

OBITUARIES

Melvin Coleman Antle

Melvin Coleman Antle, 84, of Columbia, KY passed away Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at his residence. He was born on June 27, 1941, in Russell Springs, KY to the late Marcus and Nannie Simpson Antle.

Mr. Antle was a member of the Sano Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon and song leader. He also was a member of The Gideons and enjoyed fishing, trading cars and spending time with his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Curry Antle of Columbia, KY; his brothers-in-law and sister-in-law Donald Curry (Judith) of Taylorsville, IN, Kathleen Curry of Columbia, KY, Jim Curry (Sherry) of Elizabethtown, KY, and Dale Curry (Deloris) of Greensburg, KY; an honorary grandson James Miller of Columbia and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Michael Antle and three siblings: Dorothy Williams, Marcella Lawless and Marvin



Antle.

Funeral service was held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home with burial in the Bearwallow Cemetery.

Bro. Dallas Luttrell and Bro. Jordan Burton officiated.

Pallbearers were: Harold Lawless, Irvin Jackson, Dale Burton, Michael Gold, John Miller, and James Miller.

Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Bobby Dean Kelsay

Bobby Dean Kelsay, 76, of Campbellsville, KY passed away Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Taylor County Regional Hospital.



He was born on April 13, 1949, in Gadberry, KY to the late Paul and Alene Kimbler Kelsay.

Mr. Kelsay was of the Christian faith and a veteran of the U. S. Army serving during the Vietnam War. He enjoyed being outdoors, mowing, tinkering in his garage, riding horses, playing softball and spending time with his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Kaylene Spires Kelsay of Campbellsville, KY; two children: Mark Kelsay of Campbellsville, KY and Melissa Whitley (Mark) of Smiths Grove, KY; two grandchildren: Caitlyn Kelsay and Briar Whitley; a great granddaughter, Adaline Kelsay; three sisters: Pauline Robinson of Campbellsville, KY, Mary Bush (Danny) of Onieda, TN and Wanda Hatcher (Danny) of Columbia, KY; brothers and sisters-in-law: Tommy Spires (Marsha), Jeralyn Spires (Pam), Kevin Spires (Rita), Anthony Spires (Vickie), Treva Helm, Deretha Powell and Renee Reeves



(Dennis) and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Wesley Aaron Kelsay; a brother, Jerry Kelsay, and three brothers-in-law Charlie Robinson, Danny Helm, and Larry Powell.

Funeral service was held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home with burial in the Freedom Cemetery. Military honors was provided by VFW post 6097.

His son-in-law, Mark Whitley officiated.

Pallbearers were: Briar Whitley, Caitlyn Kelsay, Jamie Hatcher, Josh Hatcher, Jeralyn Spires, Keven Spires, Anthony Spires, Dennis Reeves and Alex Phelps.

Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Chandra Dalton

Chandra Dalton, age 70, of Windsor, KY passed away Saturday, December 13 2025 at Fair Oaks Nursing Home.

She was born on Saturday, May 21 1955, in Somerset, Kentucky.

She was the daughter of Goldie Childress Adkins and Earsel Adkins, who preceded her in death.

Survivors include: her husband, Michael Dalton of Windsor, KY.

She was a former employee of Russell Sportswear and Fruit of the Loom and member of Bethany Church of Christ. She married Michael Dalton on March 1, 1975.

Pallbearers were: Cody

Wilson, Brandon Davenport, Matthew Dalton, John Dalton, Kyle Dalton and Max Wilbeck.

Funeral service was held on Monday, December 15, 2025 at Wilson Funeral Home Chapel, 391 East Steve Wariner Drive, Russell Springs, KY.

Interment in Freedom Cemetery, Columbia, KY.

Bro. Gerald Burton and Bro. Matthew Dalton officiated.

Expressions of sympathy are requested to be made to American Diabetes Association.

Wilson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Roger Dale Lovitt

Roger Dale Lovitt, Sr. 78, of Columbia, KY passed away Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at the Jean Waddle Care Center at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset, KY.



He was born in Independence, KY on July 25, 1947, to the late Edgar Bryce and Audry Reed Lovitt.

Mr. Lovitt was a veteran of the United States Navy and a brick mason. He enjoyed listening to country music, fishing and spending time with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Winnie Carol Lovitt; two sons:

Edgar Clay Lovitt (Louvinda) and Roger D. Lovitt, Jr.; six grandchildren: Cody Lovitt (Misty), Hope Lovitt, Shelby Lovitt (Emory Chandler), Alicia Lovitt (Seth Nowling), Lindsey Harris (Cameron) and Cameron Pruitt (Bailey); nine great grandchildren and a sister, Sharon Hatcher.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home.

Burial with military honors provided by United States Navy was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Lebanon National Cemetery in Lebanon, KY.

Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Randall Lee Estes

Randall Lee Estes, formerly of Columbia, passed away Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Fair Oaks Health and Rehabilitation, in Jamestown. He was 84 years of age.



Born October 9, 1941, at his grandparents' home in Cumberland County, he was a son of the late Stanley and Gladys Smith Estes. Randall served proudly in the United States Army as a Medical Specialist from 1964 to 1970.

He later worked as a CNA at the old Columbia Hospital. Randall was also the "grill man" at Richard Wethington's pool room for more than 20 years. He then worked for Four Seasons Apartments, doing maintenance work, again for more than 20 years.

