

**NOTARIZED PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

**STATE OF KENTUCKY**

**COUNTY OF FRANKLIN**

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of

February, 2025, came Holly Willard personally known to me, who being

duly sworn, states as follows: that she is the Bookkeeping Assistant of the

Kentucky Press Service Inc. and that she has personal knowledge of the contents of this

affidavit; and that the publications included on the attached list published the Legal Notice for

Duke Energy.

Signed Holly Willard

Notary Public Bonnie F. Howard

My commission expires 9-18-2028

KYNP # 14119



101 Consumer Lane - Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 223-8821 FAX (502) 226-3867

**Holly Willard**  
**Bookkeeping Assistant**

hwillard@kypress.com  
www.kypress.com

**List of newspapers running the notice for Duke Energy Case No. #2025-00002**  
**Attached tearsheets provide proof of publication:**

Covington KY Enquirer—1/19, 1/23 & 1/30

Falmouth Outlook—1/14, 1/21 & 1/28

LINK nky—1/24, 1/31 & 2/7

Warsaw Gallatin Co. News—1/15, 1/22 & 1/29

Williamstown Grant County News—1/16, 1/23 & 1/30

# Keeping Pendleton County clean

## Participants praise fall trash pickup

By Billy Steele  
Pendleton County Solid Waste coordinator

FALMOUTH — Below are letters received by the various groups that pick up roadways throughout the county every fall and spring. The groups consist of various community organizations.

The groups receive \$100 a mile of roadway cleaned (both sides).

The grant funding for these cleanups is derived from a \$1.75 per ton fee on municipal solid waste disposed in all contained landfills in Kentucky, and is dispersed to each county via the Kentucky Pride grant funding. Thus, the fee is financed by the solid waste industry.

This fall, the 20 groups consisted of 458 participants and they collected 465 bags of manmade trash and litter along 145.55 miles of our beautiful Pendleton County roadways.

Please do your part to dispose of your litter properly.

Here are the letters:

• On Nov. 16, Pendleton County High School Navy Junior ROTC cadets, parents, friends and instructors cleaned up trash alongside an eight-mile stretch of Highway 27 from Kentucky Highway 17 to the Campbell County line.

Sixty-six volunteers worked for about four hours filling about 84 bags with garbage, mostly made up of fast-food containers, alcohol bottles, tobacco products and paper items. There was also a Styrofoam cooler conveniently separated into roughly 300 pieces and spread over about a quarter mile, making for an interesting scavenger hunt.

Navy Junior ROTC serves our community and provides opportunities for students to develop as leaders, students and citizens. MJROTC seniors earned college scholarship offers totaling almost \$8 million over the last three years.

NJROTC is just one of many local youth groups that participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program. On behalf of all of

those groups, we ask you to please dispose of your trash properly and carefully tie down whatever you may be hauling. Litter on our roadways damages the environment and spoils the beauty of our county.

Please do your part to keep Pendleton County clean.

Very respectfully,

**Cadet Chief Petty Officer Dominic Schlueter**  
Public Affairs Officer  
Pendleton County NJROTC

• The Pendleton County Boy Scout Troop 806 picked up almost 50 bags of trash along Highway 27 south of Falmouth, Highway 157 east of Falmouth, and Loop Road.

Some interesting things we found were a full fire extinguisher, vapes, clothes, baskets, tires, feed bags and many dead animals.

Our troop once again urges people to please don't throw your trash out while driving. Wait until you get home to throw out your garbage or use the public trash cans at every gas station, restaurant and store.

We would also ask that people please slow down when they see groups doing roadside trash pickup. Many of the volunteers picking up trash are kids doing community service for their churches, sports teams and groups.

Thanks again to the 109 Board for allowing us to participate.

Sincerely,  
**Aston Kleisinger**  
Patrol Leader

• Dule Trashers

Picking up garbage (which shouldn't have to be)

Found four pickers, one driver working tirelessly.

Highway 22 East, nine miles with 23 bags filled

Absolutely, for us, no type of thrill.

The usual trash we always find,

But this time we hit a gold mine!

A mattress and two love seats thrown

Over the bank, hopefully not to be known.

There were beer cans and bottles galore,

And EVERY restaurant's garbage, and more.

You know we have more we could say,

But why, people will pitch it anyway.

We just pray people will

wake up,  
And be more proud of a clean Kain-tuck!

**Dulce Life Group of Oakland Christian Church**

• On behalf of the Pendleton County Youth Livestock Committee, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to help clean up our county.

We had a great turnout. The crew on Highway 10 near Northern Fire House had a total of 19 people and picked up eight bags.

We had a nice, warm day. We had plenty of bags and gloves.

Programs like this are two-fold: We help the county, and in turn, it also helps our group feel better about cleaning up our surroundings.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to clean up, and please don't litter.

**Pendleton County Youth Livestock 4-H and FFA**

• The Pendleton County High School Ladycat basketball team completed their fall trash pickup on Nov. 16. There were 20 volunteers covering a 17-mile pickup.

The Ladycats covered all of Lightfoot Fork Road as well as Highway 22 to the Grant County line. There were in total 30 bags of garbage.

The Ladycats appreciate the opportunity to keep our county clean. Please don't litter.

**Heather Ashcraft**

• The Pendleton County track and field team picked up trash along Highway 177 from Northern to the Kenton County line on Sunday, Nov. 17. Eleven volunteers were available to clean up the trash that was found along these roadways.

There was a lot of trash along this route, and 21 bags of trash were collected. The trash we found was primarily in the drainage ditches and near the creek. Garbage entering the creek and other waterways is a serious issue facing Pendleton County.

The track team is proud to be able to give back to the community that has always supported us. Cleaning up the highways helps all the volunteers see what littering can cause.

Please don't litter.

**PC Track and Field**

• On Sunday, Nov. 3, the Pendleton County Cheer Cats cleaned up trash along Flour Creek Road and Highway 154. The 20 volunteers helped to collect 19 bags of garbage along the roadside. There was a large amount of trash near the AA Highway.

This trash can enter the waterways of Pendleton County and cause major environmental problems.

The volunteers enjoy this fundraiser because they feel like they are giving back and making a real difference in their community.

Please don't litter.

**PC Cheer Cats**

• On Saturday, Nov. 2, members of the Pendleton County Republican Party picked up trash on the side of SR 3149. We picked up nine bags of trash, mostly consisting of fast-food wrappers and small liquor bottles and beer cans.

The members were Chairman Steven D. Foster, Secretary Stacey Sanning, Matt Sanning, David Pfeifferman, Rick Brown and Jimmy Poynter.

We would encourage all citizens to please wait till you get home and dispose of your trash properly and not litter the roadways of our county. Let's keep Pendleton County Clean.

Thank you.  
**The Pendleton County Republican Party**

• On Nov. 3, the Pendleton County Fair Board picked up trash along Center Ridge Road. It took an hour and a half for the eight participants to pick up nine bags of trash. The trash mostly consisted of fast food, pop cans and beer cans.

Please don't litter.

Thanks,  
**The Pendleton County Fair Board**

• New Life Wesleyan Church picked up trash Nov. 2 on Highway 330 from U.S. 27 to Godman Road.

Cans, bottles, food containers and other miscellaneous items littered the side of the road.

A total of 22 bags was picked up along this five-mile stretch.

We appreciate the opportunity to do our part in keeping Pendleton County beautiful and ask that everyone dispose of trash properly to maintain that beauty.

Thank you,  
**New Life Wesleyan Church**

• On Oct 27, the Pendleton County baseball team did our trash pickup along Highway 10 from the Campbell/Pendleton counties line to the intersection of 159 and Davis Road.

This route allows us to raise money for equipment and supplies for our upcoming baseball season.

We picked up 14 bags of trash, which is down from the 20 bags we picked up in the spring. We thank everyone for their efforts in helping to keep Pendleton County trash free, but there's still work to be done.

We are thankful for this opportunity and for what it provides for our baseball team.

Sincerely,  
**Caleb Biddle**  
PCHS Wildcat senior

• On Oct. 19, the Pendleton County High School football team picked up trash on Route 17 from U.S. 27 to the Kenton County line. In all, more than 20 bags of trash were collected.

We would like to thank the players, parents and coaches who volunteered their time to help keep our community clean.

Please take part in keeping our county litter-free.

Thank you,  
**PCHS Wildcat Football**

• The members of Morgan Christian Church did trash pickup on Oct. 18. It was a beautiful fall afternoon. We had 21 people pick up trash and we collected 14 bags and a grill from a truck.

Please remember to not litter and keep God's world beautiful.

**Ken Lecrone**  
Morgan Christian Church

• Butler Lions added 1.5 miles of their total highway pickup this year. The 11.5 miles of highway was cleared by seven members, with a total of 35 bags off U.S. Highway 27, 10 bags off Highway 177, and 13 bags off old Highway 27.

All the garbage that could be recycled decreased the amount that went to the landfill.

Thanks to the 109 Board for this program. The Lions Club uses the money for projects within the county.

**Butler Lions Club**

• The United Trappers of Kentucky cleared the garbage on Highway 154 from the Campbell County line to Peach Grove.

Because of the help given by the local landowners, only four bags of garbage were picked up. Two of the bags were recycled.

Thanks again to the 109 Board for the program. It helps keep the county looking great.

**United Trappers of Kentucky**

• On Oct. 26, Pendleton County Search and Rescue volunteers picked up 11 bags of trash and six tires in six miles on Broadford Road.

We completed the six miles of roadway in roughly four hours and found quite a bit of trash.

There were six Pendleton County Search and Rescue members involved in the trash pickup day.

Trash was a variety of items, but none more prominent and continuous than bottles and cans ranging from soda to beer to whiskey. This just so happened to be the same issue that we came across last fall when we last cleaned the roadway.

We appreciate the opportunity to help make our community a clean and beautiful place for all.

Sincerely,  
**Chief Darrin P. Brown**  
PC SAR

• Each year, our athletes participate in our country's trash pickup days. We pick up our designated roads in the spring and fall.

I have had the privilege of coaching the Pendleton County High School boys soccer team the past three years, but have also participated as a parent prior to that. Our guys come together for a common purpose, and that is always fun to see.

It always amazes us at how many bags we collect and how many people are still throwing trash out the car window.

I know this event teaches the boys that littering isn't the best choice and simply throwing your trash away at home is the best option for our environment.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community.

**Coach Amber Nichols**  
PCHS Boys Soccer

• On Nov. 2 and Nov. 3, the Knoxville Baptist Church Youth Group and their parents picked up trash along both Kentucky 491 and Kentucky 467, totaling 15 miles of road coverage. A total in excess of 20 bags of garbage was collected, in addition to several other miscellaneous items.

As members of the community in Pendleton County, it saddens us to see the amount of garbage that is thrown out of vehicles.

We ask and encourage you to please help us keep our roads and community clean and refrain from throwing garbage out of your vehicles.

We would like to thank Mr. Billy Steele of Pendleton County Solid Waste for always doing such an excellent job with the task of organizing trash pickup for our group.

We do this as a way to reach out in this community and assist with maintaining its beauty.

The funds we receive for our work are used to help fund camp for us each summer. We very much appreciate Mr. Steele for giving us this opportunity.

We will be back out on the roads next spring and hope to see them in a clean state.

Please, don't litter.  
Sincerely,  
**Knoxville Baptist Church Youth Group**  
Williamstown

### NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY, INC.

#### RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY, INC.'S AMENDMENT TO ITS 2021 AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. (Duke Energy Kentucky or Company) is refiling previously withdrawn Application in Case No. 2024-00152 with the Kentucky Public Service Commission (Commission) on or about January 20, 2025 in Case No. 2025-00002, an Application pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183 for approval of the construction of the Limestone Conversion Project (Project) located at its East Bend Generating Station (East Bend) and an amendment of the Company's Environmental Compliance Plan to include the Project for the purpose of recovering the capital and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs associated with the Project through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers' bills beginning September 1, 2025 under the Company's existing Rider ESM, also known as the environmental surcharge mechanism. The total capital cost of the Limestone Conversion Project in the Company's Amended Environmental Compliance Plan is estimated to be \$125.8 million.

Federal and state environmental regulations require Duke Energy Kentucky to build and upgrade equipment and facilities that produce energy from coal to operate in an environmentally sound manner. Specifically, the Company is seeking Commission approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction and operation of the Project. This construction project requires an amendment of Duke Energy Kentucky's Amended Environmental Compliance Plan that was approved by the Commission in 2022.

Additionally, Duke Energy Kentucky is seeking an order approving the recovery of the costs of the Project through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. The Project is required for the Company to continue to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's federal Clean Air Act, and other environmental requirements that apply to Duke Energy Kentucky facilities used in the production of energy from coal. The total capital cost of the Project for which the Company is seeking recovery at this time is estimated to be \$125.8 million. O&M costs related to the Project will be similar to O&M costs incurred today and are not distinguishable.

