 at Redbanks Colonial Terrace in Sebree, KY. Services will be held privately for the family. Barnett-Strother Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

Melody Oglesby, 63 of White Plains passed away Friday, October 24, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess. A Celebration of Life service is pending. This site will be updated with arrangements when they are made.

Shirley Mae Bruce Duvall, 74, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at her home. A funeral service was held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Rutherford officiating. A private burial followed at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville, KY.

Russell “Russ” Lee Ball, Jr., 77, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A funeral service was held at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Bill Bursztynski officiating. Burial followed at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville, KY. Military honors will be performed by the United States Air Force and the Hopkins County Honor Guard.

Lannie “Keith” Jarvis, 59, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Friday, October 24, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. A funeral service was held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Diane Oakley officiating.

• **LYON** •

Wanda Nell Balentine Downing, age 79 of Kuttawa passed away peacefully at her home Sunday, October 26, 2025. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at Dunn’s Funeral Home in Eddyville with Rev. Mike Farmer and Rev. Jeremy Short officiating. Burial was held at Macedonia Cemetery in Kuttawa.

• **MARSHALL** •

Paul Krywokobylskyj, 63, of Grand Rivers, Kentucky, passed away on October 25, 2025, at his home. Visitation was held from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Street, Benton, KY.
Funeral services were held at 12:00 PM on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann.

Margaret “Peggy” Burkey, 84, of Hardin, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville, in Madisonville, Kentucky.
A graveside service was held at 1:00 PM on Friday, October 31, 2025, at Hardin Baptist Church Cemetery.

Garry McLeod, 69, of Marshall County, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at his residence.
Visitation was from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at the court square location of Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr, 1117 Poplar Street, Benton, KY 42025.
Funeral services were at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr with Bro. Richard McCarver and Bro. Ronnie Cope officiating. Burial followed at New Home Baptist Church Cemetery.

Betty East, age 90, of Benton, KY, passed away on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, KY.
Arrangements are incomplete at this time at Collier Funeral Home and Crematory in Benton, KY.

Ruth Young, 89 of Benton, KY passed away on Monday, October 27, 2025.
A memorial service will be at 1:00 PM on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home, located at 211 West 5th St. Benton, KY 42025.
Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM until the service time of 1:00 PM on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home.

John Pace - February 17, 1956 - October 21, 2025 - Our family is heartbroken to share that our beloved brother, John Pace, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away suddenly but peacefully at his home on Tuesday, October 21, 2025.
A celebration of John’s life will be held at his home place—right after his family and friends finish the dream garage project he started, our last gift to him.

• McCRACKEN •

Mike Hill, 76, of Arlington, Kentucky, passed away on October 27, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah.
Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington. Burial will follow at Burkley Cemetery, in Burkley, Kentucky.
Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the service time of 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington.

Dorothy Lee Page (nee Willis), 97, of Paducah, passed away peacefully on October 26, 2025, closing the end of an era for the Western Kentucky town where she was among the last of the ‘Greatest Generation.’
The funeral services, being handled by Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah, will be private. Rev. Tommy Tucker will officiate. The family wishes to express gratitude to the dedicated group of women who provided compassionate and exceptional care to Dorothy.

John Krupansky, 74, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on October 26, 2025.
A memorial service will be held Saturday, November 1, at 11:00 a.m. at The Grand Lodge on Fifth, 121 N. 5th Street, Paducah, KY 42001 with visitation from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

David O. Bonee, 75, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on October 26, 2025, at Mercy Health

Lourdes Hospital.
A Funeral Service was held at 1:00 p.m. on October 29, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Bro. Van Russell officiating.
Visitation was held from 11:00 a.m. until the service time of 1:00 p.m. at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Oron James “Butch” Orr, Jr. passed away on October 26th, 2025 at the age of 85.
A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Nehemiah Christian Church with Pastor Charles Dunbar officiating.

Francis Eugene “Gene” Kilcoyne of Paducah, KY, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the age of 88.
Gene donated his body to science through the Medical Education and Research Institute (MERI) Genesis in Memphis, TN.
Details regarding a memorial service will be announced by the family at a later date.

Donald F. DeWolfe Jr., 77, passed away at his residence on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah are handling arrangements.

Terry L. Bowman,70, passed away on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky.
A funeral service was held at 1:00 PM on Monday, October 27, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Bro. Ricky Cunningham officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.
Visitation was held from 11:00 AM until the service hour of 1:00 PM on Monday, October 27, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Cathy Y. Thweatt, age 76 went to her Heavenly Home Saturday, October 25th, 2025, at the Ray and Kay Eckstien Hospice Center in Paducah surrounded by her loving family.
Private family service will be held at a later date.

Sonja Radaker, 65, of Paducah, formerly of Bonita Springs, FL passed away on Monday, October 20, 2025, at her residence. She will be cremated per her wishes.

Carrie R. (Beasley) Glore, 94, passed away on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Jack Alan Campbell, Sr., 68, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on October 26, 2025.
A celebration of Jack’s life was held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at Woodlawn Church in Paducah with Tim Threatt officiating. All who knew and loved Jack are welcome.
Visitation was held from 11:00 AM until service time at the church.

• TRIGG •

Jean Young - March 7, 1937 - October 24, 2025. At this time no service will be held, but a Celebration of Life will be planned at a later date for 88 year old Jean Arthur Young of Cadiz Kentucky. Jean went home to Our Father on October 24, 2025, at 2:02am while residing at the Princeton Rehabilitation and Health Center in Princeton KY.

Jewel Elizabeth Bulloch, age 88, passed away on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at her home in Cadiz, Kentucky.
A graveside service was held at 11:00 AM, Saturday, October 25, 2025, at East End Cemetery, 171 Main Street in Cadiz, with Bro. Reed Shepherd officiating.

• UNION •

Dennis William Pierce Sr., age 76 of Sturgis formerly Uniontown passed away Wednesday, October 22nd 2025 at his home surrounded by

family.
Visitation was from 12 PM to 3 PM Saturday, October 25th at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY.

Gary W. Whitehead, 83, of Sturgis, Ky, passed away peacefully on October 22, 2025, at the Linda White Hospice Facility.
Visitation was held at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, Ky on Monday October 27th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, October 28th from 10:00-11:00 a.m. with funeral following. Burial will take place at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville, Ky.

Yvonne Waddell, 75, of Morganfield, Kentucky passed away peacefully October 21, 2025 at her home, surrounded by family.
Funeral service was at 10 AM Friday, Oct 24 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY.
Bro. Ryland Brown will officiate.
Visitation was from 4-8 PM Thursday and 9 AM until service time Friday at the funeral home.
Burial will be in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield.

Hugh Gerald “Jerry” Gough, age 87 of Morganfield, KY passed away Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at Breckinridge Place Retirement Community in Morganfield, KY.
Funeral service was held at 12 Noon Friday Oct 24, 2025 at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Uniontown, KY. Fr. Bruce McCarty will officiate.
Burial followed in St. Agnes Cemetery in Uniontown, KY

• WEBSTER •

Patsy “Patty” Evelyn Hackney, 74 of Slaughters passed away Friday October 24, 2025 at her home.
Funeral services were Monday, October 27, 2025 at Vanover Funeral Home at 1:00 PM with Brother Bobby Sellers officiating. Burial will be in Slaughters Cemetery in Slaughters.

Mason Lynn, 24, of Henderson, KY passed away Wednesday, October 22, 2025 unexpectedly at his home due to a sudden medical event.
Cremation was chosen in line with Mason’s wishes. Funeral services were held at 1:45 Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon, KY.



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

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

One moment changes everything

By Teresa LeNeave
Leneave2@comcast.net

There are countless Bible stories that could have been written just yesterday. They are still as relevant as the 5:00 news. One such individual emerges from the pages in the Bible: the woman at the well. She lived a life of passion. Since she had already been married and divorced five times, she was not a young woman when she met Jesus, but she still had not changed her sinful lifestyle.

Obviously, she was the type that needed a man. Had she been abused? Had she been an orphan without a father in her life? Or, had she been a rebellious child? The Bible doesn't tell us much about her past, but a few things were

pretty obvious, one being that she was co-dependent. She needed a man to feel secure. Being alone was not something she could face. After five husbands, she now was in a live-in relationship.

I imagine her dealing with feelings of rejection. Normally, women went to the well early in the morning before the dessert sun was miserably hot, but not this woman. She went at noon, at meal time when very few, if anyone, would be there. Perhaps she was coming at noon to avoid the sneers and whispers of the other women who were so quick to judge her.

Five husbands, in any generation or culture, is not something a woman is proud of. There were



periods of history when men could have all the wives he wanted, but never a time when women had that luxury. From

the beginning of time women were expect to be chaste, to love her husband and her family. If you wonder how an unchaste

woman was thought of, you have only to read Proverbs chapter two. Solomon said her ways lead to death and total destruction. In Proverbs 5:3,4 he says, "For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as worm wood" (which is poison).

That's the kind of culture she had to face, daily. She was the "immoral woman". The one people whispered about. She knew what public rejection felt like. Life had not been good to her. Her life was empty, but she continued to search.

And that is where Jesus finds her.

To her, He is a "Jew" which was not good news and when she saw Him

sitting on the well something in her stomach probably began to sink. "Oh, no" she must have thought. Because Jews did not associate with Samaritans, she was surprised that He spoke much less ask her for a drink of water! Her immediate response came from a life of rejection when she spit out words of pain. "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans" (John 4:9 KJV).

