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WEEKEND EDITION, MARCH 14-15, 2026 | VOL. 148, NO. 21

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Fiscal court hears cybersecurity update

Recovery court, youth scholarship program among topics discussed

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

Boyle County Fiscal Court heard updates from county departments and several community organizations during its regularly scheduled meeting March 10.

The meeting opened with an invocation by Magistrate Gay followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Magistrates then approved prior meeting minutes along with routine financial matters including budget transfers, cash transfers and

payment of county bills.

CYBERSECURITY UPDATE

Under old business, IT Director Bill Nichols presented a cybersecurity update related to an assessment conducted through the Kentucky Cyber Resilience Initiative, a statewide effort aimed at helping local governments identify vulnerabilities and improve network security.

The initiative provides cybersecurity evaluations for counties that might otherwise lack the resources to conduct

them independently. During the presentation, officials explained that similar assessments in the private sector can cost thousands of dollars.

The review identified several areas where improvements could strengthen the county's digital infrastructure. Among the recommendations were replacing aging network equipment and implementing stronger authentication practices for users accessing the county network.

Consultants explained that networking equipment such as

routers and switches often becomes vulnerable once manufacturers stop issuing security updates after several years of service. Replacing those devices before they reach that point helps prevent potential

See **FISCAL**, 2A

BOYLE COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Boyle County Judge-Executive Trille Bottom presents a proclamation recognizing March as National Nutrition Month to Ben Guerrant, director of The Gathering Place, during a Boyle County Fiscal Court meeting.



DANVILLE-BOYLE CO. PARKS AND RECREATION

Millennium Park Pond in Danville serves as a popular fishing and recreation spot in Boyle County, where seasonal fish stockings help draw visitors to the park each spring.

Millennium Park pond stocked ahead of busy spring season

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

Boyle County residents has new fishing opportunities this month as Millennium Park Pond in Danville received its final trout stocking of the season along with the first of several spring catfish stockings.

Millennium Park Pond was stocked with 400 catfish on March 4 and 500 rainbow trout on March 11, according to information provided by local officials. The trout stocking marked the final trout release of the season, while the catfish stocking began a series of monthly releases planned for March, April, May and June.

The stockings were carried out with assistance from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, which regularly partners with communities across the state to support local fishing opportunities in public waters.

Seasonal stocking programs are designed to increase access to fishing for residents and families while encouraging outdoor recreation in public parks. Trout stockings typically occur during cooler months when water temperatures are suitable for the species, while catfish stockings continue into the warmer spring and early summer months.

Millennium Park Pond has

long been a popular fishing destination for both experienced fishermen and beginners. Local officials often see an increase in visitors in the days following a stocking, as people take advantage of the chance to fish close to home.

People planning to fish at the pond must follow state fishing regulations. According to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, individuals 16 and older are required to have a valid fishing license to fish in Kentucky waters.

Kentucky's fishing license year begins March 1 and runs

See **MILLENNIUM**, 3A

Officials review finances during special meeting

Budget update outlines revenue trends, staffing and upcoming fiscal planning

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

Danville city officials reviewed the city's financial outlook and budget progress during a special-called City Commission meeting on March 10, receiving an update on revenues, expenses and ongoing projects as part of the city's annual budget process.

City Manager Earl Coffey told commissioners the presentation represented the second step in the city's budget process, offering a financial update and projections for where the city expects to end the fiscal year.

Finance staff compared the current fiscal year budget to year-to-date figures and projected year-end totals while also examining how the city's finances compare with the previous fiscal year. Department presentations for the next stage of the budget process are scheduled for March 24.

Among the major factors affecting the current fiscal year budget were personnel-related costs. The city implemented pay increases averaging about 4% for employees through a combination of step increases

See **DANVILLE**, 2A

CentreWorks to host experimental play

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

CentreWorks will present the internationally acclaimed play White Rabbit Red Rabbit later this month in a series of performances featuring a unique theatrical format, according to a press release.

The production, written by Iranian playwright Nassim Soleimanpour, will be performed March 20-22 at Cen-

treWorks, located in Suite 300 at 236 W. Main St., with the entrance on Third Street.

