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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

Tree-Planting initiative marks Noble Park's 100th Anniversary



Photo / City of Paducah Government

by Mike Mohundro, WSIL / Special to West KY News

PADUCAH, KY. (WSIL) — City officials and volunteers gathered Tuesday at Bob Noble Park to kick off a special initiative celebrating the park's 100th anniversary, planting the first 35 trees as part of a larger community effort.

The tree-planting event, organized by Paducah Parks & Recreation, marks the beginning of the "Noble Park 100th Anniversary Tree Planting" campaign. The initial planting included a mix of native and hardy species such as White Oak, Red Maple, Sugar Maple, and Bald Cypress.

City leaders say the effort aims to enhance the park's natural beauty while honoring its century-long role as a central gathering place for residents.

Organizers are now calling on the community to help reach their goal of planting 100 trees in total. Sponsorship opportunities are available for individuals, families, and businesses who want to contribute to the park's legacy.

More information about sponsoring a tree can be found on the City of Paducah's official website.

McDonald's building new restaurant

located across from Menards, new facility will be open 24 hours a day

by Greg LeNeave
Publisher
KPI Newspaper Group

PADUCAH, KY — Last week marked another groundbreaking in McCracken County, this time organized by Conrad Love and longtime McDonald's employee Cathy Elliott.

The new location will be on the west side of Paducah, across from Menard's and Culver's on Highway 60. This restaurant is expected to be a strong addition to this growing area of McCracken County. Its proximity to McCracken County High School, along with its convenient access to Ballard and Carlisle counties, positions it well for success. Combined with the ongoing energy boom in the West Paducah/Kevil area, this location is poised to

flourish for the Love family.

An interesting feature of this facility is that it will share the exact same footprint as the new 24-hour McDonald's on the north side of Murray.

What makes this groundbreaking especially meaningful is that it represents one of the final major projects overseen by Cathy Elliott. According to Conrad Love, Elliott was determined to see the project through until the ceremony was complete. During her 31-year career with McDonald's, she played a vital role in the company's success. Affectionately known as "McMama" by many, she left a lasting impression on colleagues and the community alike.

Elliott also served as

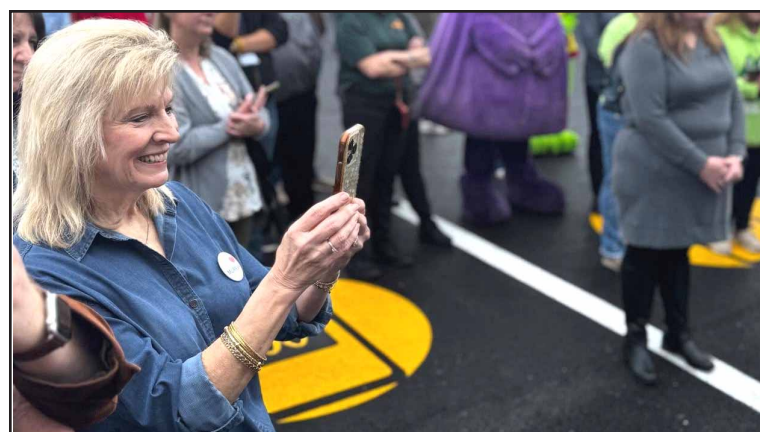


Pictured at the groundbreaking in Paducah were Jackie Love, Jinny Ponting, Ellis Love and Conrad Love.

assistant chairman of the Tri-State chapter of the Ronald McDonald House, working alongside President Mike Love. In addition, she directed the organization's annual summer fishing tournament.

The new McDonald's is scheduled to open in January 2027.

A & K Construction will serve as the general contractor, handling all aspects of the project.



Cathy Elliott is pictured at the ribbon cutting in Murray when the Love family opened their restaurant. She was known for her constant smile and positive spirit as McDonald's continued to grow and thrive. People like her will be deeply missed and difficult to replace.

She was also known for her favorite saying:

"McDonald's... I'm lovin' it."

Barkley Regional Airport marks milestone 80th anniversary

by Mike Mohundro
special to West KY News

WEST PADUCAH, KY (WSIL) — Barkley Regional Airport is celebrating 80 years of commercial air service on April 1, marking a significant milestone in its long history of connecting western Kentucky's Jackson Purchase region to destinations around the globe. Since its first commercial flight on April 1, 1946, the airport has grown from a modest regional airfield into a modern facility spanning more than 1,000 acres. Today, it offers daily commercial flights and plays a key role in supporting economic development across the surrounding four-state region.

Originally established in 1941 as Paducah Army Airfield, the site was used to train U.S. Army Air Corps B-17 bomber crews during World War II. It was later renamed in honor of Alben W. Barkley, a western Kentucky native who served as Vice President of the United States.

In 2026, Barkley Regional Airport continues to connect local travelers to the national and global travel network through major hubs, including Chicago O'Hare



International Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport. "Marking 80 years of

commercial flight service is a significant achievement for any airport and a point of pride

for our entire community," said Executive Director Dennis Rouleau. "Regional airports

such as Barkley offer considerable value, providing convenient and accessible travel options

for rural communities. They facilitate connections to the entire nation and the world, enabling economic growth and international access, while also making the region easily accessible to the global economy."

As part of its continued efforts to grow passenger usage, the airport launched the "Fly Barkley Pledge" in March 2026. The non-binding initiative encourages travelers to consider using their hometown airport first when making travel plans. Since its launch, more than 200 people have signed on.

"If you haven't flown from Barkley yet, you're missing what air travel should feel like: friendly, familiar service and a "Fly Local, Fly Barkley."

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AG UPDATE Mulch, mold and fungi

for Ag and Natural Resources

Sources: John Strang, horticulture specialist; Paul Vincelli, plant pathologist

Mulch can be beneficial in many ways on plant beds, around foundation shrubs and other gardening locations in your yard, but mold can threaten its benefits.

In landscape beds and gardens, mulch helps control weeds, prevent extreme soil temperature fluctuation, decrease water evaporation and improve drainage. Mulch also reduces mower and string trimmer damage on shrubs and trees by suppressing vegetation near their trunks. As it decomposes, mulch produces organic materials to improve soil and otherwise benefit plants.

You need to periodically re-apply mulch to continually get these benefits.

Nuisance fungi occasionally grow on mulch. They include shotgun fungus, slime molds, stinkhorns, earthstars and toadstools.

The shotgun fungus shoots masses of tiny black spore structures onto adjacent surfaces such as vehicles and home siding.



Slime molds are more unsightly than harmful. They don't cause plant diseases and aren't parasitic. Slime mold spores usually appear from late spring to fall. Abundant wet weather stimulates above-ground appearance of these fungi that initially appear slimy but quickly become dry and powdery when converting into spore masses. You'll

often see slime molds quickly appear and usually disappear in one to two weeks. They tend to reproduce in the same location every year. Fungicide use isn't recommended because slime molds aren't harmful.

When mulch hasn't been composted, it might contain fungi that cause plant diseases. This situation is rare, howev-

er, and only occurs in non-composted mulch. Plant material fertility problems can arise when fungi in decomposing mulch remove nitrogen from the soil.

Insufficient moisture problems can

develop when fungi permeate thick layers of dry mulch creating a surface that's difficult for water to penetrate.

To gain the most benefit, you should use composted mulch with a high bark con-

tent and little wood material. Avoid finely ground, woody products that haven't been composted.

If you buy fresh wood chips from a tree-maintenance firm, add water to the chips and allow them to partially compost for about six weeks. If this material doesn't have fresh leaves, you can add some nitrogen to speed up the process. Avoid using fresh or partially composted wood chips near the house foundation because they can provide a food source for termites.

Immediately after you put mulch around plants or trees, soak it with water to enhance bacterial activity to initiate decomposition. Periodically wet mulch during the growing season.

Avoid soured mulch because it tends to injure plants. You can spot sour mulch by its acrid odor.

Legal notice of sale to satisfy storage fees owed, 2018 Blazer 24x72 boat hin# #cjt524436718, submit bids by May 1st, 2026 to Rowland Diesel Repair 1751 Iuka Rd., Grand Rivers Ky 42045

Kentucky State Police Warn Public of Text Message Scam Impersonating the Agency

FRANKFORT, Ky. - The Kentucky State Police (KSP) is alerting the public to a scam involving fraudulent text messages claiming to be from KSP regarding unpaid traffic violations.

These messages are not legitimate. The

texts often include a link and may attempt to create a sense of urgency to prompt immediate payment or action. Recipients are strongly advised not to click on any links and to delete the message immediately. KSP emphasizes

that it does not contact individuals via text message regarding citations, fines or payments. Any communication requesting payment through a text message should be considered suspicious. Reports received

today are part of a broader trend observed recently, with multiple complaints involving similar scam messages. These include attempts to impersonate Amazon, the Kentucky State Police, the Kentucky Office of Highway

Safety and other reputable organizations. KSP urges the public to remain cautious when receiving unexpected or suspicious messages.

The Team Kentucky Stop Scams initiative was created to help Kentuckians best pro-

tect their family from scams by providing information and resources you can trust. To learn how to report a scam, please visit the Team Kentucky Stop Scams website.

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Woodlands Nature Station Spring Break: LBL's Most Extreme Animals



Press Release

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES, Ky. – The Woodlands Nature Station invites families to visit during spring break, April 4-12, for programs and activi-

ties all about Land Between the Lakes' most extreme animals. Each day, activities at the Woodlands Nature Station will focus on a different kind of "extreme", such as the fastest, strongest, or

largest animals. "Spring break visitors can expect to meet live animals up close at LBL's Most Extreme programs, and to learn about the extreme adaptations that help these

animals survive in the wild," says public programming coordinator Nickolaus Willis, "We hope that our spring break will be both fun-filled and educational to Land Between the Lakes

visitors." See the full schedule of spring break programs here. LBL's Most Extreme programming is included with Nature Station admission, which is \$7 for ages

16+ and free for ages 15 and under. Woodlands Nature Station is located in Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area at 3146 Silver Trail Road, Cadiz, Kentucky, 42211.



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WEST KY SPORTS



Lady Falcons Show Strength, Leadership Early in Season



Front Row: Karlie Kimbell, Jenna Byassee, Lakyn Wilber, Kaylee Howell, Blair Byassee, Audrey Tucker, Ann Marie White, Keeleigh Stewart, Allie Hoff, Madi Wilson
Back Row: Maddi Kate Meshew, Leah White, Amelia Russell, Kelton Hardy, Kylie Meshew, Kaylee Britton, Bailey Childress, Sophie Morris, Kennedy Sublett, Lucy Gargus

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

HICKMAN COUNTY — The Hickman County High School softball team is proving early on that success isn't built on talent alone, but on chemistry, accountability and a shared commitment to one another.

"This team is something special," Head Coach Lisa Britton said. "Their chemistry is amazing, and they truly want each other to succeed. That's what makes me so proud."

According to Britton, the Lady Falcons have embraced a team-first mindset, understanding that every role — whether on the field or in the dugout — contributes to overall success. That culture starts

with leadership, particularly from the team's senior class.

"All four seniors set the example of what leadership looks like through their actions on and off the field," Britton said. "They've helped establish expectations early, and it all begins with work ethic."

Among those leaders is senior Blair Byassee, who has been a key contributor since her seventh-grade season. Britton noted Byassee's ability to lead with both energy and competitiveness.

"It's been fun to watch Blair grow into this leadership role," Britton said. "She brings positive energy to everything she does."

The Lady Falcons are also seeing strong contributions from

younger players stepping into important roles. Freshman Sophie Morris is gaining valuable experience behind the plate while also contributing offensively as a designated hitter. Fellow freshman Keeleigh Stewart has taken on time in the pitching circle, handling the pressure well while adding production at the plate.

Another freshman, Kaylee Britton, continues to build on early experience after stepping into a varsity role as an eighth grader. Her steady defensive play at third base, paired with offensive contributions, has helped solidify the lineup.

Sophomore Bailey Childress has also made an impact in a flexible utility role, rotating between sec-

ond base and left field depending on pitching needs while contributing offensively.

As the season progresses, Britton said the team remains focused on growth and competition.

"There are some very strong teams in our region, and we're working to put ourselves among them," she said.

The Lady Falcons will soon face new challenges, including a trip to Fort Walton Beach over spring break, followed by participation in the All "A" Tournament.

With a strong mix of leadership, emerging talent and a commitment to teamwork, Hickman County appears poised to make noise as the season unfolds.

Hickman County sweeps South Fulton (Tenn.) in doubleheader

Staff Report

CLINTON — Hickman County swept South Fulton (Tenn.) in an early-season high school softball doubleheader on Friday, March 27.

The Lady Falcons shut out the Red Devils in back-to-back games.

Hickman County 11, South Fulton (Tenn.) 0 (3 innings): Hickman County shut out South Fulton (Tenn.) 11-0 in three innings during a doubleheader on Friday, March 27.

Blair Byassee pitched a no-hitter for Hickman County and earned the win in the circle. Byassee posted two strikeouts.

The Lady Falcons excelled both offensively and defensively. Hickman County scored 11 runs on 11 hits. Audrey Tucker led Hickman County at the plate, finishing three-for-three with two doubles, one home run and six RBIs.

In addition to Tucker, Byassee (two hits), Keeleigh Stewart (two hits, one RBI), Kaylee Britton

(two hits), Ann White (one hit, two RBIs), Sophie Morris (one hit, one RBI) and Kaylee Howell (one RBI) delivered offensively for the Lady Falcons. White also homered in Hickman County's shutout win.

Hickman County 10, South Fulton (Tenn.) 0 (3 innings): Hickman County blanked South Fulton 10-0 in three innings during a doubleheader on Friday, March 27.

Keeleigh Stewart pitched a no-hitter for Hickman County and claimed the win in the circle.

Hickman County scored 10 runs on 10 hits. Stewart (two hits, two RBIs), Kaylee Britton (two hits), Bailey Childress (one hit, three RBIs), Blair Byassee (one hit, two RBIs), Sophie Morris (one hit, one RBI), Lakyn Wilber (one hit, one RBI), Karlie Kimbell (one hit, one RBI) and Jenna Byassee (one hit) were each productive at the plate in Hickman County's shutout win. Supplying two extra-base hits, Britton doubled twice.



McCracken County freshman third basemen Kennedy Brewer hit her first varsity home run during a game against South Warren on Thursday, March 26. (Photo courtesy of McCracken County High School Softball)



Calloway County High School senior guard Sayler Lowe committed to the Wofford College women's basketball program on Tuesday, March 31. (Photos courtesy of Calloway County High School)

Falcons defeat Warriors

Staff Report

CLINTON — Hickman County defeated Community Christian (Paducah) 7-1 during the quarterfinals of the 1st Region All "A" Classic on Monday, March 30.

With the win, Hickman County (8-1) advanced to the semifinals of the 1st Region All "A" Classic.

Kobe Yamauchi started on the mound for Hickman County and earned the win. Yamauchi pitched six and one-third innings and recorded 10 strikeouts.

Following Yamauchi, David Camp pitched the last two-thirds of an inning in relief for the Fal-

cons. Camp struck out one Community Christian batter.

Cooper Reed pitched a complete game for Community Christian and suffered the loss on the mound. Reed posted three strikeouts.

Hickman County plated seven runs on 10 hits. Yamauchi helped to lead Hickman County at the plate, finishing two-for-three with a home run and four RBIs.

Along with Yamauchi, Jax Hunter (three hits, one RBI), Drew Cunningham (one hit, one RBI), Nyiahez Irons (one hit), Brec Byassee (one hit), Vonnie Irons (one hit) and

Logan Grimmitt (one hit) produced offensively for the Falcons. Hunter, Cunningham and Byassee each doubled.

Community Christian plated one run on four hits. Owen Helm (two hits), Harrison Poynor (one hit, one RBI) and Weston Sparks (one hit) each contributed offensively for the Warriors. Both Helm and Poynor doubled.

Hickman County notched its second win over Community Christian in the 2026 high school baseball season. The Falcons and Warriors aren't scheduled to meet again in the current campaign.

Ouderkirk Signs With Shawnee



(Photo by Tim Taylor)

By Tim Taylor KPI Sports Writer

Versatility is the word that comes to mind when thinking of Ballard Memorial senior volleyball player Hala Ouderkirk. That versatility has led to her becoming the newest member of the Shawnee College volleyball family. Ouderkirk signed with the Saints as family and friends joined the celebration of her accomplishment. "I am really excited for the opportunity to play again," said the Lady Bomber senior who finished her Ballard Memorial career with

721 digs, 560 kills, 90 aces, and 39 assists despite only playing a little over two seasons. Her junior season was cut short with a knee injury, but she responded to help lead the Lady Bombers to a 1st Region All A Championship her senior season and a return trip to the All A State Tournament. "It is all glory to God. I am thankful to come back from those injuries, let alone play again." That versatility word also comes up when talking to her coaches. Lady Bomber Coach Adam Solomon said, "I am honored to be small part in her

growth. She is one of the most versatile players I have ever coached, and she can play multiple positions. Shawnee Coach Madison Hammonds joined the signing ceremony and echoed those sentiments. "Hala's versatility to be able to play multiple positions well, and she trust herself to fit wherever is needed." Shawnee offers a solid business degree and is allowing her to play collegiate volleyball. That is all Ouderkirk needed to hear. She is more than ready to begin that next chapter of her career.

Hickman County Baseball Looks to Blend Youth, Experience This Season

By Laurna Todd KPI Writer

Hickman County baseball will rely on a mix of youth and experience on the mound this season as the Falcons prepare for the spring ahead.

Coach said junior Kobe Yamauchi returns as a key part of the pitching staff and is expected to provide leadership and experience. A talented freshman group featuring Korbin Kimbell, Grayson Clark and Jax Hunter is also expected to make an

immediate impact.

Additional arms expected to contribute in meaningful games include senior Witt Carter, junior Nyiahez Irons, and eighth graders David Camp and Landon Holder, giving Hickman County depth and several options throughout the season.

The Falcons also added to their coaching staff during the offseason with the addition of Scott Hunter. Coach Hunter, a Graves County graduate, brings years of experience

from multiple levels of the game and adds to an already experienced staff.

Offensively and overall, Kobe Yamauchi is a player to watch this season as he looks to bounce back from what the coach described as a sophomore slump and put together a breakout junior year. Freshmen Korbin Kimbell and Jax Hunter are also names to keep an eye on as they bring both talent and energy to a promising Hickman County squad.

Mustangs roll past Marshals

Staff Report

BENTON — McCracken County pulled away to defeat Marshall County 13-1 in six innings on Tuesday, March 31.

Caden Kern started on the mound for McCracken County and earned the win. Hall pitched five innings.

Gage Reeves relieved Hall on the mound and pitched the final inning for the Mustangs.

Kern and Reeves each recorded three strikeouts.

Thomas Bagby started on the mound for Marshall County

and took the loss. Bagby pitched four innings and recorded five strikeouts.

Following Bagby, Sullivan Shadowen pitched the last two innings in relief for the Marshals. Shadowen struck out one McCracken County batter.

McCracken County scored 13 runs on 13 hits. Kern (two hits, one RBI), Briar Hall (three hits, three RBIs), Lucas Gagnon (two hits, one RBI), Lane Grace (two hits), Kendrick Dunning (one hit, four RBIs), Brady Thompson (one hit, three RBIs), William Fox (one hit, one RBI)

and Owen Aldridge (one hit) each delivered at the plate for the Musangs. Hall, Dunning and Thompson each homered.

Marshall County pushed across one run on six hits. The offensive contributors for Marshall County were Shadowen (one hit), Jesse Kinsall (two hits), Kannon Dunn (one hit), Hudson Dougherty (one hit), Ayden Clevidence (one hit) and Colton Atkins (one RBI).

McCracken County is scheduled to host Marshall County for a late-season game on Thursday, May 14.

Track Team Showing Strengths



(Photo by Tim Taylor)

By Tim Taylor KPI Sports Writer

The Ballard Memorial Track and Field team will be a force to be reckoned heading into regionals in May. Field events have been dominate for the Lady Bombers. Thrower Blakeley Shepherd threw the 2nd longest throw in the Discus while Zoe McGlenon was 5th in the Shot Put at the Invitation of the South at Marshall County. That helped propel the Lady Bombers to a 7th place

finish in girls' competition. Middle School athletes competing in varsity competitions show promise for years to come. McGlenon along with Makinley Evans who raced to a 2nd place finish in the Freshman 1600M run helped build enough points for a strong finish for a short handed team. Chasity Mathews also recorded points with a 7th place finish in the Triple jump and the freshman 4 x 400 team was 4th best.

The boys finished 17th with their freshman 4 x 400 team finishing 4th as well. Freshman Brantley McDanel was 7th in the Triple Jump and Gordon Mathews was 7th in the High Jump. Coach Zach Lisanby is anxiously awaiting the May regional tournament to see how many athletes Ballard Memorial will qualify for state and see how many points they can accumulate during the regional competition for a possibly team title as well.

Vikings edge Tigers

Staff Report

MURRAY — St. Mary edged Murray 2-1 on Tuesday, March 31.

Jake Haas pitched a complete game for Murray and earned the win on the mound. Haas recorded two strikeouts.