The impact on Duke Energy Kentucky's customers is estimated to be an increase of 0.32% for residential customers and 0.32% on average for non-residential customers in 2025, 1.7% for residential customers and 1.6% on average for non-residential customers in 2026, 1.8% for residential customers and 1.8% on average for non-residential customers in 2027, 1.3% for residential customers and 1.3% on average for non-residential customers in 2028, and 1.3% for residential customers and 1.3% on average for non-residential customers in 2029. For a Duke Energy Kentucky residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month (kWh/mo.), the initial monthly increase is expected to be \$0.41 during 2025, \$2.10 in 2026, \$2.30 in 2027, \$1.64 in 2028, and \$1.71 in 2029.

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Duke Energy Kentucky; however, the Kentucky Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. Such action may result in rates for consumers other than the rates in this notice.

Any corporation, association, body politic or person with a substantial interest in the matter may, by written request within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice of the proposed rate changes, request leave to intervene; intervention may be granted beyond the thirty (30) day period for good cause shown. Such motion shall be submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615, and shall set forth the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication the Commission may take final action on the application.

Intervenors may obtain copies of the application and other filings made by the Company by requesting same through email at DEKInquiries@duke-energy.com or by telephone at (513) 287-4366. A copy of the application and other filings made by the Company are available for public inspection through the Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>, at the Commission's office at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at the following Company office: Erlanger Ops Center, 1262 Cox Road, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website, or by mail at the following Commission address.

For further information contact:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
P.O. BOX 615  
211 SOWER BOULEVARD  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40602-0615  
(502) 564-3940

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY  
1262 COX ROAD  
ERLANGER, KENTUCKY 41018  
(513) 287-4366

## Address signs benefit shelter

BUTLER — The Humane Society of Northern Kentucky is selling reflective address signs as a fundraiser to benefit the new Pendleton County Animal Shelter at 1300 Ed Monroe Road.

"We're hoping to help residents better mark their address so emergency personnel can more easily find them in the event of an emergency," according to the Humane Society.

"Any delay caused by an address with no posted number or a small non-reflective number may affect the outcome of the emergency. Sometimes even minutes can make a difference."

The double-sided signs have a green background with white reflective numbers. The signs are aluminum and measure 18 inches by 6 inches, with rounded corners and pre-drilled holes.

The cost is \$20, payable when the order is placed. Order at [www.zeffy.com/ticketing/addressing-sign-order-form](http://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/addressing-sign-order-form).

# Paddlin' with Thaxton

## Canoeists bid farewell to longtime landmark

### Morgan partnered biz now in Butler



Jim Thaxton

By Jim Thaxton

FORT ANCIENT, Ohio If you listen to WVXU or catch the local television news, you are aware that Morgan's Canoe Livery on the Little Miami River is closing after six decades of serving the paddling public.

I had no idea when I walked into Morgan's Fort Ancient Canoe Livery in the early spring of 1977 that my life's trajectory was about to change forever.

I introduced myself to June Morgan, who greeted me from behind the long bar where customers signed waivers and paid for a canoe trip on the Little Miami River.

I explained to June that one of her competitors had sent me. She seemed surprised and suspicious.

I told her that over the past year my students raised money to buy three used canoes to take a wilderness canoe trip in Canada and asked the owner of Whitewater Canoe Rental in Indiana to set three aside for me. When I arrived to pick up the canoes, I was told by the owner that one of their employees accidentally sold them.

He then suggested that I check with Morgans just down the road.

The manager of Morgan's Whitewater didn't have any canoes to sell. He

made a call and said Morgan's Fort Ancient on the Little Miami River in Ohio had some.

I took a deep breath. It was still early on Saturday morning, so I pulled out my road atlas and headed to Fort Ancient hoping to salvage my wilderness trip and secure a fleet for my students.

June took all this in. "Let me get my husband."

She went upstairs and was gone for what seemed to be a long time. When she returned, she introduced me to Bob, and we shook hands. He had a firm grip. His eye contact was penetrating. His smile was genuine.

"Tell me about your plans for Canada," he said with the kind of enthusiasm a child has anticipating a good adventure story.

By the time the three used canoes were safely resting on the homemade roof racks of my 1973 red Ford Pinto's vinyl black top, afternoon had slipped into evening as Bob and I swapped paddling stories.

Bob shook his head. "You're not taking canoes on that car to Canada, are you?"

I assured him they would be on two vans.

"Make sure you secure them well. There's more

damage done to canoes falling off vehicles than rivers," he cautioned.

A year later, in early May, I shifted my allegiance from Whitewater Canoe Rental in Indiana to Morgan's.

I brought my students to Morgan's Fort Ancient for a field trip that included a short canoe trip. Bob remembered me and asked about our Canadian wilderness adventure.

As Ann and I were rounding up my students after our float, Bob invited us to his home to meet with him and June to discuss an opportunity that Ann and I might be interested in.

Morgan's home was at the end of a densely tree lined gravel drive. The rustic two story house with a covered front porch extending the length of the building overlooked a pond that reflected the clouds above. Their home sat on a ridge above Little Miami.

We were invited to sit in the sunken living room in front of the fireplace with an extended river rock chimney that reached through the cathedral ceiling.

June gave Ann a tour of her house that she and Bob created from an existing old farm house. When they joined us, Ann excitedly blurted, "They have an indoor pool."

Bob and June told us that they were expanding and looking for a couple, preferably a teacher, to manage their new business on the Mad River near Springfield. They hoped to have several candidates work for them during the summer and planned to make an offer to one sometime before August.

It was kind of like a con-



test that assured those participating would be doing their best to outperform each other. Smart!

My contract with the Navy Reserves ended in September of '77 and I was looking for summer employment. Ann was intrigued and encouraged me to accept the challenge.

In early August, June informed me that one of their sons wanted to manage the Mad River Outpost. I was disappointed but fully understood and strangely happy for them and their son.

We had two weeks before school started so I put my canoe on my little Pinto using the paddles tied between the thwarts of the canoe to serve as a platform for our camping gear to stow dry inside the canoe.

We carefully packed the trunk with personal items. I drove, Ann sat in the passenger seat, my son James sat behind me, my daughter Lori sat behind my wife, and our dog Splash was assigned to the middle of the back seat dropping her head from one of our kids laps to another and occasionally trying to sneak up front.

Together we all headed out to explore some rivers.

I used canoe rentals for shuttles on the following rivers: the Green in Kentucky by Mammoth Cave,

Harpeth and Buffalo in Tennessee, and Mulberry in Alabama. I kept a journal describing how they operated.

At one outfitter near Linden, Tennessee, I discovered the canoes and trailer that were stolen from Morgan's sometime in July and called Bob to let him know.

When we arrived home, I typed up a report about each operation we visited and sent it unsolicited to Bob and June.

The next thing I knew, Bob and June were at our door insisting on taking us out to dinner.

We drove our kids to my grandfather's home and joined Bob and June for a business dinner at the recently reopened Whitehorse Tavern in Edgewood.

Bob and June asked us to do an exploratory float on one of his favorite streams in Pendleton County, the South Fork of Licking River. If we liked what we saw, they offered to go in partnership and start another Morgan's Outpost on the stream.

Ann and I made several floats on South Licking during the fall of 1978, we met several landowners, searched for access points, and entered a 51/49 partnership with Bob and June. Our lives became propelled by every stroke of our pad-

dles, always attentive to where we were, to the current that carried us along, and even today wondering what lies beyond the bend.

These events flowed through my mind (no pun intended) while I read Dirk Morgan's announcement about the closing of the canoe rental.

I am not ashamed to say that I became emotional as I read his explanation.

I recalled Bob, noting the Sierra Club sticker on my car advising me, "If you're going to make a donation to a nonprofit, consider the Nature Conservancy".

I am sure he and June would be very pleased that their family business and the riparian land along the Little Miami that they owned is now in the care of Bob's favorite nonprofit.

There's a lot more to this story, in some ways, it is much of my life's story, perhaps to be told at another time.

Until then, thank you Bob and June Morgan for being such a positive influence on our lives.

*Thaxton is a retired Pendleton County High School math teacher. He and Ann own Thaxton Canoe Trails in Butler, which grew out his one-time partnership with the Morgans, who left Pendleton County in 1980.*

## \$110 M settlement reached in opioid crisis

**Kentucky AG's Office COVINGTON** — Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman on Thursday announced a settlement with The Kroger Company that will bring

\$110 million to the Commonwealth in support of efforts to combat the opioid crisis.

Coleman announced the agreement at Life Learning Center in Covington.

"For over a decade, Kroger tragically fed the flames of the drug addiction fire that rages across every county of our Commonwealth. But this devastation isn't the end of the story; Kentucky is resilient, and we get back up, no matter

how many times we are knocked down," Coleman said.

"Today, with \$110 million invested in recovery efforts in Kentucky, Kroger has agreed to be part of the solution."

In February of 2024, Coleman directed that a lawsuit against Kroger be filed in Bullitt County Circuit Court in Shepherdsville, alleging the company was responsible for pumping what equated to 444

million doses of opioids into Kentucky over a 13-year period with no internal monitoring system to report suspected abuse.

From 2006 to 2019, Kroger and its more than 100 pharmacies in the Commonwealth were responsible for more than 11% of all opioid pills dispensed in Kentucky, Coleman claimed.

Coleman recognized Deputy Attorney General Rob Duncan, Civil Chief

Justin Clark and Division Chief for Consumer and Senior Protection Chris Lewis for representing the Commonwealth in the matter.

"These settlement dollars will have a massive impact on Kentucky. I want to recognize the people who are the driving force behind bringing them here.

"Thank you for the late nights away from your families, long weekends and many months you've ded-

icated to this case," Coleman said.

According to the arrangement created in Kentucky law by the General Assembly, half of the settlement funds will be distributed among the Commonwealth's cities and counties according to a pre-determined formula.

The rest will be entrusted to the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, led by Executive Director Chris Evans.

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
P.O. BOX 615  
211 SOWER BOULEVARD  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40602-0615  
(502) 564-3940

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY  
1262 COX ROAD  
ERLANGER, KENTUCKY 41018  
(513) 287-4366

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF CIRCUIT COURT CLERK  
PENDLETON COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER  
120 RIDGEWAY AVENUE, P.O. BOX 69  
FALMOUTH, KENTUCKY 41040-0069  
PHONE 859-654-3347 FAX 859-654-3405

RESPECTFULLY,  
*Michael D. Redden*  
Michael D. Redden, Clerk

Pendleton Circuit & District Courts

November & December Probates

Please publish in this week's OUTLOOK: Notice is hereby given by proper order of the Pendleton District Court. The following were appointed and qualified as the fiduciaries of the estates listed below. All persons having claims against said estates shall present them verified according to law to the fiduciaries by no later than six months from the dates of appointment.

24-P-00080—Paul Keven Valentine—2455 Lock Road, Butler, KY 41006. Executrix—Deborah Ann Nelson—10529 Pond Creek Road, Alexandria, KY 41001. Attorney—Kenneth R. Reed—241 Elm Street, Ludlow, KY 41016.

24-P-00082—Gerald Ray Ross—1539 Morgan-Hightower Road, Falmouth, KY 41040. Executrix—Sherry Long—1542 Morgan-Hightower Road, Falmouth, KY 41040. Attorney—John Lair, Attorney at Law—115 East Pike Street, Cynthiana, KY 41031.

24-P-00085—Jeanette Gail Myers—6665 Lenoxburg Road, Foster, KY 41040. Executor/WWA—David Myers—7494 Willow Lenoxburg Road, Foster, KY 41043. Attorney—S. Beth Moore, P.O. Box 257, Brooksville, KY 41004.

24-P-00087—Danny Ray English—140 Rhonda Drive, Falmouth, KY 41040. Administrator—Ronald English—403 East Shelby Street, Falmouth, KY 41040. Attorney—Thomas D. Collins—217 W. Shelby Street, Falmouth, KY 41040.

24-P-00095—Thelma Baumgartner—842 Highway 22 West, Falmouth, KY 41040. Executor—Jeff Baumgartner—957 Hwy 22 West Falmouth, KY 41040. Attorney—Jeffery B. Dean—Dean & Best Dean—P.O. Box 345, Falmouth, KY 41040.

24-P-00090—Connie Marie Butts—51 Butts Lane, Falmouth, KY 41040. Administrator—Stephanie Hutchison—3543 Johnson Road, Carlisle, KY 40311. Attorney—James Paul Brannon—P.O. Box 735, Paris, KY 40362.

24-P-00093—Mildred L. Bullen—503 Barkley Street, Falmouth, KY 41040. Executor—Kenneth Abercrombie—1389 Richland Road, Falmouth, KY 41040. Attorney—William P. Wilson—8341 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 92 Alexandria, KY 41001.

24-P-00092—Brenda R. Abercrombie—1389 Richland Road, Falmouth, KY 41040. Executrix—Natalie Dawn Marshall Goffman—305 Broad Street, Falmouth, KY 41040. Attorney—Matthew T. Smith, Elder Law Lawyers, 300 Buttermilk Pike, Suite 102, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017.

