

OBITUARIES

MARSHALL CRAIG COX



Marshall Craig Cox, age 71, of Wallingford, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at UK – St. Claire HealthCare in Morehead following an extended illness.

Born May 6, 1954, in Fleming County, he was a son of the late Arvil Cox and Nervie Brown Cox. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Mary Elizabeth “Libby”

Middleton Cox on August 22, 2021; three brothers, Paul Cox, Benny Cox, and Terry Cox; and a beloved grandson, Zachary Maddox.

Craig is survived by two daughters, Marsha “Shawn” Craft (Dwayne) and Rebecca Mae Middleton, all of Wallingford; a step-daughter, Judith “Lynn” Workman (Randy) of Muses Mill; and two special grandchildren, Peyton Craft and Cody McVey.

He is also survived by two brothers, Arvil Cox, Jr. of Wallingford and James Cox of St. Louis, Missouri; as well as many extended family members and friends.

Craig knew all the trades of a sawmill and worked for many years as a forklift operator for GreenTree Forest Products in Wallingford. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing, riding

his 4-wheeler, camping, and spending time with family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral services were Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Pea Ridge Community Church, 1485 Spring Road, Wallingford, with Pastor Harley Sexton, Jr. officiating. Burial followed in the Cox Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Charlie Foster, Harold Riley, Sam Thomas, Hunter Harding, Enoch Thomas, Kaden Thomas, Allen Cox, and Jay Jimison.

Visitation was Friday, November 21, 2025, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals, 400 Fraley Drive, Morehead, KY 40351.

View video tribute and sign guestbook at www.northcuttandson.com



Willie Burl Gregory of Morehead, Kentucky passed away on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the age of 84 at Baptist Health in Lexington, Kentucky. He was born January 27, 1941, in Sharkey, Kentucky to the late Matthew and Mary Tennie Caudill Gregory.

Willie was a retired cable TV lineman who served his community with diligence and skill. His work, often behind the scenes, ensured that countless families stayed connected, a testament to his unwavering commitment to his profession.

Beyond his career, Willie was a true outdoorsman, dedicating much of his free time to the pursuits that brought him joy. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, relishing the connection to nature that these activities provided. Moreover, Willie had a knack for tinkering with

WILLIE BURL GREGORY

cars, trucks, and boats, always on the lookout for the next deal.

He attended the Little Mary Baptist Church, Willie found great fulfillment in his faith. He also enjoyed visiting other churches in the area, further reflecting his warm-hearted and welcoming nature.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Judy Hoover Gregory, one daughter, Nugget Jean Gregory, his brothers, Lloyd, Sam, Dorsey, Charles, Larry and Lonnie. Also, his sisters, Olive Harris, Lena Eldridge, Elsie Black, Margie Branham, Bea Cox and Delphia Cox.

Survivors include two sons, Dewayne Gregory of Salt Lick, Kentucky and Rodney Gregory and his wife, Sonya of Morehead, Kentucky, one daughter, Johnye Wethington and her husband, Gary of Bardstown, Kentucky, grandchildren: Erica Dougherty (Alex Greenberg), Justin Gregory, Shalynn (Zach Wasson) Trent, Haley Gregory, Jason (Brooke) Trent, Tanner Osborne, Zachary Wethington and Ariel Centers, and great-grandchildren: Kyler Dougherty, Hudson Dougherty, Allie Green-

berg, Amity Gregory, Ryatt Gregory, Sophia Grace, Lyla Marie and Mason Trent. Also, several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Funeral services will be conducted 12 Noon Friday, November 28, 2025, at the Little Mary Baptist Church on Maxey Flat Road, Hillsboro with Pastor Michael Spurlock and Brother Ashley Kidd officiating.

Burial will follow in the Little Mary Cemetery.

Visitation at the church is after 10:00 A.M. Friday.

Pallbearers will be Darwin Gregory, Buddy Rison, Jason Stephens, Justin Gregory, Steven Cox and Scotty Thompson. Honorary pallbearers will be David Cox, Jimmy Cox and Donald Rison.

