

Tornado

From Front

reaching peak wind speeds of 95 miles per hour.

The tornado touched down at approximately 3:07 a.m. EDT near the intersection of U.S. Highway 27 South and KY Highway 698, an area located just south of Lincoln County High School. The NWS storm survey team observed initial damage in this area that included the complete collapse of a wooden barn structure and the snapping of multiple softwood trees. The tornado moved southeast from its point of origin, continuing to uproot and damage trees as it approached Stinky Creek Road.

Near Stinky Creek Road, the tornado showed signs of intensification. Surveyors noted several trees that had been uprooted entirely, with debris scattered across adjacent fields. In this area, minor debris was also observed on

roadways, and at least one small shed sustained moderate damage due to flying debris. The tornado’s increasing strength was marked by a widening damage path and more significant treefall density.

As the tornado crossed into Garrard County, it struck the Preachersville community, where it reached peak intensity. Here, the NWS survey documented widespread structural damage. Multiple outbuildings were either destroyed or displaced, including detached garages, small barns, and utility sheds. In some cases, the structures were lifted from their foundations and deposited several yards away. Agricultural fencing in the area was significantly affected, with wooden fence posts uprooted and twisted, and lengths of wire and metal fencing wrapped around utility poles and trees. Portions of Highway 39 were partially blocked by debris.

One single-family residence in Preachersville sustained

minor roof damage, with shingles torn away and sections of guttering pulled loose. A porch awning was also reported damaged. Several barns experienced roof panel loss, with metal sheeting carried considerable distances from the original structures. In a few instances, large hay bales were rolled or displaced by the wind. Tree damage remained extensive, with hardwood and softwood trees snapped or uprooted along the tornado’s path.

The tornado weakened as it approached the rural area near the intersection of Fall Lick Road and Drakes Creek Road. In this final stage, the storm continued to cause tree limb damage and produced minor structural damage to additional outbuildings before lifting at approximately 3:15 a.m. EDT.

No injuries or fatalities were reported as a result of the tornado, though property damage is expected to result in significant cleanup and repair efforts

City Budget

From Front

city’s property tax income has already been received, though some fluctuations remain due to uncertain land values. The council acknowledged that budget projections remain subject to change pending final revenue figures expected at the end of the month.

A key point of discussion was employee compensation, particularly cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and departmental salary discrepancies. A 2.9% COLA increase is included in the preliminary budget, consistent with trends across the state. Additionally, the police department’s minimum hourly wage was raised from \$21.50 to \$24, with officials citing regional recruitment challenges. Comparisons were drawn with nearby counties, noting that competitive wages often exceed \$25 per hour, particularly in areas like Jessamine County.

Concerns were raised regarding the equity of uniform percentage-based raises across varying salary levels. Officials noted that the salary schedule, last updated in 2014, may be outdated and in need of a comprehensive review. A grant through the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC), expected in the fall, could potentially fund a full overhaul of the personnel handbook and wage structures, incorporating regional and historical compensation data.

Health insurance and benefits were also reviewed. The city currently pays for employee insurance coverage, with additional options for spouse and family coverage available at a subsidized rate. Only a small number of employees utilize the spouse coverage due to restrictions under federal health-care regulations, such as the Affordable Care Act. The city’s insurance costs have reportedly decreased by approximately \$180,000 compared to the previous year.

The workshop also addressed departmental salary disparities. Officials acknowledged that replacing long-standing department heads would likely require higher starting salaries than what is currently reflected in the existing wage scale. Plans to address this issue through the anticipated KLC-funded review were reiterated.

Grants and external funding were another significant topic. The fire department is expected to receive around \$100,000 in grant funding this year, with additional support through recruitment and retention grants. Remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, estimated at around \$371,000 over four years, continue to support various expenditures and offset negative budget line items.

Audit discrepancies from the previous fiscal year were explained as largely stemming from unamended grant funds not being reflected in the official budget documents. This led to reports showing overspending, including \$376,753 in the general fund and \$78,170 in the municipal road aid fund, in violation of KRS 91A.030. Officials expressed a preference

to amend the budget in real time to include grant money, which could prevent future audit issues.