Jesus said, "I'll give you water that you will never thirst again". Her entire life she had been searching for something to satisfy and now Jesus was offering to end the search.



By Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org



Sometimes in deer hunting, the tree stand becomes the seat of discontentment.

Early in my hunting life, I was notorious for giving up on one spot for the hopes of another. My logic was always based upon the deer that I was not seeing. It didn't matter that I had spent weeks or even months scouting that particular area. I was willing to give up after only a few days of inactivity.

And since these were the days before trail cameras, my roaming always seemed justified. Sometimes I would get out of the tree stand and just start wandering around. I called it spotting and stalking, but it was really my inability to be patient with where I was. My cry was, "If I could only see deer! I don't have to shoot one; I just want to see movement." So, after a couple of non-productive days,

I was ready to move on. The problem was that many times the new place I found was no better than the last. So, I moved again. Now, as you can see, I began forming a pattern of constantly moving; and worse, a pattern of impatience. Thankfully, as I grew older, I overcame the urge to move. I began to trust my pre-season scouting and realized that my constant moving was not caused by

the lack of deer movement but by something lacking within me. What was lacking was problems, or as the Bible says, tribulation. Here's what it says. "We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance." In deer terms this means that when I realized that deer was showing up at the place I had just moved from; I understood that I

had moved too soon. My tribulation of the past produced in me the patience I need today.

Right now, you may be getting a little antsy as well. The urge to move may be welling up inside you. It may be coming from unrealized expectations or delayed activity. But don't be so quick to leave. You may only be moving toward a pattern of impatience while someone else is

enjoying the fruit of being at the place you just left.

Gary Miller
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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

Knowing God through His word

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

Even with something as simple as praying and reading the Bible every day, it’s a challenge even to those who are determined and sincerely seeking God’s divine guidance. As a Christian writer and teacher, I encourage everyone to make time and find the secret place of God’s presence where they can spend quality moments alone with Him. I’ve noticed a huge difference between reading non-religious books and reading the Bible. There is no resistance when reading novels and ordinary books, but when we read and study the Bible, alarms sound, and the atmosphere changes as it draws the attention of dark spiritual forces.

I realize some believe this is silly and there is no such thing as invisible entities trying to hinder us, but when we make a vow to obey Christ, we not only face hostility from our carnal nature, but also aggressive attacks from demonic enemies who oppose God. I’m not condemning those who read secular

books, watch movies, or play video games, etc., but would you be surprised if I told you that I know church members who have confessed they never read the Bible? How can a Christian know God personally or understand what He requires if we refuse to read or study His word? What about passages such as Matthew 4:4? “But Jesus answered and said, it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

Are there individuals who can spend significant amounts of time entertaining themselves while also being devoted to daily prayer and Bible study? The concern comes when the hours people spend on their phones, internet, and television add up to be significantly more than the time they spend in prayer and absorbing God’s instructions. There was a time when statements like this were respected as truth and brought conviction to the listener. However, as compromising is more popular today than ever, lame excus-



es are now justified as legitimate reasons. As the religious continue to fall into the snare traps of rebellion, denial, and deception, we now commonly hear people declare how they do not want anyone meddling in their personal business.

Lately, we’ve been talking about our responsibility to engage in intercessory prayer and spiritual warfare, and we cannot overemphasize how critical this is to those who have a passion to be an overcomer for Christ. Since God has explained the symbolism of our spiritual armor mentioned in Ephesians chapter

six, we are left to ponder why a person who says they are a servant of God would ignore it. Why is it that some church-goers assume the pastor and elders do the work of the ministry while the average pew sitter is exempt? Many believe that if they contribute money to the church, this is all they need to do. However, if a person is truly saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, they also have ears to hear what God’s Spirit is telling them to do. Every Christian has been given the gifts, talents, anointing, authority, and the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which means we are commanded to

walk, work, and obey His voice. We read in I Corinthians 12:4-6, Matthew 28:15-20, Acts 1:8, and II Corinthians 3:5-6, that as the Lord’s disciples, we are responsible for doing the work of ministry, and be constantly aware of His presence.

Every thought and deed should be a reflection of God’s love and grace, and if it is not, we are guilty of the sins of omission. I Peter 4:10 is not a suggestion. “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” Choosing to

live in denial and only think happy thoughts does not mean the spiritual war between light and darkness is not raging all around us. Thomas Gray, an eighteenth-century poet, declared, “What you don’t know can’t hurt you,” but we know this reveals the immaturity and deception of those who take comfort in false security. It’s probable the devil would not need to waste his time hindering lukewarm religious individuals, as they are no real threat to his agenda. In fact, they are helping promote Satan’s twisted and distorted philosophies. It’s the devoted and obedient follower of Jesus who reads their Bibles and intercedes, and are engaged on the front-lines of spiritual combat. The dark side fears the children of God as demons know that greater is He that lives in us than he that is in the world.

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

THE BITTER CUP OF LEGALISM

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

Coffee was once considered the devil’s drink of choice. Because coffee was popular among Muslims who drank it to stay awake during their evening worship services, Roman Catholic Church leaders during the 16th century claimed that it was a demonic concoction “of Islamic infidels.” That is, until Pope Clement VIII gave it a taste—and it didn’t take long for him to bless the bean. “This Satan’s drink is so delicious,” he remarked, “it would be a pity to let the infidels have

exclusive use of it. We shall fool Satan by baptizing it.” And immediately, coffee conquered the continent and flowed all the way to the mugs we fill every morning.

Coffee-hating legalists nearly missed out on one of God’s greatest gifts to mankind, and legalism continues to rob believers of God’s gifts of joy, grace, peace, and Christian liberty. Legalism, if you didn’t know, is when we add man-made rules and religious traditions to God’s word, grading our holiness and that of others

based on restrictions God never gave us in the Scripture. Legalism turns us into spiritual hall monitors who police piety based on personal preferences. And legalism rears its ugly head when we measure spirituality by clothing choices, denominational traditions, worship music styles, and strict abstinence from activities not explicitly prohibited in the Bible—things like watching secular movies, wearing blue jeans to church, or enjoying classic rock music. The Pharisees of Jesus’ time were steeped in legalism,

demonstrated by their indignant insinuation that His disciples were heathen-like sinners because they didn’t ceremonially wash their hands before eating (Mark 7:1-5).

The apostle Paul warned believers about the danger of legalism in Colossians 2:20-23, “You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!”? Such rules are mere human teachings

about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires” (NLT). Simply put, legalism may appear holy, but it does not make you holy. It may keep your hands clean, but it cannot keep your heart pure.

However, the remedy for legalism is not swerving to the opposite extreme and indulging in unrestrained and careless conduct.

The solution is also not more rules—the answer is more Jesus (Col. 2:6). And we must obey the Lord out of gratitude for His saving grace (cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Titus 2:11-12), and carefully assess our obedience according to what God has clearly written in His word. Additionally, we ought to enjoy and embrace the good gifts of God’s creation without guilt, and exercise wisdom while doing so. Otherwise, we will dilute the sweet cup of God’s grace and drink the bitter cup of legalism.

Business Briefs

KENTUCKY

Paducah

An American uranium enrichment company, General Matter, signed a lease with the U.S. Department of Energy, in order to develop a commercial uranium facility. This will take place at the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and will revive the site where America’s uranium enrichment industry was born. The project has a proposed budget of \$1.5 billion and will create roughly 140 high paying full-time jobs. It is estimated to generate \$71 million in recurring annual economic benefit for the Paducah area. The company, General Matter, evaluated more than 1,000 potential locations across 11 total states before choosing Paducah. This proposed facility will produce the fuel needed for the next generation of nuclear energy. The project will also help reshore domestic nuclear fuel production that will potentially save the U.S. 500 million dollars annually by reducing the reliance on foreign imports. The company is the first privately funded American company to develop uranium enrichment technology. General Matter, aims to begin its operations at the Paducah facility by the end of the decade.

Madisonville

A Canadian manufacturer, known as, E. Hofmann Packaging, will be opening up its first United States facility in Hopkins County. The facility has a 43 million dollar investment that will bring a little over 160 jobs to the Madisonville area and will be a 100,000 square feet production facility. The company produces rigid plastic containers that are primarily for the food and beverage industry. The production plant is expected to be complete and operational sometime in 2026. The company was founded in 1984 and has expanded in recent years with a stronger emphasis on food customers. Starting back in 2010, the company has doubled its sales every five years with the food and beverage industry representing over half of its sales.

Muhlenberg County

Ground has officially been broken in Muhlenberg County for a new 20 million dollar manufacturing facility. The company that the facility will belong to is Biomass Engineering and Equipment (BE&E) which is an Indiana-based producer of equipment for the agriculture, forest products and biomass sectors. The new facility will create around 250 full-time jobs. Some of the product that the company designs and builds includes conveyors, log decks, debarkers, chippers, and storage silos, along with live-floor bins, trailer load-out systems, and many other industrial machinery. BE&E is currently operating a plant in Greenville that employees 50 people. This facility will be the first facility in the Paradise Regional Industrial Park. It will house updated equipment as well as provide increased operational space and allow for more in-house manufacturing which will reduce the need for outsourcing. The project is supported by state funding through the Kentucky Product Development Initiative with a total of \$745,000. The company was founded in 2011 and has its headquarters located in Indianapolis along with a production plant in Boise, Idaho.