Contributions are suggested to the Little Mary Baptist Church, c/o Sharon Walters, 4910 Flemingsburg Road, Morehead, Kentucky 40351.

The Michael R. Gray Funeral Home at 808 Old Flemingsburg Road in Morehead is caring for all arrangements for Willie Burl Gregory.

To view the online memorial and sign the guestbook, please visit www.mrgrayfh.com.



Eva S. Johnston, age 91, of Morehead, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at home surrounded by her loving family.

Eva was born on July 7th, 1934 in Seymour, Texas. She was the daughter of the late Grady Short and Alma Short. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of nearly 65 years, Glenn Johnston and her sister, Eulene Neeld.

Eva will be remembered for her deep commitment to helping children, generosity, and faithfulness in Jesus Christ. She is survived by her two daughters, Anita Bolin and Alicia Carter; two sons-in-law, Kim Bolin and Dwayne Carter; two grandsons, Eric Carter and Brian Carter; and many dear friends who were like family to her.

The family gratefully acknowledges her devoted caregiver, Beth Miller; Dr. Nancy S. Weigel, M.D.; and U.K. St. Claire Hospice for their extraordinary care, patience, and compassion.

Eva Johnston lived a life dedicated to educa-

tion. She earned her high school diploma at Seymour High School in Seymour, Texas. She then attended University of North Texas in Denton, TX and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education. Following this, Eva earned her Master's Degree and Rank I in Special Education at Morehead State University.

Eva served much of her life as a special education teacher. A desire to share and inspire led her to become an educator. She taught throughout the state of Texas and within the Rowan County Education system in Morehead, KY until she retired. She once stated, “talking with former students and finding out that they are productive adults is the most rewarding aspect of teaching.”

Throughout Eva's life, she remained a faithful follower of Christ until the very end. She was a devoted member and Elder at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Morehead, KY.

In Eva's free time, she took to a variety of hobbies and pastimes. She challenged herself daily and emphasized the commitment to learn something new every day. She enjoyed reading, sewing, classical music, theatre, and gardening. She was a devoted member of the Morehead Women's Club, Morehead Bridge Club, Kentucky State Special Olympic Committee and Kentucky Council of Church Boards. Eva

volunteered her time to tutoring children during her retirement, outreach efforts at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and St. Claire Hospice.

Eva's happiest moments were spent traveling the world with her best friend, soul mate, and husband; spending time with her beloved family; raising two independent daughters; and teaching young students to reach their full potential and know their worth.

A celebration of life was held on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with Rev. Nancy Gowler officiating. Interment followed at the Lee Cemetery in Morehead.

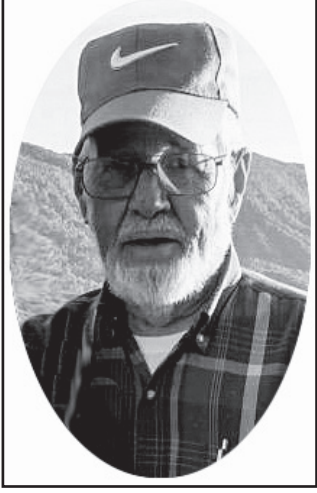
Jeff Brown, Mark Etherton, David Perkins, Mickey Reffitt, Nathan Eldridge, and Brent Rogers will served as pallbearers.

Visitation was from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals, 400 Fraley Drive, Morehead, KY 40351.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to the Alzheimer's Association or the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra in Eva's memory.

View video tribute or sign guestbook at www.northcuttandson.com

HURSHSEL DEAN HARDIN



Hurshsel Dean Hardin, age 84, of Elliottville, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, November 22, 2025, at his residence.

Born November 15, 1941, at Wrigley in Morgan County, Kentucky, he was the son of Arlie Hardin and Floreen Whitt Hardin. Dean was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, and his wife of 55 years, Deloris Ann Reynolds Hardin, who passed away April 9, 2021.