Unlike a traditional stage production, White Rabbit Red Rabbit features a single actor performing with no rehearsals, no director and no set. Each performer walks on stage and is handed a script they have never seen before, reading it live for the first time in front of

See **CENTREWORKS**, 3A

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64° | 50°
Partly cloudy

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Danville, Kentucky

\$1.50 Newsstand



DANVILLE

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and cost-of-living adjustments. That change increased the city's budget by roughly \$560,000.

Health insurance costs also rose by approximately \$499,000, though city officials said the benefits package was maintained and expanded to include full family coverage for employees as a recruitment incentive.

The city also made several staffing adjustments during the year, including reclassifications and additions in several departments. New positions included a patrol officer, two firefighters and a battalion chief. Additional positions were added within utility

administration, including water and wastewater management roles and a wastewater operator trainee.

In addition to operational spending, the city allocated funding to 16 community agencies and continued support for shared organizations such as planning and zoning, the airport board and economic development groups. Funds were also set aside for Danville's upcoming 250th anniversary celebration.

Finance officials projected the city will end the fiscal year with approximately \$24.3 million in general fund revenue, compared to about \$25 million in expenses, resulting in a projected reduction in the fund balance of roughly \$693,000.

Property tax revenue is expected to remain relatively stable compared to the previous year, while license and fee revenue — the city's largest general fund revenue source — is projected to exceed budget estimates.

That category includes occupational license fees, insurance premiums and net profits taxes.

Officials noted that net profit collections appear to be trending slightly lower than the previous year due in part to changes in how certain business income is reported. However, stronger insurance premium tax collections are helping offset that decline.

Service revenue, which includes contracts with other entities such as Boyle County Fiscal Court

and nearby communities for 911 services, is projected to reach about \$968,000, slightly above budget.

City officials also reviewed spending across departments. Projected year-end expenses include approximately \$6.7 million for the police department, \$5.1 million for the fire department, \$2.3 million for public works, and \$1.6 million for 911 services.

Parks and recreation operations were also discussed. The parks fund is projected to end the year with about \$2.4 million in revenue, supported in part by transfers from the city's general fund and contributions from Boyle County Fiscal Court.

Officials said Millennium Park is expected to

account for roughly \$948,000 in expenses during the fiscal year, while the city's fitness center and other park facilities also account for significant operational costs.

Commissioners also discussed other enterprise funds, including utilities, stormwater, garbage services and parking operations. Utility operations are projected to generate about \$13.3 million in revenue, primarily through water and sewer fees, while operating expenses are projected at roughly \$11.9 million.

Officials said several infrastructure improvements have been completed or are underway without additional debt, including work on the McKinney waterline

project and the Gose Pike/Balls Branch project.

During the meeting, city officials also discussed comparisons between Danville's tax rates and those in nearby regional cities such as Somerset, Frankfort, Richmond and Lexington.

Officials said the comparison showed Danville remains competitive, with relatively low real estate tax rates and moderate occupational license fees compared to similar regional economic hubs.

City leaders said the analysis will help guide development of the next fiscal year budget, which must be balanced and supported by stable revenue sources such as property taxes, occupational taxes and insurance premium taxes.

FISCAL

Continued from A1

security risks.

Officials also recommended requiring individual usernames and passwords rather than shared credentials to limit unauthorized access and reduce risks posed by personal devices connecting to the network.

The report also identified certain open network ports and web services that could be restricted to reduce exposure to outside traffic. Consultants advised ensuring public-facing county websites use modern encryption standards.

NUTRITION MONTH PROCLAMATION

Under new business, magistrates approved and read aloud a proclamation recognizing National Nutrition Month. Gathering Place Director Ben Guerrant arrived later to accept the signed proclamation.

Magistrates thanked him and the Gathering Place for providing meal deliveries to residents who might otherwise go without food, noting the program also provides important social interaction for many homebound individuals who may not see anyone else during the day. Guerrant thanked the court for its support and said the organization often

makes a difference in people's lives in ways that are not always immediately visible.

DRUG COURT PROGRAM DISCUSSED

Representatives from Volunteers of America also spoke to the court about Boyle County Drug Court and the concept of Family Recovery Court, a program designed to help families affected by substance use disorder.