Harrodsburg

Two companies, known as Apple and Corning, have announced the expansion of their partnership that totals up to \$2.5 billion and results in making Corning’s Harrodsburg plant the exclusive producer of all iPhone and Apple Watch cover glass worldwide. With this expansion decision, it means that 100% of Apple’s cover glass will be made in the United States for the first time ever. Corning

will dedicate its entire Harrodsburg facility to manufacturing for Apple and will increase its manufacturing and engineering workforce in Ky by half. The plant will also house a new Apple-Corning Innovation Center that is focused on advanced materials and next generation manufacturing for all future Apple products. This is part of Apple’s newly launched American Manufacturing program. Apple and Corning have partnered together since 2007 which is when the original iPhone first came out. Apple has invested approximately \$500 million in Corning’s Kentucky operation since 2017.

Bowling Green

The company, ValorFlex Packaging of Kentucky is investing a total of \$23.4 million in order to build an advanced flexible packaging facility in Bowling Green, Ky. It is a veteran owned company and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nashville’s ValorFlex Holdings. The company specializes in custom pouching, along with lamination and flexographic printing. This facility will generate 82 full-time jobs and puts the average wage to around \$39 per hour.

Lexington

A multimedia rights partnership has been extended by the University of Kentucky and JMI Sports. The partnership was extended to 2040 in a deal that is valued at more than 465 million dollars, which happens to be one of the largest in college athletics. The agreement adds strategic support for NIL operations as well as facility development and fan engagement. The company, JMI Sports, has served as the University of Kentucky’s multimedia rights partner since 2014. With this deal, it introduces a new revenue-sharing model that allocates around 80% of net revenue from advertising and sponsorships to UK and Champion Blue. Champion Blue is a recently formed nonprofit LLC that serves as the holding company for the Athletics department. There are also upcoming opportunities that include new signage at the Kroger Field and Kentucky Proud Park, plus the potential of venue naming rights. The University of Kentucky is investing up to \$10 million in athletic facilities that include upgrades at Kroger Field, as well as the soccer and softball venues, and exploring an on-campus entertainment district.

Beaver Dam

Morgantown Bank & Trust expanded their business into Ohio County by opening up a temporary branch until the permanent facility is constructed. The business is located in Beaver Dam at 1150 N. Main Street and offers full banking services while plans more forward the facility that will be built on the same site by sometime next year. They currently have two locations in Morgantown as well as three in Bowling green with a loan office in Nashville, Tn.

Louisville

A nearly 2 million dollar investment is being done by Ford Motor Co. in order to modernize its Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) for the production of an all new electric mid-size pickup. This will be for both the U.S. and export markets and will be the third largest economic development project in Kentucky history. The upgrade of the facility will introduce an innovative “assembly tree” manufacturing platform that will boost efficiency, as well as ergonomics and affordability. The completion of the upgrades is estimated to be done by the second quarter of 2027. It will also generate over 2,000 full time jobs. Ford Motor Co. has been in operation in the state of Kentucky since 1913 when the Model T first rolled off the production

line in Louisville. There are around 12,000 employees that work for Ford, statewide, and they also partner with 165 local suppliers.

Mayfield

Back in July, the Kentucky medical cannabis program reached a milestone as the Armory Kentucky LLC began the state’s first legal cannabis cultivation in Mayfield, Ky. Kentucky has licensed 81 businesses and has registered over 400 medical cannabis practitioners. There will be additional licensees including processors and testing labs that are expected to begin operations soon with the state’s first medical dispensary opening this fall in Beaver Dam.

INDIANA

A Jasper, Indiana Based company, known as Kimball Electronics, will be expanding its presence in Indianapolis with a new contract manufacturing facility that will be approximately 307,000 square feet. The contract manufacturing facility is focused on the medical industry and they are expected to create around 345 jobs over the next six years. The average wages of the employees will be around \$29 per hour. The company also plans to retain a little over 160 existing jobs at other locations. It is expected to begin in March of 2026.

TENNESSEE

The company, Vibrant Health Products Inc. is investing around \$48.5 million over a five year period to open up its first United States baking facility. It will be located in Rossville, Tennessee and will create almost 400 new jobs. Vibrant Health Products Inc. is a Canadian company that operates as Silver Hills and they will be revitalizing the former Kellogg’s Eggo facility that closed last year and is located just 30 miles East of downtown Memphis. The facility operations main focus will be on bread production for U.S. customers and has future plans of expanding into additional products as the demands grow. The company was founded in 1989 and its headquarters is located in Abbotsford, British Columbia. They specialize in sprouted, organic, gluten-free, grain-free, and plant-based baked goods. All of the products for Silver Hills feature sprouted grains which are supposed to improve digestibility, bioavailability of nutrients, and also to help stabilize blood sugar levels. Some of the products the company offers include breads of course, as well as tortillas, bagels, and buns.

A Company by the name of Summertown Metals will be investing \$22.6 million in order to expand their business into Morristown, Tennessee. This will mark the company’s first location outside of southern Middle Tennessee and will create roughly 170 new jobs in Hamblen County and bring the company’s total employment to nearly 600 across its three areas. The company was founded in 2006 and has grown into a custom building/materials distributor. This new facility will be able to support the demand with added capacity for metal roll forming, along with truss manufacturing, and distribution.

Little Leaf Farms has made the decision to invest around \$75 million to establish a greenhouse operation in Manchester, Tennessee. The company uses advanced greenhouse technologies which include rainwater capture, solar power, and hydroponic farming in order to produce fresh, pesticide-free greens all year long. A total of 318 jobs will be created over a five year period. The Tennessee site joins existing operations in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Entrepreneurs Under 40

Skyler Kanipe

Project Manager at Community Financial Services Bank

Skyler Kanipe, is the Project Manager at Community Financial Services Bank (CFSB). According to Kanipe, “as a project manager I get to wear a lot of hats! I manage all kinds of projects across the bank, launching new software, improving internal processes, and making sure everything runs a little smoother day to day. I also work closely with our vendors and handle contracts. In short, I connect the dots, keep things moving, and make processes run more smoothly for

both our team and our clients.”

Kanipe graduated from Webster County High School in 2015 and went on to attend Murray State University and graduated in 2019. When asked how she got into this business she stated, “ It was totally by accident, but it was a happy accident! I started working at the bank part time while still in college, when CFSB was launching its Interactive Teller Machines (Live Teller Machines). The extended hours

were perfect for a student and I’d never considered a career in banking before, but from day one, I knew this was where I wanted to build my career and where I want to retire.”

Kanipe has been at her job for a total of 8.5 going on nine years and when asked what she likes best about her job she responded and said, “Honestly, It’s never boring. Every day brings something new — different people, different problems to solve, different wins to celebrate. It’s rewarding to see

how the work we do behind the scenes can make life easier for both our team and our clients. When she is not working, she is taking care of her plants and has a calendar full of weekend plans. She said, “In the summer, you’ll usually find me on the lake or in the garden. I love learning new things, whether it’s through books, podcasts, or by asking one too many questions. I’m usually planning my next adventure before I’ve even unpacked from the last one!”



Skyler Kanipe

Entrepreneurs Under 40

Hannah Lewis

Co-owner of Puckett’s Jewelry

Hannah Lewis, of Marshall County is the Co-owner of Puckett’s Jewelry. As a jewelry store owner, Hannah stated that she wears many hats. “Outside of clerical tasks and inventory procurement, I get to assist our customers. Whether that be finding the perfect piece of jewelry or diagnosing repair work with our jeweler. I also have the privilege of working with our

customers on custom pieces and engagement rings - which are my favorite part of what we do”! Hannah graduated high school from Marshall County High School and went on to attend and graduate from Murray State University.

Hannah said how she got into this business was working part-time there, “I started working part time at Puckett’s Jewelry while I was a

student at Murray State. I enjoyed working in this industry because it was very fulfilling and fun! I get to play with diamonds every day!” Hannah worked for the previous owners, Dave and Martha Puckett, for 4 years before her and her husband bought the jewelry store and took over for the past 2 years.

When asked what do you like best about what you do, Hannah responded and said,

“Jewelry can be so special. We celebrate some of life’s biggest moments with our customers. It is very rewarding to take a precious piece, maybe left by a family member, and remake it into something new that can continue to be cherished. Or to hand off the finished engagement ring that a customer

see **LEWIS**, page B12



Hannah Lewis

STIFEL

CONGRATULATES



Pictured left to right:

Sally Teague, Client Service Associate

Elliot Treece, First Vice President/Investments

Lacey Metzger, Client Service Associate

Adam Chustz, CDFA®, Senior Vice President/Investments

Hanna Rhinehart, Client Service Associate

Chustz-Treece Group

for being named to

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LEWIS
page B11

and I worked together to create. It is an honor to be a small part of those special pieces!”

Hannah stated, “I am business partners with my husband, Bart Lewis. We met in college at Murray State. We lived in Nashville for several years but moved back to the area two years ago when we purchased Puckett’s Jewelry. We have two little girls, Andie and Brynn, and our beloved dog, Larry! We love to spend time with our family and friends. In the summer, you can find us at Kentucky Lake!”

Hannah did share a recent announcement the business has made, she said, “We have just recently announced that we will be opening a second location in Murray, KY. We plan to open this upcoming Fall 2025. We are excited to be a part of the Murray community again!”

Entrepreneurs Under 40

Cody Noffsinger

Controller Hopkinsville Electric System and Energy Net

Education:
BS in accounting , BA Finance, University of Kentucky,
Enrolled in MBA program, CPA.

Professional and Community organizations:
Vice Chairman, Christian County Chamber of Commerce
Work Force development Chair, Chairman of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hopkinsville, Hopkinsville Rotary Advisory Counsel, Christian County Schools Master planning committee and Hopkinsville Young Professional.