Asa Munsey started on the mound for Murray and suffered the loss. Munsey pitched six innings and recorded three strikeouts.

Closing out the game on the mound, Jacob Crady pitched the final inning in relief for the Tigers.

St. Mary scored two runs on eight hits. Haas (one hit), Kaden Durbin (two hits, one RBI), Nate Riley (one hit, one RBI), Andrew Puckett (one hit), Ashton Spurr (one hit), Avery Puckett (one hit) and Connor Simmons (one hit) each made an impact offensively for the

Vikings. Both Durbin and Riley doubled.

Murray plated one run on six hits. Munsey (one hit), Avery Starks (one hit), Eli Whitaker (one hit), Haden Parker (one hit), Knox Tabers (one hit) and William Ryan (one hit) each chipped in offensively for the Tigers.

St. Mary is scheduled to visit Murray for a late-season game on Thursday, May 14.

Bombers All A Tournament



(Photo by Tim Taylor)

By Tim Taylor
KPI Sports Writer

Ballard Memorial entered the All A Tournament coming off a trio of losses as they hosted district rival Mayfield in the quarterfinals of the small school tournament. The Bombers had a pair of double figure losses to both Paducah Tilghman and Hickman County before Calloway County rallied late to pick up an 8-7 win. Ike Miller had a triple, had 2 RBI, and scored twice over that 3-game stretch. Cooper Clark, Ayden Owens,

and Brayden Ballard each scored 2 runs in that span with Owen Enfinger collecting a double and had 2 RBI. The Bombers hosted Mayfield and the back and forth game saw the Bombers get the upper hand in the end. The Bombers saw their 3-1 lead after 3 innings slip to a 6-3 deficit as the Bombers entered the home half of the 5th inning. A 4-run 5th regained the 7-6 lead only to see the Cardinals tie the game at 7 in the top of the 6th inning. The Bombers' Owen Enfinger delivered a 2-out RBI

single to score Jack Kinsey from 3rd as the Bombers picked up the 8-7 win. They advance to the April 13th All A semifinal game against top seeded St. Mary. Bomber baseball Coach Scott Matlock looks to help build some team chemistry as the they head to Panama City Beach, Florida over Spring Break prior to the All A semifinal. They are scheduled to face Grayson County, Hickman County, Christian County, and Breckinridge County on the trip to the Sunshine State.

Lady Comets Look to Youth, Growth Under New Leadership



(Photo courtesy of Carlisle County High School Softball)

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

CARLISLE COUNTY, Ky. — A new era is underway for the Carlisle County Lady Comets softball program as head coach Kenneth Lemons takes the reins, bringing a focus on development and long-term growth with a young roster.

The Lady Comets will rely on an inexperienced but promising pitching staff this season. Edy Bruer is expected to take on the primary role on the mound, while Kayden Dale and Jasey Teasley will also see significant time pitching. With all three underclassmen, Lemons knows there may be early challenges but believes their commitment will pay off as the season progresses.

“They’ve been putting in a lot of time to improve and get better,” Lemons said, noting the group’s work ethic and potential.

This season also marks a shift in the coaching staff. Lemons steps in as head coach for the first time, joined by assistant and junior varsity coach Hunter Hoskins, along with middle school coach Jonathan Bruer, who will also assist the varsity program.

Despite the youth across the roster, the Lady Comets will lean on a mix of experienced upperclassmen and emerging younger players. Rylee Lemons and Gracyn Edging are expected to provide leadership and consistency, while

underclassmen Bella Hoskins, Edy Bruer and Jasey Teasley are among those poised to make an impact.

Several middle school players — Karlee Perez, Aubree Carnell and Paislee Arnold — are also expected to contribute this season, adding depth and energy to the lineup.

While individual talent stands out, Lemons emphasized the importance of the team as a whole.

“Every player has an important role this year,” he said.

With a youthful roster and a new coaching staff in place, the Lady Comets are focused on building for the future, using this season as a foundation for continued growth and success.

Everything Points To All A For Lady Bombers



(Photos by Tim Taylor)

By Tim Taylor
KPI Sports Writer

A tough schedule for the 2026 Lady Bomber softball season is built to prepare the Lady Bombers for a hopeful repeat as the 1st Region All A Championship. In their district matchup at Graves County, the right field lights were not working. The remainder of the lights went out in the 6th inning of their district game with the Lady Eagles leading 4-1. The Lady Bombers had trailed Graves 4-0 before Aubrey Alexander delivered her

first HR of the season with one out in the 6th. The Lady Bombers got the next two runners on base when the lights decided to go out. The game was postponed and will be continued on a future date picking up where the game left off. Ballard Memorial then played at Marion, IL in a tournament. They defeated the preseason Illinois Class 3A 14th ranked Metamora 4-1 before losing late leads to Murphysboro and Class 3A preseason 17th ranked Waterloo. Murphysboro scored 12 runs in their final

2 innings to win 13-5. Waterloo scored 4 runs in the 6th to win 4-2 as the Bulldogs won their 10th straight game to begin the season. Lady Bomber Mady Bohde picked up her 700th varsity strikeout from the circle in the Ballard Memorial 8-2 win over Marshall County on Monday, March 30th. The Lady Bombers head to Spring Break in Fort Walton, Florida playing 5 games over 6 days. Their scheduled opponents are 22-10 this season including 3 teams ranked in the top 25 in the state.

Bomber Tennis Continues Strong Play



(Photo by Tim Taylor)

By Tim Taylor
KPI Sports Writer

Ballard Memorial senior tennis players Chipper Collins and Luke Fickes have been leading the way for boys' tennis competition this season. They each won their individual matches against Lyon County and teamed up to win their doubles match as well. Despite both losing singles matches against Calloway 6-4, the duo joined to win their doubles match against the Lakers 6-3. Keaton Dowdy also shows promise as he swept his singles match 8-0 over Lyon before losing a 7-5

match against Calloway. In girl's competition, foreign exchange student athlete Zaya Chuntirapong picked up wins against both Lyon County and teamed up with Kennedy Thompson for a doubles win against Calloway. Lalee Graves, Rachel Perry, and Layla Hooper also picked up wins as the team continues to improve each time on the court. Lady Bomber senior Sinanna Beaugard lost an extra play 8-6 match against Lyon but teamed up with Perry to get a redemptive win in doubles competition. At Marshall, Fickes outlasted his Marshal

opponent, winning 9-7. Dowdy won 8-3 and Woolen won 8-2. Collins dropped a down to the wire 9-7 match in his singles match against Marshall. In girls' action, Beaugard had an impressive 8-1 victory. Coach Kineman keeps building the tennis program with his coaches as they teach the student athletes about the fundamentals of tennis and how to be competitive in each match. They take off for Spring Break before returning to compete against Paducah Tilghman and St. Mary the week after returning.

Regional educators recognized at REASP awards ceremony

PADUCAH, Ky. — Educators and education professionals from across the region were honored during last night's Regional Educators Awards and Scholarship Program, celebrating excellence, dedication, and impact in education.

The event recognized a record number of nominees, with the top 20 in each category honored and the top three finalists announced live, followed by the reveal of each category's overall winner. The evening highlighted the meaningful work being done in classrooms, schools, and support roles throughout the region.

Award finalists and winners

Distinguished Faculty Award (Pre-K-2nd Grade)

Finalists: Shelby Oakley (Sharpe Elementary School), Keristen Sawyer (Paducah Head Start),

Laura Pratt (Paducah Head Start)

Winner: Shelby Oakley

Distinguished Faculty Award (3rd-5th Grade)

Finalists: Ashli Gore (Calvert City Elementary), Mallory Dunnaway (Morgan Elementary School), Kathy Colvett (Benton Elementary School)

Winner: Ashli Gore

Distinguished Faculty Award (6th-8th Grade)

Finalists: Courtney Bishop (North Marshall Middle School), Sarah Sleadd (Graves County Middle School), Brittney Clere (Mayfield Middle School)

Winner: Courtney Bishop

Distinguished Faculty Award (9th-12th Grade)

Finalists: Sarah Hultman (Murray High School), Sarah Brooks (McCracken County High School), Michele Stephens (Fulton Independent High School)

Winner: Sarah Hultman

Technical Faculty Award (9th-12th Grade) — new this year

Finalists: Brittany Forgey (Murray High School), TiErica McKinney (Carlisle County High School), Andrea Heisner (McCracken County High School)

Winner: Brittany Forgey

Distinguished Administrator Award

Finalists: Amber Parker (Ballard County Middle School), Brad Darnall (South Marshall Elementary School), Stephenie Wheeler (Clark Elementary School)

Winner: Amber Parker

Cornelia Reece Unsung Hero Administrative Staff Award

Finalists: Jared Frazier (Morgan Elementary School), Lorelei Walters (Carlisle County Elementary School), Melissa Elrod

(Benton & Central Elementary Schools)

Winner: Jared Frazier

Cornelia Reece Unsung Hero Support Staff Award

Finalists: Gretchen Morgan (Clark Elementary School), Monica Ingram (Ballard Memorial High School), Katrina Franklin (Clark Elementary School)

Winner: Gretchen Morgan

President's Award recipients:

Russ Telford, retired Lyon County superintendent

Doris Benberry, retired educator, Paducah Public Schools
Nancy Powless, retired educator, McCracken County Schools

Challenger Learning Center Outstanding Educator Award Presented to the West Kentucky Educational Cooperative

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Paducah Chamber to host Candidate Forums for Upcoming Races

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting three candidate forums as part of their Public Policy Spring Mini Series. These three forums are focused on key races impacting the local community and the Commonwealth. These luncheon events provide a valuable opportunity for the business community and area citizens to hear directly from candidates and learn more about their positions on key issues affecting our area and our state. WPSD Local 6 is partnering with the Chamber to broadcast these forums live during their midday newscast. Todd Faulkner, WPSD evening news anchor, will serve as the moderator.

The forums include:
• U.S. Senate Forum — Democratic Candidates

Monday, April 27 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Featuring Charles Booker, Amy McGrath, and KY House Minority Floor Leader Pamela Stevenson

• U.S. Senate Forum — Republican Candidates

Friday, May 8 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Featuring Congressman Andy Barr, Daniel Cameron, and Nate Morris

• McCracken County Judge Executive Forum

Tuesday, May 12 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Featuring County Commissioner Richard Abraham, Judge Executive Craig Clymer, and Matt Moore

All forums will

be held at the Paducah-McCracken Co. Convention Center. Pre-registration is required at paducah-chamber.org. Individual tickets are \$60 per event and must be purchased in advance. Tickets can be purchased for any or all of the events. Attendees do not have to be a member of the Chamber to attend but must pre-register. Attendees will also be asked to follow guidelines including no campaign banners, brochures, buttons, pins or other campaign materials or promotion activities will be allowed and the audience will be asked to remain silent during the forum.

“These events are designed to help keep our community informed and engaged ahead of the 2026 Primary Election season,” said Sandra Wilson, Paducah Chamber President and CEO. “These forums give the community the chance to better understand how leadership decisions at the local, state and federal levels impact our region.”

The Primary election will be held on May 19.

Additional sponsorships are available through April 17. The presenting sponsors of the 2026 Public Policy Series are Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership and Swift & Staley. The Chamber's Public Policy Series is designed to connect the business community with legislative leaders on important public policy topics.

ONLINE AUCTION ENDS MONDAY APRIL 6TH @ 6PM (CST)

BOONVILLE, INDIANA

To view and bid go to www.Dimmettauctionservice.com and click on **HiBid Online Auctions**”

LOCATION: DAS will be having an Online auction at 3699 SR-62 East Boonville, Indiana. It's just East of Degonia Springs. There will be a \$20 transfer fee and the items will need to be picked up at DC Firearms LLC located at 5747 West County Road 600 North Richland, IN. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

PREVIEW: You can preview items on Sunday, April 5th from 1-3PM located at 3699 SR-62 E Boonville, IN in the **BLUE BARN**. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

50+ GUNS



To view and bid go to www.Dimmettauctionservice.com and click on **HiBid Online Auctions**”

AUCTION PICKUP: Will be at 5747 West County Road 600 North, Richland Indiana.

TERMS: Pick up time is Tuesday, April 7th from 10AM to 5PM. Cash, check, and or credit card (3% charge) when you pick up your items. A 10% buyers premium & 7% sales tax will be charged for this consignment online auction. Shipping available. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.

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Kentucky State Police Post 1 to conduct traffic safety checkpoints

MAYFIELD, Ky. – The Kentucky State Police (KSP) will be conducting traffic safety checkpoints throughout the Post 1 district, to check motorists for compliance with motor vehicle laws including driving under the influence statutes. KSP utilizes traffic safety checkpoints to promote safety for motorists using the public roadways and to provide a deterrent for those who violate laws contained in the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

The intent of a traffic safety checkpoint is to provide for a high visibility, public safety service, focusing on vehicular equipment deficiencies, confirming appropriate registration and insurance of vehicles, and the valid licensing of drivers. Violations of law or other public safety issues that arise shall be addressed.

Traffic safety checkpoints will allow the Kentucky State Police the opportunity to periodically concentrate its efforts in checking for violations of Kentucky traffic and regulatory laws that will ultimately increase the safety of the citizens within the Commonwealth. Drivers encountering a traffic safety checkpoint are requested to have their operator's license,



vehicle registration receipt and proof of insurance readily accessible. Drivers with this information in hand, those with no violations of law and minimal roadway congestion can reasonably expect to be delayed for no more than 30 seconds to a few minutes.

Supervisory-approved traffic safety checkpoint locations are conducted in the following Kentucky counties: Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, McCracken, Marshall and Trigg. A list of current checkpoint locations can be found on our website, <https://www.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/post1checkpoints>.

BALLARD COUNTY

- US 51 – at old KSP/CVE Scale Facility
- US 60 – at Crystal Lake Road
- US 60 – at KY 2532 (Apperson Road)
- US 60 at Bill Corner Road

CALLOWAY COUNTY

- KY 2547 – at Barber Drive
- KY 94E – at KY 280

- KY 121S – MP 3.187 to MP 3.690 Near Buchanan Lane

- KY 280 – at Cohoon Road

- KY 94 – at KY 893 (Lynn Grove)

- KY 299 – at KY 464 (Kirksey)

- N16th – at Cambell St. (Murray)

CARLISLE COUNTY

- US 51 – at KY 80 Arlington
- KY 80 – at KY 307

FULTON COUNTY

- KY 125 – at KY 166
- KY 129 – at Fulton / Hickman County Line

GRAVES COUNTY

- US 45S – at KY 339 Wingo
- US 45S – at KY 1748

- KY 94 – at KY 381 Lynnville

- KY 849 at KY 1684

- KY 303 – at KY 339 (4-way stop)

- US 45 – at KY 121

- KY 94 – at KY 97
- KY 131 – at KY 348

HICKMAN COUNTY

- US 51 – at KY 1529
- KY 58 – at KY 307
- KY 123 – at KY 239
- KY 129 – at Fulton / Hickman County Line

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

- KY 453 – Coon Chapel Road (at or about MP 13.990)

- US 60 – at or about former Ledbetter Elementary School (between MP 5.5-MP5.8)

- US 60 – from MP 29 to MP 29.059 at or about Livingston/Crittenden County line

LYON COUNTY

- US 62 – at or about Eddyville Industrial Park

- US 62 – at KY 810 (South)
- KY 93 South – at KY 293 & 1055 intersection
- USFS Woodlands Trace – at or about entrance to LBL
- US Highway 62 at the Caldwell County Line

MARSHALL COUNTY

- US 68 – at KY 95
- US 641 – at KY 1422
- KY 348 – between MP 4.7 – MP 5.0 (near Meadowbrook Circle)
- KY 402 – at KY 1364

MCCRACKEN COUNTY

- US 60 at US 62 (Ledbetter Bridge intersection)
- KY 286 – at KY 726 (McKendree Church Road)
- KY 450 – at Puryear Highway
- KY 994 (Old Mayfield Road) – at KY 1014 (Houser Road)

TRIGG COUNTY

- KY 124 – at West End Street
- KY 128 @ Dunkerson Road
- KY 274 – at Goose Hollow Road
- KY 274 – West of John Woodruff Bridge (near entrance to boat ramp)

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<p>2026 Chevrolet Tahoe RST 6.2 V8</p>  <p>\$87,805 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>	<p>2026 Chevrolet Corvette STINGRAY</p>  <p>\$95,200 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>	<p>2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD-LTZ</p>  <p>\$83,885 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>	<p>2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD-LTZ</p>  <p>\$75,946 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>	<p>2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD-LT</p>  <p>\$75,355 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>
<p>2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT BOSS</p>  <p>\$60,010 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>	<p>2026 Chevrolet Traverse RS TURBO</p>  <p>\$59,370 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>	<p>2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 RST</p>  <p>\$57,943 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>	<p>2026 Chevrolet Traverse RS</p>  <p>\$57,890 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>	<p>2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT</p>  <p>\$53,077 ROCK SALE PRICE</p>
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Study co-led by UK finds cover crops show the clearest gains in soil health across U.S. long-term trials

By Jordan Strickler
University of Kentucky

Lexington, Ky.— Farmers have long debated which practices do the most to keep their soil healthy. Now, after pulling data from 21 long-term field trials scattered across the United States, a multi-state research team has found cover crop use comes on top.

The study, published in *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, was co-led by researchers at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment thanks to a subaward from the University of Wisconsin. This study, led by the University of Wisconsin, included contributions from researchers at the University of Kentucky MGCAFE and several other universities across the nation.

The team examined trials ranging from four to 50 years old, all built around soybean-based cropping systems, and focused on the top 15 centimeters of soil. They compared four of the most common management decisions a farmer can make: crop rotation, tillage, cover cropping and artificial drainage. Then they measured a suite of soil-health indicators tied to everything from biolog-



Cover crops are among the best practices to keep soil healthy

ical activity and soil structure to nutrient levels and pH.

When the numbers were pooled, cover crops were the practice most consistently linked to improvements — specifically, higher levels of mineralizable carbon and water-extractable organic carbon, two markers that tell scientists the soil’s microbial community is active and its carbon cycle is humming along.

“That was the part that really stood out,” said Hanna Poffenbarger, associate professor of soil nutrient management in the UK Department of Plant and Soil Sciences and a co-author on the paper. “The whole point was to take advantage of long-

term trials that were already in the ground and ask, across a wide range of soils and climates, which practices are showing up in the soil-health numbers.”

Two-crop rotations also made a difference, at least for one metric: They were associated with higher soil-test phosphorus compared to continuous monoculture. But beyond that, rotation diversity, tillage method and drainage didn’t produce clear, consistent shifts in the indicators used — at least not when the results from all those different locations were combined.

One surprising result was that no-till was associated with more acidic soil (lower pH) than conven-

tional tillage in the trials included in the dataset. Poffenbarger said that the trend aligns with a known challenge in some systems: Surface-applied fertilizers can concentrate acidity near the soil surface over time.

“That pH pattern can show up when inputs are staying near the surface,” Poffenbarger said. “It’s a reminder that conservation practices can come with tradeoffs that need management, like tracking pH and addressing lime needs.”

Poffenbarger also said the national scope of the project helps explain why some practices did not “pop” as strongly as many farmers might expect. No-till, for example, is widely

promoted for protecting soil, but it does not behave the same way in every region.

“With a dataset this broad, you’re seeing a lot of soil types and climates,” Poffenbarger said. “No-till isn’t necessarily going to look the same everywhere. If some locations benefit and others don’t, that can wash out when you’re looking at the combined results.”

Poffenbarger’s own group contributed samples from a long-term rotation trial at UK — with treatments dating back to 1986. Field crews across participating institutions followed a shared sampling plan to make results comparable, which meant collecting standard soil cores alongside

shovel-dug samples designed to keep soil aggregates intact for stability testing.

It’s worth noting what the study didn’t do. The researchers tracked soil-health indicators, not yield or profit. They couldn’t say directly whether the improvements they measured translate into better harvests or fatter bottom lines, though Poffenbarger pointed out that a growing body of parallel research is making that connection.

“This study helps tighten up the evidence on which practices are showing up in the soil tests across a lot of real, long-term systems,” Poffenbarger said. “Then the next step is pairing that with work that connects soil improvements to outcomes farmers care about day to day.”

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2023-67013-39817. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Agriculture.

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Christ's ascension 'largely forgotten' but recoverable this Easter, theologians say

NASHVILLE (BP) – Jesus' ascension has been celebrated in various ways by different Christian denominations. Some remember the ascension with special prayers and Scripture readings. Many in the high church tradition observe Ascension Day annually 40 days after Easter by extinguishing a candle that symbolizes Jesus' bodily presence on earth.

Less conventionally, believers in previous eras have eaten birds on Ascension Day to mark the occasion Jesus "flew" to heaven. Some Christians climb a mountain on Ascension Day and think about Jesus' journey back to heaven from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:6-12).

Yet contemporary Baptist celebrations of the ascension are few and far between. A cadre of Baptist theologians would like to change that this Easter. Including Jesus' ascension in Easter preaching would bless congregations with an oft-neglected part of the Gospel, they say.