Officials explained the model was first launched in Jefferson County and later introduced in Clay County in 2021. Since then, the program has expanded to additional communities across

Kentucky.

The representatives told magistrates the program focuses on cases involving children who enter the court system due to issues related to parental addiction or incarceration.

They said the goal is to provide treatment and support services that help stabilize families while addressing the root causes that often lead to repeated court involvement.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

All Together Recovery CEO Nick Rhodus also presented information about the organization's Youth Enrichment Scholarship program.

The initiative partners with several community organizations to provide youth with opportunities to participate in activities such as martial arts, archery and theater.

Program partners include ROC Martial Arts Academy, The Back Stop sports complex in Junction City, Kurt Singer's Archery, Sunrise Outfitters and West T. Hill Community Theatre.

Rhodus said the program currently serves more than 100 young participants and aims to expose youth to positive activities that build confidence and provide mentorship.

Funding for the pro-

gram comes from grants, private donations and fundraising events. Rhodus said a recent fundraiser held at ROC Martial Arts Academy raised about \$10,000 to support the effort.

COUNTY CLERK REPORT

County Clerk Casey McCoy also appeared before the court to discuss an amended 2025 budget, along with a quarterly report and excess fees.

MEETING ADJOURNS

Following magistrate reports, comments from the county attorney and remarks from the county judge-executive, the meeting adjourned.

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'Love Larger:' A reflection from Mary of Bethany

As our team listened to the "Essentials of Faith" devotion on RightNow Media it was on the depth and tenderness of God's love.

Scripture gives us many examples of faithful men and women, but one of the most beautiful pictures of love in action is found in Mary of Bethany.

Mary entered a room where she was not welcomed by everyone. There were men present who questioned her place, her posture, and even her purpose.

Yet Jesus did not turn her away. He received her.

Mary knelt before Him and did something deeply intimate and costly - she used her long hair to wipe Jesus' feet and poured out precious oil.

This was not a casual offering. Scripture tells us the perfume was worth a year's wages. In biblical days, this represented

sacrifice, devotion, and surrender.

Jesus' response reveals His character, "Leave her alone ... She did this in preparation for my burial." John 12:7

Mary served Jesus not only with her body, but with her generosity, her humility, and her heart delighted for Jesus.

What others criticized, Jesus honored. What others misunderstood, Jesus defended.

What does love look like? Scripture teaches us that love is not merely spoken, it is how we live.

Jesus tells us to love the Lord with:

- All our heart



TIFFANY JOHNSON
Still Waters

- All our soul
- All our mind (Matthew 22:37)
- Take a moment to reflect:
- How are you loving God with your heart ... your emotions, affections, and time?
- How are you loving Him with your soul ... your inner life, obedience, and surrender?
- How are you loving Him with your mind ... through learning, Scripture, and truth?

Love can be expressed in many ways:

- Digging into God's Word
- Joining men's or women's Bible studies
- Serving in the church
- Being a faithful friend
- Sharing who Jesus is with others

And Scripture reminds us: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

The Gift of Godly Relation-

ships

God places Christian people in our lives, sometimes exactly when we need love the most. These relationships are reminders that His love is active, present, and personal.

But love must be nurtured to him.

Prayer is what feeds our love for the Lord.

He desires intimacy, not performance. Conversation, not perfection.

Just like the old hymn says: "Have a little talk with Jesus, Tell Him all about our troubles..."

God longs for that one-on-one connection.

A Gentle Invitation to Reflect Take a moment and ask yourself:

- Where is my love tank right now?
- How am I using my gifts, money, and talents to love the Lord?
- Do my choices and priorities

honor Him?

• Am I offering Him what is convenient?

Scripture assures us: "The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love." Psalm 147:11

Scripture References: Mary of Bethany

If you'd like to study Mary's story further, here are key passages:

- Luke 10:38-42
- Mary sits at Jesus' feet, choosing what is better
- John 11:1-44
- Mary's grief and faith at Lazarus' tomb
- John 12:1-8
- Mary anoints Jesus with costly perfume
- Each moment reveals a woman who loved Jesus deeply - and was fully known and cherished by Him. Thank you Lord for the story of Mary of Bethany.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are placed online at Amnews.com on a timely basis, as they are received. Review current listings, archives or place an obituary at Amnews.com/category/obituaries

Deadline for print publication:

Tuesday publication deadlines Monday, 10 am EST
Saturday publication deadlines Thursday, 12 pm EST

DEATH NOTICES

Sybil Horton Stonecypher, 94, of Waynesburg, died March 8, 2026.