Biggest challenges of your professional career:
I had a chance to move from Hopkinsville but we decided to stay.
Balancing work, serving in community and bring people together.
Best decision was to stay in Hopkinsville.

What’s the best advice you’ve been and who gave it to you:
Saying Yes. When people ask you to get involved, that opens doors. Ask questions later. Every day show up to compete. Getting various people’s advice.

What’s career achievements are you most proud of:
Working for a public utility and HES-Internet service provider.
We’ve been able to grow our business 7 times.
Founder of Hopkins County Rotary Foundation.

What do you actually do in your job:
I lead the accounting department. Bring company forward in all I do. Take a birds eye view of all operation to meet our goals.



Cody Noffsinger

Entrepreneurs Under 40

Brock Murphy

Manager, Field and Main Bank

Education:
University of Southern Indiana
Professional

and Community organizations:
Ambassador for Henderson County Chamber of Commerce
Downtown Henderson committee member
Hoopla Committee Chair-Internal Field and Main Bank promoting morale internally through activities with employees building morale.

Biggest challenge of your professional career:
I grew up in Henderson, local boy. Navigating through people in management and workforce solutions building relationships, navigating and learning management

What’s the best advice you’ve been given and who gave it to you:
My family and friends and those in leadership

told me I needed to network and build those relationships and embrace the business culture.

What achievements are you most proud of:
Ambassador of the year for Henderson Chapter Chamber of commerce
I chair Hoopla, an employee team building

activity and chairman of the year for Field and Main Bank employee of the year.

What do you do specifically during your day:
I manage two banking centers in two different markets along with business development and mortgage lending.



Brock Murphy

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Dr. James Hunt

Dr. Ethan Shelton

Dr. Allison Reed

Entrepreneurs Under 40

Aaron Clayton

Operator/Franchisee of Culver's Restaurant in Paducah

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

lights on, it's a 24/7/365 job that can sometimes feel overwhelming, but with the support of our team, we would not have it any other way!" Aaron graduated from Calloway County High School in 2007 and then graduated with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Political Science from Murray State University in 2011. Aaron stated, "My original occupation out of high school, and something I still thoroughly enjoy doing, is working for a locally owned group of radio stations out of Marshall County, WCBL and WCKK. I worked full-time in the radio business from April 2007 to October 2021. In that time period, I did everything from being an on-air personality, writing and recording news stories, producing commercials, programming the daily logs for the radio stations as well as doing

play-by-play broadcasts for high school sports at both Marshall County High School and Lyon County High School." He continued on saying, "After marrying my wife Julie in May of 2021, I decided to step away from the full-time business of radio (while still broadcasting the high school games) to help her run Culver's. She and her father, Dr. David Cassity, purchased the land and the right to be franchisees of a Culver's quick-service restaurant in 2016. In January 2017, Culver's opened on the west side of Paducah where it still stands today serving fresh, never-frozen ButterBurgers and delicious frozen custard". "While this was a very new venture for myself, it was an easy transition thanks to Julie and the great teammates we have. I enjoy not only getting to work daily with my

wife and best friend, but I get to work with people of all ages and help individuals progress through this business as they move into leadership and continue the cycle of helping others." Aaron said one thing that he also loves is his wife helping him with broadcasts, "I also love that my wife Julie has now joined in on helping me on my radio broadcasts for Marshall County soccer, football, baseball and softball, along with Lyon County basketball. She has become a part of those communities alongside me, while also getting to see the youth of those programs grow into great young men and women outside of the field and classroom." He continued on saying, "Something we both put an emphasis on at Culver's is hiring area high-schoolers that may be applying for their first job to help them get



Aaron Clayton and Family

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

Entrepreneurs Under 40

Darla Laird

Executive Director of Carlisle County Chamber of Commerce/Real Estate Agent

Q: What are some of the things that you do?
A: As a Real Estate Agent, among many

responsibilities, is always prioritizing my client's interest. For sellers, my responsibility is

advising my clients through the process of paperwork, marketing their home and negotiating to get them the best deal for their home. For buyers, I begin with the process of searching for what they are looking for in a home and arrange viewings. When we find their new home, I work alongside them on coordinating the transactions to make the process complete. As the new Executive Director of Carlisle County Chamber of Commerce, working with the board, I will help support the community in any way possible. With the businesses already established in Carlisle and with the hopes of

new businesses coming to Carlisle we can share our networking and marketing skills

to help grow our community.
Q: How did you get see **LAIRD**, page B14



Darla Laird

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Joseph earned his law degree from the Southern Illinois University School of Law, where he developed a passion for estate planning, helping seniors plan for the future with confidence. Joseph's additional areas of practice include probate, guardianships, contracts, corporate law, and municipal law.

Joseph is bilingual after earning a B.A. in History and Spanish at Western Kentucky's Murray State University. A native of Marion, Illinois, where he currently resides with his wife, Coral, Joseph looks forward to reengaging with the Western Kentucky Community.

Joseph D. Tondini

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LAIRD,
page B13

into this business?
A: My journey began as a real estate agent. I enjoy helping individuals and families find a home to call their own or sell their home as their lives move in different directions. Becoming Executive Director for Carlisle County Chamber of Commerce just kinda happened as I began looking for ways to become active in my community. I began talking with other local, regional and state directors for guidance to start a chamber from the ground up.

Q: How long have you been at your job?
A: In 2024, I began my real estate classes and received my license in August 2024. I signed with Barger Realty this year and love working with the Barger team. I began pursuing the Chamber in November 2024, finalized our local board and was appointed as Executive Director in April 2025. I may be new, but I have found my passion and career.

Q: Where did you go to school?
A: For me, school is a long story. I grew up in the generation that had the opportunity to achieve college credits in high school. During this time of my life, all I wanted was a job as a nurse so I attended WKCTC, completed my general courses, and obtained a phlebotomy certification and pharmacy technician certification then covid hit and I began my quest for a new career.

Q: Did you intend to do this while you were seeking a degree?
A: Absolutely not. My plans were to be a nurse, but I am so thankful that I found what I enjoy doing.

Q: Did your college experience prepare you for what you are doing today?
A: The experience of college helps develop many skills, not just a career. Learning valuable communication and organization skills taught me how to work with patients, now clients, which is necessary for customer service skills.

Q: What do you like best about what you do?
A: As a realtor, I love working directly with clients to help meet their needs. I remember the feeling of purchasing my first home at 21 years old. I enjoy helping others find their dream home and supporting them through the process of selling their home. Working to start Carlisle County Chamber has been a rewarding experience to set out to achieve. I'm excited about planning activities, which I love to do.

Q: What are the challenges you face as you perform your job?
A: Coming out of my comfort zone. Networking for both real estate and chamber has been a huge learning curve

for me. I have always been known as the introvert. The one quote that has stuck with me since the beginning is "You get out of it what you put into it" and that has proven to be true everyday. Changing careers at the age of 26 has not been easy but there has been so many rewarding days.

Q: Are you married? Have Kids, Dogs count?
A: I have been married to my husband, Nathanael, for 5 years. We have 3 spoiled rotten dogs Remi, Sadie and Moxie.

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: I love decorating for any celebration. Whether it's a holiday, birthday, or anniversary party, I'm ready to help anyone make a memory. Traveling is a favorite pastime for me and my husband. It's a blessing to see and learn about all the things God has made.

Q: What are your plans for the future?
A: My passion for my community is developing in ways I hadn't imagined. I'm looking forward to growing my real estate business and working in my community. I want to be known as an honest, helpful and trustworthy real estate agent and leader. I love living in a small community and want to concentrate on the four river counties as I grow my clientele and I can't wait to kick off the Carlisle County Chamber of Commerce to the community.



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Entrepreneurs Under 40

Alex Chalker

Paducah Area Sales Manager -
Pepsi MidAmerica

Education: (High School & College, etc.)
Murray State University
Degree: Bachelor of Science
Major: Business Administration
Minor: Chemistry
Graves County High School

Professional & Community Organizations:
2025 Young Leader of Western Kentucky, Finalist
VUE Magazine's 40 Under 40, 2024
Family Service Society, Board Member, 2024 – Present
Leadership Paducah Alumni Association, -Board Member, 2025 - Present
-Member, 2024 – Present
-Leadership Paducah Class #37

Paducah Young Professionals, Member,

2022 – Present
Central Elementary Family Resource Advisory Board Member, 2023 - Present

Paducah Rotary Club -Board Member, 2025 – Present
-Service Committee Co-Chair, 2025 – Present
-Greeter/Pledge/4 Way Test Committee Chair, 2024 - 2025
-Member, 2023 – Present

Trace Creek Baptist Church, 1999-Present
-Future Generation Director, 2025 - Present
-Sunday School Teacher, 2016-2025
-Awana Cubbies Director, 2023 - 2025
-Finance Committee Member, 2024-Present
-Vacation Bible School Leader, 2017-Present
-Personnel Committee Member, 2018-2020
-Mission Week Block Party Leader – 2017

Sedalia Lion's Club T-Ball Coach, 2021 - 2024

Biggest challenges of your professional career?
Evolving and adapting myself to lead an ever-

changing workforce. What worked yesterday may or may not work today. Blending new ideas with proven best practices is a constant balancing act.

Best business advice



Alex Chalker

you've been given, and who gave it to you?
LEADERS SHOW UP
This phrase was on a bookmark presented to me during my involvement in the Paducah Chamber's Leadership Paducah program and is on display in my office currently.
It resonates with me because I have witnessed first hand that a person can have the best knowledge, best skills, best attitude, best resources, best of everything, but none of it matters if they are absent. You must be present to win. You must show up to lead. Most leadership needs are not scheduled.