24-P-00091—Linda Jane Gosney—134 Buffalo Ridge Road, Falmouth, KY 41040. Executrix—Maria Ann Gosney—170 Buffalo Ridge Road, Falmouth KY 41040. Attorney—Joseph P. Cottingham—4034 Alexandria, Pike, Cold Springs, KY 41076.

# Paddlin' with Thaxton: The great blue heron rescue

By Jim Thaxton



Jim Thaxton

It was sometime late spring or early summer of 1974. Ann and I had just completed the Sierra Club Canoe School. We took our new Grumman Shoe Keel aluminum canoe to the Whitewater River in Indiana to practice all we had recently learned.

We enjoyed catching eddies and surfing small rapids. Ann clearly mastered the crossover draw and high brace.

Three or so miles into a 12-mile trip, we were still dry.

If the paddler in the bow releases the high brace too soon, the canoe will likely capsize.

If the crossover draw is weak or not set properly, the canoe will miss the

calm water that forms on the river's edge or behind a boulder or other obstruction in the river that moves in the opposite direction of the river's current.

We came around a bend and saw a great blue heron in the scrub willows. As we got closer, the bird attempted to fly away. It couldn't. It was caught up in a trotline.

One of a dozen of the

large hooks tied to a short line and connected to a line stretched from one side of the river to the other went right through the bird's left leg.

We dropped the canoe into an eddy about 10 yards downstream of the bird and drifted in the eddy discussing what we should do.

"That bird's beak could spear us if we got too close." Ann observed.

"We can't just leave it here", I countered, "And we can't just cut the line. We have to get the hook out."

"How do you intend to do that and not get stabbed by that beak?" Ann was content to stay a good distance away and back paddling as the eddy's reversed current was slowly taking us closer to the bird.

"Just use the blade of

your paddle to keep the bird from seeing what I am doing."

I was getting out my Gerber utility knife from its sheath on my belt and making plans on the "float."

I was surprised that Ann was willing to go along. She lifted the blade of her paddle up and slid it close to the side of the bird's face blocking its view as I moved forward in the canoe and gently grabbed the bird's left leg below the hook.

The best I can figure is that the poor bird was simply too exhausted to fight back.

The vegetation helped hold the canoe in position. I quickly used the wire cutter on the pliers of the utility knife and cut off the loop on the hook.

Then, still amazed that the bird wasn't moving, I pinched the sharp barbed end of the hook and pulled it through and free of the bird's leg.

The bird was free but still not moving. I used my paddle to push the canoe away from the shore back into the current.

Suddenly, the great blue heron spread its wings and took to the air majestically rising from the shallow river's edge and headed upstream.

As Ann and I watched the bird fly away, it slowly turned and headed back our way. It dropped close to the water and was flying directly at us. The bird came so close we could hear the wings beat through the air and feel the fanning of the feathers as it flew by us.

"I think that was the bird's way of saying thanks," Ann said softly as I spun the canoe downstream and watched the great blue fly gracefully around the bend.

We've told this story many times over the years. It comes to mind nearly every time I see a great blue.

We've never had to embellish it with exaggerations. However, each time we tell the story together, Ann goes through the motions with an imaginary paddle protecting me from the bird's beak then turning her arms into make believe wings to show how the bird turned and made that "thank you" pass.

Thaxton is a retired Pendleton County High School math teacher. He and Ann own Thaxton Canoe Trails in Butler.

## Volunteers needed for Shop & Share

By Bethany Flick  
Ion Center

COVINGTON — The Ion Center for Violence Prevention is once again participating in the annual statewide initiative, Shop & Share on Feb. 8.

All donated items will be used to stock the pantry shelves of the Ion Center's two area shelters for Northern Kentucky individuals and families fleeing domestic violence.

Shop & Share is championed by Kentucky's First Lady Brittainy Beshear and hosted in partnership with Kroger stores.

Since the event began in

2008, generous shoppers have contributed more than \$5 million in goods and cash to support survivors of intimate partner violence and their children.

At the Ion Center, a survivor is never responsible for the cost of their healing.

All services are free and confidential.

Programs such as Shop & Share make it possible for agencies across the state, like the Ion Center, to provide these types of services to the people who need it most.

Christy Burch, Ion Center's CEO said, "I am so grateful to be part of

a region that cares about people who are impacted by violence.

"We know we can measurably reduce the number of people hurt by violence, but we need everyone's help. The importance of an event like Shop & Share cannot be overstated.

"This one day fills the shelves of our shelters' pantries for the entire year, so we are able to focus on other things. It's really a remarkable day."

Community members can support Ion Center by volunteering to collect donations at the store, transport donations to the shelter, and inventory donated

items.

"It takes more than 150 volunteers to make this day happen, and we couldn't do it without the incredible support from the volunteers in our community," Burch said.

Contact Paige Burcham, Ion Center's community engagement manager, at paigeb@ioncenter.org or 859-491-3335 to learn how to volunteer and support survivors of domestic violence through Shop & Share.

Or visit [www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4FA8A82E-A4FF2-52745865-shop](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4FA8A82E-A4FF2-52745865-shop) to sign up.

## Area students named to colleges' deans' lists

In Merit Page news:  
Victoria Houpp of Butler has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2024 Dean's List.

The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List.

Southern New Hampshire University is a pri-

vate, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults.

Lilly Brinkdoepke of Falmouth and Ashton Arthur of Alexandrai were named to the Fall 2024 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

The University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences states as its mission to cultivate elevated

student learning and experiences, advance innovative research and scholarship, and positively affect the lives of people in the Commonwealth, nation and world.

Georgetown College announced its Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Among area students on the list were

- Marjorie G. Smith of Crittenden;
- Braden Peirce Sustarich of Crittenden;
- Rylie M. King of Wil-

liamstown; and Kaia F. Lanter of Williamstown.

To qualify for the Dean's List, Georgetown College students must have completed the fall semester with at least 12 credit hours and a minimum 3.7 grade-point average.

The Fall Dean's List includes 235 students from Kentucky, 51 students from other states, and 20 students from outside the United States.

## Warming Tree helps cold, needs

FALMOUTH — Tammy Spicer Warming Tree clothing drive is continuing. Through February, the Warming Tree Drive is collecting new beanies, gloves, scarves and small throw blankets to be distributed to adults and children in

the community. All items collected will be placed on the warming tree in front of Geneva's Antique Store on Shelby Street.

Drop-offs can be made at the Senior Center, 1111 Chipman St., Falmouth, or the Mystery Box, 125 W. Shelby St.

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The impact on Duke Energy Kentucky's customers is estimated to be an increase of 0.32% for residential customers and 0.32% on average for non-residential customers in 2025, 1.7% for residential customers and 1.6% on average for non-residential customers in 2026, 1.8% for residential customers and 1.8% on average for non-residential customers in 2027, 1.3% for residential customers and 1.3% on average for non-residential customers in 2028, and 1.3% for residential customers and 1.3% on average for non-residential customers in 2029. For a Duke Energy Kentucky residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month (kWh/mo.), the initial monthly increase is expected to be \$0.41 during 2025, \$2.10 in 2026, \$2.30 in 2027, \$1.64 in 2028, and \$1.71 in 2029.

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Duke Energy Kentucky; however, the Kentucky Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. Such action may result in rates for consumers other than the rates in this notice.

Any corporation, association, body politic or person with a substantial interest in the matter may, by written request within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice of the proposed rate changes, request leave to intervene; intervention may be granted beyond the thirty (30) day period for good cause shown. Such motion shall be submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615, and shall set forth the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication the Commission may take final action on the application.

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For further information contact:

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
P.O. BOX 615  
211 SOWER BOULEVARD  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40602-0615  
(502) 564-3940

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY  
1262 COX ROAD  
ERLANGER, KENTUCKY 41018  
(513) 287-4366

## Happenings

### Free health fair coming to Sharp

BUTLER — The Pendleton County Health Fair is scheduled for 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. March 8 at Sharp Middle School.

Among the free tests and screenings available will be blood pressure, blood tests for cholesterol, triglycerides, blood sugar and thyroid, body fat analysis, diabetes risk screen, osteoporosis screening, stroke risk assessment and cardiac risk assessment.

Health care professions will be on hand to answer medical questions. More than 20 exhibits and additional screenings will be available.

The health fair is sponsored by Harrison Memorial Hospital, University of Kentucky HealthCare Network, Three Rivers District Health Department and the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

### Go Red for Women events listed

FALMOUTH — Pendleton County has announced its Go Red For Women events for February.

Go Red is the American Heart Association's national movement to end heart disease and stroke in women.

The schedule includes:

Feb. 1 — Paint the Town Red, by wearing red and decorating businesses in red.

Feb. 1 — The Heart Healthy One-Mile Hike at 1 p.m. at Kincaid Lake State Park, sponsored by Three Rivers Health District, Pendleton County Wellness Coalition and Harrison Memorial Hospital.

Feb. 7 — National Wear Red Day

Feb. 7 — Wear Red to School Day

Feb. 16 — Wear Red to Church Day

The Go Red events in Pendleton County are sponsored by Harrison Memorial Hospital and the University of Kentucky HealthCare Network Gill Heart and Vascular Institute.

The events are designed to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease, which is the No. 1 killer of women, according to the American Heart Association.

### AARP offers free tax prep services

FALMOUTH — Beginning Feb. 6, AARP Tax Aide will offer free tax preparation services from 2 to 6 p.m. every Thursday in the Maple Room of the Pendleton County Extension Office, 45 David Pribble Drive.

The service runs through April 10.

No appointments are required. It will be first come, first served.

The tax preparation volunteers can help prepare federal and state tax returns. Clients do not have to be an AARP member and there is no age requirement.

However, Tax Aide is limited by the IRS as to the types of returns it can prepare. For example, volunteers cannot prepare returns with farm income, returns with depreciation, or returns for small businesses that have a net loss.

AARP Tax Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program. More than 1.2 million people nationwide use Tax Aide.

### Identity theft takes the spotlight

As part of Identity Theft Awareness Week, the Social Security Administration is teaming up with the Federal Trade Commission to host a free webinar about how to spot, avoid and report identity theft.

The webinar is set for noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 30.

Topics will include how identify theft happens; how to protect yourself against it; how to spot and avoid identity theft; what to do if your identity is stolen; and free tools to help you recover from identity theft.

Other webinars on identity theft also are planned for the week. For more information, visit <https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/identity-theft-awareness-week>.

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# Sports and Wildlife

## Boys win first game in All A Smith pours in 18 points

By Mark Gray  
Sports Reporter

After a two week layoff due to inclement weather, the Gallatin County Wildcats opened up 8th Region All A play on Monday night at Owen County.

For the second consecutive season the Cats handily defeated Cornerstone Christian of Shelbyville to advance to the semifinals.

Gallatin led after each quarter by the scores of 19-3, 48-13, 62-21, and 71-27.

Landon Smith poured in six first half three pointers en route to a game high 18 points.

Jonah Brinker (16) and Matt Griffin (15) also reached double figures for the Wildcats.

Ian Wilson added 9. Nick Skidmore, Christian Avila, and Nathan Hammond scored 3 points each and Julio Martinez and Evan Frasure chipped in with 2 points apiece.

Coach Vance Sullivan's squad will take a record of 9 wins and 5 losses into Wednesday's 7:30 semifinal against host Owen County.

A victory would propel them into Friday night's championship game against the Walton-Verona-Eminence winner at 7:00.



Jonah Brinker also had a hot hand, Monday. He was the second leading scorer with 16 points.

## Gallatin's girls take 6-4 record into All A

By Mark Gray  
Sports Reporter

The Gallatin County Lady Wildcats took a record of 6 wins and 4 losses into Tuesday night's All A 8th Region first round game against defending champion Walton-Verona at Owen County High School.

A victory against the Bearcats would put Gallatin into Thursday's 7:30 semifinal against the Owen County-Trimble County winner.

The championship game is scheduled for Saturday at 7:00.

## Kentucky women off to great start

Kentucky's women are off to an impressive start in the Southeastern Conference.

The Wildcats (15-1, 4-0) notched their eighth-straight victory with an 80-61 rout of Auburn on Sunday. Although the team's current winning streak is impressive, Kentucky has beaten its first four conference foes by double figures and is a perfect 10-0 at home.

The 15th-ranked Wildcats have won eight straight since suffering their lone loss of the year, a 72-53 setback at North Carolina on Dec. 5 in Chapel Hill. Kentucky is off to its best start in the league since the 2012-13 season.

"It was a really good win for us and obviously when you are playing an SEC opponent, especially one like Auburn, who thrives on the defensive end and tries to muddy the game up," Kentucky coach Kenny Brooks said.

Kentucky guard Georgia Amooore led the Wildcats, scoring 21 points and dishing out 11 assists, a season-high, to lead four players in double figures. Amooore said her first and only tour of duty in the SEC has "been great so far."

"I think we've been doing our job getting some really solid wins and starting SEC play," she said. "We can be picky and point out the things that we did badly but to have consecutive games of nearly 20-point wins is

phenomenal for SEC play, considering someone like Auburn played LSU last week and only won by 10. I think we're putting on a show."

Dazia Lawrence matched Amooore's scoring effort with 21 points of her own, while Clara Strack scored 16 points and Teonni Key poured in 15 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Strack added four blocks for the hosts.