Bill Begley, 88, of Lancaster, died March 8, 2026.

Virgil "Bud" Milton, 73, of Harrodsburg, died March 7, 2026.

Trula Gayle Arnett, 77, of Harrodsburg, died March 8, 2026.

Mack Hicks, 91, of Liberty, died March 6, 2026.

Mavis Cornett, 47, of Hustonville, died March 11, 2026.

Jason Wayne McCarty, 44, of Harrodsburg, died March 10, 2026.

Donna Marie Fox, 75, of Stanford, died March 10, 2026.

CENTREWORKS

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the audience.

Three different performers will take part in the presentations. Scarlet Cup Artistic Director Kristi Hughes will perform at 7:30 p.m. March 20, followed by performer, director and writer Patrick Kagan-

Moore, emeritus professor of theatre, at 7:30 p.m. March 21. Actor Jessica Wortham will perform during a 2 p.m. matinee March 22.

According to the press release, the play challenges traditional expectations of theater while exploring themes of personal responsibility and human connection. Since its premiere in 2011,

the production has been translated into more than 30 languages and staged thousands of times worldwide.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$10 for students. The press release also notes the play contains mature themes and language and includes references to suicide.

MILLENNIUM

Continued from A1

through the final day of February, meaning new licenses must be obtained each year to remain compliant with state regulations.

Some youth are exempt from licensing requirements. Resident and nonresident ages 15 years old and younger are not required to purchase a fishing license or permit. Similar exemptions exist for youth hunters under age 12, who are not required to obtain licenses or permits, except for participation in the state's

elk lottery application.

The state offers several types of fishing licenses depending on residency and the amount of time someone plans to fish. Residents can purchase one-day licenses or longer-term licenses, including multi-year resident licenses available online. Nonresidents also have several choices, including one-day, seven-day and annual fishing licenses.

In addition to a fishing license, anyone targeting trout must also obtain a trout permit, even if they already hold a valid fishing license.

Licenses and permits can be purchased through

the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources website under the licenses section. Individuals with questions about licensing requirements can contact the department at 1-800-858-1549 during weekday business hours.

Millennium Park remains one of Boyle County's most visited recreational areas. The park includes walking trails, playgrounds, sports facilities and the fishing pond The spring stocking schedule continues to attract visitors looking to enjoy time outdoors as temperatures begin to warm.

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BCPL On the Road: Clay Trinket Dishes Mon. 3/16 • 6-7:30 PM (JUNCTION CITY HALL; ALL AGES)	Storytime Tue. & Fri. • 11 AM (YOUTH DEPARTMENT; 1-5)	STORY CENTER Share your story & preserve your history in the Memory Lab & Oral History Studio! Digitize your VHS, cassettes, 8mm film, photos, and more! BOYLEPUBLIB.ORG/STORYCENTER
YA Creative Club Tue. 3/17 • 3:30-5 PM (TECH LOUNGE; 11-17)	Family Fun Night Tue. 3/17 • 6-7:30 PM (COMMUNITY ROOM; ALL AGES)	Frank X Walker Fest Student Art & Poetry Exhibit Featuring winning visual art & poetry entries by K-12 students. On exhibit Mar. 7-27. (GEORGIA DE ARAUJO GALLERY; ALL AGES)
FAFSA Assistance Wed. 3/18 • 3-5:30 PM (TECH AREA LOUNGE; 16+)	3rd Thursday Book Club Thu. 3/19 • 10:30 AM (CONFERENCE ROOM; 18+)	Contact the Library Email BCPL at library@boylepublib.org Call BCPL at 859-238-7323
Caring for Personal Collections: Textiles Wed. 3/18 • 4 PM (READING ROOM; 18+)	Gaming Guild Jr. Thu. 3/19 • 3:30-5 PM (YOUTH DEPT.; 6-10)	
YA Gaming Guild Thu. 3/19 • 3:30-5 PM (COMMUNITY ROOM; 11-17)	Quilting in Kentucky: Stitch & Stories Fridays • 10 AM-12 PM (GRAYSON'S TAVERN; ALL AGES)	
Homeschool Club Fri. 3/20 • 1:30-3 PM (COMMUNITY ROOM; 6-17)	Quilters Show & Tell Sat. 3/21 • 10 AM-1 PM (GRAYSON'S TAVERN; ALL AGES)	