"The ascension of Jesus Christ is not a theological afterthought. It is the necessary completion of the resurrection and the foundation for the Church's present life and mission," said Stan Norman, president of Williams Baptist University in Walnut Ridge, Ark. "If the resurrection declares that Christ is alive, the ascension declares that He reigns. For the individual believer, this means our faith is not only anchored in a past event but in a present, ruling Savior who intercedes, governs and empowers His people."

The Ascension long has been preached and confessed as part of the Gospel. According to Acts 1:9, Jesus "was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight."

Peter preached about the ascension on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:33-36). Paul mentioned it repeatedly in his letters. The Apostles' Creed states that Jesus "ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty" – more words than it devotes to the cross or resurrection.

During the Reformation, Protestants presented instruction on the ascension through catechisms, series of questions and answers that summarize Christian doctrine. The Heidelberg Catechism and both the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms cover the ascension.

The Baptist Faith and Message likewise states, "He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God,



Ascension, John Singleton Copley, 1775, via Wikimedia Commons

fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man" (Article 2).

If the ascension is important, why don't Baptists and other evangelicals celebrate it more?

Patrick Schreiner, a New Testament professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said they sometimes think wrongly that Easter is the end of the story.

"People are confused about why Jesus needed to ascend," said Schriener, author of "The Ascension of Christ: Recovering a Neglected Doctrine." For those pondering "the scientific reality, the supernatural aspect is hard to conceive of. Jesus floated up into the sky. Where did He go after that when He was out of the atmosphere? Did He need a space suit?"

As pastors address the resurrection this Easter season, they should consider teaching about the ascension as well, he said, because "the resurrection and the ascension are tied together in the Scriptures."

Without the ascension, the Holy Spirit

would not have come to indwell each follower of Christ, Schreiner said. Jesus' return to heaven marked the completion of His mission. At that point, He poured out the Holy Spirit on the church to empower the next phase of God's plan: Gospel witness to the ends of the earth.

The ascension also inaugurated Jesus' reign over the universe from His heavenly throne.

"In one sense, Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, has always reigned and rules over everything. He is the second person of the Trinity," Schriener said. But Jesus "is not coronated as king as man until he ascends to the right hand of the Father."

The ascension marked the first time a human was enthroned in heaven, said Daniel Stevens, associate professor of New Testament interpretation at Boyce College.

"Because He is there enthroned as the God-man, we know that one day He is going to bring all the creation back under mankind's rule as well as one of God's coregents," he said. God created the universe to be ruled by humans in perfect fel-

lowship with God. Adam and Eve rejected that task by rebelling against God.

"Part of what was broken in the fall, the right relationship between mankind and the creation, is beginning to be restored" with the ascension of Christ, Stevens said. Humanity's relationship with the creation will be restored fully at Christ's second coming. At that time, believers will be given glorified human bodies like Jesus' body, and they will reign with Him.

As the ascended Jesus reigns from Heaven, He also intercedes for believers, asking the Father to accept and forgive them based on Jesus' death on the cross (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

Pastors who want to discuss the ascension in their Easter preaching, Stevens said, may want to consider preaching on passages like Peter's sermon in Acts 2, Hebrews 4:14; 7:23-35; and 8:1. The resurrection account in Luke 24 also includes a report of the ascension.

The ascension isn't just a theological concept. It is intensely practical.

"For pastors, a robust recovery of the ascension strengthens our pastoral ministry with confidence, urgency and clarity," Norman said. "Christ rules, Christ intercedes, Christ sends. And because He has ascended, He gives the Church life, He empowers through the Spirit our Gospel mission and He leads us with His exalted presence and assurance in our Gospel mission until He comes again."

Other ways to reemphasize the ascension include introducing traditional catechisms as part of a church's discipleship program and observing more dates on the Christian calendar, including Ascension Day.

"I think the ascension has been largely forgotten by evangelicals and Baptists in particular," said Michael Haykin, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Baptists' "forgetfulness of the ascension could be rectified by following the liturgical calendar that would force us to remember the ascension."

Churches that celebrate the ascension along with the resurrection, Schriener said, likely will notice a difference in the day-to-day lives of their members.

"It gives us hope," he said. "Jesus Christ is already ruling and reigning in the heavens. We don't have to be anxious about the future."



May the true spirit of the Easter season fill you with renewed faith, hope and joy.

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KSP in Mayfield investigating death of Tennessee man

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

KUTTAWA, Ky. (KT) – Detectives at Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 1 in Mayfield are conducting a death investigation after the body of a Tennessee man was discovered on the bank of the Cumberland River in Lyon County.

Just after 2 p.m. on Monday, KSP Post 1 received a call from an individual on McKinney Road in Kuttawa advising that they had located a body on the bank of the Cumberland River at the end of McKinney Road. Troopers and detectives responded to the scene and

identified the deceased individual as Darrion M. Young, 37 years old of Nashville, TN.

KSP Post 1 had previously begun a missing person investigation for Young, after locating a vehicle associated with him abandoned on the I-24 Cumberland River bridge.

On March 13, at 9 p.m. CDT, a KSP Post 1 Lieutenant observed a 2018 red Dodge Charger on the shoulder of the I-24 Cumberland River bridge. KSP was not able to locate anyone in or around the vehicle. The troopers then contacted Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPD) in Tennessee requesting an officer to



attempt to make contact with the registered owner at an address in Nashville. MNPD sent an officer, who located a dead woman at the residence.

Through collaboration between KSP Post 1 and the MNPD Homicide Unit, Darrion

Young was identified as a murder suspect and was also believed by Nashville authorities to have been operating the vehicle that was found abandoned by the KSP on the I-24 Cumberland River bridge.

A preliminary search of the Cumberland River was conducted after the abandoned vehicle was located and subsequent searches were scheduled to take place this week. There is no foul play suspected in the death of Mr. Young. An autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1. The investigation remains ongoing by KSP Post 1 Detective William Propes.

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Metropolis to celebrate Superman Day 2026 with two-day festival

Friday, April 17

3:30–5:00 p.m.: Superheroes Stand Up for Children & Photo Ops
7:00–10:00 p.m.: Periwinkle Kryptonite Superman Dance Party (The Space, 715 Market St)

Saturday, April 18

10:00 a.m.: Walk for Autism Awareness (Fort Massac State Park)
4:00–8:00 p.m.: Classic Car Cruise
4:00–8:15 p.m.: Justice League Photo Ops (Superman Square)

6:00 p.m.: Superhero Trivia

(517 Market St)
7:00 p.m.: Q&A with Jake Fogg (517 Market St)
8:00 p.m.: Outdoor screening of Superman (2025) • (517 Market St)

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- Uranium enrichment at D.O.E. for nation's nuclear fuel needs
- Decontamination of Nickel at D.O.E. site
- Pay increases for Sheriff's Dept. to retain experienced, trained deputies.
- Purple Heart Memorial Monument on Courthouse grounds
- Replaced roof on Convention and Expo Center
- Sports flooring in Expo Center for basketball and volleyball
- Developing Sports Park for our children and economic development
- Moving our children from a landfill park to a state-of-the-art sports facility
- Merged McCracken and Paducah Water for huge residents' savings.
- Negotiated Bluegrass Downs acreage donation to the County for sports park.
- Upgrades and playground equipment in Lone Oak Park
- New pickleball courts, lighting, and landscaping Heath Park
- New fencing, lighting, batting cage, landscaping Reidland Ballpark
- New dog park at Reidland Community Center
- Created Sports Tourism Commission funded by nonresident visitors.
- Promoting racial unity through meetings and "United We Stand" mural project.
- Funding Lifeline Recovery Center
- Supporting River City Mission
- Upgrades and increased use of Carson Park and Floral Hall
- Funding Sprocket Coding located in Coke Plant
- Funding Paducah Cooperative Ministry housing project
- Support of Merryman House domestic violence center
- Support of Lotus abuse counseling and advocacy center
- Support CASA/Child Watch counseling and advocacy center.
- Funding Paducah-McCracken Humane Society
- Funding Paducah-McCracken Senior Citizen Center
- Purchasing and making build-ready economic development land
- Working with D.O.E. for uranium enrichment and nickel decontamination
- Preparing for unprecedented growth in jobs and industry in McCracken.

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'Our Fashion Blueprint': UK students ready to showcase Color Me Kentucky fashion event on April 16

By Christopher Carney
University of Kentucky

Lexington, Ky.—
The University of Kentucky Department of Retailing and Tourism Management (RTM), housed within the Martin-Gatton College of Agricul-

ture, Food and Environment, is hosting its annual Color Me Kentucky Fashion Show on April 16. All UK students, faculty, staff and community members are invited. Themed "Our Fashion Blueprint,"

this year's event will be hosted at the UK Gatton Student Center Ballrooms and presented by students in the Merchandising, Apparel and Textiles program (MAT) at Martin-Gatton CAFE. The students chose this theme to show Kentucky's vibrant fashion, celebrating the intersection of style, creativity and Kentucky's unique spirit.

"As a faculty member, I love working on the Color Me Kentucky Fashion Show with students each spring," said Scarlett Wesley, the fashion show course instructor at Martin-Gatton CAFE. "I get to see firsthand how this real-world experience

gives students confidence and allows them to build invaluable teamworking skills. Students also get to practice problem solving, which will help them when they later enter the job market."

UK students enrolled in MAT 433 Creating Consumer Experiences oversee every aspect of the show, including curating the clothing attire, marketing and promotion, and choosing and decorating the event space.

Abby Jane Fulkerson, the fashion show student director and a senior majoring in marketing and MAT at UK, believes that all the students' hard work will be evident at the event.

MAT 433 Fashion Show Class 2026 at Erikson Hall on Tuesday March 24th, 2026.

"I am thrilled to be able to charm the audience with all of our looks and hard work put into the show," Fulkerson said. "This class has put so much effort into each aspect of the show, and I cannot wait to showcase it on April 16."

Maddie Hess, the fashion show event



This year's Color Me Kentucky fashion show theme is "Our Fashion Blueprint." (Photo by Matt Barton)

coordinator and a senior studying MAT and marketing at UK, is excited to take what students are learning in class and create an unforgettable experience for attendees.

"This year we've been thinking a lot about the attendee experience and how to make the show feel more interactive and memorable, so we're adding some new elements that haven't been done before to make the event feel extra special," Hess said.

Doors open at 6 p.m. A cocktail hour with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction will be held from 6

to 7:30 p.m., and the runway show will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Leigh Jordan and Tamara Schneider, Lifestyle hosts of Fox 56 News Live from Chevy Chase, are returning this year as the Masters of Ceremonies.

Tickets for students are \$25 and include seating in a designated student area and a gift bag. General admission tickets are \$65. VIP and sponsorship packages are also available.

Attend the show by purchasing tickets to Color Me Kentucky: Our Fashion Blueprint.

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VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Rabbits and Easter eggs

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

What if. What if we could trust what we hear to be truth? What if there was no one trying to deceive us or confuse us? If you're like me, watching the news is stressful because you never know what's truth and what's yellow journalism.

Deception is everywhere. I guess it's always been that way because I remember Jesus saying, "Take heed that ye be not deceived" (Luke 21:8). People have struggled with being deceived from the beginning of time when Adam and Eve were deceived in the Garden of Eden.

No one means to be deceived, but you can bet there are people in this world who are intent on deceiving us.

If we read Jesus' warning in modern day language it might say: "Be careful...be careful because there are people who are constantly trying to mislead or trick you."

Be careful who and what you listen to. And this applies to all of us. If people who walked directly with God could be deceived, then we certainly are no stronger than they were.

Jesus was cautioning all of us to stay alert because there always has been, and always will be, false



teachers who claim authority or truth, but it's all a farce. Only Jesus is the Christ. He is the only one who can redeem our souls and satisfy the need for relation-

ship with God.

He said some would even claim to be the Messiah. How bold is that and what do they have that draws people to believe such a thing?

Jesus said people need discernment that comes from God. People can easily be led astray and personally, I believe, we're all vulnerable. That's why we need to stay as close to the Word as possible. If something you hear doesn't line up with the Bible, steer clear of it.

It's not about obvious lies (although that's a big problem in main stream media), but it's about it's about not blindly following the crowd. Just as we align ourselves with a certain political party does not mean that we have to go along with everything they do or say. Staying ground-

ed in truth and faith is our only hope in the world we live in today.

Jesus made it very clear that we need to pay attention, stay alert, and don't let anyone fool us.

This is Easter week and I want to emphasize how important it is to stand on the truth of the Word: that Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, to set us free from sin and death, that we might live. It's not about rabbits and Easter eggs, but it's about eternal life in a place free from pain and sorrow.

Crucifixion and Resurrection: Mission Accomplished!

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

April is the month of new beginnings when the grass turns green, trees begin to sprout their leaves, and flowers emerge from the ground to express their beauty. This is also the time when Christians celebrate the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's infinite love for us is the foundation of the Christian faith, for without Jesus being raised to conquer death, hell, and the grave, there would be no sacrifice sufficient to forgive us from our sins. You see, His perfect blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat of Heaven and was the only payment that was holy and powerful enough to save the spirits of those who believe. John 19:30 declares the Son of God cried from the cross, "It is finished," which guaranteed the covenant authority

of God's word as the greatest hope the world can ever know. Eternal salvation is now available for all who hear the gospel, are convicted to repent, and choose to embrace Him by faith as their Lord.

The gospel is known as the good news, a life-changing promise of forgiveness the world desperately needs. Like many of you, I have dedicated my life to sharing this gospel, believing it to be the power leading to salvation for all who accept it. What is this gospel? It centers on the precious blood that Jesus freely gave when He endured suffering and died on our behalf. After three days in the tomb, He rose, inaugurating the covenant of our salvation as part of God's plan to ransom, redeem, transform, and restore all who commit themselves to Him. The Bible records the most pro-

found love story, and many of you know the verses in Matthew 28:5-6 where angels greet the women at the empty tomb: "The angel said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know you are seeking Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen as He said! Come, see the place where He lay."

It's required within our great commission to relay the good news, to emphasize the glorious significance of what His sacrifice and resurrection accomplished, what it guarantees for those who believe, and how we can have a blessed assurance of these glorious promises today. I personally do not use the word Easter as it is widely accepted to originate from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eostre. In Scandinavia, she was called Ostra, and in Germania, Eastre. Others link it to As-

tarte, the Phoenician fertility goddess, who was idolized as the Babylonian counterpart Ishtar. Rabbits and eggs are symbols of fertility and were the theme of many ancient European and Middle Eastern festivals, including Persian, Egyptian, and Druid cultures, often accompanied by the wearing of new clothing to greet the goddess of spring. Sunrise services celebrated the vernal equinox by worshiping the sun and its great power, and there is so much more. So, why in the world would we who worship the majesty of Christ celebrate the traditions of pagan festivals?

According to Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend, "The hunt for Easter eggs, supposedly brought by the Easter rabbit, is not mere child's play, but

the vestige of a fertility rite and the blessings associated with procreating. Some cultures believed that the decorated Easter egg "could magically bring happiness, prosperity, health, and protection." All Christians should research holidays like Easter, Christmas, and Halloween to understand what they are really about. For Messianic Jews, the First Fruits (Bikkurim) feast falls within the Passover season, specifically the day after the Sabbath following Passover, which corresponds to the timing of the resurrection.

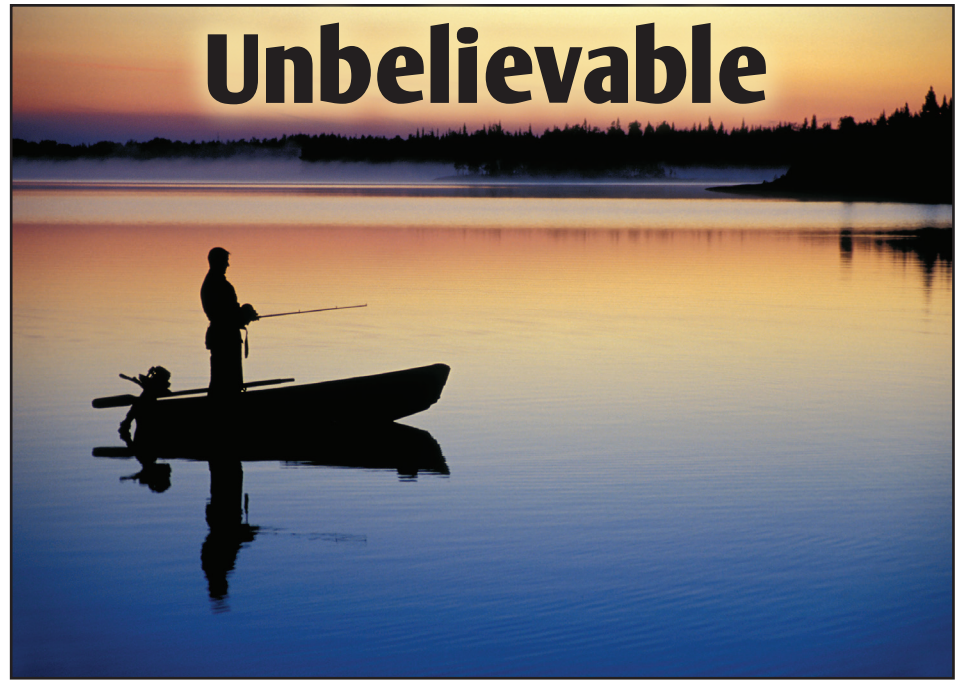
Holy week is about what happened to the Lamb of God and how it pertains to mankind. He is risen! Our greatest enemy, death, has been conquered! Our sins can be forgiven, and we can become born-again as God's children! Let us rejoice and praise Him for His endless

love and mercy! Ephesians 1:18-21. "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."

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

OUTDOOR Truths

By Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org



If one has been hunting or fishing long enough, he has a few stories that fit into the category of either questionable or unbelievable. In fact, those tales are so unbelievable that without a witness to confirm the event, most would not only question their veracity but would deny the outcome. I can quickly think about three such stories; all of which involve fishing.

One night I was fishing with a friend from a covered pontoon when a fish jerked my rod into the water. The next

morning, we woke up, cast, and reeled in the lost rod, along with the fish that was still attached. Again, I have witnesses. Another time, while fishing in the late summer, my friend dropped his glasses in the lake. He went back to what he thought was the approximate place during the winter when the lake authorities lower the lake levels. There on top of a stump were his glasses. And lastly, just a few years ago while fishing in the river, I cast my lure and caught

two smallmouths at the same time; both hooked to my tiny torpedo. What I remember about that was not only the two that were hooked but a third that was trying to get its part as well. Yep, there's no doubt each of those stories can conjure up some serious misgivings even though all of them can certainly be deemed possible. A story that is humanly impossible however, could only be designed by God. And that is what the story of the resurrection is – a humanly impossi-

ble story that is so inconceivable, it can only be designed by God.

One of the greatest proofs of Christianity is not just the fact of the resurrection. In fact, non-Christians do not believe that something like that actually happened. But perhaps what a person ought to come to grips with first is just who would design such an odd way to save the world. What human would come up with the crazy idea of a death on a cross, a burial, and then a resurrection

to defeat sin? What man would really take something as historically inhuman and cruel as a cross and decide they can make it become a universal symbol of hope and redemption? The answer is no man. Only God would think of something as cruel as a cross and as impossible as a resurrection, marry them together, and design a plan for mankind to be made right with his Creator.

My friend, if you're stuck on the reality of a resurrection for you to

believe that Jesus was the Son of God, perhaps you just need to decide if anyone other than God could have come up with such an unlikely story.

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

PROOF OF RESIDENCE

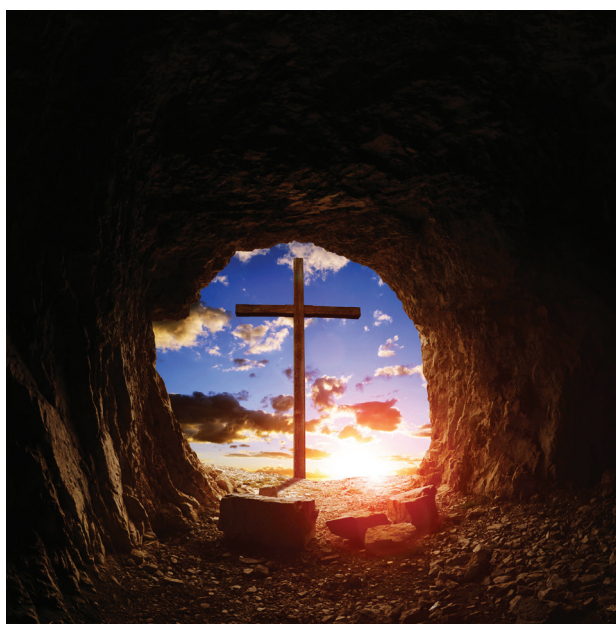
Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

Ryegrass had sprouted in the driveway. The parking lot was void of vehicles. There were no tricycles or children's sneakers piled by the doors. The creamy white paint was chipping off the building. There were no signs of life at this apartment building. I drove there to deliver a meal that a customer ordered online. I had received an order to deliver lunch to this address, when I was, for a brief time, employed by a food delivery service.

Upon arrival, every internal alarm sounded off—something wasn't right.

