

CRASH,

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crash occurred, author-  
ities said.

Once the inci-  
dent was reported,  
the Jamestown  
Police Department,  
Jamestown Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Russell County Sheriff’s  
Office, and Russell  
County EMS rushed to

the scene.

A portion of U.S. 127  
was shut down while  
the Russell County  
Coroner’s Office and  
the Kentucky State  
Police conducted an  
investigation.

Brewster, an avid out-  
doorsman with a host

of friends, was a forklift  
operator at Goose  
Creek Candle Company  
in Liberty.

The family has asked  
for donations to assist  
with funeral expenses.

Inquiries can be  
made at H.E. Pruitt  
Chapel, in Jamestown.

ANIMAL,

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painted at the bazaar.

There will be live  
holiday music by TJ  
Oliver, and the Grinch  
will be in attendance,  
with cake walks (\$5  
entry fee) at 6:15 p.m.  
and 6:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m., the Animal  
of the Year will be  
announced, and Lake  
Cumberland Vendors  
Mall will begin the

auction of scrump-  
tious, homemade baked  
goods—available to you  
just in time to grace  
your holiday table.

The baked goods  
auction will be con-  
ducted online, so those  
in attendance at Java  
Springs can bid, or buy-  
ers can bid virtually.

Throughout the  
evening, attendees can

purchase 2026 Russell  
County Animal Welfare  
League calendars, fea-  
turing photos from the  
2025 Pet Photo Contest.

The top twelve  
winners in the photo  
contest, as well as those  
who pre-purchased  
calendars during the  
contest, can pick those  
up at the Black Cat  
Bazaar as well.

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RCH,

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Only 27 received the  
award-with Russell  
County Hospital being  
the only hospital in the  
state to earn one this  
year.

“That’s something  
to be very proud of for  
sure,” Joe Allen, Safety  
Representative with  
KEMI, said. “To win  
one year is quite an ac-  
complishment. To win  
two or three is some-  
thing to be proud of.  
But nine times? That’s  
outstanding. Very  
prestigious.”

Allen said the nu-  
merous awards illus-  
trates the strength of  
RCH.

“The award really  
symbolizes what can  
be accomplished when  
organizations work

together, along with  
their employees, to  
improve workplace  
safety,” he said. “This is  
a team effort.”

Destiny Award began  
“15 years ago...because  
we wanted to recognize  
those policy holders  
that have a strong  
commitment to safety,”  
Allen said.

Russell County  
Hospital has a “phe-  
nomenal” rating, the  
Safety Representative  
said.

Policyholders earn-  
ing the KEMI Destiny  
Award effectively  
demonstrate to KEMI  
their ability to manage  
a formal safety pro-  
gram, provide on-site  
training and regular  
safety meetings for

employees, and display  
an ongoing commit-  
ment to safety from all  
levels throughout their  
organizations.

“Destiny Award win-  
ners comprise an elite  
group of organizations  
demonstrating ongo-  
ing commitment to the  
health and well-being  
of Kentucky’s work-  
force by emphasizing  
safety every day,” Jon  
Stewart, President and  
CEO of KEMI, said.  
“We congratulate these  
safety-focused orga-  
nizations on receiving  
the Destiny Award  
multiple years, and we  
applaud the safety pro-  
grams of our first-time  
winners that resulted  
in a safe workforce  
and Destiny Award  
recognition.”

Community Trust Bank  
again named top SBA  
Community Bank Lender

For the 17th consecu-  
tive year, Community  
Trust Bank, Inc. has  
earned the “Gold  
Lender Award” from  
the United States  
Small Business  
Administration  
(SBA) as Kentucky’s  
top volume SBA 7(a)  
Community Bank  
lender in federal fiscal  
year 2024–2025.

SBA approved 60  
guaranteed 7(a) loans  
for Community Trust  
Bank customers in  
Kentucky totaling  
\$12,596,200, in the fis-  
cal year. CTBI was also  
one of the top lend-  
ers in West Virginia  
in 2024-25, with  
nine loans totaling  
\$2,231,000.

In total, SBA autho-  
rized 74 guaranteed  
7(a) loans providing  
access to \$18,029,200  
for Community Trust  
Bank customers in  
four states (Kentucky,  
Tennessee, West  
Virginia, and Ohio)  
during the fiscal year  
(Oct. 1, 2024 to Sept.  
30, 2025).

Additionally,  
Community Trust  
Bank and the SBA  
partnered to fund  
three 504 loan projects  
in Kentucky totaling  
\$17,477,879.

Over the last 17  
federal fiscal years,  
SBA has approved  
1,406 SBA 7(a) and

504 loans, provid-  
ing access to more  
than \$345 million for  
Community Trust’s  
small business custom-  
ers. Community Trust  
Bank had 26 loan of-  
ficers who closed SBA  
loans in the fiscal year.

Mr. Zachary Thacker  
of the Tug Valley mar-  
ket was the top overall  
producer of SBA loans,  
with 11 loans totaling  
\$1,135,700. Six of the  
loans were in West  
Virginia and five were  
in Kentucky.

Mr. Bob Watson  
of the Versailles/  
Georgetown, Kentucky  
market tied as the  
leading SBA producer  
for Community Trust  
in Kentucky.

For the prior 16 fiscal  
years, Watson has led  
the bank in produc-  
tion of SBA loans in  
the Bluegrass State.  
Mr. Watson originated  
seven SBA loans for  
\$899,800 in 2024-25.

Mr. Jody Thompson  
of Pikeville tied  
Watson as the leader  
of SBA production in  
Kentucky, with seven  
loans for \$2,882,000.

“Once again we  
are pleased to re-  
ceive this honor from  
the Small Business  
Administration,” Mark  
A. Gooch, Chairman,  
President and CEO  
of Community Trust

Bancorp, Inc. said.  
“Over the years, the  
relationship with  
the SBA has been an  
excellent one for both  
Community Trust  
Bank and our cus-  
tomer base, allowing  
us to offer competitive  
business loan prod-  
ucts across our service  
area. I’m proud of our  
employees as we look  
forward to continued  
profitable growth in  
this business in 2026.”

SBA Kentucky  
District Director  
Robert Coffey  
stated, “We extend  
our sincere appre-  
ciation to Community  
Trust Bank for their  
steadfast support of  
Kentucky’s small busi-  
ness sector through  
participation in the  
SBA loan programs.  
As we commemo-  
rate this milestone  
in partnership with  
Community Trust,  
we also extend our  
sincere appreciation  
to all partner banks  
and financial institu-  
tions whose collective  
efforts have resulted in  
a record-setting fiscal  
year, with over \$312  
million in SBA loans  
disbursed to small  
businesses throughout  
the Commonwealth.  
With continued dedi-  
cation and strategic  
focus, we anticipate

CTB,  
Continued on page A7

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