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Letter to the editor

When a 90-year-old is the CareGIVER

Dear Editor, When you hear about a 90-year-old CareGIVER, you might assume the 90-year-old is the one receiving care. If that's what you're thinking, you'd be wrong.

Recently, I worked with a family where a 90-year-old parent was still the primary caregiver for an adult child with developmental disabilities. There were no formal services in place. No long-term supports. No outside help.

For decades, the family had simply figured things out one day at a time.

What made this situation especially striking is that the disability service system didn't even know this family existed. They had never connected with it. And they are far from alone.

Across Kentucky and in communities like ours, there are aging parents in their 80s and 90s quietly supporting adult children with disabilities at home without

a clear path for what happens next.

Most of the time, these situations remain invisible until something forces attention — a hospitalization, a sudden health crisis, or the loss of the caregiver.

As our population ages, more families will face this reality.

We need to start talking about it now — helping families understand what resources exist and encouraging conversations about the future before a crisis

occurs.

Because behind many closed doors, a 90-year-old CAREGIVER is still holding everything together.

If you are caring for a loved one with disabilities and beginning to wonder what happens when you can no longer do it alone, you are not the only family asking that question.

Samantha Harrison
Momentum Family Strategies

Playing political chicken with the Constitution

We can't play chicken with the Constitution. Last month, the Commonwealth of Kentucky received a visit from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, promoting House Concurrent Resolution 45 (HCR 45), calling for a Convention of the States under Article V of the United States Constitution.

Supporters of the resolution are asking for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring the federal government to pass a balanced budget — laudable, in theory, except that 11 Nobel-Prize-winning economists agree that it isn't solid fiscal policy. Proponents argue that the U.S. is spending too much of its budget paying interest on the constantly growing national debt. They are calling for states to formally request a constitutional amendment by calling a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution. They claim that states could require delegates to address only the single issue for which

the Convention was called.

Here's the fundamental problem: Article V doesn't specify how a Convention of the States works. In fact, it says that, once called, it "shall be valid to all intents and purposes." Simply put, that means that once a Convention of the States is opened, there is no way to control the process.

With no clarification in Article V about how convention delegates would be selected, legislative supermajorities could select delegates who want to do away with certain amendments — perhaps reverting back to 3/5 of a person? Or maybe repealing women's right to vote? Or the 1st amendment guaranteeing our right to free speech, press, assembly, or religion?



ANNE GAY DONWORTH

It could go even further than that. The last time that our country held a Convention of States was in 1787. Delegates gathered in Philadelphia to amend the federal government's charter document, but they didn't do that. They started from scratch, and the resulting document, the Constitution of the United States of America, has served us well for nearly 250 years. They also changed the approval process — making it easier to pass than the original Articles of Confederation required. There would be no stopping a Convention of the States from similarly changing the rules, potentially in ways that permanently alter the structure of our government.

We have amended the Constitution 27 times — never once using the Convention of the States. Gov. DeSantis testified that any time a convention of the states has picked up momentum, Congress has stepped in to propose the amendment so "they can maintain control of the lan-

guage." Congress, it seems, understands how dangerous a Convention of the States could be for our democracy.

DeSantis wants Kentucky to call for a Convention of the States to pressure Congress to call its own amendment, with a two-thirds majority of both houses approving the amendment. Given the hyper-partisan nature of our government, I don't trust Congress to reach an agreement on anything, let alone a constitutional amendment.

DeSantis claimed that the Convention of the States effort is not a partisan issue, but the map of states that have called for the Convention is nearly an exact match to the electoral map. This shows that the Convention is most definitely a partisan issue.