"We got great production from Georgia," Brooks said. "I think Dazia was tremendous and took some really great shots. Teonni Key was really good for us, relieving some pressure and getting some baskets into the hole. I thought Clara Strack performed really well on "Clara Strack Day."

Brooks said "Clara Strack Day" is "really big around our program."

"We celebrate it like we do Christmas," Brooks said. "It was special, really fun, and a good win for us."

Brooks and his squad will get a week off before taking on Georgia on Sunday in Athens. Brooks said the Wildcats will spend time in the gym improving on both sides of the ball during the rare week off.

"We'll use this week for much-needed rest and some much-needed practice time," Brooks said. "We haven't had much practice time in the last couple of weeks."



## Leading the way

Senior Landon Smith (seen here in a game earlier this season) led the Wildcats by scoring 18 points in their Class A game against Cornerstone Christian, Monday night. He hit six three point shots in the first half. Photos by Kelley Warnick

## UK volleyball adding stars

By Larry Vaught  
Vaught's Views

Kentucky volleyball has added three big-time transfers — Lizzie Carr and Eva Hudson of Purdue and Molly Berezowitz of Marquette — for its 2025 team to help replace what coach Craig Skinner lost off last season's Elite Eight team.

However, there is also one other newcomer on campus — true freshman setter Kassie O'Brien of Texas, a high school All-American, who had over 4,000 assists during her prep career. She will compete to fill the spot of Emma Grome, a multiple All-American and 2022 SEC Player of the Year who played in every set for four years.

"I knew that I wanted to play at the highest level

I could. I stepped on campus, talked to the coaches and everyone made me feel so welcome. I could picture myself there, so I committed to Kentucky," the 6-1 O'Brien said.

She remembered watching current UK assistant coach Madison Lilley play on Kentucky's 2020 national championship team when she was named the nation's most outstanding player because of her play at setter.

"When I found out she would be one of the coaches I was so pumped because she was not on the staff when I first committed," O'Brien said.

Skinner said O'Brien asked early in the recruiting process if she could enroll early at Kentucky, a rarity for volleyball players. She

wanted to do that in part hoping she might be able to work with and learn from Grome.

"I watched her play all I could this season. The way she moves the ball and interacts with teammates on the court is phenomenal," the UK freshman said.

Her two older sisters, Madalyn and Courtney, both played college volleyball. Madalyn played at Texas Tech while Courtney played one year at Tech before transferring to Florida International where she will be a senior next season.

"They both graduated early to go to college so that gave me the idea," O'Brien said. "Getting up there early will give me time to get used to college life, meet all my teammates and train in the offseason with my

team.

"Being the baby, I grew up around the game. I sat and watched their club and high school games waiting for my turn. I could ask them questions and learn. That's why when they told me enrolling early would really help, I knew that is what I needed to do."

She said her sisters never made her play volleyball but watching them made her want to play. She did try basketball and swimming.

"I was too aggressive when I played basketball," she said. "My sisters would get me out on the driveway every day and hammer me with kills. I guess it made me tougher so in fifth grade I went full volleyball. I kept playing basketball in junior high but volleyball was my game."

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(502) 564-3940

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY  
1262 COX ROAD  
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(513) 287-4366

# Obituaries

## Connie Colleen Ogburn

Connie Colleen Ogburn, born on August 6, 1952, in Kenton County, died January 19, in Sanders. Her life was a testament to hard work, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to her family.

Connie had a distinguished career, retiring as a fraud investigator from the Internal Revenue Service in Covington. Her professional journey also included valuable roles at the Square D Company in Florence, and the United States Postal Service.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Connie was a woman of many interests and hobbies. She had a profound love for farming and gardening, where she found peace and joy in nurturing both plants and the earth. Addition-

ally, Connie was skilled in quilting and crocheting, crafts that not only showcased her creativity but also provided comfort and warmth to her family and friends. An avid animal lover, she cherished taking her dog for a walk, often making a trip to retrieve the mail—a simple pleasure that brought her happiness.

Family was at the center of Connie's life. The bonds she shared with her loved ones were profound and meaningful, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew her. Her warmth was often felt through the joyful weather reports she shared with friends and family, reflecting her care for their daily lives.

She is survived by her sons, Dustin Ogburn of Sanders, Christopher Aar-

on (Gretchen) Hughes of Sparta, and Derrick Shane Hughes of Frankfort. Her beloved sisters, Janice (David) Smith of Dry Ridge, and Donna (Harry) Ferguson of Sharonville, will carry on her legacy of love and togetherness, along with two cherished grandchildren.

Connie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Philip Wayne Ogburn, who passed on November 21, 2023, and a sister, Judy Blevins. A visitation for family and friends will be held on Tuesday, January 28, from noon to 1 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 1 p.m. at the Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton. Arrangements have been entrusted with the Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home.



### A winter igloo

John Haskell crawls out of an igloo he and his friends have built on Market Street in Warsaw. Playing with him were Robert Parish and his brother, Logan Haskell. Photo by Kelley Warnick

## Teresa A. Boyers Grizzell

Teresa A. Grizzell was born September 19, 1950 in Covington, and died January 13, in Florence, at the age of 74. She was the daughter of Donald Monclair and June Lillian Yelton Boyers

Teresa worked many years as a waitress at Cheers and later Outback steakhouse at the Cincinnati Airport. She always

enjoyed going to casinos, especially Belterra, and playing lottery scratch offs. In her free time she enjoyed camping on the creek in Sparta and especially spending time with friends and family.

She is survived by two sons: Gene Webster (Kim) of Ghent and Mark Webster (Lillian) of Carrollton; a brother: Mark Boyers

(Darla) of Glencoe; three sisters: Tracy Sanders and Ginger Brashear, both of Glencoe and Donna Brinkman of Marietta, GA; seven grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Funeral services held Thursday, January 16, at Hamilton-Stanley Funeral Home in Verona. Burial followed at the Napoleon IOOF Cemetery.

## Joseph Eric Burt

Joseph 'Joey' Eric Burt was born November 5, 1978. He died Friday, January 3. Joey was 46 years old.

Joey loved spending time with his family and friends. He was an avid football and basketball fan. He enjoyed watching the Cincinnati Bengals and the Kentucky Wildcats play.

Joey leaves behind many who will greatly miss him.

Survivors include; his person and greatest love, Anna First; his son, Bradley Kegan McDonald; his granddaughter, Lilyana Hollon; one brother, David Burt; two aunts, Dale Eaves and Sheila Norton; three uncles, Ricky Harold, Barry Harold, and

Dennis Harold; and many cousins and friends.

Joey was proceeded in death by his grandfather and grandmother, Ralph and Bonnie Harold; his mother, Rhonda Burt; and one grandson, Bentley McDonald.

A memorial service to honor Joey will be held at a later date, to be determined by the family.

### Take Heart... Peace and Quiet by Monte Shinkle



What we wouldn't give for a little peace and quiet! Truthfully, that is a very biblical phrase but just not in that order. The Apostle Paul wrote in I Timothy 2:2 that the end result of good government is "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty".

We don't normally get the promise of peace and quiet in an election cycle. Yet if someone were to run on a platform of "peace and quiet", I am

pretty sure I would vote for them. In other words, "We're just going to leave you people alone and you go live a godly, honest life with peace and quiet."

Of course the context of these verses from I Timothy 2 involves praying for those who are in authority. Paul was under the authority of the Roman government. He didn't have a lot of freedom in that system, but he did have the right of appeal as a Roman citizen. He exercised that right and wound up in prison, waiting to be heard by the emperor.

The Bible instructs us to pray for kings and for all who are in authority. That covers Federal, State and Local Government. It certainly includes our new President who was inaugurated January 20th. It extends to all our local officials. School boards and magistrates are not exempted from the need of prayer.

Along with all the big plans and promises that are covered on the evening news every day, how about a little peace and quiet? Perhaps someone should

develop a "Peace and Quiet" index. I can hear it now, "Peace and Quiet rose this month among the American public. Worry and confusion is declining in our nation." All of this happens as a result of praying for our leaders.

Ultimately, Jesus is the source of contentment and He is the Prince of Peace. In Him we can know "peace" in the middle of a storm. Pray for those who are in authority and Take Heart. Jesus cares for you.

**Footnote:** I am so thankful to have the privilege to write these words each week. Take Heart Ministries drops a podcast each week of messages I have preached over the last several years. You can find them on Spotify or wherever you listen to podcasts. Follow Take Heart Ministries on Facebook.

You can also visit our website found at takeheart.Org .



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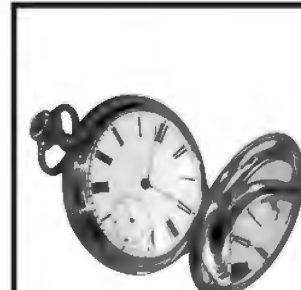
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#### FOR THOSE DIFFICULT TIMES WHEN WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH

There are times when words aren't enough, when your family needs a solid, dependable foundation to draw strength from.

You can call on us to be there when we're needed the most.

#### Family Services From Neighbors And Friends Who Care

**Hamilton-Stanley  
Funeral Home**  
Verona, Kentucky  
**859-485-4885**

24-Hour Funeral Information  
859-824-4004



# Sports and Wildlife

## Smith's hot hand helps Wildcats

By Mark Gray  
Sports Reporter

The Gallatin County boys basketball team played three games in four games last and posted a 1-2 record.

The Wildcats split two District contests before falling to Simon Kenton, one of the favorites to capture the Eighth Region title.

Gallatin opened the week with a convincing victory over the visiting Carrol County Panthers.

The Cats led after each stop by the scores of 24-10, 51-19, 75-35, and 90-44.

Ten Wildcats led the scoring column, led by senior Landon Smith's 20 points. Jonah Brinker added 19, Ian Wilson 18, and Matt Griffin 13.

Julio Martinez scored 7, Evan Frasure 3, Nick Skidmore 3, Nathan Hammond 3, Christian Avila 2, and Michael Cefaratti 2. Brinker also had 7 rebounds.

Gallatin connected on 34 of 62 field goals for 55%. They hit 14 of 31 three pointers for 45% and made 8 of 9 foul shots for 89%.

The following evening the Wildcats suffered their first 31st District defeat of the season at Henry County.

Gallatin led 14-11 after the first eight minutes, but a 15-0 run by Henry in the second quarter propelled them to a 29-23 halftime lead.

Henry extended their lead to 46-37 with just over five minutes remaining before the Cats started chipping away.

They trimmed the lead to 57-55 before missing a shot the buzzer to fall to 4-1 in District play.

Griffin (26) and Brinker (20) combined for 46 of Gallatin's 57 points. Griffin also collected 9 rebounds and Brinker added 7.

Rounding out the scoring were Wilson with 3 and Skidmore with 2.

The Wildcats made 20 of 55 from the field for 36% and 12 of 18 free throws for 67%.

Gallatin wrapped up their week with a 62-47 home loss to the Simon Kenton Pioneers.

The Wildcats led 12-8 after the first quarter before Simon Kenton took a 33-26 halftime advantage on their to the win.

Smith connected from beyond the arc five times in the first half on his way to a team high 15 points.

Brinker added 14, Griffin 10, Wilson 6, and Skidmore 2. Wilson also had 6 rebounds.

Gallatin made 18 of 40 field goals for 45% and 3 of 4 free throws for 75%.

Gallatin (11-8) returns to action on Friday night when they host Owen County for Homecoming.

They travel to Spencer County on Saturday and Tuesday they host Trimble County in another District seed game.



## Looking for an opening

Senior Nick Skidmore is closely guarded by a Simon Kenton player, last Friday night. Photos by Kelley Warnick

## Lady 'Cats on a win streak

By Mark Gray  
Sports Reporter

The streaking Gallatin County Lady Wildcats had their most successful week of the season. Coach Dustin McVey's team went 4-0, including wins in three games in three nights. They also went 3-0 in District action.

Gallatin now stands at 10-6 overall and 4-2 in 31st District play.

The Lady Cats opened the week on Tuesday by hosting the Carroll County Panthers.

Gallatin led 10-6 after a quarter and by halftime they had increased their advantage to 25 to 13.

The lead was still 10 points (35-25) after three quarters, but Carroll managed to trim the lead to

41-39 in the final minute.

A Lucy McVey free throw made it 42-39 and an errant Panther three pointer at the final horn secured the victory.

Audrina Doolin led the team with 12 points. Lydia Young added 11, Ava Arnold 8, McVey 6, Chloe Franks 3, and Raeagan Morris 2.

Arnold had 8 rebounds and Young added 7.

On Wednesday the Lady Wildcats hit the road to New Castle for another District tilt against Henry County.

Gallatin trailed 14-12 after the first quarter and 27-26 at the half.

However, they took control in the third quarter and scored the final six points for a 44-32 lead.

In the final frame the

Lady Cats were never threatened and they won by a 55-46 score.

McVey's 16 points led three players in double figures. Arnold scored 12 and Young added 11.