In terms of general revenue, the city’s top income source—insurance premium tax—continues to grow, with officials projecting further increases due to rising premiums across home, auto, and other sectors. In 2023, the city received approximately \$760,000 from this revenue stream.

The Parks and Recreation Department was also highlighted, with officials noting a significant increase in revenue compared to projections. While \$35,000 was budgeted, the department is expected to bring in around \$43,000, with a notable jump from the previous year’s total of \$107,103.30. This increase is attributed to a combination of registration fees, donations, and potential grants.

Additionally, council members expressed interest in establishing a \$3,000 line item to support a mental health program for police officers. The proposal was positively received, with a suggestion to coordinate with Police Chief Brandon and mental health professional Mr. Jones to develop a program tailored to first responders.

Finally, officials discussed adjustments to the city’s water rates, noting a potential average increase of approximately \$3 per month for typical users consuming 3,000 gallons monthly. The rate adjustment reflects a planned 1.7% increase per city ordinance.

City Budget Details

The first draft of the municipal budget for the 2025–26 fiscal year, proposing a comprehensive \$9,158,131 spending plan. The draft outlines continued commitments to essential services, with significant allocations to law enforcement, water treatment and distribution, employee benefits, and infrastructure maintenance.

The proposed general fund expenditures total \$6,050,851, with public safety receiving the most substantial portion. The Lancaster Police Department’s operating budget is set to reach \$1.47 million, inclusive of \$700,000 for salaries, \$205,000 for pensions, and \$135,000 designated for new police vehicles. Additional investments include \$120,000 for police building and vehicle maintenance, \$50,000 for equipment purchases, and \$65,000 for payroll taxes and related employer obligations. A further \$50,000 is allocated to police training, with \$20,000 for uniforms and \$12,000 for utilities.

In support of emergency and fire response, the draft budget allocates \$45,000 for rescue equipment, \$50,000 for maintenance of emergency vehicles and equipment, and \$20,000 for training supplies and programs. There is also a provision of \$10,000 for a fire prevention education initiative and \$2,000 for the city’s annual Christmas parade, reflecting ongoing community outreach and engagement efforts.

Utility services, especially water operations, represent another core area of spending. The water budget for fiscal 2025–26 totals \$2,348,750. Of

this, \$1.35 million is directed to the water plant, with significant funding for chemicals (\$218,000), utilities (\$45,000), employee salaries and benefits (\$218,000 combined), and plant maintenance (\$75,000). An additional \$500,000 is designated for utility collections, meter management, and support services, including \$125,000 for meter replacements and upgrades. Other planned expenditures include \$60,000 for sludge management and \$55,000 for contracted services at the plant.

Administrative services and personnel costs are also prominent in the proposed budget. Across city departments, \$205,000 is set aside for general administration salaries, while training and professional development receive over \$80,000 collectively. Office and IT expenditures—including software, telecommunications, and supplies—are budgeted at approximately \$25,000. The city also proposes \$85,000 in insurance coverage for liability and operations.

Capital improvements and contingency planning appear in targeted lines. For instance, \$300,000 is allocated for unspecified future projects, while \$50,000 is reserved for new capital needs that may arise throughout the year. Another \$30,000 is designated for infrastructure contingency planning and miscellaneous public works.

In terms of revenue, the city expects to continue relying on a combination of property taxes, utility fees, state aid, grant funding, and occupational taxes. While specific revenue projections were not detailed in the workshop summary, these sources traditionally form the financial foundation of Lancaster’s operational and capital funding streams.

The preliminary budget figures reflect consistency with prior-year spending patterns, although several line items, particularly in police and utility categories, have grown in response to inflation, equipment aging, and rising demand for services. Comparisons with actual expenditures from the current fiscal year (2024–25) show that proposed figures generally exceed actuals by 5 to 15 percent in key departments, indicating both inflationary adjustments and strategic investments.

Notably absent from the draft are detailed appropriations for parks, recreation, and economic development, suggesting those areas may be addressed in subsequent budget phases. Additionally, no new debt service was highlighted, implying that major capital projects requiring bond issuance may be deferred or financed through grants and reserves.