Even from my vehicle, I could see an aged eviction notice fastened to the outside door. I proceeded up the rusty steps and knocked firmly on the door—nothing. Through the grimy window, I could see that the lights were off, and the television was blank. This home was hollow and vacated—unoccupied and uninhabited. The online profile claimed that so-and-so lived at this exact residence, but the evidence contradicted the claim. There was no evidence of life—no proof of residence.

Unfortunately, many who claim to be Christians have little evidence that



the Spirit of God lives in and occupies their heart. But the word of God clearly declares that when the Holy Spirit dwells within you, there is always undeniable proof

of residence. When the Spirit settles in your heart, it shows. All the signs of life are there—the lights are on, the house is clean, and maintenance work is being done. There is ac-

tivity on the inside and the outside. If you truly possess the Spirit, no one can drive by the house of your life and say, "There is no proof of residence here." You might claim to be a true believer—a church membership card or Facebook profile might say so. But the claim is always corroborated by evidence if it is true, and if you truly possess the Spirit of God, the truth will come out.

The Spirit demonstrates proof of His residence in your heart in a variety of ways. He speaks through you (Matt. 10:20; Mark 13:11), He bears fruit (Gal. 5:22-23), He teaches you (John 16:13), He

emboldens you to witness (Acts 4:31), He leads you (Rom. 8:14), He assures you of sonship (Rom. 8:16; 2 Cor 1:22; Gal. 4:6), He gives gifts (1 Cor. 12:11), He transforms you (2 Cor. 3:18), and He helps you fight the flesh (Gal. 5:16-18).

The key, however, to the Spirit demonstrating proof of His residence in your life is by being filled with the Spirit—submitting to His influence and relinquishing control of your heart to Him: "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). Is there proof of His residence in your life?



Q & A with area candidates

Primary Elections 2026 - May 19th

BALLARD COUNTY



Jessica Grief

Ballard County Clerk

• Why are you running for this office?

I am running for Ballard County Clerk because I care deeply about this community and the people who call it home. I want to bring dependable, efficient service to an office that impacts residents every day, and I believe my experience and dedication will ensure it is run with integrity, transparency, and a commitment to serving everyone well.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

Working in a clerk's office has given me valuable, real-world experience with the responsibilities this role requires. I've worked directly with the public, handled important documents, assisted with voter services, and learned how to manage records with accuracy and care. This experience has prepared me to step into the role with confidence and continue providing dependable service to the people of Ballard County.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would

you implement during your first year in office?

Looking ahead, I believe I can make a positive difference by continuing to improve efficiency, accessibility, and customer service within the clerk's office. My goal is to ensure residents have a smooth, straightforward experience while maintaining accurate records and upholding the highest standards of service. I would also love to get the younger generation interested in voting, I plan to implement voter drives and reach out to the schools to inform our younger adults how important our right to vote truly is!



Travis Holder

Ballard County Clerk

• Why are you running for this office?

I am running for Ballard County Clerk because I care deeply about our community and it's services. For the past 14 years, I have served in local government and have stood with our community through both its best and most challenging times. Those experiences have strengthened my commitment to public service. I am running for County Clerk to build on the leadership I have demonstrated and to serve in a greater capacity. I believe the Clerk's Office is vital to local government and should be led with a citizen-first approach that is accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of everyone in Ballard County.

What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I bring 14 years of hands-on experience in local government, along with strong working relationships across Ballard County, the Commonwealth, and at the federal level. I have experience managing budgets and understand both the daily operations and long-term needs of our county government. In the past five years, I have helped secure over \$2 million in state and federal funding, allowing us to complete key projects while preserving local resources. I work daily to advocate for our county and municipalities, focusing on economic development and opportunities that strengthen and unify Ballard County.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

If elected, my first-year priorities will include improving voter education, starting with partnerships in our schools to encourage early civic engagement. Customer service will be a top priority, ensuring every citizen is treated with efficiency, respect, and a problem-solving mindset. I will also work to increase public awareness of the Clerk's Office, expand convenient online services where we can, and improve communication about deadlines and services. Additionally, I will pursue funding to modernize equipment and digitize records, making them secure and easily accessible, while building a Clerk's Office that is actively engaged in and giving back to our community.

Don't forget to vote!

Editor's Note

Kentucky Publishing has made every effort to reach all candidates to ensure each had an equal opportunity to be included in this political profiles section. Our goal is to provide voters with helpful information to make informed decisions at the ballot box.

Election season can often bring strong opinions and, at times, division within our communities. Kentucky Publishing remains committed to being fair and impartial, and does not endorse any candidate as a whole.

We extend our best wishes to every candidate and offer a sincere thank you to those who

took the time to submit their information. Their participation helps give voters a clearer understanding of the individuals seeking to serve.

As this election season continues, we encourage everyone to show respect, kindness and consideration toward one another.

BALLARD COUNTY continued



James Campbell

Ballard County Jailer

a full-time road unit with Ballard County Sheriff Department where I completed a basic training academy of 800 hours at the DOCJT in Richmond Ky. I currently work as a Sgt on the road and also have an issued K-9.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I feel in my time as a full-time and part-time Deputy Jailer the duties I had prepared me to be a leader of the shift I worked. I received numerous certifications at the jail in my time as an instructor to be able to provide the training needed for the other Deputy Jailers. I was certified as a firearms instructor, a taser instructor through Axon taser academy, also less that lethal weapons for jail extractions. I also in my time at the jail was one of four that completed and certified as a SRT (Special Response Team) for cell extraction, searches, high priority transports and security of the facility. In the other two rolls I worked for

Ballard County Fiscal Court as a department head, I worked with budgets, fiscal court, and employee's of the departments I was the head of. I work with command structure, policies, and even in grants for solid waste. In my current position in Ballard County I am a supervisor with rank of Sgt on the Ballard County Sheriff Department.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

The first thing be security of the facility. I implement the professional standards that each employee should have when representing the county jail. I would work hard to build bridges with not only the other departments of Ballard County to include Ballard County Fiscal Court , but for the other counties we house inmates for such as Carlisle, and Hickman Counties. Building the integrity, and transparency as well.

• Why are you running for this office?

I am running for Ballard County Jailer as this is where I started my Career in Ballard County. I was hired full time in September 2006 under Jailer Stanley Hunt. I was also being full time Deputy Jailer on the floor. I worked my way up to Sergeant and shift supervisor of night shift, and then to a day shift. I Worked full time till 2012 inside the jail. I then went to part-time as the investigator of the jail as I took on a roll as the Solid Waste Coordinator becoming a department head. While working part-time inside the jail as the investigator, I was able to obtain a narcotics K-9 for the Ballard County Jail, where I complete a handler course to be certified K-9 Handler. In 2018 I then took over as the 911 coordinator of 911 dispatch. In 2019 I was offered the opportunity to Become



Eric Coppess

Ballard County Jailer

We also created new work opportunities for our inmates within our community and neighboring counties.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

As the current Jailer I have learned this position through both study and experience. I have spent many hours studying KRS and KAR to better understand how a Jail operates and gained knowledge through day to day operation. I have attended leadership classes and recently became a MRT instructor to both teach programs and to better understand the process and benefit of the programs. These reasons make me uniquely qualified to be the Jailer and continue serving Ballard County.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

If re-elected as Ballard County Jailer, one of my biggest goals is to expand the Jail. This addition would allow us to have an onsite SAP (Substance Abuse Program), as well as allow us to attain a larger reimbursement from the state, and be less of a burden on the county. Another goal would be to acquire new transport vehicles, transportation can be made less dangerous and more reliable with proper transportation. This will also help us maintain our population by being able to travel further to pick up inmates from other facilities.

• Why are you running for this office?

I decided to run for a second term because I have a passion for corrections. I want to continue making the Ballard County Detention Center a better place. We have been able to make good changes to the facility for the inmates; such as our in-house commissary that reduces the cost of goods to the inmate which creates less strain on the friends and family that support them. We've implemented MRT programs to help our inmates better themselves and return to their families earlier.



Ryan Hedrick

Ballard County Magistrate District 1

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

As the current magistrate for district 1, I have had the opportunity to spend several hours in classes to be able to better understand and work with, not only the state government but with local government as well. As an assistant fire chief for LaCenter I have been able to work with multiple departments, not only within this county but outside as well, in growing relationships to help gain opportunities as well as important lifesaving education for our citizens. It is important that we grow relationships with other counties inside the commonwealth to help

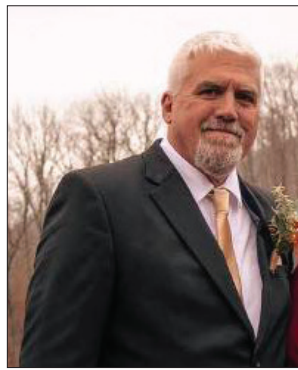
strengthen the way of life here.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

During my next term I would like to be able to help grow and strengthen quality of life of for all citizen within this county and not just district 1. I would like to continue to work on improving the infrastructure in all ways possible that will place as little burden as possible on the citizens of this county. I would also like to continue to be open and available to all concerns of this county and not just the ones from district 1 as I have been for the last four years.

• Why are you running for this office?

I am seeking reelection for this office to continue the efforts that we as the current fiscal court have started such as working on the betterment of this county with a hope to focus on improving the infrastructure of the county. I also want to be able to have another chance to get to know the citizens of this county specifically within district 1 and be able to help Ballard County as a whole grow and improve for the current and future citizens as well as the current and future businesses.



Barry Babb

Ballard County Magistrate District 2

us, our children and grandchildren.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I am a 1982 graduate of Ballard Memorial High School and a 1986 graduate of Murray State University with a B.S. in Business Administration. My work career shows 40 years mainly in management, I have run or help run several multi-million-dollar companies. I also have served four terms on the La Denter City council.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

The number one pledge I will make is no new taxes without a vote of the citizens of the county. Also, I believe we need to look the budget over very close. Is there something we can do to revise the cost to the county in several areas? We need to look at different ways to grow the county (jobs, population growth, etc.). If we can do this, then there won't be a need for more taxes. Once again, I would appreciate your consideration.

• Why are you running for this office?

As a lifelong resident of Ballard County, I have felt a need to give back to the county that has been good to myself and my family. People who know me also know I have strong beliefs, mainly as a conservative. I would like to help make decisions on issues facing this county. I would appreciate your consideration to help make Ballard County better for



Matt Thresher

Ballard County Magistrate District 2

what's best for the community.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I'm currently a supervisor at PGDP and I oversee daily operations of my department. I manage responsibilities where budgeting, problem solving , and accountability are essential.

I'm committed to being accessible and making informed decisions.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

We all live here and deal with the same roads, bridges, and issues. We need to follow a budget to fix these issues and prioritize them according to the county's needs and not the individual's.

Raising taxes is not on my agenda. Finding federal programs and state level grants should always be the first step to help support our bridge and road problems.



BALLARD COUNTY continued

Sidney Lovelace

Ballard County Magistrate District 3



a cattle farm and work part time for a local farmer.

• Why are you running for this office?

For those of you who are not familiar with me. I've lived in Ballard County my whole life. I went to work at a dairy farm at the age of 15. Graduated high school and continued to work there for 19 years. I decided I needed to better myself. I left there and started working at TVA in operations and management until I retired in 2014. After retirement I worked for several years at the Ballard County Road Department. I Still own

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

If I am elected, my main priority will be to listen to the people's opinions and what they want to better the county. We have a beautiful county and need to continue with its growth.

Some of the roads throughout the county are getting in bad shape. We need to focus on getting them up to shape and trying to get the roads opened that are closed. Without any additional taxes. I will do everything in my power to keep this

from happening. We need to figure out other ways to bring money to the county. With new businesses coming we can continue to bring light to the county and let it grow. If we can keep the taxes down our county will have growth.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I will always be open for suggestions and opinions. The county is the voice! Without you all we have nothing. Thanks for your support. Go to the poles and vote! Together we can make things happen.



Stonnie Dennis

Ballard County Magistrate District 5

I bring 12 years of experience as your magistrate, along with a strong work ethic built from a lifetime of farming and construction work. I am retired from Ironworkers Local 782, which allows me the time to focus on my responsibilities. I have worked hard to help rebuild our road department, ensuring better equipment and safer, well-maintained roads. I also attend training opportunities when possible and focus on representing the wishes of the hardworking families in my district—not personal opinions.

I have lived between Wickliffe and Blandville my entire life, giving me a deep understanding of the needs of our community. My wife, Mary, and I have two sons, Clinton and Sam,

and I continue to farm and raise cattle. I am not only working for you and your families, but for my family as well, which keeps me focused on making decisions that benefit our community for generations to come.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

My top priorities are roads and taxes. I want to continue improving road conditions and maintaining the progress we've made, while also being mindful of how tax dollars are spent. If re-elected, I will continue to put the people of District 5 first, working to be a productive and responsible member of the Fiscal Court.

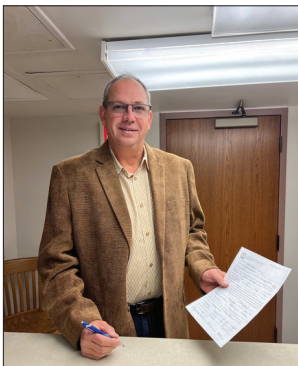
• Why are you running for this office?

I am running for re-election to continue serving the residents of District 5. For the past twelve years, I have worked diligently and given my best effort to serve both my district and Ballard County. I believe we've made a lot of positive progress, especially in improving our roads, and I hope to have the opportunity to continue that work. I also want to meet with residents personally before the election to hear their thoughts and earn their vote.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

Nathan Whipple

Ballard County Magistrate District 4



Whipple is a 1993 graduate of Ballard Memorial High School. He earned a Bachelor of Integrated Studies with a focus in Commerce and Leadership from Murray State University in 2017, along with associate degrees from WKCTC (2015) and PCC.

He has owned and operated Whipple's Lawn Care and Whipple's Fall Décor for 20 years. His work experience also includes time at Ingevity Carbon Plant and 12 years with Westvaco, MeadWestvaco and NewPage.

He completed WAVE Ag Leadership in 2024 and Leadership West Kentucky Class 3 in 2025. Whipple has also completed magistrate training in Louisville, Lexington and online, while connecting with officials across the state to learn best practices.

your first year in office?

Goals and Improvements for the First Year

Whipple said many of his 2022 goals have been completed or are underway. Ballard EDC has begun housing development on a 30-acre site in Barlow, with homes expected by summer 2026. Plans are also in place for a future gas station at the site.

Infrastructure remains a priority. Improvements have been made to North Wayside Inn Road, while South Wayside Inn Road has new sewer lines and will be paved after settling. Additional focus will remain on roads and bridges.

Other completed projects include extending the Mound City Landing Boat Ramp, new fencing at Ballard Bullet Rec Field, and ongoing improvements at Barlow Bottoms.

• Why are you running for this office?

Nathan Whipple is seeking re-election to continue building on the progress Ballard County has seen over the past four years. He believes the groundwork already laid positions the county for continued growth, especially with the potential development of industrial plants at the former USEC property. These projects could bring new jobs, attract families, and support local businesses. Whipple's focus remains on creating opportunities for residents while ensuring future generations can live and work in Ballard County.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

Angel Horn

Ballard County PVA



tomato and tobacco farm in rural Kevil in Ballard County. That is where my parents, Jack and Carolyn Woods, taught me love, hard work, and respect for others. They instilled in me the value of saving money and preparing for the future. After graduating BMHS in 1995, I started dating Jimmy Horn of Barlow. We married in May of 1996. We have been blessed with 4 kids and 5 grandbabies and are proud to have all of them living in Ballard County. After all our babies started school, I began working for former sheriff Todd Cooper in 2009 as a Court Security Officer. I became the Office Manager in 2015 for the Ballard County Sheriff's office where I currently serve under Sheriff Ronnie Giles. One of my

many responsibilities is collecting and distributing property taxes, so I am very knowledgeable about the entire process.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

If elected, my goal is to assess all properties fairly and accurately and ensure the bills are sent to the proper taxpayers. I will maintain precise records of all property and exemptions. I love working with the people of the community and will sit down and talk over any tax concerns that may arise and work diligently and respectfully to solve any problems. I would like to humbly ask for your vote on May 19, 2026. Isaiah 40:31

• Why are you running for this office?

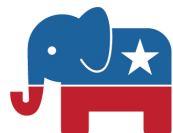
After quite a bit of consideration, encouragement, and passing the PVA test in Louisville, I am running for the office of PVA in Ballard County. My heart always has been and always will be here in Ballard County. It is one of the best places in the world to live. I would be honored to serve the residents of Ballard County as the Property Valuation Administrator.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I grew up on a small

Remember to Vote!

Your voice, your choice, your vote.



Someone struggled for your right to vote... Use it.

— Susan B. Anthony



BALLARD COUNTY continued



Susan Sullivan

Ballard County PVA

2011 then became PVA in 2018.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

My experience is what makes me qualified for the job. In addition to 26 years in the PVA office, I have completed education, from the state of Kentucky, to serve as PVA. There are so many things in the office that you need to know. You don't learn it even in a year. You deal with farms, homes, businesses, tangible taxes,

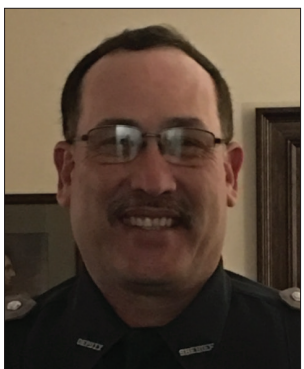
automobiles & boats for the primary taxable items. You also deal with Homestead Exemptions for those who qualify.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

My goals, if reelected, are to continue to run this office in an organized manner. There are so many new programs the government has initiated and I will work to implement those for the betterment of the county.

• Why are you running for this office?

I have worked in the PVA office for 26 years. I bring those 26 years of experience to the people of Ballard County. I am running for office because I love my job and the people of Ballard County. I started part time, went full time in



Ronnie Giles

Ballard County Sheriff

position?

I bring more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, including service with the Ballard County Sheriff's Office, McCracken County Sheriff's Office and the Kentucky State Police DESI unit. I watched, learned and listened to the Sheriffs I worked for, gaining tremendous investigative skills from KSP. Those experiences have shaped me into the Sheriff I am today. I take this office seriously and have devoted my life to the people of Ballard County.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during another year in office?

I plan to continue strengthening our efforts

in drug enforcement and crime prevention. The FLOCK camera system has been a huge help in solving thefts, burglaries and locating wanted individuals, and I will work to expand its use. I will also continue building strong partnerships with surrounding counties and Ballard County Schools, where we have had an officer assigned for more than 27 years. In addition, I will continue upgrading equipment and technology using available funding sources to minimize cost to taxpayers. My focus remains on protecting our residents, supporting our officers and strengthening trust within our community.

• Why are you running for this office?

I am seeking another term because of my lifelong commitment to serving the people of Ballard County. If voters choose me, they will be getting a Sheriff who is compassionate, caring and loves people. My life experiences have helped me relate to individuals during difficult moments and approach this role with empathy and understanding.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this



Ronnie Harvell

Ballard County Sheriff

do you have that would work well for this position?

I have 10 years of military experience and 29 years of law enforcement with seven and a half of those years as Chief of Police. I have completed many courses through the KY department of criminal justice training dealing with criminal investigations including robbery investigation, child abuse investigation, and homicide investigation. I also have been trained in officer safety issues as well as patrol tactics that not only can help keep our officers safe, but also in a healthy mental state.

• Looking ahead, what goals or

improvements would you implement during another year in office?

I would like to improve community trust through communication and transparency. I would ensure that policies are followed and that accountability measures are in place and held to a high standard. I would work to combat substance abuse issues. I would implement the use of in-car video systems as well as the currently used body cameras. I would continue to build strong interagency partnerships. The key in year one isn't trying to fix everything at once, it is setting a tone by being professional, transparent, and accountable. From there, we build momentum.

• Why are you running for this office?

Since I first started my career in law enforcement, my goal was to one day be the sheriff. I have learned from many supervisors throughout my life be it in the military or in law enforcement. I worked my way from the bottom to leadership roles in both the military and law enforcement. I have a heart to serve not only our country but our community with pride and honor.

• What qualifications

Caldwell County



Angela Cotton

Caldwell County Jailer

Jailer. For an elected official to show trust in me to not only finish his term but carry on his vision was not only the ultimate complement to the work I have shown but an honor I intend on carrying out.

• What qualifications do you have that are best suited for this position?

With being put in a "trial by fire" sort of speak Jailer role I have had to learn the duties and role of the Jailer gaining experiences along the way. I have developed a network of interdepartmental contacts, from fiscal court, law enforcement agencies, offices of the courts, fellow Jailers

and Department of Corrections that have allowed the jail to continue operate smoothly through this transitional time.

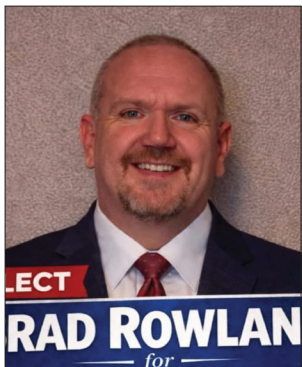
• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during another year in office?