Rounding out the scoring were Doolin with 7, Franks 5, Morris 2, and Madison Bond 2. Arnold once again led the way with 7 rebounds.

The following evening Gallatin secured another road victory when they won at Switzerland County.

After an even first half the Lady Wildcats used a strong third quarter to catapult its way to a 46-36 victory.

Morris was the leading scorer on the evening with 14 points. McVey

added 10, Bond 6, Doolin 6, Arnold 4, Young 3, and Franks 3.

Arnold and Morris both pulled down 6 rebounds.

Gallatin's three point shooting was instrumental in the win as they connected on 9 of 22 from beyond the arc.

On Monday night the Lady Wildcats avenged an earlier home loss to Eminence with a 49-45 overtime victory over the home standing Warriors.

Gallatin has three home games this week with two coming against District foes. Thursday they host Owen County, Saturday Paris visits for a 2:30 tip, and Monday Trimble County comes to town.



Ian Wilson fights for points in the Simon Kenton game.

## Deer hunters do well

Hunters collectively recorded a near record harvest of deer during Kentucky's just concluded 2024-25 season.

Hunters took 149,868 deer – the state's second-highest harvest ever recorded. Additionally, hunters harvested more deer from public land than any previous year. The percentage of antlered deer taken this past season also set a record.

"We're very pleased with harvest results," Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Deer Program Coordinator Joe McDermott said. "We had a great season, even with subpar weather at times."

The 2024-25 deer hunting season closed on January 20. The season's harvest is second only to 2015, when hunters took 155,730 deer. The recently completed season's total is more than 6,000 higher than the 10-year average of 143,442. Kentucky also saw its highest buck, or male deer, harvest on record at 86,071 deer

(57.4%), including buck fawns.

A breakdown of harvest by permit type shows 76% of deer were harvested on a statewide or youth deer permit; 16% were landowner permits; and 7% were with senior or disabled permits. The remaining deer were harvested during public land quota hunts or through deer control damage permits.

Kentucky residents accounted for 80% of the deer harvested.

Statewide deer hunting season kicks off annually in Kentucky with archery season in early September. Modern gun season for deer, which runs for three weeks in November, generally accounts for more than two-thirds of the annual overall harvest each year. For the 2024-25 season, 107,392 (71.6%) deer were taken by firearm, 16,662 (11.1%) were taken by bow, 14,020 (9.4%) were taken with crossbows and 11,794 (7.9%) were taken using muzzle-loading firearms.

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CITY CORNER

# No Grinches allowed in Dry Ridge

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Shop With a Cop has been a staple of the Holiday Season for years. However, the City of Dry Ridge has a different approach.

“We use this program in lieu of the Shop with a Cop program,” said City Administrator Ken Little. The “program” is assisting whole families in need to have a holiday filled with happiness.

Little said, “Throughout the year we encounter hardship cases through police, fire and EMS and we place them on a needs list for the holidays.” He continued, “We are fortunate enough to receive nice donations to our city to fund these programs. We also work with the schools to get recipients.”

For 2024, Michael Collins, founder of the Kentucky History Autism Foundation, reached out to the city for help assisting “a couple of Grant County families that didn’t have presents for their children due to medical costs and care issues with their nonverbal and severe(ly) autistic children.”

Collins said Mayor Greg Brockman and the Dry Ridge

staff stepped up and “helped us make this happen [along with] a few private individuals in our community.” He said they gave “hams for dinner and other supplies such as sensory-needed items like weighted blankets and noise cancelling headphones” for the families.

“These simple acts of kindness mean the world” to families finding themselves in need, he said, expressing his gratitude.

Little said in the future he plans to “rotate different avenues to help a variety of people in need ... The Mayor and I would like to thank all the people that make this possible, we are blessed to have the resources available to help people in need.

Looking forward and considering the recent severe weather, Little said, “We are currently working on a Cold Shelter program to assist with the homeless during cold weather events. This will be at Piddle Park location, beginning Jan. 9.”

Dry Ridge did not seek out attention for either of these activities. Collins reached out to the Grant County News to pass along the recognition.



Michael Collins

From left: Dry Ridge Police Chief Rick Kells, Dry Ridge City Clerk/Treasurer Megan Simpson and Kentucky Hickory Autism Foundation Founder Michael Collins pose with items collected for families in Dry Ridge for the 2024 holidays.

## OFFICE

FROM PAGE A1

“The amount of services to the community will not change however the quantity of services will be larger,” said Chris Ammerman, Grant County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent.

The weather has not been a friend, Ammerman said, adding days to the move back to the renovated space. However, the new offices are now occupied.

Since late 2023, the extension office personnel have been operating offsite. Office activities moved to a temporary location at 1212 South Main Street, Williamstown. Meetings and other activities were spread to spaces around the county with many at the Farm Bureau meeting rooms at 486 Helton Street Williamstown.

When folks visit the Extension Office on Jan. 18, they will be welcomed at the entry way to a large, spacious area with what will be a lobby area to the right and a large reception zone that leads back to offices for each agent, assistant and even a couple extras sometime down the road.

Adjacent to the lobby, the meeting and activity rooms no longer have simple “A,” “B,” and “C” designations. Instead, Ammerman said he wanted them to have real names.

He put the names of all extension agents who had worked seven or more years over the past century into a hat and drew them out to designate each room. The winners include the Poor Sewing Room, named for Patty Poor, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent; the Fowler Project Room, named for Lamar Fowler, 4H Agent; and the Hume Meeting Room, named for Bob Hume, the original county agent.

Decorations will be Grant County oriented. Pictures-sans people-have been gathered from residents. Those chosen will be framed and hung throughout the building. Some will be up in time for the open house.

As well, two display areas in the lobby are designated for Homemakers and for Extension memorabilia collected over time.

For years, the extension office was located at 224 South Main Street, Williamstown, but in



Deborah Lucas Angel

The spacious lobby area of the renovated Grant County Extension Services Office awaits the addition of tables, chairs and other furnishings. The public is welcome to the open house on Jan. 18, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2006 the proposed Judicial Center displaced it.

The extension agency “had outgrown the space and were struggling to expand the educational opportunities for the community,” Ammerman said. Extension moved out of their offices and began construction at the 105 Baton Rouge location, moving in April, 2009.

Ammerman said decisions for the building are made by the Grant County Extension Board. Members of the board are “nominated by the Grant County Extension Council and appointed by the judge/executive and approved by the fiscal court.”

The board had long planned to expand the Baton Rouge building, however, knowing it would be too small. The board saved and planned for the building.

According to Ammerman, the board “dealt with budget constraints that limited the size of the original building in 2009. So the intention of the leadership was always to settle the loan amount and then approach making the building into a site that could be a better place for our community to learn.”

With financial planning, their thirty-year, three million dollar loan was paid off in ten years, and in August, 2019, a motion was made to pay off the note.

Patsy Kinman motioned to begin the process of upgrading the building. They began

seeking Requests for Proposals from architects and “we were off” to build the new Grant County Extension Office.

Ammerman said growing the building would make it “available to

each and every person in Grant County.” He said they needed “specialty training areas that would accommodate a better

hands-on learning environment, so a maker space was added to sup-

port sewing, robotics, three dimensional printing and the 4H remote control car club.”

Additionally, “a demonstration kitchen with five different teaching stations to support our 4H

beginning and advanced cooking clubs, as well as our living well programs, our SNAP programs, and our food preservation initiatives” have been added.

“Finally, we added a project area with a rubber floor, stainless steel tables and a water hose on the wall to clean it up. We can cure country hams, shear a sheep, do floral arrangements, make holiday wreaths, trim a dog’s toe nails ... the opportunities in this space are only limited by the imagination.”

As for the old building, only three rooms and six walls are “in the same place.” And while they “kept a few items in place to remind us of where we have been,” everything else is “brand new.”

Everyone is encouraged to come out on Jan. 18 and view the results. There may even be some activities in the rooms and labs to show off the new equipment and capabilities of the Grant County Extension Services.

For more information, contact Extension at 105 Baton Rouge Road, Williamstown; (859) 824-3355 or contact Ammerman via email: chris.ammerman@uky.edu.

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# Birds and the winter garden

When the weather is cold and outdoor activity is at a minimum the birds keep me entertained and connected to the outside world. Right now, however, the frigid temps and an early lambing season have pushed us out the door and into winter chores at a more deliberate pace!



JENEEN WICHE  
IN MY GARDEN

in the fall is the fruit of the dogwood. Nutmeat from oaks and walnuts packs a powerful punch for a high-energy bird. The crabapples ripen next, which are usually picked clean in one day by a flock of hungry robins heading to the woods for the winter. You can enjoy the berries for a time, then the birds do the clean-up.

The birds at the feeder, against a backdrop of snow are now just a simple comfort. I have full view of them fluttering and hopping about the feeder just outside the window where I write. Sometimes the sparrows, black-capped chickadees, juncos, cardinals, Carolina wren and gold finches are too busy to notice me; other times it seems that they take a rest on the deck railing to stare at the girl at the computer.

Other winter-fruiting shrubs include viburnum, chokeberry, deciduous holly, American holly, nandina, and mahonia. Seeds persist on some plants, too. Leftover perennials in the garden can provide a meal or some protection; ornamental grasses, seeds from ripening cones on conifers, and overwintering insects under leaf matter are a special treat (plus the meal reduces pest problems later).

Just like humans, birds need food, water and shelter. We can supply store-bought birdseed, but don't forget about how important your plants can be in helping to sustain a healthy and diverse bird population.

If you are in a rural area or enjoy a more naturalized effect when it comes to the garden also know that some plants that are considered weedy (although they are native) can also help sustain a healthy bird population. Bittersweet, sumac and wild elderberry will provide a meal in the fall and winter so don't worry about cleaning out all that old underbrush...that old underbrush is likely brimming with life.

The Audubon Society recommends that we provide seven different kinds of plants to do the trick: conifers, grasses, nectar-producing plants; summer, fall and winter fruiting plants; and nut and acorn producing trees.

Great landscape plants can also provide necessary shelter for the birds. Evergreens are essential because they provide such good protection. The eastern red cedar provides good protection and berries; the Norway spruce and the Nordmann fir, two adaptable evergreens for Kentuckiana are excellent choices because of their rather dense growth habit. Nandina and Mahonia, two beautiful plants in the winter garden, also provide both fruit and protection because they hold onto their foliage. Also consider some tall, twiggy deciduous shrubs by your feeders.

If you do choose to feed the birds, black oil seed will keep most of them energized through the winter; and a block of suet may bring in the downy woodpeckers that would otherwise be pecking on a decaying conifer.

Some birds like to dine at the feeders, other on the ground below and some do take-out. Give them a perch once they have found a seed, berry or nut. If you put a little thought into creating a diverse landscape you can have a winter habitat that is enjoyable for you and livable, safe and fruitful for the birds.

The feeders are not the only things that sustain the birds; a water source is attractive, and a plethora of landscape plants will provide the additional components that make our garden a desirable place to take up residence.

One of the first to ripen

Providing a variety of food sources and places to seek shelter from inclement weather, heat or cold will keep seasonal birds in your backyard habitat. It will also attract migratory species, like the cedar waxwing, as they move through the area. When you are planning a garden scheme consider some of these plants for winter interest in the garden and food and shelter for the birds.

## GRANT COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE REPORT

### Property transfers

- 1/9 — William Ezra Edwards and Brenda Sue Edwards to William Ezra Edwards and Brenda Sue Edwards, 18.05 Acres Webb-Odor Road for name correction.
- 1/9 — Susan Ann Lofald to Orlando Sagastume and Destiny Starr Sagastume, 1.7607 Acres Keefer Road for \$197,000
- 1/9 — Susan Ann Lofald to Orlando Sagastume and Destiny Starr Sagastume, 1.6058 Acres Keefer Road for \$1.00
- 1/13 — Howell Rentals of NKY, LLC to Howell Management Services, LLC,

- South Side Warsaw Avenue for \$150,000
- 1/13 — Jeremiah Rice and Alyssa Horstman to United Skilled Services Limited Liability Company, Lot 4 Martin Flege Estates Subdivision for \$49,000
- 1/13 — Jerry Beagle and Rita Beagle to JKeep Investments, LLC, 5.00 Acres Webb Odor Road for \$33,800
- 1/13 — Guardian Homes, LLC to Jonathan Hyatt, Lot 125 Eagle Creek Estates Section 3 for \$281,000
- 1/13 — Reda C. Lockwood to Cheryl Breeden Trustee and Lockwood Family Irrevocable Trust, 2 Tracts Humes Ridge Road as per terms and conditions

- of Trust via Fee Simple
  - 1/14 — Mark Elmer Lee Rider and Brittany Rider to Tanner Teepen, Lauren Teepen and Jeffrey Forlenza, Jr., Lot 21 Greenview Estates Section 1 for \$240,000
  - 1/14 — Tyler R. Tolle and Kaitlenn Tolle to Ashley Goodwin, Jordan Faulkner and Dakota Goodwin, 1.600 Acres Wainscott Road for \$252,500
  - 1/14 — Tammy Connley to Jule Quance, 1.04 Acres Dry Ridge-Mt. Zion Road for \$350,000
- Marriage**
- 1/15 — Brittany Ann Nance to John Vance Hinzman

# Kentucky offers scholarship opportunities

BY COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET

The next generation of future transportation industry leaders is encouraged to help build our New Kentucky Home by applying for a coveted state-sponsored engineering or construction-management scholarship. Three higher education scholarships are offered for current or upcoming Kentucky university and college students who apply by Feb. 1, 2025.