What career achievements are you most proud of?
Being selected as a Finalist for the 2025 Young Leader of Western Kentucky

award. I was among a small group of very qualified, talented, and successful leaders. Although I was not the winner, it was an honor to be amongst the group.

What do you actually do in your job?
I oversee the sales, distribution, and presentation of Pepsi products in the Paducah/McCracken County sales area.
I train and empower my team to build relationships, sell, and evaluate what needs our customers have and how to fulfill those needs with products and services we offer.
I am a facilitator – using multiple forms of communication along with in person direction to grow our sales team members, meet customer needs, and provide results inside our organization.

Sellers sing praises of
Jennifer Palmer Realty

Dear Jennifer,

This thank you have been a long time in getting to you.

We have made two moves and I have finally gotten online again.

You were remarkably helpful in the listing and eventual sale of our home.

We feel that your special attention to everything involving

the listing, photos, and sale could not have been performed in a more professional manner.

Your personal touch, in dealing with us as individuals, assuring us of a successful outcome, and making each step so easy for us. Your wonderfully warm and infectious personality added so much more to our

relationship with you.

What was a business relationship, also became a friendship.

You were highly recommended to us, but we could never have expected the wonderfully talented professional you are, as well as a wonderful human being.

We are enjoying the Florida sunshine thanks to your efforts!!!!

If you have anyone who would be interested in having me “sing our song of praise about Jennifer” please feel free to have them contact us. We are now in Grand Cypress Way, Leesburg, FL

With sincerest appreciation,
Frank and Judy Sublette

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Jennifer showing her horse Reg ASB Walterways Never Stop Dreamin' in Shelbyville, KY at the 2024 Classic Horse Show in May.

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Entrepreneurs Under 40 | Mallory Johnson

Real Estate Agent

Education -
2010 Murray State
University graduate
with a degree in
Organizational
Communication, with
an Advertising minor.
Kentucky Real Estate
License - 2017

**Professional
& community
organizations-**
Hopkins County
Happy Feet Board
Member- 2025
Hopkins County
Farm to Fork
Committee - 2024, 2025
KYR Professional
Standards Committee-
2020-2024
United Way of the
Coalfield “30 Under 30
Honoree”- 2019
Madisonville-
Hopkins County
Board of Realtors -
2017-currently
Community Service
Committee - 2025
RPAC Committee -
2023
Board of Directors -
2021
Scholarship
Committee - 2018, 2024
Hopkins County
Young Professionals -
2016-2025
Board Member - 2017-

2018, 2024-2025
Hopkins County
Leadership graduate -
2016
Womans Club of
Madisonville - 2016-2025
Rotary Club of
Madisonville - 2015-2025
Cookin’ for Kids
participant - 2020, 2021,
2022, 2023
Hopkins County
Regional Chamber
of Commerce 2014 -
currently
Chamber
Ambassador - 2014-2017

**Biggest challenges
of your professional
career**
Navigating an
uncertain and volatile
Real Estate market
has been really tough
lately, for a lot of
Agents, everywhere.
Anytime there is a
shift in the market or
buying trends, it can
feel like you have to
re-invent the wheel
and adjust. It definitely
keeps you on your
toes, but provides a
lot of growth in your
adaptability.
Being a Realtor also
requires you to show
houses while people
are off work from their

jobs. It can become
tricky with your
personal and family
responsibilities to feel
“on call” at any time. It
can also make for some
very long days while
being away from your
family at night. I have
to be very mindful of
setting appropriate
boundaries to avoid
burnout, while also
fulfilling my due
diligence to clients.

**What’s the best
business advice
you’ve been given,
and who gave it to
you?**
When I started Real
Estate, my Broker told
me, “Just follow the
golden rule and you’ll
always be fine.” I’ve
never been a fan of
someone saying, “it’s
not personal, it’s just
business,” because
the way that I run my
business IS personal.
It’s shelter, a basic
human need. So, “Treat
others as you want
to be treated,” serves
as a reminder to give
my clients the type of
customer service that I
would want and need if
I were buying, selling

or renting a property.

**What career
achievements are you
most proud of?**
Honestly, at the end
of every year, I am
proud of what I was
able to successfully
accomplish and
survive in a career
as a mother with two
very active kids. The
flexibility in Real
Estate allows me to be
present for so many of
their daytime school
events and numerous
extracurricular
activities. After
ending each year
being a daily afternoon
“taxi service” and
fulfilling my roles as
Dance Mom, Theatre
Mom, School Mom,
personal shopper,
friend, and wife, it all
feels like a blessing to
celebrate and be proud
of. The years that I
am able to beat my
previous highest sales
production year while
also doing all of the
above, are a bonus!

**What do you
actually do in your
job?**
There are no two



Mallory Johnson

days that are the same
in Real Estate.
In short, as a Realtor
I help clients buy, sell
or rent properties by
providing professional
expert guidance and
support through the
transaction all the
way to the closing
table. In between, we
provide knowledge
of the local market,
run CMA reports,
schedule showings, set
up measurement and
photography services,
navigate the inspection
process, submit offers,
lead negotiations, file
paperwork, collaborate
with loan officers
and title companies,
coordinate repairs
and even serve as a
listening ear to each
client’s individual
circumstance and
housing need. My job
requires that I wear
a lot of different hats,
still within our scope of
business!

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TRD MRK

RANCH & FARM

AUCTIONS

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

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Entrepreneurs Under 40 | Erica Rambo

Owner of RPS Liquidation

Q: What are some of the things that you do?

A: As a bargain store business owner, I search out and find various items at a bulk and or discount rate, have them delivered to my location, unload, sort and check the items and then provide customers with great prices. Which is usually, 50 to 75% off the retail price. The store is open on Thursday through Saturday and the other days we are usually restocking merchandise. We work hard to provide great deals for our community.

Q: How did you get into this business?

A: I began buying

and selling online. I love to shop, so it does not feel like work. I do not like to pay full price, so I am always finding the best deals possible. This eventually led to renting a store to put more items in and be able to offer a huge inventory to the customers.

Q: How long have you been at your job?

A: My husband and I have had a store in LaCenter for about 3 years.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I have always attended Ballard County Schools. No College.

Q: Did you intend to do this while

you were seeking Education?

A: No, I never dreamed I would be doing this. It came about by chance.

Q: What do you like best about what you do?

A: I enjoy shopping, buying, management and being able to provide the community with great deals on goods they would have to go further to purchase. I also enjoy working with the public.

Q: What are the challenges you face as you perform your job?

A: This business is physically challenging because of the work of unloading and sorting as well as mentally

challenging because of the shopping, purchasing and focusing that goes in to owning a business, but I love doing it, so the joy outweighs the challenges.

Q: Are you married? Have Kids, Dogs count?

A: I am married to my high school sweetheart, Lucas . We just celebrated 15 years this year. We have 2 boys, Kolton and Linkoln.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Our family is very active in our church. Both of our boys play several sports, and we all love to go fishing in any spare time we can find.



Erica Rambo

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: I would love to expand the store and open a bigger store with an even wider variety of items in

the near future. – Update: Erica and Lucas just reopened the newly remodeled and restocked RPS Liquidation store on August 9, 2025, after a huge sale out event.

Drones banned while fishing, hunting in Kentucky

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – New measures are now in place to help protect Kentucky’s fish and wildlife resources from the increasing use of aircraft technologies by hunters and anglers in the field.

Following adjournment of the Kentucky Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on Oct. 16, 2025, a new administrative regulation (301 KAR 3:140) went into effect making it unlawful to use aircraft or unmanned aircraft in the take of fish or wildlife.

“This regulation will provide guidance regarding the use of aircraft, including drones, while hunting, fishing or participating in other outdoor activities,” said Maj. David Marques with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement Division. “It will also provide a framework for our wardens to work within when investigating and enforcing potential violations. This regulation has been needed for some time, and we are happy to finally have it in place.”

Under the authority granted to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife under state law, “take” includes pursue, shoot, hunt, wound, catch, kill, trap, snare or capture wildlife in any way and any lesser act designed

to lure, attract or entice for these purposes; and to place, set, aim, or use any device, animal, substance or agency which may reasonably be expected to accomplish these acts; or to attempt to do these acts or to assist any other person in the doing of or the attempt to do these acts.

Specifically, under the new regulation, a person shall not use an aircraft or unmanned aircraft system to fish, hunt or take wildlife or to drive or herd any wildlife for the purpose of fishing, hunting or taking; or to harass any wildlife.

However, aircraft or unmanned aircraft systems may be used by:

--Kentucky Fish and Wildlife employees and contractors or agents acting on behalf of the agency when addressing human safety, law enforcement, research, management or other needs approved by the department.

--Authorized landowners or their agents to engage in lawful wildlife damage control activities.

--Commercial fishers for use in locating or removing invasive carp.

For questions, the public may contact their local Kentucky Game Warden or the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1549 or atinfo.center@ky.gov, weekdays 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Eastern), except holidays.