The budget workshop concluded without a vote, as the draft will undergo further review, public input, and revisions. Final adoption is anticipated before the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2025. City officials have indicated they will hold a public hearing in May to solicit community feedback and adjust appropriations accordingly.

in the affected communities. Emergency crews from both Lincoln and Garrard Counties responded early Thursday morning, working to clear blocked roads and assess damage to residential and agricultural properties. Local utility companies also responded to restore power in areas where service had been disrupted by fallen trees or damaged infrastructure.

This tornado marks the first confirmed tornado in Lincoln

Disorderly

From Front

began with officers responding to a report of an overdose on Danville Street. Officers observed a male subject—later identified as Kelly—fleeing the scene on foot via camera. Law enforcement pursued Kelly across various city blocks and wooded areas before he was eventually apprehended near Garrard Automotive after a foot chase that included the deployment of a taser, which proved ineffective.

During the arrest, officers discovered a bag containing a clear crystal substance believed

Confrontation

From Front

public place (first and second offense), assault in the third degree involving a police or probation officer, and assault in the fourth degree with no visible injury.

The report indicates that Bandy initially left her residence on Hamilton Avenue and crossed the street to confront another individual located on Hamilton Avenue. The confrontation over cats, or dead cats, in her yard allegedly escalated into physical contact, although no visible injuries or lasting marks were observed on the

Vehicle Located

From Front

stance, firearm possession by a convicted felon, and endangering the welfare of a minor.

According to the uniform citation filed by Deputy Josh Gibson, the arrest occurred at approximately 7:57 p.m. on Swamper Road in Lancaster. The search warrant was executed in connection with an ongoing investigation into stolen property and narcotics. Upon arrival, law enforcement located a vehicle associated with the investigation and con-

ducted a search, during which a small bag containing crystal methamphetamine and several used hypodermic needles were reportedly discovered. Two children were found present in the home at the time of the search. Officers described the living conditions as “deplorable and unfit and unsanitary for kids to be living in,” citing concerns over the children’s welfare. In addition to the drug-related items, a firearm was located in the bedroom where Hawley resided. Due to a prior felony conviction, Hawley is legally prohibited from possess-

The NWS and local emergency management agencies are urging residents to review severe weather safety plans and ensure they have reliable means of receiving warnings at all hours, including NOAA weather radios and wireless emergency alerts. With the spring severe weather season continuing across Kentucky, officials emphasize the importance of preparedness and early warning systems in minimizing harm during future storms.

The charges against Kelly stemming from this incident include fleeing or evading police (2nd degree, on foot), criminal mischief (1st degree), trafficking in a controlled substance (1st degree, 2nd offense or more; more than 2 grams of methamphetamine), resisting arrest and disorderly conduct (1st degree). Additionally, Kelly was also served with a bench warrant for failure to appear in a previous court mat-

other individual. Responding officers noted that Bandy was under the influence of alcohol and described her as being unable to fully comprehend the consequences of her actions at the time.

Law enforcement personnel reported that Bandy appeared unwilling to comply with verbal commands and attempted to resolve the situation through what they described as vigilante behavior. Officers on scene made the decision to detain her using wrist restraints. Once at the Lancaster Police Department, Bandy allegedly began to complain that the restraints were too tight. Officer Steve Taylor, who

authoring the citation, stated that while Officer Noah Allen was adjusting the restraints, Bandy reportedly grabbed his thumb and twisted it and continued aggressive behavior against herself by banging her head against the walls and doors, ultimately damaging the holding cell camera system.

The citation further alleges that this disruptive behavior continued during Bandy’s transport, though no additional injuries were reported. The incident took place around 11:00 p.m., and Bandy was officially arrested at the same location shortly afterward.

ter. This warrant was signed by Judge Daughtery on March 24, 2025. Kelly was taken into custody on this warrant at the same Stanford Street address where the arrest for the other charges took place.

Kelly is scheduled to appear in Garrard County court, where he will face prosecution for all the charges filed. As of this report, no court dates have been released publicly.