My biggest goal in the first year of my term is to learn and successfully apply for grants in order to continue to bring new programming in our facility for its residents and upgrades to our equipment and infrastructure to help alleviate the financial burden on the county taxpayer.

• Why are you running for this office?

It was never my intent on ever running for office but that all changed during a conversation in the fall of 2025 with then current Jailer Willie Harper. His prognosis in his illness had changed. He had asked if I was willing to finish out his term should he succumb to the illness. Of course, I agreed and that is when he asked for me to consider running for

Calloway County



Brad Rowland

Calloway County Jailer

2007 as a floor deputy, I have risen through the ranks to Workhouse Lieutenant and Class D Coordinator. Over my 19-year tenure, I've served as a Training Officer and was named the 2018 Deputy Jailer of the Year. This experience provides me with a deep understanding of how the jail operates. My background also includes successful private business management, where I oversee significant payrolls and over \$250,000 in annual revenue

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would

you implement during your first year in office?

My primary goals are to continue saving taxpayer money by identifying further operational efficiencies and reducing the jail's dependence on county funds. I am committed to improving transparency within our facility's operations and budget to build greater public trust. Additionally, I will focus on implementing skill-based programs for inmates, providing them with the tools and training necessary to become productive, employed members of our community upon release

• Why are you running for this office?

I'm running for the office of Calloway County Jailer because after serving this community for two decades, I believe I still have more to give and I have the knowledge and ability serve my community in this role.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?
Starting in January



Kenny Imes

Calloway County Judge Executive

of county roads, have at least 15 more to do this summer, rebuilt or did major repairs to 8 county bridges, have 7 more new under construction and 4 more awaiting state design and engineering.

This is the most infrastructure improvements that have occurred in the county's entire history. We now have one of the very best 911 centers and EM in the state and have no current county debt except for bi-weekly payroll and

utilities.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I truly believe that my best abilities to qualify me for the position of Judge/Executive are my experience (past and present) in working with others and a dedication to being fair, honest and forthright. A true heart to serve the public

Continued on B9

Calloway County continued

Continued from B8

and a reliance on God to direct my path. The friendships and contacts I have made over the years with local, state legislators and administration officials and even congressional leaders have made the job much easier, fruitful and beneficial for our citizen's. Also the ability to listen to others, rather than dazzle them, with what I think I know make things go smoother, quicker and

gets issues resolved more satisfactory to everyone. While I rely heavily on statistical information, common sense rules the day.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during another year in office?

While I will continue to make in-fracture improvements for our citizenry, one of the foremost needs right now is for a new animal shelter facility. To that end we are ramping up design, funding and location to get this

project underway as soon as possible. We have just finished the new MAG building, co-sponsoring with the city significant upgrades to the Senior Citizen facility and have just approved a grant application for a new main central Fire-Rescue building structure. While we continue to do these and other projects I/we will remain ever vigilant over our citizens' tax dollars to continue seeing positive progress making life better for Calloway Countians.



Jessica Galloway

Carlisle County Judge Executive

a family. I'm ready to build on what's working and tackle what's not.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I bring nearly seven years of experience in county government, with a strong understanding of its evolving nature and the ability to adapt quickly to change. I have built effective working relationships with state and federal officials, which are essential to success in this role. I also have comprehensive knowledge of the county budget and daily operations across departments. I understand the importance of partnerships and will work to strengthen existing relationships while building new ones. I am committed to transparent leadership, responsible fiscal management, and

delivering practical solutions that improve services, support growth, and benefit our community every day.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

In my first year, I will focus on seeing through and completing projects that have already been started while setting a clear path for growth. I will prioritize infrastructure improvements, including roads and essential services, while pursuing state and federal funding to ease the burden on taxpayers. I will work to build new partnerships that support economic development and job growth. I will also prioritize communication and accessibility so citizens feel informed, heard, and confident in their local government.

• Why are you running for this office?

I believe strong local leadership makes a real difference in people's everyday lives and I'm committed to serving our community with integrity and transparency. I've seen firsthand the strengths and challenges our county faces. I'm running to be a leader that listens, brings people together, and works proactively to find solutions—not just talk about them. This role isn't just about managing government—it's about setting a vision for growth, supporting economic development, improving infrastructure, and making sure our county remains a great place to live, work, and raise



Paul Rister

Calloway County Judge Executive

and leadership. That realization is why I am running for Judge Executive.

with people, manage resources, and lead by serving.

What goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I would focus on working with the Fiscal Court, department heads, county employees, and our city and community partners to develop a clear four-year plan for the county. We must focus on strong financial stewardship and long-term budgeting so we can maintain services while preparing for future needs. I would also work to pursue grant funding and partnerships to help address infrastructure, county facilities such as the courthouse, and economic development opportunities, including tourism and recreation around Kentucky Lake. Good planning and responsible finances will allow us to move forward in a steady and sustainable way.

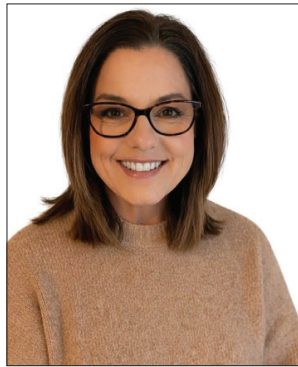
What qualifications do you have that are well-suited for this position?

I bring over 30 years of public service experience, including my career with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife where I managed projects, budgets, grants, and personnel. During the past seven years as Magistrate, I have worked on roads, bridges, budgeting, and county operations. In addition to my professional experience, I have been involved in community leadership through coaching youth sports, church leadership, teaching Sunday school, serving as a Scout leader, Chair of the Friends of Doran Arboretum Board, and leading Financial Peace classes. These experiences have helped me learn how to work

• Why are you running for this office?

Paul Rister, and I am running for Calloway County Judge Executive.

I ran for Magistrate in 2018 because I was frustrated with local government but realized I did not fully understand how it worked. Instead of complaining from the sidelines, I chose to get involved, learn, and serve. Over the past seven years, I have gained experience in budgeting, infrastructure, and county operations, and I have tried led by example through hard work and communication. Along the way, I realized the experience I was gaining was not just for learning anymore, but preparation for the next step of service



Lisa Mantle Adams

Carlisle County Magistrate District 1

continued progress.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I bring eight years of experience serving on the Fiscal Court, where I have gained a strong understanding of county government, budgeting, and policy decisions. I have collaborated with the Judge Executive and fellow magistrates to make responsible decisions that benefit our community. My experience has allowed me to build relationships, listen to constituents, and address concerns effectively. I am committed to being accessible, informed, and focused on making decisions that support the long-term success of Carlisle County and representing the interests of my district with integrity.

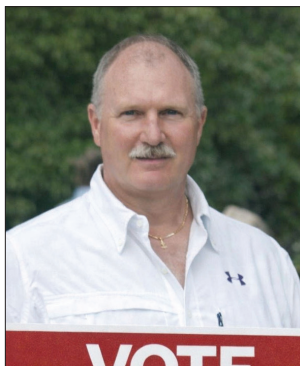
you implement during your first year in office?

In my next term, I will continue prioritizing infrastructure improvements across Carlisle County. With multiple road and bridge projects already underway, my focus will be on ensuring efficient completion while planning for future needs. I will work closely with Fiscal Court to prioritize projects that improve road safety, maintenance, and long-term reliability, while responsibly managing available resources. I will also continue listening to citizens and identifying areas of concern and ensure their needs are reflected in planning. My goal is to make thoughtful, forward-looking decisions that strengthen our community and improve quality of life for all Carlisle County citizens

• Why are you running for this office?

I am running for re-election as your District 1 Magistrate to continue serving North/West Bardwell with experienced, steady leadership. A Magistrate is part of the county's governing body, collaborating with the Judge Executive to approve budgets, pass ordinances, represent constituents, and support infrastructure and community needs. After two terms on the Fiscal Court, I have the knowledge and experience, and I have established relationships to make informed decisions and move our county forward. I am seeking a third term because I care deeply about this community and believe my experience and proven leadership are essential to its

Carlisle County



Kelly Laird

Carlisle County Jailer

• What qualifications do you have that are best suited for this position?

Held an elected position as Costabile for eight years in Carlisle County. At present time I work for the Carlisle County Road Dept and work with inmates help doing small jobs in the county and a Mowing crew. Have been a volunteer firefighter for over 40 years certified

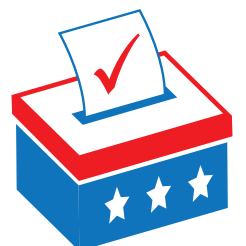
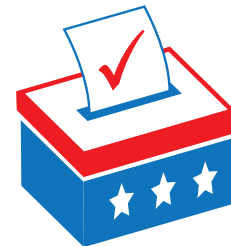
in the state of Kentucky also a certified state Fire instructor. I've been an EMT for the state of Kentucky over 35 years.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during another year in office?

Tried to stay on budget to keep from taxing the county so bad on inmates care.

• Why are you running for this office?

I am running for Carlisle County jailer cause I believe in safety and accountability and doing what's right for our community.



Carlisle County continued



Eric Perry

Carlisle County Sheriff

support my deputies and office staff, and make sure our community stays safe.”

• **What qualities do you have that will work well for this position?**

“I believe my experience and dedication to this community are what help me most. I’ve spent 16 years right here in Carlisle County, so I know the people and what matters to them. I try to lead by being honest, fair, and someone folks can count on. I listen, treat people with respect, and make sure things are handled the right way. This is my home, and I care about doing

right by it.”

• **Looking ahead, what goals and improvements do you want to make?**

“Looking ahead, I want to keep building trust between the Sheriff’s Office and the people we serve. That means being open, improving transparency, and keeping a clear line of communication so folks feel comfortable coming to us. I also want to keep supporting our deputies and making sure they’ve got what they need to do their jobs well. At the end of the day, I just want people to know they can count on us.”

• **Why are you running for this office?**

“I’m running for reelection as Sheriff because Carlisle County is home. I was born and raised here, and for 16 years I’ve served this community in law enforcement. This isn’t just a job to me—it’s a responsibility. I care about the people here and take pride in doing the job the right way. I’m running again to keep building trust,



Kyle Webb

Carlisle County Sheriff

a safer community for everyone.

• **What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?**

I believe I am well qualified to serve as sheriff because of my lifelong connection to Carlisle County, proven leadership, and 19 years of law enforcement experience with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. I completed the Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy and enforced all Kentucky laws, gaining broad experience in patrol and investigations. I also received Crisis Intervention and advanced firearms training. For almost five years, I served as a sergeant, supervising operations across multiple counties. This experience strengthened my leadership, teamwork, and commitment to community-based policing, ensuring I will

serve with integrity, accountability, and respect.

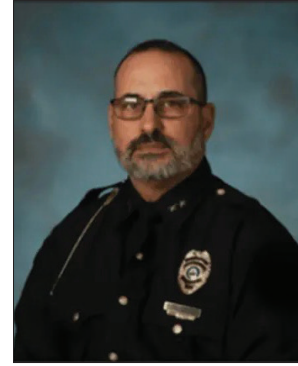
• **Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?**

In my first year, I will prioritize strengthening school safety, reducing drug-related crime, and restoring a strong community policing approach. I will work closely with school officials and School Resource Officers to review and improve safety plans, ensuring our schools are secure and prepared. I will also strengthen partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies to more effectively combat drug activity impacting our county. Just as important, I will make the sheriff’s office more visible and accessible through community engagement and an open-door policy. My goal is to build trust, improve communication, and create a safer Carlisle County for all residents.

• **Why are you running for this office?**

If elected, my vision for a safer, stronger Carlisle County focuses on secure schools, reducing drug-related crime, and strengthening community partnerships. Protecting our children comes first, and I will work closely with school leaders and School Resource Officers to ensure effective safety plans are in place. I am committed to collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies to combat drug activity impacting our families. Just as important, I will maintain an open-door policy, encouraging citizens to share concerns and work alongside law enforcement. Together, through cooperation and trust, we can build

Christian County



Erik Pacheco

Christian County Sheriff

Kentucky.

With over 20 years of experience, he has held key roles including Police Captain, SWAT Commander, Narcotics Detective, and ATF Task Force Officer.

He oversees operations, budgeting, and strategic planning while bringing frontline and leadership expertise. A graduate of the FBI

National Academy, he holds multiple instructor and investigative certifications. Pacheco also served in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army, earning numerous honors.

He is committed to transparency, proactive policing, and strong community partnerships in Christian County.

Erik Pacheco is a veteran law enforcement leader and military veteran currently serving as Deputy Chief of Police in Hopkinsville,



Amber Ezell

Christian County PVA

public service to the citizens of Christian County, whether it’s helping citizens with property inquiries, tax matters, or eligibility for discounts.

Throughout the years I have taken many classes through the state of Kentucky and International Association of Assessing Officers. I have over 150 educational hours in Kentucky Property Tax courses and 99 educational hours in IAAO courses. I obtained my Certified Kentucky Assessor designation in 2012 and my Senior Kentucky Assessor designation in 2018. I not only have the experience and qualifications, I also have the drive and motivation to be the

next PVA.

Over the next year I would love to make some changes to our website, to make it more accessible for the taxpayers, appraisers, and realtors here in Christian County. I also want to continue to inform the citizens of Christian County on Homestead discounts and helpful information like checking vehicle assessments for high mileage. I am committed to serving the citizens of Christian County and proven reliable with 21 years of experience in the PVA Office.

I feel I have the experience and dedication to be the next Property Valuation Administrator. I would appreciate your support and vote on May 19.

I am Amber Ezell and I am running for Christian County PVA. I was born and raised here in Christian County. I have worked in the PVA office for 21 years, started at the age of 20, and have held several different positions in the office from Deputy, Mapping Supervisor, and promoted to Chief Deputy in 2019, to which I still hold that position. It has always been my dream and end goal to be the PVA. I truly love my job and love providing

Graves County



Clint Harris

Graves County Commissioner District 1

• **What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?**

My business & Agricultural background gives me the tools needed to analysis budgets, along with protecting one of our major resources, our productive farmland. Also, my ability to work with a team to accomplish a shared vision.

• **Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?**

Increase Public safety -Emergency services -Roads/Bridges 2.Fiscal responsibility -Balance budgets -Eliminate waste of taxpayer dollars. 3. Controlled sustainable growth that benefits ALL the people of Graves County.

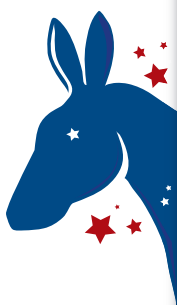
• **Why are you running for this office?**

To serve the People of Graves County. - To help make our communities safer. - To bring Truth, Trust & Transparency back to our local Government.

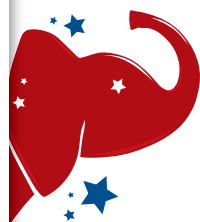
The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in democracy.

— John Lewis

PROFILES CONTINUED ON PAGE B19



Remember to Vote!!



London mayor indicted for Beshear campaign, KDP contributions

By Tom Latek
kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) - London Mayor Randall Weddle was indicted by a special grand jury in Laurel County on four counts of excessive campaign contributions to Gov Andy Beshear's campaign and the Kentucky Democratic Party, Attorney General Russell Coleman announced Tuesday.

Weddle, 44, was indicted for two counts of Campaign Contribution Restriction/Expenditure Limits (Class D Felony) when he unlawfully contributed more than \$2,000, indexed for inflation, to the Andy Beshear for Governor campaign during one election and for two counts of Campaign Contribution Restriction/Expenditure Limits (Class D Felony) when he unlawfully contributed more than \$5,000 to the Kentucky Democratic Party in one year.

The indictment comes from a 2023 Kentucky Registry of Election Finance board probe into more than \$200,000 in donations the mayor, his family and his former company gave the Beshear campaign and the Kentucky Democratic Party.

Weddle is accused of putting \$223,000 in campaign donations

he made on behalf of family members and associates on his personal credit card, shielding his own donations behind other people's names to avoid state and federal donor limits.

Coleman called a press conference and said he wanted to make sure Laurel County citizens knew they were not forgotten.

"The only reason I'm standing here today is to reassure the people of Laurel County and all the communities outside the golden triangle, that law enforcement, prosecutors and public servants in every corner of this commonwealth are working long hours with a fire in the belly to protect you, to protect your families," he said. "I'm standing here to assure you that the rule of law applies to all 120 counties."

Following an investigation by the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, the Attorney General's Department of Criminal Investigations completed an investigation that led to Tuesday's indictments.

The Attorney General's Special Prosecution Unit will prosecute the case on behalf of the commonwealth.

McCracken County PVA



High Mileage Vehicle?

LOWER YOUR VEHICLE TAXES

Submit a photo of your odometer & license plate

SIGN UP ONLINE

WWW.MCCRACKENPVA.GOV

Visit us at 621 Washington St., Paducah

Make Your Voice Heard

VOTE



TRAVIS HOLDER

MY VISION FOR OUR COUNTY:

- Stronger Community Connection
- Efficient & Modern Services
- Educated & Engaged Voters
- Accountability & Growth

BALLARD COUNTY CLERK

"EXPERIENCE YOU KNOW. SERVICE YOU TRUST."

CALDWELL

Carrie Lynn Hutchinson, 53, of Princeton, passed away on Friday, March 27, 2026, at Caldwell Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Morgan's Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until service time on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Morgan's Funeral Home.

James Gray, age 67, of Princeton, passed away on March 26, 2026, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana. Funeral services were held Thursday at 2:30 p.m., April 2, 2026 at Morgan's Funeral Home with Rev. Mark Faughn officiating. Burial followed in the Eddy Creek Cemetery.

CALLOWAY

Barbara Ann Eckenrode, 82, of Buchanan, TN, passed away on Sunday, March 30, 2026 at Murray Calloway County Hospital. Arrangements are currently incomplete at Imes Funeral Home & Crematory, downtown Murray.

Robert "Bob" Shirkey, 92, of Murray, KY, passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at his home. Per his wishes, no services are planned at this time. Imes Funeral Home & Crematory is entrusted with caring for his family.

Katherine "Kathy" Rene Carson passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, March 26, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by those who loved her most. A celebration of Kathy's life will be held at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, April 5, 2026, at the Yates Event Center Clubhouse. Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sunday, April 5, 2026, at the Yates Event Center Clubhouse.

Virginia Maxine McLemore, age 93, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at Spring Creek Healthcare in Murray, Kentucky. A private family graveside service will be held at a later date. Online condolences can be made at, www.jhchurchill.com

Dr. Michael Travis Ridley, age 84, of Murray, Kentucky, passed away Sunday, March 29, 2026, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. A private family service will be held. Online condolences can be made at www.jhchurchill.com.

James W. Stickler, 84, of Murray, KY, passed away after a long battle with dementia on Thursday, March 26, at the Anna Mae Owens Hospice House, holding the hands of his children. A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at the First Christian Church, Rev. Chris Owens officiated.

Ruth Ann (Scott) James, 83, of Dexter, Kentucky, passed away Friday, March 27, 2026, at Passion and Purpose Home Care in Murray. Friends visited with the family from 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, until 12:00 p.m. at the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, 713 South 4th St., Murray, KY. A private graveside funeral service will be held at the Murray City Cemetery, with John Dale officiating.

CARLISLE

Joe Frank Henderson, 91, of Milburn, Kentucky, passed away on March 26, 2026, at The Bungalows Assisted Living in Mayfield, Kentucky. A funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Arlington with brother Glenn Stewart officiating. Burial followed at Milburn Cemetery.

CHRISTIAN

Susan Mae Galloway Simmons, age 72, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Monday, March 30, 2026, at her home of natural causes. Funeral Services were held on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home at 2:00 PM with Brother Mike Humble officiating and burial followed in Riverside Cemetery.

Donna Kay Wade Payne, age 71, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away surrounded by her family on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at her home of natural causes. The family has chosen cremation with a Celebration of Life Service that took place at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with burial to follow in Riverside Cemetery.

Robert "Bobby" Johnson, 71, Ovil Road, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Thursday, March 26, 2026 at Tri-Star Centennial Medical Center, Nashville, TN of natural causes. Memorial service to be held at a later date.

Teddy Phillips, 55, of Hopkinsville, KY died at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 27, 2026 at his residence. Memorial services were held at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at Cross Pointe Ministries. Dogwood Funerals & Cremations of Hopkinsville is assisting with the arrangements.

CRITTENDEN

Joseph "Joe" Earl Jones age 72 of Marion, KY passed away at his home March 30, 2026. A memorial service will be held 2 PM, April 12, 2026 at Baker Church Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Myers Funeral Home and there is no visitation at the funeral home.

FULTON

Barbara Bennette Atwill, age 64, of the Cayce Community passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026, in Mayfield, Kentucky. Funeral services for Ms. Atwill were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at Cayce Methodist Church, with burial following in Cayce Methodist Cemetery.

Cera Sue Sawyer, age 85, of South Fulton, Tennessee, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Baptist Health in Paducah, Kentucky. Funeral services for Mrs. Sawyer were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at Fulton Cumberland Presbyterian Church, with burial to follow in Obion County Memorial Gardens.

