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**SPORTS**

GENERALS' WILLIS SIGNS WITH GARDNER-WEBB, B1



**NEWS**

CHECK OUT COVERAGE OF THE CRYSTAL ROGERS CASE GOING BACK TO 2015 ON OUR SPECIAL SECTION ON KYSTANDARD.COM.

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# The Kentucky Standard

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 07, 2025

## Fiscal Court reverses decision on New Hope property

Community members voice concern on zoning change

BY KATELYN NORRIS  
KNORRIS@KYSTANDARD.COM

On Tuesday, Nelson County Fiscal Court approved a zoning change for a property in New Hope, overriding the decision made by the Joint City-County

Planning and Zoning Commission. In their regularly scheduled meeting earlier this week, Fiscal Court overturned a recommendation handed down by the Planning Commission for a piece of land near Walter Hall Road and Coon Hollow Road. During the public hearing, neighbors of the property spoke against the zoning change, stating a number of concerns. Thomas Hamilton, attorney representing the owner, spoke and presented evidence to the court in favor of approving

the change. The change asked for the property in New Hope to move from an A-1 Agriculture to an A-1 Ag Planned Unit Development or PUD. Hamilton explained the property owner is requesting the change to be able to divide a portion of the land into 13 one-acre tracts. It would be part of a larger 70-acre plot, which would be put into a conservation easement to protect the remaining land.

SEE **FISCAL/PAGE A6**

## Iron Horse Festival grows in year 34

New Haven event gains largest number of vendors

BY KATELYN NORRIS  
KNORRIS@KYSTANDARD.COM

The Rolling Fork Iron Horse Festival continues to boom year after year, and next weekend the southern Nelson County event will have its largest number of vendors yet. Since 1991, the Iron Horse Festival has been a beacon of community pride with the mission to showcase the Rolling Fork Valley, local businesses and educate about the past. Next Saturday, Sept. 13, the 34th annual Rolling Fork Iron Horse Festival will begin at 9 a.m. and feature

86 vendors and 15 food trucks. Last fall's annual New Haven event saw hundreds of people flood Center and Main Street as they shopped at vendor after vendor. Andy Hall, one the many event organizers, said each year Iron Horse serves as a homecoming for former residents. "That's the biggest we've ever had," Hall said. "Last year was big, but not this big. I think moving it into the back lot area and spreading it out has really helped. Most of the vendors last year did well. The ones we talked to seem to have done well and I guess most of them are coming back." Hall said each year they want to have something for everyone — from the event's free kids' zone to the silent

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KATELYN NORRIS/The Kentucky Standard

Heaven Hill Springs Distillery held a grand opening on Thursday as the brand celebrated bringing distilling back to Nelson County after 30 years.

## Heaven Hill Springs Distillery hosts grand opening

Distilling is back in Bardstown after three decades

BY KATELYN NORRIS  
KNORRIS@KYSTANDARD.COM

Heaven Hill is distilling in Bardstown again after 30 years. On Thursday, the new Springs Distillery had its grand opening celebrating its impact for the community, company and beyond. This April, the Heaven Hill Springs Distillery filled its first barrel in Nelson County after three decades. This week, the facility opened its doors to all on the eve of Kentucky Bourbon Festival —



KATELYN NORRIS/The Kentucky Standard

The new Heaven Hill Springs Distillery brought in industry professionals, media and community members for the facility's grand opening on Thursday, marking a new chapter for the company.

## Retired chief master sergeant led crews on Air Force One

BY AMY SMITH  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

A binder filled with countless letters of commendation, certificates of appreciation and endorsements for promotion are proof of Danny Lewis's service to his country. After 31 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, Lewis retired as chief master sergeant. Lewis' order of priorities is

simple: God. Country. Family. "The brotherhood in the United States military is unbelievable. We'd die for each other in a minute," Lewis said. "I enjoyed getting a mission done and seeing the younger ones learning and become Air Force people." Lewis' years of service included two tours to Vietnam

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Career: Retired chief master sergeant from the Air Force  
Family: Danny Lewis was married to the late Willnetta Lewis  
Volunteer work: Prince George County, Maryland, Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as chief  
Honors and awards: Too many to list, but include a Purple Heart, a Secret Service Certificate of Appreciation in 2002, USSOCOM Service Members of the Quarter, Honorary deputy Sheriff Hillsboro County, Florida, 1969 Achievement Award from the Air Force, and 1978 Dudley C. Sharp Award for Outstanding Achievement, Department of the Air Force in Logistics  
Favorite places he's visited: Thailand and Cambodia

Darren Wolff, who was appointed along with Zach Buckler to represent Steve Lawson in May's Crystal Rogers murder case trial, has filed a motion with Nelson Circuit Court to proceed with an appeal of Lawson's conviction and prison sentence. Lawson was convicted of conspiracy to murder and tampering with evidence in the 2015 disappearance of Rogers. He was sentenced to 17 years in jail for his

crime, and was recently moved from the overcrowded Nelson County Jail to the LaRue County Detention Center. Wolff and Buckler were appointed to represent Steve Lawson last year after he fired his original defense attorney, Ted Lavit. In Wolff's motion, he asks for the court to proceed "in forma pauperis" on appeal, since the condition of Lawson's indigent status has not changed, since he has been incarcerated for nearly two

SEE **LAWSON/PAGE A6**

### OBITUARIES

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