The Lancaster Police Department has not released additional details regarding the status of the overdose victim referenced in the citation or whether further charges or investigations are pending.

ing firearms. The charges against Hawley included Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree, 1st Offense (Methamphetamine); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon; Abuse or Neglect of a Child (UJC); Endangering the Welfare of a Minor; and Receiving Stolen Property (valued between \$1,000 and \$10,000).

The citation notes that the case is not prepayable and requires a court appearance.

MASTER COMMISSIONER’S SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025 AT 10 A.M.

GARRARD COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER

54 STANFORD STREET

In order to comply with judgments and orders of the Garrard Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Garrard Circuit Court will sell the properties identified below in the Garrard County Justice Center, District Courtroom, 54 Stanford Street, Lancaster, Kentucky. The properties will be sold to raise funds to satisfy the amounts of judgments set forth below plus interest and other costs. The sale of said properties are subject to the following terms and conditions:

The winning bidder must pay a minimum of ten (10%) percent of the purchase price by check drawn on a recognizable bank (preferably local) at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price is due in 30 days. **If the purchaser elects to pay less than the full purchase price, then the purchaser will be required to post bond and furnish acceptable surety thereon.** Said bond shall be for the unpaid balance of the purchase price and bear interest at the rate set forth in the judgment from the date of sale until paid.

The purchaser is responsible for all taxes levied against said property for the current tax year and all subsequent years. The sale of the real estate is subject to all zoning and building regulations, restrictions, ordinances, easements, covenants, and rights-of-way, of record, or otherwise. All properties are sold “as is”, and possession shall pass to the purchaser upon delivery of deed. Risk of loss passes to the purchaser upon execution of bond of sale or payment of the purchase price whichever should occur first.

A right of redemption may exist in favor of any party.

Possession of the real property will be given to the purchaser upon confirmation of the report of sale by the Garrard Circuit Court, delivery of a Commissioner’s Deed to the purchaser and full payment of the purchase price plus interest as herein before described.

IF WINNING BIDDER IS NOT ABLE TO DELIVER DEPOSIT AND SIGN BOND WITH SURETY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SALE, PROPERTY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RE-SOLD.

PROPERTIES ARE IDENTIFIED HEREIN BY PARCEL/MAP ID AND ADDRESS ONLY. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS ARE FOUND IN THE COURT FILE. IF THE MAP/ID ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT IN ANY WAY FROM THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION, THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION CONTROLS.

Johnny O. Bolton, Master Commissioner
Garrard Circuit Court
(859) 792-8844

PROPERTIES TO BE SOLD:

SALE NO. 1: Case No: **24-CI-00201: KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION vs PAMELA L. ISHMAEL, ET AL.;** Judgment Date: **February 7, 2025;** Judgment Amount: **\$147,251.96;** Property Address/Description: **213 MAPLEWOOD DRIVE, LANCASTER KY;** Parcel ID: **L1-01-002**

SALE NO. 2: Case No: **24-CI-00310: KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION vs NICOLE HURST, ET AL.;** Judgment Date: **April 4, 2025;** Judgment Amount: **\$127,341.81;** Property Address/Description: **312 MAUPIN ROAD, LANCASTER KY;** Parcel ID: **50-029**

Ted Cox
Editor/Publisher



Published Weekly
Periodical Postage Paid At
Lancaster, KY 40444

Garrard
CENTRAL RECORD

Established 1889

USPS 098-160

P.O. Box 800 • 106 Richmond Street • Lancaster, KY 40444-0800

Phone: 859-792-2831 • Fax (859) 792-3448

e-mail: news@garrardcentralrecord.com

web address: garrardcentralrecord.com

Letter To Editor Policy
Letters should be no more than 500 words (exceptions at the discretion of the editor). Letter must be written on subjects of general interest to our readers and should deal with current issues. They must not personally attack individuals. Fair and polite criticism of public officials and public figures are allowed. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon Tuesday, the week of publication. All letters must be addressed to the editor and not directed to a third person. All letters must be signed with telephone number and home address for verification. No telephone number or address will be published. The Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any letter deemed libelous or otherwise unfit for publication.

1 YEAR
Subscription Rates
In Garrard County
\$33.65

Out of County in KY
\$45.85

Out of State
\$52.90

All Subscription Paid In Advance