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UK Animal and Food Sciences researcher earns national Emerging Investigator to stury PCOS

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— Katherine Halloran, an assistant professor in the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment’s Department of Animal and Food Sciences, has received a \$10,000 Emerging Investigator Grant from the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR). The competitive award, announced at SSR’s July meeting, supports early-career scientists as they build their research programs. Halloran will use the funds to study polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)

with a focus on how postnatal obesity may change ovarian function. PCOS is among the most common hormone disorders in women, affecting an estimated 10–13% worldwide. Additionally, obesity worsens the symptoms and prevalence in those with PCOS. “I had no idea this was coming,” Halloran said when she learned she was one of four people to win the grant. “I’m grateful for the support, and I’m ready to put it to work.” Her project uses a well-established sheep model of PCOS to examine how excess weight after birth can worsen the condition.

The team has already collected ovaries from research animals and will use laser capture microdissection to isolate specific cell types in the ovary that are critical for ovarian function. They will then sequence those cells to examine gene expression related to oxidative stress, inflammation, metabolic dysfunction and other pathways linked to PCOS and obesity. “Sheep offer key advantages for this work,” Halloran said. “They usually have one or two offspring, their organ development timelines mirror humans, and their offspring are born

more fully developed compared to rodent laboratory animals. That helps us ask human-relevant questions at the right time points.” The work builds on samples Halloran collected during her postdoctoral training. She said the grant will generate data that can power larger proposals and next-step studies. “These funds let us explore focused questions now, so we can pursue bigger questions next,” Halloran said. From here, Halloran’s team plans to look at oocyte quality — how markers for epigenetic changes and oxidative stress might change

in the face of PCOS and obesity, something that has direct implications for embryo development and future fertility. “Our goal is clear,” Halloran said. “We want to understand the origins of PCOS well enough to help point to prevention or early intervention strategies. Even a small step forward can make a difference for individuals with PCOS and their reproductive-metabolic health.” The Emerging Investigator Grant was created to provide new faculty members with targeted support for experiments that advance their research labs.

“It may be a small award, but it removes key hurdles,” Halloran said. “It gets us the sequencing we need now, and it helps us make the case for the next round of funding opportunities.”



Katherine Halloran was a recent winner of the Emerging Investigator Grant from the Society for the Study of Reproduction. Photo provided by Halloran



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8	3	7	5	1	9	6	2	4
9	2	5	4	8	6	3	7	1
7	9	3	8	4	5	2	1	6
8	6	2	1	7	3	4	9	5
4	5	1	9	6	2	7	8	3
5	3	6	7	9	8	1	4	2
2	4	9	6	5	1	8	3	7
1	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	9

Word Search Answers

I	N	J	T	H	B	I	S	S	A	W	Q	N	I	N	O	S	V	E	S	
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Safe trick-or-treating tips

Halloween is enjoyed by people of all ages, but few get a bigger kick out of the holiday than children. There are costumes to be worn, time spent with friends and the opportunity to collect free candy and other treats.

Although Halloween can be a fun time, the Children's Safety Network warns that it's also a time when accidents can happen. According to the CSN, the most dangerous day for child pedestrians is Halloween, with two times as many child pedestrians dying on Halloween compared to other days. It is essential to prioritize safety on Halloween, and following these guidelines can help.

- Make sure costumes are short. Costumes that drag on the floor are tripping hazards, which can lead to injury. Be sure that costumes do not cover the feet or drag



on the ground.

- Trick-or-treat in groups. Children are safer in numbers due to the increased visibility of a crowd and because, if something happens, others can call for help. Parents can use their discretion on what age they feel is mature enough to let children go out

alone. Until then, children should be accompanied by adults.

- Improve visibility. It's important to be seen while trick-or-treating, and that can be achieved by making sure costumes and trick-or-treat bags feature reflective tape. Trick-or-treaters also

can carry flashlights or glow sticks to improve visibility, and stick to areas with streetlights if going out after dark.

- Stay on sidewalks. Whenever possible, trick-or-treaters should stick to the sidewalks and avoid walking on the roads. This may not always be possible

in neighborhoods without sidewalks, where parents and youngsters must be especially careful.

- Eat before trick-or-treating. A meal or snack before trick-or-treating can reduce the tendency to fill up on candy while out and about. All candy and other treats should be inspected

by an adult before it is eaten.

- Keep pets locked away. Animals can become skittish when there are many people loitering outside of homes or ringing doorbells. Keep pets in a quiet room away from the action to prevent them from getting loose, injured or scared enough to bite or scratch someone.
- Avoid masks that obstruct vision. It can be hard to see peripherally with a mask on, so avoid costumes with masks that compromise vision.
- Test out makeup beforehand. All makeup used for costumes should be tested for allergic reactions prior to use. Heed the warnings on packaging and avoid putting makeup too close to the eyes or lips.

These are some safety strategies designed to keep Halloween fun and incident-free this year.

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2 lawmakers consider bill to remove state mandate for fluoride in drinking water

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Two Kentucky lawmakers are hoping 2026 will be the year that a bill to remove the state mandate for fluoride in Kentucky’s drinking water finally crosses the finish line.

Rep. Mark Hart, R-Falmouth, has filed legislation similar to House Bill 16 from the 2025 legislative

session nine times, he said. The bill did not become law this year but did receive House approval, 68-29. The measure was then assigned to the Senate Health Services Committee, but was never called before that panel.

Hart plans to carry the bill in the House, while Sen. Greg Elkins, R-Winchester, said he would file companion legislation

in the Senate next year.

“The legislation simply undoes the unfunded mandate in the state of Kentucky that requires water producers to add fluoride to the water,” Hart said.

The newer version of the legislation from Hart would protect local water districts from civil and criminal liability, he said.

The decision to add this provision to the bill is the result of conversations with water districts.

“One of the biggest concerns we heard was they were worried about possible litigation,” Hart said. “Doesn’t matter whether they keep fluoride in water or take it out, they are afraid they’re going to be sued with whatever decision is made.”

“We’re not promoting fluoride one way or another – good or bad,” Hart added. “We’re trying to steer away from that conversation, because that’s not what the legislation does. However, with some of the stuff in the media today, we thought it was necessary to give you a little bit of an education on the risks and benefits for it.”

Elkins said he considers the proposed legislation to be “permissive” rather than a requirement. “It’s more of a local control bill to me than anything else.”

The Kentucky General Assembly cannot take action on new bills until the 2026 legislative session begins on Jan. 6.

SNAP benefits set to run out Saturday amid federal shutdown

By MELISSA PATRICK
Kentucky Health News

Because of the government shutdown, a benefit that helps more than 600,000 Kentucky families put food on the table is set to run out Saturday.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture website says, “At this time, there will be no benefits issued November 01.”

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is a federal program that helps roughly one in eight Kentuckians

buy groceries each month with prepaid electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards.

At an Oct. 20 news conference, Gov. Andy Beshear said the state will not be able to pay for the November SNAP benefits.

“My hope is that either the federal government will find a way to fund SNAP, which I think there is an argument they can even with the government shutdown, or the government will reopen in time for us to process those payments,” he said.

Beshear encouraged Kentuckians to seek out their local food banks for help, but LEX18 reports that the state’s food banks don’t have the inventory to handle the need that will result from the loss of these food benefits.

“For every meal a food bank distributes, SNAP provides approximately nine meals to households receiving benefits,” LEX18 reports.

Not only will this impact families, it will also impact local gro-

cery stores and more, according to a Your Local Epidemiologist newsletter.

“The impact will go far beyond food, too. A 2015 study found that SNAP benefits create ripple effects across the economy, allowing families to pay rent, keep their cars, and cover other essentials — often the very things people sacrifice when food runs short. SNAP helps people move out of poverty,” according to the YLE newsletter.

Here are some ways to help your commu-

nity, as outlined by Dr. Liz Marnik for YLE:

Donate money to your local food pantry. Every bit adds up.

Organize a food drive at your work, school or other community location. Be sure to connect to your local pantry to find out what food items they actually need and can accept.

Make a meal and deliver it to a family you know is in need.

Ask your child’s school if you can drop

off extra snacks (if they don’t already provide free breakfasts and lunches).

Volunteer to cook for/at a local community meal.

Call your representatives and urge them to act on health care and food access.

SNAP benefit updates can be found on the state’s Department for Community-Based Services webpage.

U of L paralysis program aiding children

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) – Children with complete paralysis due to spinal cord injuries have gained the ability to take steps, thanks to an innovative, external electrical stimulation technique at the University of Louisville.

Researchers in UofL’s Kosair for Kids Center for Pediatric NeuroRecovery provided a combination therapy to five children with

complete paralysis. The children, ages 7-12, took part in a clinical study in which they received external electrical stimulation over the spine, combined with activity-based therapy and encouragement to consciously intend to step. During the study, the children all gained the ability to take steps and experienced unexpected improvements in sensation, bladder function, transferring and other abilities. The study was published in the September 2025

issue of the journal Brain.

“We have found that electrical stimulation can ‘charge’ the spinal cord, making it possible for a paralyzed individual to step voluntarily,” said Andrea Behrman, professor in the UofL Department of Neurological Surgery and director of the Center for Pediatric NeuroRecovery, who led the study. “This ability increases over time when the stimulation is combined with locomotor training and mental

intent to step.”

In the study, children who were completely paralyzed for more than a year, unable to move below their level of spinal injury, participated in a series of 60 sessions that included noninvasive, transcutaneous (through the skin) electrical stimulation of the sensory nerves to the spinal cord and specialized physical therapy.

The electrical stimulation was applied with a specially

designed technique for external electrical stimulation developed by Yury Gerasimenko, now gratis professor of the UofL Department of Physiology. The technique consisted of several small stimulators, about the size of a quarter, placed on the child’s skin over the sensory nerves of the spinal cord. During the sessions, electrical stimulation was applied through the pads while the children took part in physical therapy known as activity-based locomotor

training.