**“As a dad, it’s important to me that I lead an education-first administration. These scholarships will ensure education and career opportunities for our talented youth here in Kentucky and open doors to a meaningful career as a state employee.”**

— Gov. Andy Beshear

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munities to improve transportation and to make lives better for fellow Kentuckians,” said KYTC Secretary Jim Gray.

Up to 25 scholarships will be awarded for the 2025-2026 academic year in civil engineering, engineering technology and construction management by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). The annual scholarship comes with a paid summer job and guaranteed employment with KYTC upon graduation. Current college students as well as upcoming freshmen are eligible.

More than 2,000 students have received \$20 million from the Civil Engineering Scholarship Program since it began in 1948.

“These scholarship programs have a long legacy of excellence by developing some of the most talented staff who are making a real difference in their com-

The Civil Engineering Scholarship is for students focusing on a four-year engineering degree who attend the University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University or Kentucky State University. It is awarded to 10-20 new students and can be worth up to \$59,200 (ranging from \$7,200 to \$7,600 per semester).

The Civil Engineering Technology Scholarship was established in 2009 in partnership with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) at Big Sandy Community & Technical College in Prestonsburg. Each scholarship student will receive \$3,700 per semester to complete an associate degree in Civil Engineering Technology. The Cabinet will award up to 10 scholarships to students attending Big

Sandy Community & Technical College.

The Construction Management Scholarship is for students focusing on a four-year construction management degree at Northern Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, Morehead State University or Murray State University. A limited number of scholarships will be offered, and they will be worth up to \$59,200 (also ranging from \$7,200 to \$7,600 per semester).

All three types of scholarships include summer employment and job placement at KYTC after graduation. Scholarship recipients agree to work for KYTC for a year for every year they received the scholarship. Former scholarship recipients have held top management positions at KYTC including multiple deputy secretaries, state highway engineers, chief district engineers and branch managers.

KYTC Deputy State Highway Engineer John Moore applied as a senior in high school after learning about the program at the University of Kentucky E-Day

in 1992. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1997 and a master’s degree in civil engineering in 2003. In his role at KYTC, John is responsible for the divisions of construction, materials, construction procurement, equipment, traffic operations and maintenance. He has also had the privilege of leading emergency response efforts like debris removal after the 2022 eastern Kentucky flooding and overseeing Kentucky’s recent deployment mission to North Carolina to help communities recover from Hurricane Helene flood damage.

“The engineering scholarship was a game-changer for me, providing the financial support I needed to focus on my studies and pursue my passion for engineering,” Moore said. “It paved the way for a rewarding career where I now have the privilege of improving infrastructure and sometimes going outside my lane to help tackle unexpected needs that make a real difference in the lives of others every day.”

Scholarship recipients will be notified in April. For applications or to learn more information about these scholarships and other educational opportunities, please visit <https://transportation.ky.gov/Education/> or call (502) 782-4970.

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#### RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY, INC.'S AMENDMENT TO ITS 2021 AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

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The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Duke Energy Kentucky; however, the Kentucky Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. Such action may result in rates for consumers other than the rates in this notice.

Any corporation, association, body politic or person with a substantial interest in the matter may, by written request within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice of the proposed rate changes, request leave to intervene; intervention may be granted beyond the thirty (30) day period for good cause shown. Such motion shall be submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615, and shall set forth the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication the Commission may take final action on the application.

Intervenors may obtain copies of the application and other filings made by the Company by requesting same through email at [DEKInquiries@duke-energy.com](mailto:DEKInquiries@duke-energy.com) or by telephone at (513) 287-4366. A copy of the application and other filings made by the Company are available for public inspection through the Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>, at the Commission's office at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at the following Company office: Erlanger Ops Center, 1262 Cox Road, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website, or by mail at the following Commission address.

For further information contact:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
P.O. BOX 615  
211 SOWER BOULEVARD  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40602-0615  
(502) 564-3940

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY  
1262 COX ROAD  
ERLANGER, KENTUCKY 41018  
(513) 287-4366

## GRANT COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Between Jan. 5 through 11, the Grant County Sheriff's Office:

- Served 40 summons and/or subpoenas
- Spent 12 hours serving court
- Responded to four accidents (out of county residence)

### ACCIDENTS

Jan. 5 — Deputy Bo Hammonds responded to a non-injury accident at 12:30 p.m. on Falmouth Road, Williamstown involving a 2013 Dodge driven by Jared Ebert, 20, of Williamstown and a 2002 Jeep driven by Audrey Golden, 27, of Falmouth. The accident was deemed snow related.

driven by Kyle Powers, 36, of Fayetteville, North Carolina. It was determined to be snow related.

Jan. 8 — Deputy Trenton Dalton responded to a non-injury accident at 3:47 p.m. on Owenton Road, Corinth involving a 2011 Nissan driven by Paul Wilson, 65, of Owenton, and a 2019 Toyota driven by Keaton House, 17, of Corinth. The accident was a rear-end collision.

Jan. 9 — Deputy Trenton Dalton responded to a non-injury accident at 1 p.m. on Jenni Lane, Dry Ridge involving a 2002 Chevrolet driven by Ethan Muncie, 21, of Winchester, and a 2012 Dodge driven by Rexford Simpson, 68, of Dry Ridge. The accident was a mirror impact by a snowplow on a improperly parked vehicle.

Jan. 5 — Deputy Bo Hammonds responded to a single vehicle, injury accident at 10:37 a.m. on Interstate 75 Southbound involving a 2020 Nissan

# Viewpoints

## HISTORY



Crittenden celebrates its official birthday Feb. 1.

## Crittenden formed

BY J. COLTON SIMPSON  
GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The City of Crittenden was established on Feb. 1, 1837. Though the city was officially formed after the county seat of Williamstown, the city boasts many of the earliest settlements in Grant County, many formed decades prior to the formation of the city of Williamstown.

Originally known as "Pinhook," when the city was formed it was renamed to honor

John J. Crittenden, a Kentucky governor, U.S. Congressman, U.S. Attorney General, and U.S. Senator.

The city has seen great success over the course of its history and is now the most populous city in Grant County.

Colton Simpson is the Grant County Deputy Judge/Executive and a former President of the Grant County Historical Society. You can email him at jcoltonsimpson@gmail.com.

## Old-world sports are still around

Last year, Caitlin Clark's incredible basketball season at the University of Iowa sparked a lot of interest within in the ranks of Sports-Fan World. I was no exception. I hardly ever (if ever) watched women's basketball, but after seeing the hype about Caitlin's abilities, I decided to turn on the T.V. and take a look. I was amazed! Man, can she ever play the game.

Not only can Caitlin Clark play, but the whole world of women's college basketball has evolved immeasurably over the years. These ladies are really good. And they are fun to watch.

I was watching a women's college game the other night, and I was surprised by a couple of things I saw. The game was winding down, and the score was within a point or two when a very tall player made a tricky move to the basket, left the defender behind and scored an easy bucket. The crowd cheered, and her team's bench stood up with extreme overjoy.

This all seemed perfectly normal to me, but then a strange thing happened: the player who scored did not run down the court yelling with her mouth wide open and her fists clenched like she had just

knocked out Muhammed Ali. She just quietly hurried to play defense.



MARK MATT MILLER  
COLUMNIST

The next peculiar event I noticed was, as the game was winding down and the starting guard for the visiting team made a long three pointer, she didn't put her finger to her lips to shush the home team crowd. I thought doing this was a rule.

As I began to watch increasingly more women's basketball, I became interested in some of this unusual behavior. I was surprised that I didn't ever see a player make some kind of shooting a bow and arrow sign after scoring. And there was never any of that boogie-woogie dance stuff that we always see in men's sports. No grimacing! No hot-dogging! They were just playing basketball.

And guess what: I saw players smile, and they even occasionally talked to the officials and to players on the other team. I even saw a player reach down and give a hand to an opposing player who had fallen in front of her.

Now don't start thinking that these ladies don't want to win. They are just as driven as any athletes.

You should watch! It is refreshing. It is surely the definition of the word "SPORTS"

## Etiquette has gone the way of the dodo

BY DEVON WILLIAMS  
NEWS REPORTER

It's difficult to make the final transition from annoying young person to old man shouting into the ether whilst shaking his cane to the heavens in an absolute tizzy. But the more times I sit in a theater, whether it be for a movie or even a play, I get closer and closer.

Growing up at the end of what's known as the millennial generation, I grew up hearing my fair-share of elder complaints as I'm sure every generation has. We were entitled, lazy, arrogant, obnoxious. We were on our phones too much. We didn't take anything as serious as we should. All of these complaints were commonplace and ironically uploaded as video rants from older folks on sites like Facebook.

Fortunately, I've largely been able to avoid this outcome, refraining from long social media posts complaining about the youth of today. However, as a former movie theater manager and consistent movie-goer, I can no

longer contain myself.

In the last ten years, but especially the five since COVID, it seems that people have thrown away their courtesy along with those N95 masks. I remember quite clearly that when I was growing up, everyone stayed quite silent out of respect for everyone else who paid to attend. And if a child were to break out in a tantrum, the parent/caregiver would quickly exit (oh crying rooms, how I miss thee).

Now, it's unfortunately quite common to find teenagers talking above the audio of the picture, little kids running up-and-down the aisles, and adults texting on their phones on full brightness.

And if someone complains, parents are suddenly appalled, asking questions like, "I paid to be here didn't I?" As if the other thirty or so people didn't also pay to be here.

And this isn't just in movie theaters; it's everywhere! There's no thought or courtesy given to one's fellow man whatsoever. Just

yesterday, I saw someone park their grocery cart at Walmart square-center in a parking space that happened to be right next to the cart-corral.

Are these super important issues? No. Does it make me want to rip my hair out? You betcha. Maybe I'm finally on the same level as my former teachers and the generations before me. Maybe things aren't any worse than they ever have been and I'm just making my right-of-passage here. Maybe — but I don't think so.

I'm not sure where the fault lies with all of this. My writing doesn't come with a solution or even a meaning. I suppose it's just the void for my ever-aging rambles. Maybe someone out there might read this and feel seen enough to work up the courage to "shush" the annoying folk around them the next time they see a movie or to help encourage someone to put their shopping cart away correctly. If that's true, then maybe all of this ink and paper will be worth it.

## Harrison County Amateur Radio Club

BY KEITH CLIFFORD

The Harrison County Amateur Radio Club consists of an inclusive community of amateur radio operators that are engaged, trained, and prepared to make a positive contribution to the local community and world at large. We seek to vigorously promote, support, and lead amateur radio activities in a manner that honors and exemplifies the radio amateurs code, builds a feeling on pride, camaraderie, and common loyalty within our membership, and serves our community's needs.

If you ever heard the term "ham radio" you might have wondered just what it is all about. Ham radio operators are Federal Communications Commission licensed individuals that use the radio frequency spectrum to communicate in a myriad of methods and for several purposes.

First and foremost, ham radio is a great hobby to encourage experimentation, self-training, contest participation, and communication using voice, text, image, and data communication modes. About two million people hold the necessary license to operate on the bands allocated to amateur radio.

Anyone can become a ham radio enthusiast after studying, testing, and getting their license. Many different methods are available to make the study process easy.

This hobby is vast and never ending. While using various forms of radio equipment and antennas the operator can communicate locally, regionally, around the world, to the International Space station, bounce signals off the moon and meteor scatter, and use satellites.

As you can see, the sky is the limit in this hobby. Operators also frequently have exercises where they set their gear up outdoors and practice providing emergency communications if requested by local authorities.

Many times, in the past ham radio has been used when all other communications have failed. Ham radio is currently being used during the California wildfires to assist in the effort to combat them. Emergency communications services are voluntary as the FCC does not permit the operator to accept payment for their assistance.

Like any hobby, being a ham radio enthusiast can be expensive to a degree. Public Relations / Media

Official Keith Clifford commented "You can actually get everything you need to get on the air locally and regionally for less than one hundred dollars and our club can walk you through the entire process going as far as helping you set up your ham radio station."

Club President Rick Mattox, a retired 3M electrical engineer, remarked "for all the technology we have, if everything went down tomorrow: the internet, television, whatever ... I could still talk to someone across the planet over the radio, and if you have a passion for learning new technology, especially radio, and sharing that with others, you will find a home of like-minded folks at our club."

Three different levels of licensure are available to those interested in the hobby. They are Technician, General, and Extra class. Each successive license earned results in access to more privileges in the available frequency spectrum. Your testing can be done in person locally or on-line.

The Harrison County Amateur Radio Club meets at 6 p.m. the third Friday of each month at the Lair Methodist Fellowship Hall in Harrison

County. The club currently consists of around thirty members.