GRAVES

Khouri V. Jones Knueppel, age 46, of Murray, formerly of Mayfield, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at her residence. A celebration of life for Mrs. Khouri V. Jones Knueppel will be held 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at Emerald Waters Lodge, 371 Straight Church Rd., Mayfield, KY 42066. Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

Carolyn Naomi Tyler was born October 8, 1963 to the late Leomar Tyler, Sr. and Hathia R. Tyler in Mayfield, KY. Nannie made her transition to her heavenly home on March 25, 2026. Funeral services for Carolyn Naomi Tyler were held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026 at Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY. Rev. Antonio Sherrill officiated.

Steven Brooks "Steve" Barger, 74, died in Nashville, TN, Tuesday, March 24, 2026, surrounded by his family. The Rev. Gregory Waldrop will officiate a graveside memorial for Steven at 1:00 PM on Friday, April 3, 2026 at Highland Park Cemetery in Mayfield. Friends and family are asked to meet at the cemetery. Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY is in charge of arrangements.

Robert "Bob" McClain, 81 and a resident of Mayfield, KY, passed away at 6:15 AM Sunday, March 29, 2026, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. Funeral services for Bob McClain were held at 1:00 P.M. Thursday, April 2nd at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Rev. Ronnie Stinson, Sr. officiating.

Donald A. Carrico, age 87, of Fancy Farm, KY passed away at 12:25 PM Sunday, March 29, 2026 at his residence. Graveside Memorial Services for Donald were held 5:30 PM on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at

the St. Jerome Cemetery in Fancy Farm, KY. Father Darrell Venters officiated with inurnment to follow.

Adam Stoops, age 46 of Water Valley, KY passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Funeral Services were held at 1 PM Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Clinton with Bro. Chad Frizzell officiating. Burial will follow in the Wesley Cemetery.

Dorothy Ann Walters Guhy, age 79 of Wingo, KY, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Mills Health and Rehab facility in Mayfield, KY. Funeral Services were held at 11AM Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield, KY with Rev. Spence Pate and Rev. Chad Lamb officiating. Burial followed in the Mayfield Memory Gardens.

Jackie Bruce, age 79, of Mayfield passed away at 1:16 PM Wednesday March 25, 2026 at his residence. The funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM Monday March 30, 2026 at the Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield with Bro. Chris King and Bro. Collin Matheny officiating with the burial to follow in the Lebanon Church of Christ Cemetery.

Patsy Adams age 76 of Wingo passed away at 4:23 PM Tuesday March 24, 2026 at the Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield. Private family services will be held at a later date. Brown Funeral Home in Mayfield in charge of arrangements.

HENDERSON

Kevin J. Lynn, age 71, of Henderson, KY, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at his home. There will be no services at this time. Arrangements entrusted to Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, A Life Celebration® Home, online condolences may be made at www.bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com.

Betty Harper, age 103, of Henderson, KY, passed away at 2:45 a.m., Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Homeplace of Henderson surrounded by the love of her family. The funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at the church with the Reverend Kenny Kidd officiating. Burial followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson, KY.

HOPKINS

Eddie Kent Sayle, 86, of Sturgis, KY passed away on Monday, March 30, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess Hospital in Madisonville, KY. Memorial Service will be held on Monday, April 6, 2026, at First Baptist Church in Sturgis, KY, at 6:00 P.M. Pastor Shane O'Guin will be officiating. Visitation will be held from 3:00 P.M. until the service time Monday at First Baptist Church in Sturgis, KY.

Jewell Ray Galloway, 76, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Saturday March 28, 2026, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, IN. Per his wishes, there will be no memorial services held. Barnett-Strother Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

Bernard Smith, 58, of Madisonville, KY passed away on Friday, March 27, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Barnett-Strother Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

John Thomas Frazier Sr. passed away on March 25, 2026, at the Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson, Kentucky. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to his devoted caregiver, Dory Stone, for the love and support shown to their father. John will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him. Services were held on Thursday, April 2nd at Oak Grove Baptist Church, 309 Graves St., Madisonville, KY 42431. Burial followed at Eastside Oddfellows Cemetery.

Ella Beatrice Tramill Woolfolk, 93, of Henderson, Kentucky, formerly of Clarksville, Tennessee, passed away peacefully at 1:08 p.m. on

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Wednesday March 25, 2026 at St. Anthony's Hospice Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson with her loving daughter and family members by her bedside. Burial will be in Fernwood Cemetery in Henderson. Her visitation and wake services will be from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Friday April 3, 2026 at Walnut Hill Missionary Baptist Church with a musical beginning at 7:00 p.m. with additional visitation Saturday after 10:00 a.m. at Victory Christian Center Church. In honor of Ella Woolfolk's lifetime business achievement, her family will be presented with a Proclamation from the City of Henderson by Henderson City Mayor Brad Staton during the funeral service.

Lisa Lane Phillips, 68 of Nortonville passed away Friday, March 27, 2026, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, April 11, at Noon at Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville. Visitation will be from 10:00am – Noon at the funeral home.

Mildred Carlton Stanley, 84 of Nortonville passed away on March 27, 2026, at her home with her family by her side. Service were held Tuesday, March 31st at 1:00pm at The River in Nortonville with Pastor Howard Jones officiating. Burial followed at New Salem Cemetery in Nortonville.

Harold Presley, 72, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

Dale Lynn Smith, 68, of Sebree, KY, passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at his home. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Roy Ellis officiating. Burial to follow at Grapevine Cemetery in Madisonville. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the funeral hour on Friday at the funeral home.

Josephine Massey Faver, 88, of Nortonville, KY, passed away on Monday, March 30, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Harris Funeral Home was entrusted with care.

Tamara "Tammy" Fallin Newsam, 60, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Friday, March 27, 2026, at her home. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home in Madisonville with Bro. Matt Davis officiating. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until the service hour Saturday at the funeral home.

David Earl Hancock, Sr., 74, of Madisonville, KY, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville. A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026, in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Pastor Sean Dame officiating. Burial followed at Bethlehem Cemetery in Madisonville.

LIVINSTON

George Franklin "Frankie" Henry, 83, of Salem, KY, passed away Monday, March 30, 2026 at Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield. Funeral services were Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 2 PM, in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial followed in Salem Cemetery.

Mary Sharp, 91, of Smithland, passed away Friday, March 27, 2026 at Providence Pointe Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Paducah. Burial will be in McMurray Chapel Cemetery. All services will be private. Condolences may be left online at boymfuneraldirectors.com

LYON

Patricia Ellen Keating, 67, of Fredonia, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at her home. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at Lakeland Funeral Home with Bro.

Marty Robertson officiating. Burial followed in New Bethel Cemetery in Lyon County.

MARSHALL

Jimmy Don Hendrickson, age 69, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away at 5:20 pm on March 26, 2026, at his residence, Christian Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. A graveside service was held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at Ford Cemetery in Marshall County with Pastor James Wright officiating. There will be no visitation. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations made to Gospel Mission Worship Center Youth Department, 6905 Benton Rd, Paducah, KY 42003.

Linda Smothers, 78, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, March 8, 2026, in Metropolis, Illinois. There are no arrangements at this time. Final resting place: Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery (Fancy Farm), 8039 State Route 307, Fancy Farm, KY 42039.

James Allan Francis, 44, of Calvert City, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at his place of residence. There are no scheduled services at this time. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling the arrangements.

Jim McAllister, 86, of Benton, Kentucky, and formerly of Murray, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Calvert City Nursing and Rehab. Funeral Mass was held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at St. Henry Catholic Church. Filbeck-Cann Funeral Home of Milner & Orr is handling the arrangements.

Brenda "Kaye" Hinkebein, age 74 of Benton, KY passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at her home. A Funeral Mass was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Calvert City, KY with Father Brian Johnson officiating. Interment followed in Marshall Co. Memory Gardens, Benton, KY.

Bettye D. Harper, age 90, of Paducah, KY, died Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, KY. Arrangements are being handled by Collier Funeral Home, Benton, KY where the family received friends from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Funeral service was held at Collier Funeral Chapel at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, March 31, 2026, with Don Larimer and Mike Pittman officiating. Interment followed at Fooks Cemetery, Benton, KY.

McCRACKEN

William A. "Bill" Dowell, age 87, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on Monday, March 30, 2026, at Life Care Center of La Center. Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Revs: John Smithmier, Joe Meyer, and Bill Miller officiating. Burial will follow at McKendree Church Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until the service hour of 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Dixie King Phifer, 87, of Paducah passed away on Friday, March 27, 2026, at Baptist Health Paducah. Private graveside services will be held. Online condolences may be left at www.lindseyfuneral.com.

Kenneth Allen Bice, 64, of Paducah, KY passed away Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Baptist Health of Paducah. There will be no local services. Kenny will be buried alongside his father at Macedonia Cemetery in Ragland, Alabama. Plans for the service are being finalized in Alabama.

Martha Alford, 82, of Paducah, passed away on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at Baptist Health in Paducah. Friends visited with the family during the memorial visitation on Monday, March 30, 2026, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at Lindsey Funeral Home, with memorial services following at 1:00 p.m., officiated by Andrew Johnson.

Ricky Bernard Cole, age 55 of Paducah, passed away peacefully at his residence on Tuesday, March 24, 2026. Funeral services have been scheduled for Friday, April 10, 2026, 12 noon at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. Family will receive friends at the church on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until the funeral hour. More details forthcoming.

Opal Lee Garner, 100, of Paducah, passed away at 2:48 pm on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Joe Young and Rev. Wayne Hicks officiating. Burial followed at Fooks Cemetery in Marshall County.

Edward Dean Williams, 79, of Paducah, passed away on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at Calvert City Nursing and Rehab. Graveside service was held at 1:00 pm on Monday, March 30, 2026, at Maplelawn Park Cemetery in Paducah with Rev. Todd Hawkins officiating.

TRIGG

Gary Malcolm Rocca - March 21, 1948 - March 29, 2026 - A Celebration of Life for 78 year old Gary Malcolm Rocca of Cadiz will be held Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at King's Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 12:00-2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at King's Funeral Home.

Wayne Lee Thomas, age 64, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at his home in Hopkinsville. Funeral services were held at Goodwin Funeral Home at 11:00 AM, Thursday, April 2, 2026, with Rev. Jamus Redd officiating. Burial with military honors followed at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville.

UNION

Velda Ames O'Leary Templeton, age 89 of Sturgis, KY peacefully passed from this earthly life and entered the gates of Heaven on March, 30, 2026. The service will be 2PM Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis, KY. Greg Womack will officiate. The burial will be in Pythian Ridge Cemetery. The visitation will be 10AM until service time on Saturday at the funeral home.

Judy Ann Green, age 73 of Morganfield was called home to be with the Lord on March 29, 2026. Visitation was held on Tuesday, March 31st from 1 PM to 3 PM with the funeral following at 3 PM at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Burial was in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield.

On March 26, 2026, **Kay Ruth Carroll Binford** passed away peacefully at the family farm in Morganfield, Kentucky, surrounded by her loving family. There are no events scheduled at this time.

WEBSTER

Gary Wayne Jones, 70 of Madisonville passed away Friday, March 27, 2026 at Deaconess Gateway in Newburgh. There were Masonic Rites at 12:45 PM Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at Vanover Funeral Home in Clay, directly following Masonic Rites the funeral service was held at 1:00 PM at Vanover Funeral Home. Burial was in New Clay Cemetery.

Martha Jean Franey, 84, of Dixon, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at Brickyard Healthcare-Brentwood in Evansville. Private services and burial will be in Rockstile Cemetery in Dixon, KY. Ziemer Funeral Home is handling local arrangements and Townsend Funeral Home is assisting with graveside service and burial.

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.

The origins on Easter Sunday

Easter takes place on a different Sunday each year. In western Christianity, Easter follows the Gregorian calendar and is thus considered a “movable feast” that is always celebrated between March 22 and April 25. Eastern Orthodox Christianity adheres to the Julian calendar, so Easter will fall on a Sunday between April 4 and May 8 each year. In 2022, the western Christian Easter celebration occurs on April 17 and the Eastern Orthodox Easter is observed on April 24.

Easter is the most important celebration on the Christian liturgical calendar. While commemorations

of Jesus Christ’s resurrection likely occurred earlier, the earliest recorded observance of an Easter celebration was in the second century, according to Britannica.

Initial Easter celebrations weren’t known as “Easter,” which is a word that was borrowed from Pagan spring celebrations of Eostre, the goddess of spring and fertility. It only became associated with Christian usage later on — long after biblical scripture was written. In fact, the word “Easter” only appears in one Bible, the King James Version. But it is likely the word was used as a translation of pascha,



or Passover, and not what has come to be known as Christian Easter.

The earliest Easter celebrations

were a version of Passover. According to leading sabbath scholar Professor Samuele Bacchiocchi, Christians universally

kept Passover on the biblical date of Nisan until 135 A.D. Early commemorations focused on the crucifixion, and the

pain and suffering of Jesus. Bacchiocchi says that eventually the resurrection emerged as the dominant reason for the celebration that would be known as Easter, and also as the main message of weekly Christian Sunday masses. By the fourth century, the Easter Vigil and celebration were well-established and a symbol of joyful anticipation of the resurrection.

Easter is now celebrated annually by faithful Christians. While Easter is not mentioned in the Bible, scripture depictions helped shape the holiday that would become an integral component of the Christian faith.

Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?

Christians around the world fill church pews on Easter Sunday to participate in one of the most holy and important celebrations of the liturgical year. Although every Sunday presents opportunities to share in the word of God, Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ’s defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father’s side in heaven. However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the core of the Christian

religion as it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not exist as it was prophesied. Christ’s selfless sacrifice on the cross for others’ sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of Christianity has been built.

In 1 Corinthians 15:17, St. Paul wrote, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” Pope Benedict XVI similarly summarized St. Paul’s words, indicating that if the

resurrection were taken away, it may be possible to piece together ideas about God and men, but the Christian faith would be “dead.” In his book, Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict further wrote, “Jesus would be a failed religious leader... he would then remain purely human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us.”

According to Christianity.com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after death, and they will

have the same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

Out of Holy Week and Easter also came the start of Christian masses. On Holy Thursday, Jesus introduced his disciples to the bread that they ate at the Last Supper as “his body” and the wine as “his blood.” This would serve as the basis for the Christian celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.

Easter is a significant date on the Christian calendar that inspires Christians across the globe to celebrate their faith.



Tips for a great Easter egg hunt

Egg hunts are a traditional component of many people’s Easter celebrations. Children often delight in searching for eggs around the house or in the backyard.

Egg hunts are so popular that they have become a component of many town-sponsored festivities.

In fact, the White House hosts its annual Easter Egg Roll each year.

There are many ways to make Easter egg

hunts more enjoyable and productive for participants of all ages. Try these “eggcellent” ideas.

• **Designate a clear hunting area.** Young children can grow frustrated searching for eggs in large areas. Set parameters for the search area that are manageable depending on the ages of the children participating. If you’ll be in a large yard or field, tape off the

search area perimeter.

• **Vary the prizes.** Candy, candy and more candy seems to be the name of the game on Easter. But too many sweets can lead to stomach aches for young Easter celebrants. Instead, mix and match the prizes contained in the eggs. Candy can be in some, money in others, and perhaps small toys in a few eggs.

Another clever idea is to mix the egg hunt with

charades. Put charade prompts in some eggs so that kids have to act out what they read inside for added fun.

• **Special privilege egg.** Hide one egg that gives the finder the opportunity for a special honor. It may include getting the first slice of the holiday ham or being able to choose a movie that the entire family watches together after dinner.

• **Label eggs for equity.** When there are children across a wide range of ages, label the eggs with the children’s names or utilize a color-coded system to ensure that everyone has an equal shot at finding eggs.

• **Keep a master list.** It can be hard to remember where each egg is hidden, so keep a running list of where they are or take photos with a phone of the hiding spots.

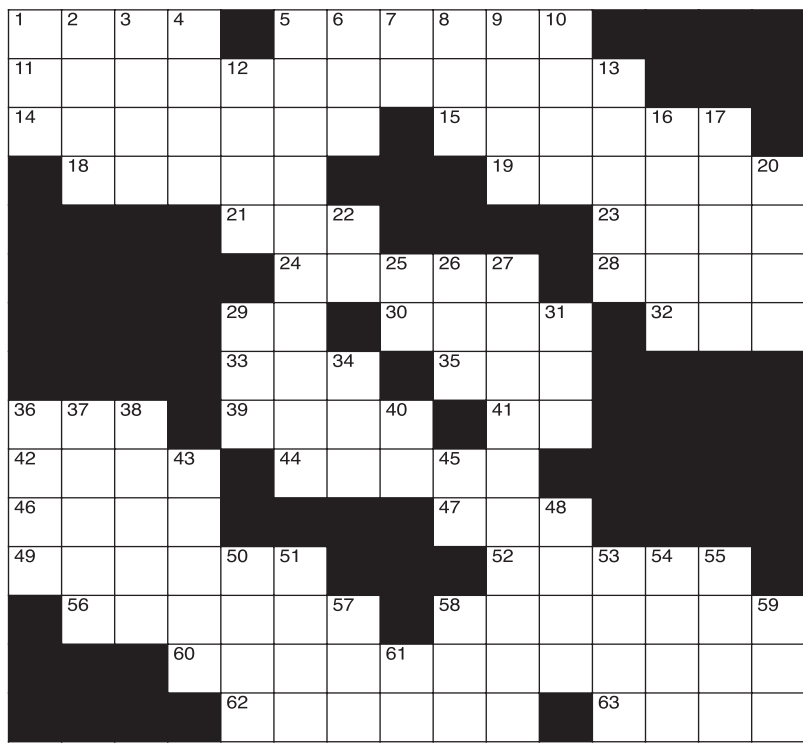
This way you’re not left to discover a chocolate-filled egg teeming with ants come summertime.

• **Make custom baskets.** Children will need something to carry their eggs. Prior to the egg hunt, let them decorate bags or baskets with Easter trinkets for custom creations.

Easter egg hunts are a time-honored tradition.

The opportunities for fun are endless when families plan accordingly.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of difficulty
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. More cushy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA and CIA critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Hammer is one
- 30. Selfs
- 32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 33. Nowhere to be found
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses and passports are two
- 39. Snake-like fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Stages in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. In the center
- 49. Pleasantly smooth
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. ___ Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel or eject (variant sp.)
- 4. Sea eagle
- 5. Taxonomic category
- 6. Chinese languages
- 7. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL legend Randy
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. It says who you are
- 25. Atlantic coast state
- 26. Grow older
- 27. Associations
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Leader
- 37. Indigo bush genus
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's father
- 43. Mackerel genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. Type of molding
- 51. Small, thin or twisted bunch
- 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Relating to the ears
- 58. "To the ___ degree"
- 59. Residue when something is burned
- 61. It cools a home

PUZZLE SOLUTION

E	A	S	E		E	M	B	A	L	M					
A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	I	O	N				
R	E	U	N	I	O	N		E	A	S	I	E	R		
	S	E	E	R	S			O	S	P	R	E	Y		
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					M	C		E	G	O	S		T	S	H
					M	I	A		E	D	P				
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A	L	A	E					M	I	D					
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	A	D	A	G	I	O		N	I	A	G	A	R	A	
		R	E	S	T	A	T	E	M	E	N	T	S		
		E	P	O	C	H	S		D	A	S	H			

Word Search

LOVE FISHING WORD SEARCH

U G T T I T P G O T L T A C K L E B I E
 O P R R D E M T H G B R S U U I E J G T E S U S I M I
 W N B A A J N E E F U R M M G B T M A L F F
 A B M A G J E E F U R F A N K I I T S T R S S G
 L P I F P B E N J J F B N K I I E S L S G R I S S
 S F A I S I T J N J B E D E S R R A A I L G E S
 H I L S S D P A L E L J I G G I N G L O S J
 A K N H R R I A L E L J I G G I N G L O S J
 S O W I S N S L I T H A H C I M A C U S O R O
 S O S N B F D O D E G G N I M P U H C S C O R
 N H F G U W B R R K M C M F N B P T I M J E
 G O J T N O S T R U U C T U R E O P S G F E
 L H M T W I H I K A U K J E O P B D F I
 E P P T K S N R H R P E D A E L T H B O H
 R B G T L K I W M P N E E G O F T N E T
 A P E W M P J G A S B E E B A W S S H R G
 D O A G B A I T H P M D S A L W A B B G
 J J I U C D G W U T S H D R H G C T F L
 U P S G F W T E R U L N N R M B B K K L

ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

WORDS

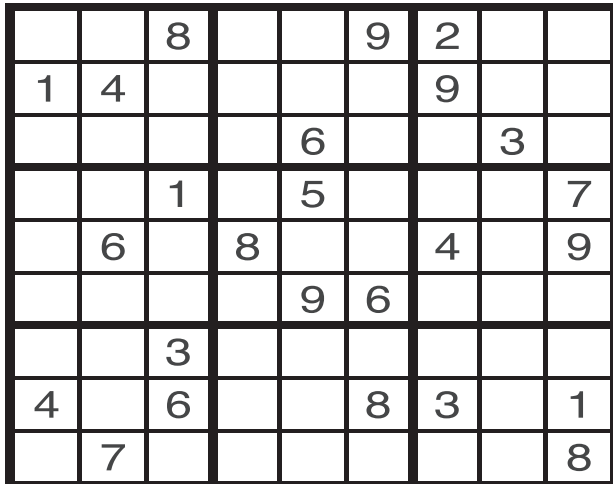
- ANGLER
- BAG
- BAIT
- BOBBER
- CAST
- CATCH
- CHUMMING
- DRAG
- FISHING
- HOOK
- JIGGING
- LEADER
- LIMIT
- LURE
- RELEASE
- SIGHT
- SINKER
- SPAWNING
- STRIKE
- STRUCTURE
- TACKLE
- TERMINAL
- TROLLING

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

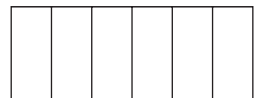
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck! **ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE**



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fishing.

