

Esters Farm Groundbreaking



▲ Photo | Angela Briggs

Gabe and Susan Esters say their dream is becoming a reality as they have officially broken ground on Esters Farm Cafe. Gabe said that the hard work is paying off and “it’s like coming home.” The cafe is located at the corner of Park City-Glasgow Road and Old Dixie Highway in Park City and is expected to open this fall. To follow along with the construction process and to stay up to date on pop-up events, follow Esters Farm Catering on Facebook and Instagram or online at www.estersfarm.com.

Riley secures \$424,575 for Barren County

Representative Steve Riley of Glasgow announced this week that Barren County will receive \$424,575 in infrastructure funding under legislation approved by the Kentucky House and Senate.

Projects include the following:

- \$285,700 to the Barren County Fiscal Court for the resurfacing of Beechtree Lane
- \$138,875 to the Barren County Fiscal Court for the resurfacing of Matthews Mill Road

“Reliable infrastructure is the backbone of a strong community,” Riley said. “Investing in road maintenance for Barren County ensures safer travel, supports local business, and improves everyday life for residents.”

HJR 46 outlines which local maintenance projects receive state funding in the next fiscal year. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s (KYTC), Department of Rural and Municipal Roads collected applications for city and county road resurfacing and other safety projects from local officials across the Commonwealth. KYTC graded the requests and submitted their findings to the Legislative Research Commission and Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue to review. Projects are ranked one to ten based on the severity, with ten being the most hazardous. HJR 46 only funds the road projects ranking ten on the scale. Under the measure, 145 projects are funded, totaling over \$23.8 million.

Dr. Rand Paul Reintroduces Legislation to Reign In Reckless Science

U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, re-introduced the bipartisan Risky Research Review Act, a first-of-its-kind proposal to establish a Life Sciences Research Security Board within the Executive Branch. This independent board will oversee the funding of gain-of-function research and other high-risk life sciences research that potentially poses a threat to public health, safety, or national security.

“We must demand accountability for the grave oversights that were revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of our nation and the trust in its institutions depend on it. My bill not only strengthens transparency but also ensures that public health decisions are made in the best interest of the American people, free from financial motives and prioritizing national security,” said Dr. Paul.

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, is an original cosponsor of the legislation in the Senate.

“Life science research can yield breakthroughs that help protect the health of Americans, but it must be done with proper safeguards in place,” said Sen. Peters. “By creating an independent oversight agency, this bill will help maintain control of high-risk research, to ensure

it’s effective, innovative, and safe.”

U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith (R-VA-09), Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Environment, introduced the bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Gain-of-function research is reported to be a potential target of a future President Trump Executive Order. As someone who has extensively investigated COVID-19 origins and biosafety concerns in foreign labs, it is clear to me that greater oversight measures are needed to review gain-of-function research of concern and risky experiments that involve virus transmission in humans. The National Institutes of Health has proven they are not capable of properly reviewing risky research applications, as in the case of EcoHealth Alliance. I believe the Risky Research Review Act establishes crucial oversight measures to alleviate the legitimate and significant concerns of the American people, thus reestablishing trust in our public health agencies,” said Rep. Griffith.

The Life Sciences Research Security Board will serve as an independent body responsible for thoroughly evaluating gain-of-function research and other potentially harmful studies involving high-consequence pathogens. Currently, the funding and study of life sciences research lack sufficient govern-

ment oversight, allowing American taxpayer dollars to be spent without proper safeguards. Dr. Paul’s legislation establishes a much-needed stringent review process for the board to assess high-risk research and decide whether tax dollars should support specific research proposals, ensuring accountability and strengthening transparency.

The Risky Research Review Act will:

1. Establish an Independent Oversight Board: Form a Life Sciences Research Security Board dedicated to protecting public health, safety, and national security by evaluating and issuing binding determinations on high-risk life sciences research proposals seeking federal funding.
2. Define High-Risk Research: Specify high-risk life sciences research as studies with potential dangerous uses, or dual-use research of concern involving a high-consequence pathogen, or gain-of-function research.
3. Ensure Board Independence: Position the board as an independent agency within the Executive Branch, consisting of one executive director, five non-governmental scientists, two national security experts, and one non-governmental biosafety expert, each serving up to two four-year terms.
4. Restrict Funding With-

out Approval: Prohibit federal agencies from awarding funding for high-risk life sciences research without board approval.

5. Mandate Majority Vote: Require a majority vote of board members to approve high-risk life sciences research.
6. Empower the Board: Authorize the board to compel agencies to turn over necessary information and records, including classified information.
7. Demand Full Disclosure: Require life sciences research grant applicants to declare if their research falls under high-risk life sciences categories or involves select agents or toxins.
8. Automatic Referral: Mandate that all positive attestations are automatically referred to the board.
9. Continuous Subcontract Disclosure: Require grant recipients to continuously disclose subcontracts or subawards to agencies, with agencies required to submit these disclosures to the board.
10. Annual Reporting: The board will submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees and publish it online, summarizing determinations, findings, and information about entities and sub-awardees involved in high-risk life sciences research.

Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library

Thursday, April 10
Cookbook Club
6:00 PM

Join us for a delicious culinary adventure at the library! Check out a cookbook from the library, pick a recipe, and prepare a dish featuring this month’s theme: gluten-free. This does not have to mean a special cookbook, although it could be (hint: cookbooks for gluten-free, Keto, or gut health are good sources). Recipes that avoid any version of wheat, rye, and barley can work, like meats, vegetables, eggs, and more. Read labels carefully. Bring your creation to the library to share with fellow food enthusiasts. Sign up at the library or online to participate. Don’t forget to bring a card with the name of your recipe and the cookbook title it came from.

Friday, April 11
Raising Readers
10:00 AM

Raising Readers is a story time program designed for preschool-age children. Every week a new letter of the alphabet will be presented, accompanied by stories, movement, and an activity. Please register online.

Saturday, April 12
Drop Everything and Read Day!
1:00-4:00 PM

Join the Bookmobile at The Grove for a fun day of celebrating beloved author Beverly Cleary’s birthday! We will appreciate the spring weather with outdoor reading, crafts, story time, snacks, and fun! Don’t have a book? Don’t worry, you can check one out from the bookmobile onsite! Don’t have a library card? You can sign up for one at the bookmobile.

Monday, April 14
A Wild Night: UNO Game Night
5:00 PM

Think you have what it takes to be the ultimate UNO champion? Join us for a night of friendly competition as we battle it out in this fast-paced classic card game. Whether you’re a strategic mastermind or just love a good reverse card moment, this tournament is all about fun, laughter, and a little bit of rivalry! Play your way through the rounds and see if you can outmatch your friends to claim the title of UNO Champion. No experience needed—just bring your best game face! For tweens and teens.

Tuesday, April 15
Toddler Tuesday
10:00 AM

Toddler Tuesday is a story time program designed for 6 months to 2 years old. Every week features a new theme accompanied by stories, music, movement, and play. Please register online.

Wednesday, April 16
Gogh with the Flow
4:30 PM

“Gogh with the Flow” is an ongoing art club designed for children ages 5 to 10. We know how critical bees are to our ecosystem and how important it is to help bees lead healthy, happy lives. To celebrate Earth Day, this month we’ll be creating bee baths. See our website for details. Registration is required to attend.



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