Survivors include his wife, Irene Dick Estes, of Jamestown; Sherry Broyles, of Bowling Green; two sisters,

Betty (and Raymond) Grey, of Campbellsville, and Cathy Withers, of Windsor; two nieces, Jenni (and Andrew) Godbey and Kim (and Leo) Johnson, both of Windsor; three great nieces, Gracie Johnson, Morgan Waddle, and Abigail Godbey; three great nephews, Landon Waddle, Jacob Waddle, and Luke Johnson; and a special friend, Keith Pierce, of Jamestown.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Margaret Estes, a stepson, Steve Luttrell, and brother-in-law, Roger Withers.

Cremation rites were honored, according to Randall's wishes.

A Memorial service and inurnment will be held later at Wilkerson Cemetery, with date and time announced by the funeral home.

Arrangements for Mr. Randall Lee Estes are entrusted to Bernard Funeral Home. An online guestbook is available at www.bernardfuneralhome.com.

Thelma Lee Toy

Thelma Lee Toy, 71 of Columbia, Ky passed away Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at her residence with her family by her side. She was born in Knoxville, TN on January 3, 1954, to the late Tony McGhee and Edna McGinnis McGhee Wolfe. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles Wayman.

Mrs. Toy was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends especially her grandson.

Survivors include one daughter, Brandy Farrell of Columbia, KY; a grandson Sean Farrell of Columbia, KY; seven siblings: Brenda Gayle Zinn (Daryl), Gary McGhee

(Linda), Mary Davis (David), Lola Phillips (Thomas), Jonnie Fuselier, Frank Wolfe, and Raymond O'Dell and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by three sisters: Patsy Bean (Shirley), Rhonda Kinser (Al) and Barbara McGee (Bill) and a brother-in-law, Bennett Fuselier.

The family is honoring Mrs. Toy's wishes of cremation and a celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements.

EDA Reviews Finances, Infrastructure Spending; Discusses Next KPDI Phase and Spec Building

By Mig Feuser

The Economic Development Authority received an extensive financial and project update during its meeting yesterday, with Chairman Larry Walker outlining current account balances, reimbursements, infrastructure investments, and upcoming initiatives tied to the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI).

Walker reported the EDA began the period with approximately \$35,000 and reimbursed itself for advertising and legal expenses through KPDI-eligible accounts so those costs could be submitted for state reimbursement. TVA funds totaling \$153,846 were received and remain in the account pending future allocation, including a possible set-aside for KPDI 2025.

After expenses for shared costs with the Adair County Chamber of Commerce (\$3,366) and professional services from HVS (\$3,000 covering multiple months), the authority closed the primary account with a balance of approximately \$182,000. The only outstanding expense is a monthly Squarespace charge.

The KPDI-2 account reflected loan proceeds of \$205,000 from the City of Columbia, along with a \$146,000 KPDI reimbursement and earned interest. Outstanding

invoices to Gaddy Shamrock and MSE were paid in full, including one earlier invoice that had been delayed due to cash-flow timing. The EDA also repaid \$145,000 of the loan, leaving a balance of \$60,000 as of Nov. 30, with accrued interest of \$389 as of Dec. 16. That remaining balance is expected to be paid once the next reimbursement is received.

The next KPDI reimbursement is anticipated to total approximately \$140,000, with roughly \$105,000 earmarked for loan repayment and the remainder flowing into the EDA's regular account. Combined with existing balances, Walker noted the authority has about \$70,000 remaining from previous pipeline funding, all of which has been invested in infrastructure improvements at the industrial park.

Walker also announced the EDA has engaged Montgomery Company to conduct its annual audit, which is scheduled to begin in January. Expense documentation has already been provided. For the most recent fiscal year, the EDA spent \$1,193,321.30 on infrastructure projects, including roads, sewer, and water lines. Shared operating expenses with the chamber totaled \$13,760.

Regarding KPDI reimbursements, state officials have acknowledged receipt of submitted

paperwork and have not requested additional information. Walker said the state is currently handling a high volume of reimbursement requests and may respond later this month, potentially in time for December action by fiscal court.

The authority has also advertised bids for crop leasing at the industrial park. Notices appeared in the newspaper last week and again this week. Bids are due to the Adair County Judge Executive's office by 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, and will be opened at the EDA's January meeting. The lease term has been set at two years, with annual payments due Feb. 1.

Walker discussed plans to formally offer certain park streets to the City of Columbia for dedication and maintenance. The streets were built to industrial standards, and city ownership would shift long-term maintenance responsibility away from the EDA. Members expressed general agreement with moving forward on the request.

The board also reviewed KPDI reimbursement strategies, noting that additional eligible advertising and consulting expenses were identified and submitted to avoid leaving grant funds unused. Officials said the EDA left only \$185 unclaimed out of nearly \$398,000 available in the most recent round.


Looking ahead, members

discussed preparation for KPDI 2025-26, which would reduce the local match requirement to 15 percent. The authority is planning for a speculative industrial building estimated at \$2 million, with a local cost of approximately \$300,000 and up to 85 percent reimbursement. TVA funds already received would help cover part of the upfront cost, though short-term borrowing may again be necessary until reimbursements are issued.

The proposed spec building would be approximately 40,000 square feet and designed for future expansion. Members emphasized that the availability of existing buildings is a frequent requirement in site-selection requests and remains a key strategy for attracting industry.

Discussion also included the possibility of seeking bids for engineering services on future projects, as well as continued outreach to site selectors and brokers. The authority noted its industrial park remains among the top sites promoted statewide by the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

Walker closed the public part of the meeting by thanking board members and staff for their work, citing improved accountability, timely audits, and significant progress in making the industrial park more market-ready.



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