At the end of each meeting a "tech talk" is held discussing various facets of the hobby. The club is involved in several special events every year ranging from remote operation, operating from state parks, and community outreach to try to bring more people into the hobby.

Rest assured that the club does not discriminate based on race, age, sex, national or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, or disabilities. Our current meeting location is handicapped accessible. You are not required to be a resident of Harrison County to become a member and need not be a member to attend meetings.

Club Secretary / Treasurer CJ Clifford added, "Having members from all over the region is a great thing because it keeps our club strong and gives us the opportunity to focus on growing our local population of amateur radio operators."

If you have questions or would like further information regarding this fantastic group of people please e mail charlesclifford142@gmail.com.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
P.O. BOX 615  
211 SOWER BOULEVARD  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40602-0615  
(502) 564-3940

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY  
1262 COX ROAD  
ERLANGER, KENTUCKY 41018  
(513) 287-4366

## TURNING BACK THE CLOCK

**10 YEARS AGO**  
**January 29, 2015**

• Grant County Schools used their first ever Non-Traditional Instruction Day on Jan. 26. The district is one of only 13 in Kentucky approved to use virtual or other non-traditional instruction when school is canceled.

• Grant County Lady Brave Macy Wright joined the 1000 point club Jan 24, the sixth player to do so. The team, sadly, is on an eight-game losing streak.

• The Ft. Mitchell Fire Department recently donated a surplus 1984 Sutphen pumper truck to the Corinth Volunteer

Fire Department. It replaces a 1977 model truck that Chief Lonnie Kuhn described as "falling apart."

**25 YEARS AGO**  
**February 3, 2000**

• Births announced this week: triplets Faith Elizabeth Shebley, Anthony Stone Shebley and Paige Delight Shebley were born to Calvin and Shanna Shebley of Crittenden on Dec. 6; William Jacob Plunkett was born to William Riley and Lisa Plunkett of Crittenden on Aug. 17; Hannah Rebecca Brown was

SEE **CLOCK/PAGE B8**

# INSPIRATION: YOUR NEWS

## ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

### Stormy season brings 'The Tempest' to Anderson High School

The students of Anderson Theatre have been enduring harsh weather for weeks, but not from the January snowstorms. They have been immersed in William Shakespeare's masterful play "The Tempest," which begins with a magical storm and a shipwreck.

Cast onto the shore of a mysterious island with her mother's court, young Prince Ferdinand cannot help but fall in love with the innocent Miranda, who has lived on the island for most of her life.

But Miranda's own mother, Prospero, is not just a mighty sorcerer, she is also a banished Duchess who has her own plans for the castaways.

The play opens the weekend of Jan. 31, and is directed by Anderson Theatre teacher Hannah Linser-Wilder. "We are creating a unique world," Linser-Wilder said. "Prospero rules the island, but it is also filled with native spirits, led by the air spirit Ariel. Our Tempest is spectacle-driven, featuring puppets, dance, circus tricks and fantastical costumes."

There are over 65 students involved in "The Tempest," including 24 performers on stage and a large and skilled student crew. The set was designed by senior Maria Timmers, a special arrangement that Timmers earned through expertise, creativity and a four-year commitment to building sets at Anderson.

"The Tempest" runs through Feb. 2, with 7 p.m. performances on Friday and Saturday and a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

Tickets are available now, with a special discounted senior/student price only available before opening night. All tickets at the door will be \$15. For full



The cast of "The Tempest" includes senior Colton Copley as Trinculo, senior Adam Miller as Caliban, senior Will Cox as Stephano, junior Liberty Lamb as Prospero and senior Addie Lutes as Ariel. PROVIDED BY ELAINE SEELEY

information and tickets, visit AndersonTheatre.com.

— Elaine Seeley, Anderson Theatre & Film



## MOUNT ADAMS

### Local artist joins Cincinnati Art Club's teaching staff

Kevin McCarty has joined the teaching staff at the Cincinnati Art Club in 2025, one of the oldest art organizations in Cincinnati, and the second oldest continuously operating organization of its kind west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Since the club's founding, in 1890, its purpose remains "to advance the

knowledge and love of art through education."

McCarty has painted for more than 40 years and has exhibited across the country from Cincinnati to Tampa, Florida, Atlanta and New York. He studied at the Atlanta School of Art in his early years and expanded on his work in New York City. He has obtained first-hand knowledge from traveling the U.S. and Europe and has extended his contemporary work into abstract expressionism.

Kevin has organized educational programs and taught over his career, most recently with the Community at the University of Cincinnati. He has been known in the region for leading students in learning from various masters in the visual fine arts in afternoon workshops on various styles and

genres, providing insights on the techniques of the artist while supporting the student's creativity and inspirations.

Kevin's first workshop at the club will be offered on Saturday, Jan. 25. He chose "Interpreting Chardin's Still Life, with Kevin McCarty," and the painting he will reference is titled "Still Life with Carafe Silver Goblet and Fruit." Jean Simeon Chardin is known as the premier French still-life artist.

For more information, pictures for reference and/or to register (registration is required), go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/interpreting-chardins-still-life-with-kevin-mccarty-tickets-1115851805789?aff=oddtcreator>

This workshop is open to all interested individuals.

— Gary Eith, Cincinnati Art Club



## CINCINNATI

### Studio Kroner presents solo exhibition featuring Steve Justice

Join Studio Kroner for the opening reception of Oddly Familiar, a solo exhibition by Steve Justice, featuring bold, eccentric paintings blending cultural storytelling and satire.

Experience his electrifying work opening Thursday, Feb. 13, and running through Saturday, March 15.

— Paul Kroner, Studio Kroner



## INDIAN HILL

### Local school sets the standard for sportsmanship

For the second consecutive year, Cincinnati Country Day School has been recognized by the Midwest Soccer Officials Association for creating a positive and welcoming environment for soccer officials.

The code of ethics for coaches in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Soccer Ru-

Continued on next page



## HOW TO SHARE NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY

Have something you'd like to see published on a future Hometown Enquirer page? Go to [cincinnati.com/share](https://cincinnati.com/share) or scan this QR code to share news from your neighborhood, school or community group.

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**GIVE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE SOME WINGS.**

If you're planning on flying in the U.S. or visiting a military base starting May 7th, 2025, you'll need a Kentucky REAL ID driver's license or an ID that is REAL ID compliant. Make a plan to get your Kentucky REAL ID today. Learn more at [REALIDKY.com](https://REALIDKY.com).

**REAL ID KY.COM**

**TEAM KENTUCKY**

# McKinley

Continued from Page 1A

“President McKinley made our country very rich through tariffs and through talent,” Trump said in his inaugural speech on Monday. “He was a natural businessman.”

## The ‘Napoleon of Protection’

Trump has vowed to impose tariffs on America’s competitors abroad. More than a century ago, McKinley pushed so enthusiastically for tariffs he was dubbed by the press at the time the “Napoleon of Protection.”

McKinley, as a Republican congressman prior to his presidency, fought so much to increase the taxes on imported goods that Congress named the McKinley Tariff Act of 1890 after him.

Tariffs are taxes paid on imported goods and are intended to help American manufacturers. In most cases, they are paid by the American importers and not the foreign corporations, according to the Tax Policy Center, a nonprofit thinktank in Washington, D.C. Tariffs can lead to higher prices if the cost is passed on to consumers.

## How the tariffs worked out in the 1890s

Tariffs were just as divisive in the 1890s as they are now.

While the McKinley Tariff Act at first appeared beneficial, the good times didn’t last long, wrote Richard L. McElroy in his 2009 book “Battlefield Presidents: Zachary Taylor and Benjamin Harrison and Their America.”

The tariffs angered America’s trade partners, he wrote.

“There was a sharp decline in trade while American businessmen reaped huge profits, often at the expense of the blood, sweat and misery of American workers,” McElroy wrote.

Newspaper coverage at the time blamed rising costs of clothing and other items on the the tariffs.

McKinley lost his seat in Congress that same year. People blamed the unpopularity of tariffs for Republican President Benjamin Harrison’s (also an Ohioan) defeat in 1892.

Democrats lowered the tariffs in 1894.



**William McKinley of Canton was the 25th president of the United States who served from 1897 until his assassination in 1901.**

NATIONAL ARCHIVE, PROVIDED TO GETTY IMAGES

## McKinley rebounded, took softer stance

McKinley’s career quickly rebounded, winning election in 1892 as Ohio governor and then as U.S. President in 1896.

When he became president, one of McKinley’s first acts was to sign into law another tariff on consumer goods. By this time, however, McKinley had softened his stance on tariffs, according to the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a Washington, D.C.-based thinktank.

McKinley later favored trade agreements and more friendly relations with foreign countries, according to the institute, saying, “Commercial wars are unprofitable. A policy of good will and friendly trade relations will prevent reprisals.”

Through wars and purchases, McKinley also expanded the territory of the United States, which acquired the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines during his administration. This echoes Trump’s calls to expand the United States territory with his proposed acquisition of Greenland and vows to take back the Panama Canal.

McKinley was reelected in 1900, but then assassinated by an anarchist at the 1901 Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. He is buried in Canton.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Doctors Brace For Rush To Get New \$1 Pill That Does What Costly Adult Diapers Cannot

Participants in clinical trial began to feel noticeable results in just 14 days without side effects; public now facing 48-hour cut off.

Doctors around the country are bracing for the rush of people expecting to get one of the newest breakthroughs in medical science called BladderMax.

“This is a real game changer!” says Dr. Jennifer Sage. Some say, the newly released pill called BladderMax is going to threaten the adult diaper industry.

But just think about the millions of lives that will be saved from the embarrassment that comes from bladder control problems!

News of this remarkable pill called BladderMax is creating a virtual flood of letters to the research company that developed it. One doctor says: This is the “holy grail for people with bladder problems!”

“Experts predict, the data is so compelling... “Adult diapers may be unnecessary. Padded underwear could be obsolete within 5-years.”

## So Exactly Why Is Bladdermax Wowing The Scientific Community?

Even though this pill is extremely effective, it contains no drugs whatsoever.

BladderMax’s active ingredient comes from a natural edible plant source. It’s safe, as well as easy to use.

BladderMax prevents bladder leakages so impressively, that it has caught the action of scientists and bladder health experts all over the globe. It works like nothing else seen before. Simply take as directed. You can almost feel your bladder getting stronger. It’s just that effective!

“There just won’t be a need for them anymore,” he added.

## Kegels In A Bottle

The real power of BladderMax lies deep inside it’s active ingredient. It contains a compound called phytosterols that prevents bladder leakages similar to the way pelvic floor exercises (commonly known as “kegels”) do.

Jennifer Sage, a leading doctor says: “With BladderMax it doesn’t take much to relieve your frequency. You just don’t have to go as much anymore.” The compound absolutely kills uncontrollable urges in just weeks after taking it. You’ll swear your bladder has grown in size and strength.

The secret is its ability to inhibit 5-alpha-reductase (the enzyme that causes bladder overactivity). BladderMax’s active ingredient helps calm and increase urine flow so your bladder doesn’t have the constant need to empty. Then, it strengthens bladder tissue to help the bladder contract and expand for better confidence



As new pill gains popularity, scenes like this will become rare and unusual.

and control.

Think about it. A pill that calms that “gotta go feeling”, as it rebuilds and tones bladder muscle. Incredibly, the leakages just disappear.

## No More “Stress-Leaks”

If you leak when you laugh, cough, jump or do other physical activity, you’ll never worry about stress-leakages again. BladderMax stops urine from leaking during times of stress.

It’s pure magic. You’ll feel great, you’ll sleep great, and look great. And even be able to wear your favorite clothes without worrying about wetting through again!

## Clinical Studies Don’t Lie!

The clinical trial results on BladderMax’s active ingredient have sent shockwaves throughout the medical community. The findings show it works to produce results scientists never thought were possible.

For example, doctors tested the active ingredient on patients who suffered with overactive bladder symptoms for years. The results showed users saw a huge reduction in sudden urges to go and embarrassing leakages in just 4 weeks. Plus, they had less nighttime trips to the bathroom.

In this same study, scientists had bladder sufferers take note of daily use of adult diapers, padded underwear or panty liners. The scientists then gave half the patients the active ingredient in BladderMax, with another group taking a placebo.

The result? The group taking BladderMax’s active ingredient enjoyed a significant reduction in daily protection use, while the placebo group saw an increase.

That means, the active ingredient in BladderMax not only reduces trips to the bathroom, but also reduces the need for bulky adult diapers, which is amazing.

## 100% Safe

What’s more, BladderMax contains no fillers, no binders, and it’s produced in state-of-the-art FDA registered lab facilities. It’s 100% safe, natural and won’t interfere with your regular medications. So you can control your bladder with confidence.

## Ecstatic Users

“My bladder problems are 80% better than they were just weeks ago. It seems to be improving daily. I now use minimum protection. It really does work,” says Denise G., of Maineville, Ohio.