This therapy consists of researchers and therapy technicians manually facilitating the child’s legs in stepping motions as they lay on their side on a table with their legs suspended and also during assisted walking with part of their body weight supported over a treadmill. In addition, the children were encouraged to consciously attempt to step.

The Ingram Distillery proudly introduces 2025 Flagship Bourbon

Highly Coveted Annual Release Comprised of Just Eight Barrels This Year

COLUMBUS, KY — The Ingram Distillery today announced the arrival of its 2025 Flagship Bourbon. Released just once a year, Ingram’s Flagship Bourbon is a highly coveted, ultra-premium expression that is meant to showcase River Aging at its best.

Traditionally, flagship is a term reserved for the most impressive vessel in a fleet. The Ingram Distillery’s Flagship Bourbon is no exception. Every vintage of Flagship is a unique blend of its finest barrels of the year and is personally crafted by Ingram’s Master Blender Scott Beyer.

This year marks the fifth Flagship Bourbon release. Batch 5 is more than a small batch, it is a micro batch. With a proof of 116.5, it is a blend of only eight high-rye bourbon barrels with a mashbill of 36% Rye, 60% Corn, and 4% Malted Barley.

“Every Flagship release is unique, with its own character and flavor produced by our river aging process,” said Founder and Proprietor Hank Ingram. “This year, we selected and blended from just eight

barrels to produce what we believe is a truly extraordinary bourbon. We’ve accomplished much in 2025 and the release of our Flagship is the perfect way to celebrate as we turn to the fall. I would tell any bourbon lover to act quickly before these bottles are gone.”

The release of the 2025 Flagship Bourbon continues a year of heavy activity and continued positive momentum for The Ingram Distillery. It added to its fleet a new Kentucky wheated bourbon, Uncharted, that is packaged in 100% recycled glass. The Ingram Distillery also came to market in Alaska and Texas recently, meaning its award-winning whiskies are now available in eight states.

2025 Flagship Bourbon tasting notes:

Nose: Aromatic, reminiscent of apple pie, brown sugar, cake frosting and clove

Palate: Oily and heavy mouthfeel. Notes of milk chocolate, sweet buttercream and chai spices.

Finish: Long with toasted walnuts, warm cinnamon and nutmeg, then caramel



and demerara sugar on the end

Inside the original floating barrelhouses, The Ingram Distillery whiskey barrels spend their years exposed to the magic of the Mississippi River. The motion of the river, its high humidity, and

natural daily heat cycling ensure that the whiskey never stops working. We call it Mellowed on the Mississippi. You can see full details about the unique aging process here.

To learn more about The Ingram Distillery

and sign up for updates, please visit IngramWhiskey.com, where invitation-only floating barrelhouse tours are available. You can also follow on Facebook and Instagram.

About The Ingram

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

Moored on the banks of the Mississippi River in Columbus, KY, The Ingram Distillery’s barrelhouses were custom built inside former grain barges. They now house a 2-story barrel maturation operation that never leaves the water. While having a similar look to those on land, Ingram’s barrelhouses have a very different feel.

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

Presently available on shelves in Alaska, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin, as well as online via Seelbach’s.



100 years of innovation and service: UK Research and Education Center celebrates its impact and resilience

Established to serve Western Kentucky farmers, the University of Kentucky research station at Princeton has transformed global agriculture and continues to meet new challenges.

By Jennifer Elwell

PRINCETON, Ky.— A century of global innovation, education and community partnership was celebrated yesterday as the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center (UKREC) marked its 100th anniversary with a commemorative event at its new facilities in Princeton, Kentucky.

The celebration honored the legacy of the station’s founding in 1925 and its enduring impact on Western Kentucky farming communities and global agricultural practices.

Founded on 400 acres donated by local farmers and community leaders, UKREC has grown into a 1,652-acre hub of scientific advancement and outreach. The centennial event brought together producers, research faculty, Extension agents, alumni and state officials to reflect on the substation’s rich history and look ahead to its future.

“For a century, the Princeton research farm has been advancing Kentucky and the globe. As a leader in agricultural innovation, the farmers and families of Western Kentucky have served as the cornerstone for pioneering resilient agricultural communities, farming methods and Kentucky heritage,” said University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto. “As we



Dean Laura Stephenson addressed the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees and facility stakeholders at the centennial celebration of the UK Research and Education Center.

Photo by Matt Barton, University of Kentucky

celebrate the 100-year milestone and reflect on the community that has stewarded the UK Research and Education Center at Princeton, I am inspired by what the Princeton research farm has made possible for Kentucky and her people. I look forward to all the ways it will continue to advance our Commonwealth, upholding a promise more than 160 years old.”

“UKREC is a model of land-grant engagement: listening first, co-creating solutions in our Princeton fields, and sharing knowledge so others don’t carry the risk alone,” said Laura Stephenson, vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “That

spirit of collaboration is what has made this place so impactful for a century — and will carry it forward for the next.”

A legacy rooted in community

The idea for an agricultural experiment farm in Western Kentucky emerged in the early 1920s, driven by the region’s need for improved farming methods and advanced scientific agricultural research. This was the same time timber baron E.O. Robinson offered a 15,000-acre tract of land in Eastern Kentucky for an experiment station.

While sites in Paducah and Mayfield were suggested, Caldwell County Extension agent H.D. Triplett advocated for Princeton because of its central location and diverse soil types.

In 1924, the Kentucky General Assembly approved funding for the substation, contingent on local citizens purchasing and donating the land. With overwhelming support, families, schools and civic leaders rallied to raise the funds, and the West Kentucky Sub-experiment Station officially opened on Labor Day, Sept. 7, 1925. The dedication ceremony attracted more than 12,000 attendees, and according to newspaper articles written about the event, it was the largest public event recorded in the area.

The UK Research and Education Center opened when horses and mules were more common on farms than tractors. Pictured is a wheat thrasher that was purchased in 1927 to speed up variety trial results.

Transforming Western Kentucky agriculture

From its earliest days, UKREC has been a catalyst for agricultural transformation. Its research has shaped farming practices across the region and beyond, with landmark contributions to

no-till farming, double-crop systems, integrated pest management and soil reclamation. The substation’s work in dark-fire tobacco, fruit production, beef cattle nutrition and forage systems has helped Kentucky producers remain competitive and sustainable.

UKREC’s commitment to education has been equally impactful. Through field days, workshops and Cooperative Extension programming, the substation reaches thousands of farmers annually, equipping them with the latest research and practical tools to improve their operations.

Princeton-based farmer Trevor Gilkey has attended many of the UKREC meetings and field days over the last 40 years, beginning as a tag-along with his father. He said he developed strong relationships with the faculty and staff, as they were always happy to answer his questions or test new techniques on his farm. “They were a big help not just to me but to a lot of people,” said Gilkey. “They seem to do a good job of staying up on the latest technology.

It’s just a constant learning cycle for those of us in agriculture, so they have been a blessing for me personally. They’ve always gone the extra mile.”

UKREC has long attracted top-tier agricultural scientists and educators. In the 1960s and 1970s, Dean Charles Barnhart expanded the staff, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration that continues today. The substation currently employs 65 full-time faculty and staff across nine units and houses the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, established in 2019 to position the university as a global leader in addressing modern agricultural challenges.

Resilience and renewal

The 2021 tornado that devastated much of UKREC’s infrastructure was a defining moment in the substation’s history. Despite the destruction, their mission endured. More than 200 research projects continue, and rebuilding efforts have transformed UKREC into a more

see **INNOVATION**, page B25



Black and white photo from 1927 of the wheat thrasher used on the farm pulled by horses, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center.

INNOVATION,
from page B24

advanced institution, one that is ready to meet the demands of today’s agricultural climate.

“As Kentucky farmers face increasing pressure to produce more with fewer inputs and navigate complex technologies and weather patterns, UKREC is adapting to address new needs with updated facilities,” said Carrie Knott, Extension grains specialist and UKREC managing director.

“The tornado was a setback, but we’re as dedicated as ever to supporting Kentucky agriculture.”

Before the celebration, faculty, staff and UKREC stakeholders toured the farm and viewed the new construction projects. All buildings and structures are expected to be completed by 2026.

“After the devastating 2021 tornado, it’s been inspiring to see the UK Research and Education Center not just rebuild, but rebuild with a plan,” said Murray Sen. Jason Howell, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee. “The old facility had grown and changed over the years without a real roadmap, but what’s been built back is intentional, more functional and designed for the future. They’ve come back stronger, with cutting-edge research facilities and the same deep commitment to serving Kentucky’s farm families. The legislature was proud



University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto at the UK Research and Education Center at Princeton.

Photo by Matt Barton

to invest \$9 million through the SAFE Fund to help make that vision a reality.”

“Since its establishment in 1925, UKREC has been at the forefront of agricultural research, not only serving the farmers of Western Kentucky but also making significant contributions to global agricultural practices. From pioneering no-till farming methods to advancing livestock health and crop management, the impact of UKREC’s work resonates far beyond our borders,” said Owensboro Rep. Suzanne Miles, majority caucus chair.

For more information on UKREC’s history, impact and the centennial celebration, visit <https://ukrec.mgcafe.uky.edu>



Speaking at the UKREC centennial celebration were UK Board Chairman Britt Brockman, President Eli Capilouto, Sen. Jason Howell, Martin-Gatton CAFE Dean Laura Stephenson, Rep. Suzanne Miles and Brandon Reed, executive director of KY Office of Agricultural Policy.