TCKAEL



Answer: Tackle

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in Florida on April 2, 2002. One of my earliest roles was in the television series "The Glades," and I've had a few roles in films. These days I can be found "wolfing out" in a popular Netflix series opposite my macabre roommate.

Answer: Emma Myers

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FOR SALE One Grave Lot at Maplelawn Cemetery. \$800.00 Or Best Offer Call 270-558-3414 (tfn)

2 GRAVE SITES at Woodlawn Memorial Garden. In the Christus area.\$3,800. 270-559-8781

2 Cemetery Lots (side by side) Located at Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery (in The Garden of the Good Shepard). 6965 Old Hwy 45, Paducah, KY. \$5,000 for both lots 2702-519-5449 or 270-841-5001.

FOR SALE One Vault in Brookhaven Memorial Park. Last one in the chapel. Holds 2 caskets. \$8,000. Please Call 270-556-0524

3 possibly 4 Grave Plots Woodlawn Memorial Gardens Paducah Ky. Trinity Garden section. Normally \$3700.00 each. will sell for \$2500.00 each Call 270-970-0678

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MISCELLANEOUS

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For Sale: Baldwin Upright Piano In Good Condition \$300.00 Call 270-331-9835

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For Sale, Sleep Number Plus, Twin Long ILE 360 smart bed frame flex fit, 360 remote, Call 270-556-0524 TFN mattress pad, 2 fitted sheet sets \$5,000.00

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REAL ESTATE

Awesome beautiful 2 Large lots! Brand New Home built just across the street. Great area on Barkley Lake. Over 1 acre, year round view of Barkley Lake! 1 mile to BRR Marina! \$64,000.00 MLS # 121914 CALL Jennifer Palmer at 270-519-9000. (tfn)

This Incredible Customer Built 2015 property is amazing! Across the road 1,000 yards from KY Dam Village State Park, Dam, Marina, Restaurant/Lodge. 2,000 yards from the Golf course! Less than 2 miles to Aviation Airfield, & I-24/69. 5 total bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 laundry areas & 3 gas log fireplaces! Vaulted & Cathedral ceilings. Detailed woodwork & moldings, polished marble, w/ unique characteristics! Expansive Living room open to kitchen/breakfast area. Primary suite offers a custom tiled bath, heated floor & walk-in closet! Covered patio w/ wood burning FP. In-ground pool, privacy fence & gated concrete drive w/ ample parking, 2 1/2 car garage has apartment, extra lot & huge PRIVACY FENCE! **135 Allegheny Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky • \$1,399,900**

3 beautiful lots, over 1/2 acre sitting up HIGH on a hill with a SPECTACULAR BREATHTAKING VIEW OF KY LAKE in Cambridge Shores Subdivision! Build your Dream Home! Magnificent Stunning view of KY Lake! Enjoy all the amenities that Cambridge Shores has to offer. This quiet KY Lake neighborhood is the perfect place to call home! **27 Paradise Point Road • Gilbertsville, Kentucky \$369,000**

135 Allighany ----Unique Custom Built 2015 property. Stunningly Luxurious with Captivating Elegance across the road 1000 yards from Ky Dam Village State Park, Dam, Marina, Restaurant/Lodge. 2000 yards to Golf course! Less than 2 miles to Aviation Airfield, & I-24/69. 5 total bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 laundry areas & 3 gas log fireplaces! Vaulted & Cathedral ceilings, detailed woodwork, polished marble, with unique character-

istics! Primary suite offers custom tiled bath, heated floor & walk-n closet! Kitchen island & beautiful cabinetry! Music room, sun room & office! Basement has family room, kitchen, bedroom, storage room & bath. Covered patio with wood burning FP. In-ground pool ,privacy fence, & gated concrete drive, 2 & 1/2car Gar, ,apartment, additional lot & massive stately privacy wall. Can be a VRBO! Contact Jennifer Palmer, Jennifer Palmer Realty, 270-519-9000

718 Marina Village Dr. ---- Beautiful Custom Built 3 bedr 3 & 1/2 bath 2006, looks like a new Home sitting on 2 private lots in Prestigious Gated Marina Village Subdivision! Hardwood Floors, 9 ft ceilings , many updates, large family room open to Kitchen! 2 Bedrooms on main level & one HUGE bedroom up. All bedrooms have a full bath. Kitchen has custom cabinetry! NEW HEAT/AIR UNITS IN 2023. Upstairs-2019. NEW DECK, 4 car garage heated & cooled, Storm Shelter, ALL FURNITURE, DECOR, TABLEWARE, BEDDING, LIGHTHOUSE PICTURES, Towels STAY PLUS NEW flooring that has not been installed. Take a golf cart ride to Grand Rivers, world famous Patties Restaurant, antique shops & more! **Reduced \$630K.** Contact Jennifer Palmer, Jennifer Palmer Realty, 270-519-9000

27 Paradise Point---- Wow! 3 beautiful lots , over 1/2 acre sitting up HIGH on a hill with a SPECTACULAR WATERVIEW OF KY LAKE in Cambridge Shores Subdivision! Build your Dream Home on these lots. Wow! what a Magnificent Stunning view of Ky Lake! Enjoy the amenities that Cambridge Shores including 2 boat ramps, a covered picnic pavilion, a swim area with

sandy beach, courtesy docks, tennis court, basketball court and Private Club House. HOA fee only \$175.00 annually. Contact Jennifer Palmer, Jennifer Palmer Realty, 270-519-9000

2909 James Sanders Blvd Paducah, KY 42001 Commercial/Industrial MLS Number 124836 • 7,560 sq. ft. The price is \$25.74 psf annually Located in Western Kentucky's largest business districts this location is prime for retail, restaurant, or service company. With 4060 net leasable square feet. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425


500 S 17th • Paducah, KY 42003 Commercial/Industrial - \$1,399,000 MLS Number • 125918 • 18,900 sq. ft. Outstanding professional office building in the heart of Paducah featuring approximately 15,600 sq. ft. of office space with 26 private offices, 4 bullpens, 2 conference rooms, kitchen/breakroom, 2 IT rooms, 3 laboratory rooms, multiple work areas, and storage closets along with 2300 sq. ft. warehouse area. Also has an approximately 1000 sq. ft. detached storage building. Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

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

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Search Answers



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tial or commercial. 10 miles from Ky Lake 270-210-6697 (tfn)

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

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

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

Beautifully and totally renovated condo in exciting Lower Town, Paducah, KY. Stainless steel and granite kitchen, original wood floors, two master suites with attached baths. Carport with storage. 2/3 -2,140 sq. ft. \$247,500. (972) 816-8766 (tfn)

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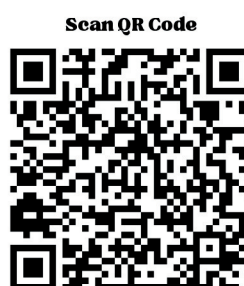
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Graves County continued



Pete Jackson

Graves County Commissioner District 2

• **What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?**

I bring nearly three decades of experience in public service, where I've worked closely with people from all walks of life and understand the importance of responsibility, structure, and accountability. My time in leadership roles has given me the ability to make sound decisions, manage challenges, and stay focused under pressure. I've also stayed engaged in the community and paid attention to how local government operates. I understand the importance of consistency, communication, and follow-through, and I'm committed to bringing those qualities into this role.

• **Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?**

In my first year, I want to focus on listening, understanding current priorities, and making sure we are using resources responsibly. That includes supporting infrastructure needs like roads and drainage, while also ensuring transparency in how decisions are made. I want to work collaboratively with other leaders while maintaining accountability to the people we serve. My goal is to help create steady progress, not quick fixes, and to make decisions that benefit the community both now and in the long term. I'm ready to get to work; let's do this.

• **Why are you running for this office?**

I'm running for County Commissioner because I've spent nearly 30 years in public service and have seen firsthand how local decisions impact everyday people. I care deeply about this community and want to continue serving in a way that ensures responsible leadership, accountability, and steady progress. This role is about listening to the people, understanding their concerns, and making decisions that reflect their needs. I believe in showing up, doing the work, and helping move our county forward in a thoughtful and practical way.



Dale Usher

Graves County Judge Executive

• **What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?**

I bring a lifetime of hands on experience that fits the needs of this county. I've served over 20 years in public safety as a firefighter and paramedic, where leadership, accountability, and calm decision making were daily requirements. I've also built and operated a successful local business, giving me real world experience with budgets, infrastructure, and customer service. I've worked in construction most of my life, understand how projects actually get built, and know the value of protecting farmland and supporting rural communities. These experiences give me the practical knowledge and steady leadership needed to serve as

Judge Executive.

• **Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?**

In my first year, my priority will be restoring confidence in county government by focusing on the basics, improving our roads and infrastructure, strengthening emergency services, and making sure departments are working efficiently and transparently. I want to streamline how people interact with county government so residents get clear answers and quicker results. I'll also work to rebuild partnerships between the city and county so we're pulling in the same direction instead of working in silos. My goal is to make visible, common-sense improvements that people can see and feel in their everyday lives.



Todd Hayden

Graves County Judge Executive

County Judge Exc because I have been a Commissioner for the past 15+ years. In my time as commissioner I have made many contacts and friends throughout the state and in Frankfort. I have seen what works and what doesn't when it comes to getting money and resources we need to for Graves County to grow. I have shown the ability to able to work with everyone from the city of Mayfield to the surrounding counties to help make this region as whole, better.

• **Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?**

In my first year in office I plan to finalize the move into the new courthouse. I plan to get

our roads and bridges back to a much better place and buying the proper equipment to we need at the road dept to help do that. I plan to make many more improvements to our parks and recreation. But the main thing is to get Graves County ready with infrastructure and housing, for the influx of people that will be looking to move here to cover the jobs that will be moving into our region.

So I hope you see I have the Wisdom, Knowledge, and Commitment to be the next Graves County Judge Exc. And I humbly ask for your vote on May 19th.

Sincerely
Todd Hayden
Candidate for Graves County Judge Exc

• **Why are you running for this office?**

I'm running for office because I love Graves County. I believe there is so much more we can do to make Graves County a better place to live, work, and raise our families. I believe in the next few years we will have the opportunity to change the whole outlook of Graves County and I want to be a part of making that change!

• **What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?**

I am qualified to be the next Graves



Kelli Elliott

Graves County Jailer

• **Why are you running for this office?**

I am running for re-election as your Graves County Jailer for several important reasons. First, I absolutely love my job. It has been one of the most purposeful, rewarding experiences of my life, and I hope to continue using my skills to better our people and our community. Second, my team at the Graves County Jail and Restricted Custody Center is truly second to none. Not only have we obtained multiple perfect state inspections, we are consistently implementing new, intelligent ways to better educate and prepare both our employees and our inmates. Finally, I believe in Graves County's potential, and I will continue to pour my all into my facility and employees, the civic clubs to which I belong (e.g. Lions Club, Rotary Club, and others), the national clubs to

which I belong (e.g. American Correctional Association, American Jail Association, National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors) so that I may fully contribute to significant community needs.

• **What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?**

With my Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology, Bachelors of Arts in Psychology, and License as a Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor - along with 25 years of experience working with individuals involved in the criminal justice system, I have a unique skills set that allows me to identify immediate needs of my team and inmates. I am also proud of my positive working relationships with our local law enforcement and judiciary leaders.

• **Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?**

My goals include continuing to maintain perfect state inspections scores, continue to expand

work and educational opportunities for our state inmates, and to do all in my power to encourage the fiscal court to follow through with their commitment to construct the new Jail Operations Center (JOC) that would allow us to hold prisoners up to 96 hours. I will also continue with our work relationships with many community groups including the Mayfield-Graves County Airport, the Kentucky State Department of Transportation, the Mayfield Housing Authority, the Graves County Longterm Recovery Group, Camp Graves-Rendezvous, Mayfield Food Pantry, and many, many more.

I will always be thankful that you placed your trust in me to bring my department up to the next professional level, and I very humbly request that you continue to place your trust in my excellent team and myself for another four years. If re-elected, I commit to work for you just as hard as I have been.

Respectfully, Kelli Krill Elliott



Graves County continued



George Workman

Graves County Jailer

• Why are you running for this office?

I feel this office needs someone with experience, leadership and desire to care for the community, the staff in a fair manner, the inmates and all agencies that need the services or interactions of the jail. I have a great desire to serve my community as I have for most of my adult life. I take great pride in being there for the citizens of Graves County. I have built great and lasting relationships with many people, businesses and agencies in Graves County and look forward to being able to work with them again soon.

• What qualities do you have that will work well for this position?

I have many years of experience in dealing with issues related to corrections and dealing with the issues inmates and the community face in dealing with various crimes and their related effects. I have vast knowledge of all aspects of corrections that can only be gained from many years of experience, education and training related to this field. I also have established a good network of contacts and resources in Graves County, across the state and throughout the nation, that assists greatly in moving things forward.

• Looking ahead, what goals and improvements do you

want to make?

I would move towards getting training for deputies back up to the levels they were during my first administration and even exceeding them. I would also begin the great journey of contacting persons and agencies at another level than has previously been tried, to attempt to get a new county jail and will attempt to do this in a manner that is most beneficial for the county and would even be able to help subsidize some other areas of the counties budget. I would also continue the classes and programs that are currently being provided to inmates and develop new opportunities for education in order to get them fit to be returned to their communities in a productive manner.

Henderson County



Dewayne Reneer

Henderson Coroner

Previous Dective
First Responder EMS
Funeral Home
Experience
CDC infectious Disease
Certified

Coroners Office up to the standards to not only meet but to exceed state guidelines.

• Why are you running for this office?

Dewayne Reneer
Republican Candidate for Henderson County Coroner
I am a Registered Nurse Emergency Room Deputy Sheriff

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I am running to implement education to not only the staff but to the community.
To bring the County

• Looking ahead, what goals and improvements do you want to make?

My First year will focus on internal reporting changes to the state along with community education on Prevention and Preparedness.

Livingston County



Emilee Neal

Livingston County County Clerk

and improve day-to-day operations.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position ?

With experience in the Clerk's Office and my current position in the PVA Office, I have a strong understanding of how these offices work together and the importance of accuracy, efficiency, and strong customer service.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement

during your first year in office?

In my first year, one of my top priorities would be ensuring staff are fully up to date on daily workflows so the office runs efficiently and consistently. I would focus on providing the support, training, and resources they need to better serve taxpayers. By strengthening internal processes and investing in our team, we can improve overall service, reduce delays, and create a more positive experience for everyone who relies on the Clerk's office.

• Why are you running for this office?

I'm running for office because I truly enjoyed my time working in the Clerk's Office and gained valuable firsthand experience in how important that role is to our community. I believe new leadership can bring fresh ideas, new energy, and practical solutions to better serve the people



Sonya Williams

Livingston County County Clerk

to this office.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

Experience is one of the most important qualifications for County Clerk, and I bring 16 years of hands-on leadership in this office. I've successfully overseen 24 elections, managed and preserved decades of vital records, and ensured that our office runs efficiently day in and day out.

I've also demonstrated strong financial responsibility—returning over \$1 million dollars in excess fees back to the Fiscal Court as well as collecting thousands in delinquent property taxes. I've secured 100% grant funding to digitize records, modernizing our systems while protecting important historical documents.

Beyond that, I'm a hands-on Clerk. I don't just oversee the office—I work in it. I understand every part of what we do, and I'm committed to providing fast, friendly, and reliable service to our community.

• Looking ahead, what goals or

improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

My goal is to build on the strong foundation we've already created while continuing to improve efficiency, accessibility, and service.

In the next term, I want to:

- Continue expanding digital services to make it easier for citizens to access records and complete transactions

- Maintain and enhance election security and transparency, ensuring every voter has confidence in our process

- Continue protecting and preserving county records while improving organization and accessibility

- Strengthen customer service by keeping wait times low and service friendly and efficient

- Look for additional grant opportunities to improve our office without placing additional burden on taxpayers

At the end of the day, my focus is simple—keep the Clerk's Office running smoothly, responsibly, and in a way that serves every citizen of Livingston County with professionalism and care.

Teris Swanson

Livingston County Judge Executive



have that would work well for this position ?

I was born and raised in Livingston County. I know the roads, families, and struggles personally. That's not a qualification you can learn in a classroom. But I did the classroom work too: a political science degree studying how government functions, followed by a law degree and nearly a decade of legal practice. I understand the Constitution, Kentucky law, and how to fight for people. However, my most important qualifications are the ones that can't be put on a résumé — honesty, justice, compassion, and an unrelenting work ethic. We need a servant leader, and that's what I will be.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during

your first year in office?

I will bring back the Beautification Board to make visible improvements across the county, because pride in where we live matters. At the same time, we'll immediately begin tackling infrastructure issues, especially the water and wastewater challenges facing our communities. That won't happen overnight, but planning starts day one. I also will support our law enforcement in their need for a new radio system, and support and expand tourism in and beyond Grand Rivers. Through it all, the budget will be kept, and grants chased fervently. No favoritism, no backroom deals, no exceptions. I work for every Livingston Countian!!

• Why are you running for this office?

Livingston County has so much potential, and we're not living up to it. I want to bring honest, fair leadership while bringing back our local economy. Towns like Smithland used to be alive with small businesses and families, and that didn't have to change.

I won't pretend it's a quick fix as rebuilding takes time, strategic planning, and leadership willing to think long-term rather than just through the next election cycle. I want my kids and grandkids to grow up here and thrive here.

• What qualifications do you



Livingston County continued



Tina Tinsley

Livingston County Judge Executive

• Why are you running for this office?

In my years with the sheriff's office and experience in this political climate, I feel I would be an asset to this community. Having seen 4 judge executives in my tenure with the sheriff's office. I am ready to utilize my knowledge toward the betterment of Livingston Co.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I have been directly involved in many of the requirement needed to be judge executive. In my 16 years with the county, I have drafted budgets, I have a positive working relationship with the state auditors, I collect property, mineral and franchise taxes and I pay monthly bills. I feel it is very important to have such inside knowledge of how our county operates on a daily basis.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I would love to encourage people to

take pride in our county, by helping clean area of neglect. While we are not a booming metropolis we do have opportunity to grow with the new hospital coming and more people visiting and moving in, keeping the county revitalized would only help initiate other businesses to form.

For instance, Grand Rivers has done a great job of attracting tourists to their little town. The presentation of their community has been a huge draw for people.

I'd love to see improvement and growth throughout the county.



Michael Williams

Livingston County Judge Executive

• Why are you running for this office?

I'm running for Judge/Executive again because Livingston County needs leadership that produces results—not talk. In the last 16 months, we've made real progress by focusing on what matters and making decisions that move this county forward. I'm not interested in politics as usual—I'm focused on getting things done. I care deeply about this community and believe in strong, steady leadership that puts people first. This campaign isn't

about me—it's about continuing the work and delivering for the citizens of Livingston County.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I bring real-world business experience and proven leadership that directly apply to this role. I've managed employees, budgets, and long-term planning, and I understand accountability—because I live it every day. As Judge/Executive, I've made tough decisions, managed projects, and delivered results. I expect performance, demand accountability, and believe in running government efficiently. I'm hands-on, accessible, and focused on solutions—not excuses. I know what it takes to lead, and I've

proven I can do the job.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

My goal is to build on the progress we've made and continue moving Livingston County forward. That means completing key projects, improving infrastructure, and ensuring county government operates efficiently and responsibly. I will continue holding departments to high standards while focusing on the long-term success of our community. We've made strong progress, but there's more to do, and I'm committed to seeing it through—while keeping Livingston County the best place to raise a family.



Shannon Edging

Livingston County Sheriff

• Why are you running for this office?

I am running for office to ensure that the most qualified candidate is elected and to keep the Sheriff's Office moving forward with strong, steady leadership. The Sheriff's Office will continue to have an open door policy and will continue to treat people with respect and professionalism.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

As a former Sergeant and current Chief Deputy, I am

responsible for case filing and ensuring cases are properly delivered to both the County Attorney and Commonwealth Attorney's offices. I oversee that all evidence collected is put in its proper places. I work closely with the Sheriff to coordinate the scheduling of road Deputies and School Resource Officers. In addition, I assist with the collection of property taxes, I play an active role in helping set and manage the Sheriff's Office budget. These responsibilities have given me valuable experience in both law enforcement and administrative sides of running a Sheriff's Office. I have spent years training and preparing

to serve and protect our community. Experience, training, and dedication matter when it comes to keeping our county safe.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

In my first year, I will continue our efforts to upgrade the departments radio system using state funding to improve officer safety and response times. I'll also attempt to secure additional funding to equip our Deputies with body worn cameras, boosting transparency, accountability, and modern policing.