Dean is survived by one son, Michael (Michele) Hardin of Flowery Branch, Georgia; one daughter, Vicki (Jeffrey) Halliday of Winchester, Kentucky; six grandchildren, Sarah Setty, Lauren Hardin, Sloane Hardin, Miranda Hardin, Nathan Halliday,

and Lauren E. Shockley; and seven great grandchildren, Raelynn Hardin, Alexander Hardin, Liam Schultz, Saylor Halliday, Andi Halliday, Leo Shockley, and Hallie Shockley; one brother, Randy (Brenda) Hardin of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one sister, Leatha Harrison of Spartanburg, South Carolina; and extended family including Scott Hardin and Michelle Pierce.

Dean was one of the most practical people anyone would ever meet. Dean drove a truck most of his life, starting in the log woods, moving on to hauling rock and coal, then on to over-the-road hauling oil for D & J Supply and Apollo Oil. When Dean was not working, he was always gauming around with projects—with a real liking for cutting wood. Next on Dean's

list was spending time with the family, especially as it grew to be what we have today. Dean will be remembered by ALL.

Funeral services were Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with Pastor Tim Rhodes officiating. Burial followed in the Hardin Family Cemetery, 1406 State Highway 504, Olive Hill, KY 41164.

Pallbearers were Tanner Rayburn, Talon Rayburn, Griffin Rayburn, Jeff Halliday, Michael Hardin, and Scott Hardin.

Visitation for Dean Hardin was Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals, 400 Fraley Drive, Morehead, KY 40351.

View or sign guestbook at www.northcuttandson.com

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Rowan County Sheriff Audit Report

The Report of the Audit of the Rowan County Sheriff's 2023 Tax account has been completed and released. A copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information is on file at the Sheriff's Office and available for public inspection during normal business hours. Any citizen may obtain from the Sheriff's Office a copy of the complete audit report including financial statements and supplemental information, for his personal use. Citizens requesting a personal copy of the Sheriff's audit report will be charged duplication costs at a rate that shall not exceed twenty-five cents per page. Copies of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220 are available to the public at no cost at the Sheriff's Office or by mail at Rowan County Sheriff, 600 West Main Street, Morehead, KY 40351.

Published in the Rowan County News on 11.27.25

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WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rowan County News welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for confirmation. Unconfirmed letters and unsigned letters will not be published. Phone numbers are not published. We reserve the right to deny publication of letters and to edit letters for content.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Friday.

Send letters to:
Editor, Rowan County News
P.O. Box 272
Carlisle, KY 40311

Letters may also be emailed to: cecil@kynewsgroup.com
However if email is used, the sender should call 606-674-9994 to confirm that the letter was received.

HOW TO REACH US

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DEADLINES: Editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Advertising copy with proof deadline 5 p.m. Friday, advertising copy without proof, 10 a.m. Friday. Classified advertising deadline 10 a.m. Tuesday.

PHOTOS/ELECTRONIC ADVERTISING: Color, black and white and digital photos are all accepted. Digital photos should be submitted in jpg format and emailed. Old photos will be accepted. Please do not submit newspaper clippings or photocopies. Photos can be picked up after publishing. Electronic Advertising must be submitted in pdf format and emailed to petrea@kynewsgroup.com.

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All submitted copy must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

Rowan County News reserves the right to reject any submission to the newspaper. While it is the policy of this paper to print as much local material as possible, it is necessary to retain this right. We reserve the right to edit any submitted editorial material. The publication reserves the right to use the word Advertising at any time management feels it is appropriate. Advertisers assume responsibility for advertising content and shall hold without claim the Rowan County News for advertising published. The publisher is no liable for verbal or telephone materials taken with the intent of publishing. Any legal fees, collection costs or related charges will be the responsibility of the advertiser. Ad copy requests must come from the client/advertiser in order to be submitted to any other publication.

The Rowan County News

The Rowan County News [Vol. 6 No. 45 [11/06/25]] is published weekly (every Thursday) by KY News Group, 240 E. Main Street, Carlisle, KY 40311. Periodicals postage is paid at Morehead, KY 40351.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Rowan County News, P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311

Members of Kentucky Press Association
The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors

Subscription Rates

\$28 for year in Rowan County, \$35 elsewhere is Kentucky and \$40 out of state. Subscriptions include sales tax where applicable. All subscriptions payable in advance.