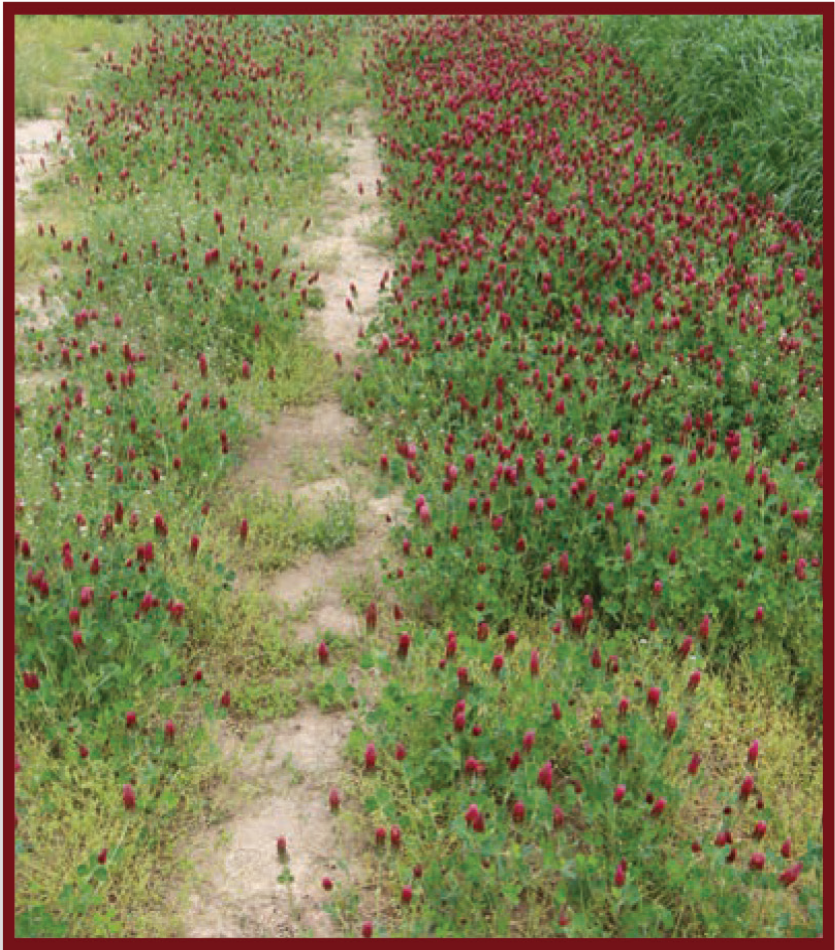
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Agriculture teacher inspires KY FFA State Officer to continue education at University of Kentucky

Jacob Ball hoped that bringing agriculture education to Carter G. Woodson Academy would spark interest from his students. His student Tyren Harris found more than just interest—he saw his future

By Grace Sowards

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Traditionally, high school curricula must cover the core subjects: math, science, history. Now, educators like Jacob Ball are growing

the importance and prevalence of agriculture education. Ball, a University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment alum and member of the Martin-

Gatton CAFE Alumni Association Board, was a teacher at Carter G. Woodson Academy for 14 years until recently taking a position as executive director of the Bluegrass AgTech Development Corp.

While at Carter G., which serves students grades 6-12, he received the national Milken Educator Award, which honors outstanding teachers across the nation.

When he first started at Carter G. Woodson, if students wanted to learn about agriculture, they would have to go to Locust Trace Agriscience Center for part of the day. Ball found this troublesome, as agriculture is a large part of Kentucky’s economy. According to Ball, leaving school even for just one class can disrupt a student’s routine.

“Thinking about teaching ag at Carter G. made me look at it through a different lens,” said Ball. “How can I make this valuable to them?”

Ball met Tyren Harris as a seventh grader.

“I knew he was interested from the first class. When a student is engaged like that, you want to get them involved as soon as you can,” Ball said. “Giving students opportunities at a young age makes a huge difference.”

Harris, now a Martin-Gatton CAFE freshman in the Department of Community Leadership and Development (CLD), was initially drawn to agriculture because of Ball’s passion for it. He was driven to keep learning when he discovered his own passion for service. Harris’s involvement in FFA and MANRRS

at Carter G. Woodson eventually led to his selection as the Kentucky FFA State Treasurer and UK MANRRS Recruitment Chair and Public Relations Co-Chair.

“The theme of our application was ‘Made to Serve,’” Harris said. “When Mr. Ball came to Carter G., there was no ag program. Creating a new program for his students was service in itself.”

Harris seemed overwhelmed when asked what about agriculture interests him most. Traditional farming, like harvesting crops or raising livestock, is just part of the industry. To Harris, this was a shock, but also an inspiration.

“What I learned at Carter G. is that ag applies to everyone,” Harris said. “We are all connected to a mission in agriculture, no matter where you come from.”

Ball remembers seeing Harris’ potential the first day they met.

“Tyren is a student that truly would have been successful with or without me,” Ball said. “As an ag teacher, the biggest joy is seeing them consider ag as a career opportunity.”

In CLD, Harris hopes to learn more about urban agriculture. He described this as all the ways we incorporate agriculture into our communities. Examples include using solar or other sources of energy, community gardens to encourage growing healthy foods or intentional landscaping.

Throughout his freshman year at UK, Harris will continue to serve FFA and MANRRS by sharing his passion for the field. He looks forward to his new relationship with Mr. Ball: first student-teacher, then mentor-mentee, and now peers.

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Matt Sween, UC Davis, Animal Science Department

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Tyren Harris is now a freshman studying Community, Leadership & Development (CLD) at UK Martin-Gatton CAFE. Jacob Ball, his former agriculture teacher, looks forward to supporting Harris for the rest of his time at UK and in his agriculture career.



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Kentucky Master Naturalist program accepting applications for Spring 2026 class

Dedicated to improving Kentucky’s green and wildlife spaces, the Kentucky Master Naturalist program is inviting the community to apply. Application deadline for next cohort is Nov. 23.

By Christopher Carney

LEXINGTON, Ky.— At the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, there’s a program dedicated to the conservation and management of natural resources in the Commonwealth. The Kentucky Master Naturalist (KYMN) program, part of the UK Cooperative Extension Service and housed in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, is inviting all to apply for the next cohort, which will begin in January 2026. Application deadline is Nov. 23.

“We are excited to build the next Kentucky Master Naturalist class, advancing our vision of more people across Kentucky connecting with nature on a deeper level,” said Ellen Crocker, KYMN state coordinator and forest health Extension specialist. “Through different education, outreach and research efforts, this cohort will receive the skills and knowledge they need to contribute meaningfully to conservation efforts in their own communities.”

Since the program’s inception, KYMN volunteers have visited community gardens, green spaces, schools, citizen science projects and state/national parks to help restore habitats, remove invasive species, develop communities and more. In 2024, the KYMN program logged more than 7,300 volunteer hours.

For Laurie Thomas, KYMN state coordinator and Extension forester, this program is all about people who want to be a “good steward” of the environment.

Kentucky Master Naturalist group at Hematite Lake in Kentucky. Photo provided by Anna Wiker.

Kentucky Master Naturalist group at Hematite Trail, located in Kentucky’s Land Between the Lakes near the town of Cadiz. Photo provided by Anna Wiker.

“We want to develop a good community of people who are informed and dedicated to improving their communities and contribute more to Kentucky,” Thomas said. “Our graduates leave inspired and with a sense of renewed responsibility in supporting Kentucky’s natural resources and environment.”

One of those graduates, Dan Stone, a retired professor from the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics, believes the program is a “fun, interesting and educational” experience.

“The Kentucky Master Naturalist is a fantastic program,” Stone said. “I learned about conservation and environmental management, importance of soils to environmental health, role of archaeology in conserving Kentucky’s cultural heritage and Kentucky’s rich resources in native freshwater fish. There is nothing more fun than hanging out in the woods, or on a lake, or in the mountains, with people who love the natural world.”

For Barbara Navarra, an active volunteer and environmental educator at Blackacre Nature Preserve and Historic Homestead in Louisville, being a graduate is meaningful.

“I have gained so much about many areas of the natural world and how they interact,” Navarra said. “As a Master Naturalist, I have the knowledge and resources to conduct what I consider to be legacy work at Blackacre — working toward creating beautiful and peaceful woodlands in the middle of an urban sprawl, and passing on my love and care for the natural world to visitors of all ages.”

Application steps and expectations

The program requires 20 class sessions virtually (on Zoom), along with several field training opportunities, covering subjects from soil health, wildlife management and water quality

to environmental education and field safety. Additionally, participants must volunteer for 40 hours. To maintain the Kentucky Master Naturalist certification, at least 40 volunteer hours and eight continuing education hours every year are required yearly.

The cost is \$200, and scholarships are available. The cohort is limited and typically receives more applicants than space available. Thus, applicants are encouraged to apply early and demonstrate their interest in becoming a Kentucky Master Naturalist.

To date, the Kentucky Master Naturalist program has completed seven

cohorts with more than 450 graduates. Each year, the program invites their graduates to stay connected by participating in upcoming trainings

and field trips, seeking volunteer opportunities, reporting their service hours and attending the annual conference. To learn more about

the Kentucky Master Naturalist program, visit <https://naturalist.mgcafe.uky.edu>. To apply for the program, visit <https://bit.ly/434IeSJ>.



Each year, the Kentucky Master Naturalist cohort dedicates time to the conservation and management of natural resources within Kentucky communities. Photo provided by Anna Wiker

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