Marshall County



Danny Cope

Marshall County Commissioner District 2

• Why are you running for this office?

I have always been involved in community service and my desire to make life better for people in my community and region. With my experience I feel I can make a positive difference.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

My excavating business has been located in Marshall County since it started. I was part of the group organizing Possum Trot Sharpe Fire Department and served as a director appointed by Judge Mike Miller.

I was elected McCracken County Commissioner in McCracken County and served a five year term before moving back to Marshall County.

I was elected Constable in District 3 and served 4 years. I was also on the board of directors for Jackson Purchase Electric for 12 years. With my experience in business for 40 plus years and the experience in elected positions I have the knowledge and experience needed to fulfill the position District 2 County Commissioner.

I am prepared and ready to be on call to the residents of Marshall County 24-7. I feel my past experiences in business and serving the public are strong qualities necessary in this position.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I am prepared to serve all the residents and businesses located in Marshall County regardless of their political party or affiliation. My phone number and email will be available and eager to hear from the citizen of Marshall County anytime.

I will always be open to ideas and concerns, ready and willing to communicate with any Marshall County residents.

I have a vision of a better place to live, work and enjoy. Their voice will be heard and respected. I plan on being a 100% commissioner of my time and energy.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS



Marshall County continued



Monti Collins

Marshall County Commissioner District 3

• Why are you running for this office?

The reason I am running for re-election is the same as when I ran for the office the first time, 8 years ago. I love Marshall County as much as anyone I know, and I knew that my background could help move our county forward. I have said many times since getting into office that I would know when my time was done. When I don't think I am helping anymore, I will step aside. That time has not come yet. I truly believe I have given this position my all in my first 8 years, and I know I have more to give.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I have a degree

in Business Administration with an Area in Finance from Murray State. Since graduating from college in 1996, I have worked in finance, including banking, insurance, and real estate. I sell Marshall County for a living. I know what is going on in the county, because I have to in my profession to give my all to my clients. I have worked closely on the fiscal court budget every year in office, and I believe anyone who watches our court meetings can see that. Managing the county budget is the main responsibility of a member of the fiscal court. I have worked intimately with the Judge Executive, Treasurer, and all of our department heads on the budget during my time in office. I don't take that responsibility lightly. I'm very proud of the financial position of the county now versus when I first came into

office. We have paid down debt while at the same time investing in our infrastructure, our employees, and our future needs. I truly believe my background has been an asset to our county's financial position.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I am very proud of what we have accomplished in my first two terms in office, but I do want to see some of our current projects through to completion. I hope that we are able to finish the Miracle League project in my next term. Also, we have made great strides to bring water to all of our citizens, but still have a few who are not served by one of our water districts. It is my hope that we are able to bring water to the rest of our citizens in the next term.



Robert Johnson

Marshall County Jailer

jail forward with purpose and direction.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

My experience is built around both leadership and operations. I've spent over 20 years in law enforcement and corrections, including supervising personnel, developing policy, and managing day-to-day operations in demanding environments. As a supervisor, I've handled scheduling, policy, accountability, training, and decision making that directly impacts both staff and the public.

In corrections, I've worked inside state facilities managing large inmate populations under strict policy and compliance standards. I've also led teams and managed safety and regulatory programs outside of government.

That combination gives me a full understanding of how systems function and a basis on which to study the jail operations. I then began planning with actionable intent to bring the jail back to its former operational standards and carry it even beyond that. I

will lead the jail and it's employees effectively from day one.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

My first focus is restoring structure with clear leadership, defined expectations, and accountability throughout the operation. From there, I will prioritize staffing stability, training, and full compliance with Department of Corrections Local Facility standards.

I will work to rebuild and expand work programs so our communities once again benefit from those partnerships, while also strengthening program participation to improve outcomes and generate revenue to offset tax burdens.

Every decision will be guided by transparency, efficiency, and long-term sustainability. The goal is a jail that operates with consistency, supports its staff, and serves Marshall County as a reliable and responsible system, not just a tax funded housing unit.



Eddie McGuire

Marshall County Jailer

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McCracken County



Matt Moore

McCracken County Judge Executive

county government, and to help McCracken County finally reach its full potential.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

McCracken County is essentially a large business that needs to have someone with an entrepreneurial background lead it. I'm a developer, and I know what it takes to get projects started and see them through efficiently. I also have the connections and common sense to push our county to be successful and bring in business and opportunities for our constituents. I think that protecting people's property values must be high on our list, and given my background, I know how to achieve that.

• Why are you running for this office?

For too long, we've missed out on opportunities that could have driven growth, supported families, and strengthened our local economy.

As someone who has built and operated multiple successful businesses in McCracken County, I've seen firsthand what it takes to create jobs, balance budgets, and to create a successful environment.

I'm a businessman with a business mindset. I'm ready to bring that same energy and experience to

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I am committed to removing the 6.9% insurance tax, which is not only unnecessary but also negatively impacts families on fixed incomes and businesses across our county. I also hear from parents every week who are heartbroken that their young adults feel they have to leave McCracken County to find opportunities. These are kids who grew up here, who want to stay here, but don't see enough good-paying jobs to build a future.

As Judge Executive, I will make job creation a top priority and work daily to bring high-paying careers to our community so families can stay and thrive.

McCracken County continued



Bill Bartleman

McCracken County Commissioner District 1

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I spent 39 years as a newspaper reporter which gave me a deep understanding of the needs, concerns, and aspirations of McCracken County residents. Covering politics and government was my specialty, and I took seriously the responsibility to serve as a watchdog — asking tough questions, demanding accountability, and ensuring honesty, transparency, and fairness in public service. I've continued to approach my work as a commissioner with the same watchdog mindset. My values as a conservative and a Christian also shape how I approach decisions, how I treat people, and how I carry out the responsibilities entrusted to me. My professional background and personal values give me a strong foundation to continue serving the people of McCracken County with integrity and purpose.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

The goal moving forward is to continue providing steady, experienced leadership so our community can fully capitalize on the economic development opportunities. Several multi-billion-dollar projects are in early stages of development, and it is essential that we guide them successfully through to completion so they can create hundreds of high-paying, permanent jobs for our residents. In the first year, a top priority will be working closely with state officials to finalize recruitment efforts for a major industry that is considering the Triple Rail Industrial Site. If negotiations are successful, this project would represent the largest single economic development investment in Kentucky's history — a transformational opportunity for McCracken County and the entire region.

• Why are you running for this office?

As a commissioner for nearly 12 years, my priorities have always been to put job creation, financial efficiency, transparency, and strong constituent services first. That forward-thinking approach is driving unprecedented progress — including more than \$2.5 billion in economic development projects that will create hundreds of high-paying jobs, major quality-of-life improvements like the development of the sports park, and significant upgrades to public safety through modernization to our 911 system and increased salaries for sheriff's deputies. The future is bright; the best is yet to come. With my lifetime of experience and deep dedication to this community, I want to continue working to make improvements that benefit not only this generation, but future generations.



Jeff Parker

McCracken County Commissioner

all resident of great county. I think that is several reasons to help drive the success of our county.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

If elected I will work hard with an McCounty First approach, and will always put our county on top. I will work hard to drive down our tax costs. I will keep safety on the top of our priority list, and a will always be a big driver for economic development. I think our county is poised for a lot of growth, and I want to play a part in that growth, and the decision making.

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

My life long ambitions of being a small business man, and being the owner operator of several businesses in our county gives me a unique insight of our needs.

I also enjoy serving on several boards in our county, and serving with non profits throughout our region.

• Why are you running for this office?

I am running for the office of McCracken County Commissioner because of deep commitment to the betterment of, and controlled growth of our wonderful county. My roots run deep in our county. My wife Lisa and I are life long resident of McCracken County. We enjoy Our four grown sons, four daughter in laws, and twelve grand children



Craig Clymer

McCracken County Judge Executive

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

I'm the only candidate to have:

Experience as a Judge Executive;
Doctorate law degree;
Certification as a Professional Mediator;
Built strong relationships with partners across the U.S.;

Managing McCracken County as my ONLY job;

Four year college degree (B.S. Law Enforcement);

Graduated from the Kentucky Police Academy;

Served in law enforcement (9 years);

Studied Economics (Northwestern and George Mason);
Studied Public Administration (16 of 32 hours toward M.P.A.)

This position requires FULLTIME devotion. I will CONTINUE to focus only on McCracken County, not distracted by personal businesses interests.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I will complete five major goals: 1. Reduce taxes; 2. More long-term high-salary jobs; 3. Continue strengthening our Sheriff Department; 4. Promote further industry; and 5. Cleanup and beautify neighborhoods.

Job growth will be unprecedented. Multiple businesses investing billions of dollars already announced. We are working another, ten billion dollar project; and a twenty billion dollar AI Data Center will be announced this month.

Massive companies provide massive taxes to the County and Schools. That tax growth allows tax reduction for residents while increasing services and creating new attractive jobs for our children, and their children, for decades to come.

How voters can prepare for Election Day

The right to vote is one of the foundations of democracy. Exercising that right is vital to creating a nation where everyone feels as though their voice has been heard.

Given the significance of voting and all that the right to vote symbolizes for so many people, Election Day is an incredibly important day on the American calendar. In recognition of that significance, voters can consider these tips to prepare for Election Day so they can exercise their right to vote as efficiently as possible.

• Make sure you're registered to vote.

With the exception of North Dakota, each state has its own voter registration deadlines, and voters must register prior to those deadlines in order to vote on Election Day. Voters can visit the US Vote Foundation at usvotefoundation.org to view the election dates and deadlines in their states and U.S.

territories. Voters who know they are not registered can visit Vote.gov to begin the registration process.

• Find your polling place.

Voters cannot simply vote at any polling place. Each voter is assigned a polling place, and that place is generally within close proximity to a voter's home. Local schools or churches often serve as polling locations, but the official guide to government information and services USA.gov urges voters to contact their state or territorial election office in advance of Election Day to determine their designated polling place. Voters who received sample ballots in the mail also can check those ballots to see if their polling place is listed.

• Know the ID requirements.

Voter ID requirements vary from state to state, so voters are urged to determine what is

required to vote at their local polling place. The National Conference of State Legislatures has a detailed, state-by-state list of voter identification requirements that can be accessed for free at ncsl.org. Voters who are uncertain about the ID requirements at their local polling place are urged to visit the site in advance of Election Day so they know what to expect and can meet all ID requirements when they show up to vote.

• Study your sample ballot.

Sample ballots can help voters familiarize themselves with candidates in local and national elections. Studying these ballots in advance and learning what each candidate stands for can help voters make the most informed voting decision.

Individuals who still have questions about what to expect on Election Day can visit USA.gov/election-day to speak with a live USA.gov agent.



Trigg County



Stan Humphries

Trigg County Judge Executive

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

In addition to my Judge Executive experience, I have also served in the Kentucky State Senate. In these roles, I have developed a strong understanding of not only county operations and budgeting, but also the intricacies of intergovernmental coordination. My experience allows me to provide consistent leadership and make informed decisions that serve the best interests of

our community.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

My first-year focus would be on maintaining effective operations and continuing projects already in progress. I would work to ensure responsible budgeting, efficient delivery of county services, and strong coordination with local, state, and regional partners.

• Why are you running for this office?

Having served as Judge Executive for almost ten years, I am seeking re-election to continue providing steady leadership and to build on the work already underway for Trigg County.



Sam Carter

Trigg County Judge Executive

• What qualifications do you have that would work well for this position?

Management skills while working with CSX Transportation for 46 years and the public across 21,000 miles of CSX and Congress and the thousands of Employees on projects. President of Trigg/

Lyon Fire Department.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I will not accept any salary and invest it back in the County and give all voters a vote on any taxes.

• Why are you running for this office?

I'm running to give voters a choice on taxes like they did with the petition on school TAXES. (WIN)

Union County



Garrick Thompson

Union County Clerk

well for this position?

I have been the County Clerk since being voted in, in 2018. I have led the office through the COVID pandemic, through a very non-traditional COVID election, through a new state-wide system change on the motor vehicle side, as well as many other challenges. I have experience in managing the staff and have knowledge and expertise in all avenues that involve running the County Clerk office.

• Looking ahead, what goals or improvements would you implement during your first year in office?

I would continue doing the same; providing first rate, impartial service and ensuring our elections are run fairly and with integrity. However, I am never satisfied with complacency and am always thinking of ways we can run a smoother, more efficient office that leads to better public service.

• Why are you running for this office?

I am passionate about service and passionate about Union County. I know, that things will be done right and with integrity, under my leadership.

• What qualifications do you have that would work

LG&E and KU unveil new programs for residential, business customers

(LOUISVILLE, Ky.) – Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company announced today two energy efficiency programs, one brand new and one returning favorite, designed to help customers save energy, money and time.

“We’re proud to empower our customers to take advantage of these new and exciting programs,” said Shannon Montgomery, LG&E and KU vice president of Customer Services. “We’re constantly working to introduce energy efficiency programs that make saving energy and earning incentives easy and straightforward for our customers.”

The programs build on LG&E and KU’s efforts to help customers use energy wisely, as well as helping the utilities reduce overall energy demand, increasing reliability and affordability

across the board.

The programs are:

Appliance Recycling: Residential and small business customers in Kentucky can get a \$50 incentive when they let LG&E and KU pick up functioning inefficient refrigerators and freezers and safely dispose of and recycle them.

Business Midstream Lighting: Eligible business customers can get incentives at the point of purchase when they buy qualified lighting equipment from participating distributors.

LG&E and KU are listening to our customers, who loved past versions of the Appliance Recycling program and recycled around 66,000 appliances, earning over \$3 million in incentives between 2012 and 2018. Appliance Recycling and the new Business Midstream Lighting Program add to LG&E

and KU’s extensive energy-efficiency toolbox and will help create an easy and hassle-free experience for customers making smart energy decisions.

LG&E and KU first launched energy efficiency programs for customers in the early 1990s, and in 2024, started rolling out the largest suite of programs in the company’s history, including incentives for energy-saving improvements and offsetting costs for new, smart technologies.

LG&E and KU customers can sign up for Appliance Recycling at lge-ku.clearesult.com or by logging into their online My Account (my.lge-ku.com). Customers interested in the Business Midstream Lighting Program can learn more at lge-ku-business.clearesult.com/midstream/ or through My Account.

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Local elections affect where you live and work.

Beautify the Bluegrass nominations sought

By **TOM LATEK**
Kentucky Today

FLOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) – With beautification projects popping up like spring flowers across Kentucky, the state’s electric cooperatives are again teaming up with the governor to spotlight Kentuckians who are improving public spaces in their local communities.

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Beautify the Bluegrass, which celebrates homegrown efforts to improve public spaces in Kentucky. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to nominate projects that enhance and celebrate the commonwealth’s natural beauty.

“As community organizations and civic-minded individuals

take on beautification projects, including many around Earth Day in April, we encourage them to take ‘before and after’ photos of their efforts,” explains Kentucky Living Editor Shannon Brock. “These projects are not done to get public recognition, but by spotlighting these efforts, we hope to encourage and inspire others to do the same.”

Over the last decade, Beautify the Bluegrass has honored a variety of projects that bring communities together and make a lasting impact, ranging from river cleanups and trail improvements to public art and revitalized gathering spaces.

“We need your help,” says Gov. Andy Beshear, announc-

ing this year’s effort. “We’re counting on folks like you to nominate a person or a group who have made a difference in your area.”

Projects completed between July 15, 2025, and July 20, 2026, are eligible for nomination. Individuals, organizations or local groups can enter their own projects or nominate

others’ deserving effort.

Finalists will be announced during Kentucky Living’s Best in Kentucky Awards on August 20. After a public vote on KentuckyLiving.com, the winning project will receive the Governor’s Award later this fall.

Kentuckians interested in participating can learn more about the

campaign or submit a nomination by visiting KentuckyLiving.com.

Kentucky’s electric cooperatives serve more than 1.8 million people—about 35% of the state’s population—in 117 of Kentucky’s 120 counties. The statewide association provides representation before the General Assembly, Congress, and regulatory bodies:

safety training; coordination of management training; and public relations support including publication of Kentucky Living magazine.

Kentucky Electric Cooperatives is governed by a board consisting of one manager and one director from each of its 26 member systems and is headquartered in Louisville.



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'Pause in procedure' organ donation bill heads to Governor

By **TESSA REDMOND**
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) - A bill that institutes an additional safety step during the organ procurement process achieved final passage in the Senate on Wednesday.

House Bill 510 would allow a 'pause in procedure' during organ donation. The pause can be initiated if there is uncertainty about the accuracy of death declaration assessments or if any change in neurological status or indication of life in a patient is reported during any organ donation recovery, preservation or procurement activity.

House Majority Whip Jason Nemes, R-Middleton, sponsored the measure.

Nemes testified in a House committee meeting in February that HB 510 aims to ensure death is appropriately determined and maintain safe, ethical organ donations in Kentucky.

"What this bill does is it allows anybody in the organ donation process, if they think that there's indications of life, to cause a pause in the procedure in which

case the whole process will begin over again," said Nemes on the House floor on Feb. 25. "We believe in organ donation strongly in Kentucky and we try to support it. This is just a way to make sure we are making it more secure."

"House Bill 510 provides clarity and confidence for families and organ donors during some of their most difficult moments," said Addia Wuchner, executive director of Kentucky

Right to Life. HB 510 was priority legislation for the pro-life organization.

"These protections help ensure that the gift of organ donation is carried out with the utmost care, respect, and integrity," Wuchner said.

HB 510 passed the Senate unanimously as part of the Consent Orders of the Day on March 25. It was delivered to Governor Andy Beshear's desk on Thursday.

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Movement begins at UK, Lowe to enter portal, 2 coaches no longer on staff

By KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Less than a week after the season ended with a loss to Iowa State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, plenty of movement has occurred within the program.

According to multiple sources, point guard Jaland Lowe is reportedly entered the transfer portal. Lowe suffered a shoulder injury

in the Blue-White game. He had shoulder surgery in January and didn't return to the court. Overall, Lowe played in nine games and scored 72 points and dished out 22 assists.

During the post-season, Lowe had planned on returning, but things changed after the season-ending loss to the Cyclones.

Earlier this week, assistant coach Jason Hart, the team's



Jaland Lowe assumes his "coaching role" with the Wildcats in St. Louis. (Kentucky Today/Keith Taylor)

main recruiting coordinator, left to join Andy Enfield's staff

at Southern Methodist University. Hart was named associate

head coach of the Mustangs.

"We're thrilled to add Jason to our staff," said Enfield. "I've worked closely with him for years and have seen firsthand the impact he has on players and a program. He's an outstanding teacher of the game, a strong recruiter, and some of our student-athletes will benefit from every day."

Alvin Brooks III, Kentucky's associ-

ate head coach, also won't return following two seasons in Lexington.

"I'm grateful to coach (Mark) Pope, AD Mitch Barnhart, and President Dr. Capilouto for the opportunity to be part of the Kentucky family," Brooks said in a social media post Saturday. "My family and I truly enjoyed our time in Lexington. We trust God's plan and look forward to what's next."

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Challenger Learning Center at Paducah part of WKEC grant to develop nuclear workforce education program

Press Release

PADUCAH, Ky. — The West Kentucky Educational Cooperative has been awarded \$1.9 million from the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority to support a regional initiative aimed at preparing students in far West Kentucky for careers in the growing nuclear energy sector.

The grant program, titled the WKEC Nuclear Energy Education

and Workforce Plan, will focus on developing a sustainable, STEM-focused K-12 education program designed to build a skilled workforce pipeline for nuclear energy careers, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged communities.

WKEC will collaborate with educators, community leaders, higher education institutions and industry partners to implement the program. The initiative

will expand STEM learning, technical training and workforce development opportunities across the region.

The Challenger Learning Center at Paducah will play a key role by facilitating hands-on simulated space missions and STEM-related activities for all sixth-grade students within the grant area. Through these experiences, students will apply skills such as teamwork, prob-

lem-solving and critical thinking in real-world scenarios.

“We are honored that WKEC sees the value of our program and included us in the grant,” said Mellisa Duncan, center director of the Challenger Learning Center at Paducah. “The mission of our center is to improve the quality of STEM education in our region. This funding will allow every student to experience our program during their school career.”

Participating districts include Ballard County, Carlisle County, Hickman County, Fulton County, Fulton Independent, Mayfield Independent, Graves County, McCracken County, Paducah Public, Marshall County, Murray Independent and Livingston County schools. Together, these districts serve more than 20,000 students.

The Challenger Learning Center at Paducah is part of

a global network of more than 30 centers. Located on the campus of West Kentucky Community and Technical College, the center opened Aug. 16, 2002, and has provided immersive STEM experiences simulating missions to the moon, Mars and beyond.

For more information, visit clcpaducah.org.



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