## Impressed Doctors

“I have patients who wake up 4 or more times in the night to pee. After just days of taking BladderMax they report only having to get up once or twice at most. That’s why I’m now recommending my patients take BladderMax,” said Dr. Jennifer Sage.

“BladderMax’s active ingredient reduces the need for adult diapers and padded underwear. It’s shown in clinical trials to improve sleep satisfaction and quality of life. Many top doctors, myself included, consider BladderMax the greatest bladder control breakthrough in the last decade,” she added.

## Local Readers Get Special Discount

Special arrangements have been made with the manufacturer to supply local readers with a special discount supply of BladderMax.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the order hotline will be open for 48 hours. All you have to do is call **TOLL-FREE 1-800-609-8412**. The company will do the rest.

**Important:** Due to BladderMax’s recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 48 hours deadline may be forced to pay full price for BladderMax.

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This statement has not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. All clinical studies on BladderMax’s active ingredient were independently conducted and were not sponsored by the makers of BladderMax.

# Man who killed bouncer at bar sentenced

**Quinlan Bentley**  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When 38-year-old Joseph Richter Jr. was gunned down while working as a bouncer in Newport, his partner, Kaetlin Mitchell, was just 10 feet away and tried to stop the bleeding with bar rags.

"I held him as he turned cold," Mitchell said during a sentencing hearing Tuesday for Robert McKay, who admitted late last year to killing Richter during a December 2022 struggle at the Brass Bull on Monmouth Street.

McKay, 32, of Florence, was ordered by Campbell County Circuit Judge Daniel Zalla to serve 13 years in prison, a sentence recommended by prosecutors as part of McKay's November guilty plea to first-degree manslaughter.

His plea to a lesser charge came after the start of jury selection in his murder trial, which was slated to begin in November.

Even after his guilty plea, McKay maintained that he was defending himself when he opened fire on Richter, who was unarmed. He did not make a statement about the shooting in court.

His attorney, Michael Goodwin, said the night of Richter's killing was the first time McKay, who lacks prior felonies and had a concealed carry permit since 2013, fired his gun outside the shooting range. Goodwin added that McKay has since accepted responsibility for what happened.

However, prosecutors disputed McKay's self-defense argument saying he tried to use facts uncovered after the fact to "manufacture" a narrative supporting such an argument at trial.



**Robert McKay, 32, appears in Campbell County Circuit Court for a sentencing hearing on Tuesday. He admitted in court to killing Joseph Richter Jr., 38, during a struggle at the Brass Bull in Newport.** PHOTOS BY QUINLAN BENTLEY/THE ENQUIRER



**The outside of the Brass Bull nightclub in Newport. McKay was ordered to serve 13 years in prison for shooting and killing a bouncer at the bar during a fight in December 2022.**

"What happens in reality and what happens in this courtroom are two very

different things," Campbell County Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Zimmerman said.

different things," Campbell County Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Zimmerman said.

Prosecutors said McKay was part of a group of roughly half a dozen people who had been kicked out of the bar for being disruptive and "bum-rushed" the door to get back inside.

Richter was working as a bouncer at an adjacent bar and was called to help the Brass Bull's staff fend off McKay's group, Zimmerman said at an earlier hearing. He added the gunshots rang out less than two minutes after Richter entered the bar.

Newport police were walking near the Brass Bull that night when they heard gunfire and saw McKay exit the building and tuck a handgun into his

waistband, according to a criminal citation.

When the officers stopped McKay and confiscated his Glock pistol, McKay said, "That's the gun I shot him with," the document says. Police recovered two guns tucked into McKay's waistband.

"You caused unspeakable pain, grief and suffering by the victims in this case," Zalla told McKay before handing down the sentence.

## 'The devil came knocking'

Half a dozen of Richter's family members read statements during Tuesday's emotional court hearing, including his mom, Lori Richter, who said she rushed to the Brass Bull the night her son was killed but was stopped by police when she tried to cross the crime scene tape.

Richter's loved ones told the court that they've mourned his absence every day since his death more than two years ago and the sentence McKay received is little consolation. He's remembered as a caring father loved by everyone who knew him.

"When you put those holes in Joey's body, you put deeper holes in me and everyone who loves him, holes that will never heal, holes that I'm still trying to climb out of," Mitchell said.

Lori Richter said her family was thriving in life - cherishing holidays, birthdays and cookouts - until the fateful day her son was killed.

"Then as life would have it, something happened: the devil came knocking. The devil being Robert McKay," she said. "A total unknown who would change our lives forever."

## LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Scratch-off lottery ticket sold in Cincinnati area wins millions

A lottery player in Cincinnati is having a lucky start to the new year.

An unnamed lottery player in Cincinnati recently won \$10 million playing the scratch-off game Extreme Millions. The winning ticket was sold at Dent Shell, at 6008 Harrison Ave. in Green Township,

per a press release from the Ohio Lottery.

The winner chose the cash option of \$5 million and will take home approximately \$3.6 million after mandatory state and federal taxes.

Extreme Millions is a \$30 scratch-off game with a top prize of \$400,000 a year for 25 years, the release adds. There is one top prize remaining in the game, as of Tuesday.

- Haadiza Ogwude

### Coroner's office: Man dies days after shooting in Westwood

A man has died several days after being critically wounded in a shooting in Westwood, according to the Hamilton County Coroner's Office.

Antonio Melvin Richard, 21, of South Fairmount, died Sunday at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, the coroner's office said. His death was ruled an "apparent homicide."

Police responded to the shooting scene at McHenry and Cavanaugh avenues around 7:30 p.m. Thursday, according to Enquirer media partner Fox19. They found Richard with gunshot wounds to his upper body.

Officials have yet to announce any arrests in connection with the shooting. Anyone with information about the incident can call Crime Stoppers at 513-352-3040.

- Quinlan Bentley and Fox19



IT'S FUN.  
IT'S INFORMATIVE.  
IT'S A WHO'S WHO OF GUESTS.

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**David Jackman**  
Chef, Wildweed



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features PuttView's Putting Green, a turf putting green that acts as a visual and interactive training aid. It comes with customizable drills, allowing golfers to augment any pre-existing putting green.

In addition to the simulators, Off Par has a full-service, 20-seat bar with 12 taps and a curated selection of bourbons and ryes, alongside other options like craft cocktails and non-alcoholic drinks.

Off Par partnered with the Buffalo Wings and Rings location inside Crestview Hills Town Center to provide food. The menu features chicken wings, fries, onion rings, burgers and other shareable appetizers.

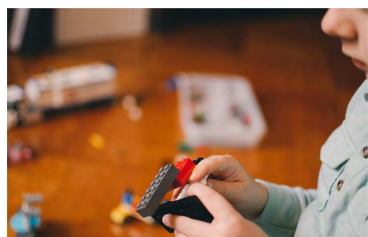
The Town Center is owned and managed by Cincinnati-based Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate. Off Par's over 8,000 square foot space was previously occupied by an Altar'd State clothing store. Loftis said he chose the location because it is close to several golf courses.

"It just came down to basic geography for us," Loftis said. "We had our first store in Dayton. We knew we wanted to be in the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky market for our second store. We looked at the number of golf courses within a certain geographical radius, so that was a big thing when we were evaluating potential sites."

Off Par opened on Black Friday of 2024. So far, business is booming, Loftis said. Off Par's operating hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. On Friday and Saturday, it's open from 9 to 11 p.m. On Sunday, it's open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"It's picked up much faster than our original location did," he said. "We're also open in prime season right now, so that plays a big part in it. The demand for our services is very high right now."

### Free playgroups for kids aged 3-5 launch in Covington



A child playing with toys. Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

Kiddos age 3 to 5 will soon be able to enjoy free playgroups at the Kenton County Library.

The Covington Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with EC Learn, a Northern Kentucky educational nonprofit, will begin offering the groups at the Covington branch later this month.

"By investing in early education and fostering kindergarten readiness, we empower our children to break the cycle of low literacy and build a foundation of hope and opportunity for generations to come," said Covington Recreational Program Coordinator Alicia Chappell.

Activities will aim to build children's liter-

acy and prime them for kindergarten. Participating families will receive a free book and toy each week. Parents and caregivers will also gain access to the Sparkler app, which provides tips and play activity ideas for parents and caregivers at home.

The playgroup curriculum was developed by the Louisville-based National Center for Families Learning. The activities aim to increase socialization and engage the kids' minds.

"The curriculum is designed to support families as they learn to engage with their young children, ages birth to 5 years," said NCFE preschool training specialist Dianna Carlson in a city news release. "Through intentional play experiences and resources, caregivers explore ways to support their children's development and successful transition to kindergarten."

Playgroups will take place on Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and running through March 15 at the Covington branch of the Kenton County Public Library on Scott Boulevard.

### Opal joins sibling Covington eateries, cites costs in closing



Opal rooftop. Provided | Opal on Facebook

Opal Rooftop, a casual fine dining restaurant on the top floor of Covington's seven-story Republic Bank building, permanently closed Jan.18.

Owners Bill and Morgan Whitlow announced the news in a post to Opal's Facebook account. In the post, the Whitlows said the restaurant faced many challenges, including rising costs, the current climate of the restaurant industry and sustaining the rooftop space.

"Despite Opal's many strengths, the obsta-

cles we've faced over the past three years in building and sustaining this space have become insurmountable," read the post. "We have explored every possible solution to overcome these issues, but the cost to continue this fight has grown too high given the current climate of the industry and our commitment to addressing these challenges in the most ethical way possible."

Opal was well-known for its rooftop dining experience where customers dined on an open-air patio with unimpeded views of downtown Covington and Cincinnati. It opened in late September 2023 after the rooftop space underwent extensive renovations.

Opal will be the third restaurant owned by the Whitlows to close in the past two months. Rich's Proper and Hangry Omar's Slider Shack – both in central Covington – closed permanently in December.

The Whitlows thanked Opal's staff, customers and the community for their support. "We are profoundly grateful for all you've done and remain dedicated to supporting you through this," they wrote. 

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adding her to the team, animals at the facility will receive timely medical attention, the announcement said, which will improve their health and adoptability.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Goforth to our team," Kenton County Animal Services Director Kelsey Maccombs said in the release. "Having an in-house veterinarian allows us to provide more comprehensive and immediate care to the animals, reduce wait times for medical evaluations and improve our community programming. This is a game-changer."

Goforth started Jan. 7. An Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine graduate, Goforth previously served for more than 30 years as medical director for SPCA Cincinnati. She held similar roles with Pets in Need of Greater Cincinnati and Animal Friends Humane Society in Butler County.

- Goforth's new responsibilities will include:
- Performing on-site spay and neuter surgeries.
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By performing spay and neuter surgeries on site, Goforth's hiring will boost the capacity and efficiency of the county's community cat program. Launched in 2016, this program adopts the industry's best practice of trap-neuter-return, also known as TNR. This means community cats are taken in, ear-tipped, sterilized and vaccinated before being returned to their outdoor environment.

Kenton County Animal Services is at 1020 Mary Laidley Road in Covington.

### Bourbon industry braces for impact of renewed EU tariffs



A selection of the bourbon selection at Smoke Justis, one of the stops on the B-Line. Provided | B-Line on Facebook

Kentucky's bourbon industry finds itself staring down the barrel of potential new, EU-imposed tariffs come March, thanks to a trade war brewing between the United States and the European Union.

The threat stems from actions taken by the first Trump Administration in 2018, when the U.S. first slapped 25% and 10% tariffs on European steel and aluminum imports, respectively. European Union officials then imposed a 25% retaliatory tariff on American whiskey exports, which it suspended in 2022.

"We saw tens – if not hundreds – of millions of millions of dollars of impact on exports that the bourbon industry is just recovering from," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said during a Jan. 16 news conference. "A state, again, that voted for Trump by 30 points will get hit incredibly hard."

Following the suspension of tariffs, U.S. whiskey exports increased 32% to the European Union compared to 2021, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States.

"The impact of the 2018 tariffs was pretty significant," said Eric Gregory, president of the Kentucky Distillers Association. "We lost hundreds of millions of dollars in exports every year. When you look at the lost revenue [between 2018 and 2021] that we would have gotten, it's about \$580 to \$600 million – and again, that's at 25%."

The suspended EU tariffs are set to take effect again March 31, but at 50%, if no agreement is reached between the European

Union and the United States on imported steel and aluminum.

"We're trying to sound the alarms as much as possible that these are good-paying American jobs that are in jeopardy," Gregory said. "We have been caught up in trade wars that have nothing to do with whiskey."

"If the Trump Administration engages in the blanket tariffs that we are at least reading about, we are likely to get another bourbon tariff," Beshear said. "That will be incredibly detrimental to our Kentucky economy. It will impact Kentucky in a way that it will impact no other state."

Distillers in the commonwealth export more than 95% of the world's bourbon products. According to Gregory, between 2008 and 2018, the bourbon industry's exports grew 150%.

"The EU has traditionally been our largest export market, with Canada and Mexico a pretty close second," Gregory said. "We

were going great guns toward the EU from the years 2009 through 2017 before the tariffs took place."

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Kentucky's signature industry is now aging a record 14.3 million barrels of bourbon, according to the Kentucky Distillers Association.

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