The other problem? The most recent increase in the national debt ceiling came from the Republican Party. Republicans, including long-time debt hawk Andy Barr, backed President Trump's 2025 Budget Bill that

raised the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion. When I asked our current congressman and Senate candidate to vote against raising the debt ceiling, he responded "We need growth and this is jet fuel."

After years of calling for fiscal responsibility, Congressman Barr reversed course and supported President Trump's plan to the contrary.

In an era when political leaders bend to the will of party leadership, how could we trust that delegates to a Constitutional Convention would be faithful to the people they represent rather than to the special interests that fund their campaigns?

I am not willing to risk our entire system of governance just to put pressure on Congress, an entity that consistently cannot function as intended. Our Constitution is too important to play a game of political chicken.

Rep. Anne Gay Donworth represents Kentucky's 76th House District in Lexington.

Support for Canopy KY's HB 900 budget request

Kentucky businesses form the backbone of our economy. When their profits are anchored in purpose, they do more than succeed. They help us compete with other communities for the workforce of the future, by building generational opportunities.

That belief drives us at LPX Group. And it is why we are urging our state leaders to support Canopy KY's HB 900 budget request to bring their High School Business Education Program into classrooms across Kentucky.

If you've traveled on a Kentucky roadway, chances are LPX Group helped make that journey possible. From our Salt River Bridge replacement in Spencer County to our work on US 127 in Franklin County, we have spent nearly a century improving this Commonwealth through our paving, construction, and engineering companies. But our work has never been limited to asphalt and

concrete. Our legacy rests on an uncompromising commitment to employee opportunity, safety, sustainability, and growth on and off the road.

That sort of commitment needs to show up down the road as well. Kentucky's long-term prosperity depends on a new generation of leaders who understand that caring for people and communities is not a distraction from profit. It is the foundation of it. The businesses that endure are the businesses that build trust, invest in their workforce, and understand their responsibility to the communities that sustain them.

That is where Canopy KY and its High School Business Education Unit, "Business Beyond Profit" step in.



HUNTER STRICKLER

Canopy KY offers a zero-cost, turnkey, eight-session high school business unit available to any High School in the Commonwealth. The unit integrates seamlessly into existing business classes and shows students that purpose and profit are not opposing forces but powerful partners. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors connect directly with inspiring Kentucky companies, develop business concepts of their own, strengthen leadership and financial fundamentals, and gain confidence in their ability to shape the future.

Students leave with more than a completed assignment. They leave with a new understanding of what responsible business looks like. They leave believing they can build companies that generate wealth while strengthening the Commonwealth they call home.

By the end of this school year, hundreds of students from nine different schools will be better prepared to be Kentucky's

workforce of the future. The businesses they create and the leadership roles they assume will not only generate income for their families, but will employ other Kentuckians, serve other Kentuckians, and tackle the challenges they see in their own communities.

Canopy KY is not offering theory. It is building the next generation of purpose-driven business leaders and creating a new pipeline to keep our young talent in state, working for Kentucky businesses instead of leaving to build someone else's economy. By exposing ambitious young people to business principles earlier, we're not only making them more prepared for work, we're building their overall leadership skills as well.

Now Canopy KY is ready to expand this success statewide. We have growing bipartisan support to add an allocation for Canopy's High School Business Education Program in this year's budget. If we can convince enough legislators to include it

in the final bill, it would represent more than funding. It represents a choice about what kind of economy Kentucky intends to build.

Through funding from LPX and others, every public dollar will be matched by private investment. Kentucky businesses are willing to put skin in the game — because we see a long-term return on that investment through talent retention, a stronger workforce, and an improved quality of life for all. We are asking the General Assembly to do the same.

If we want a workforce that stays, builds, and leads here at home, we must invest in programs that shape how students think about business before they ever enter the workforce. Supporting Canopy KY's HB 900 budget request is not charity. It is strategy.

Hunter Strickler is president of LPX Group, an infrastructure company based in Louisville.

Letters to the Editor

Letters must be 300 words or less and are subject to editing for brevity. Please include name, address and phone number on emails and letters. We reserve the right to publish one letter per person per 30 day period. Only names and cities of residence will be published. The Advocate-Messenger reserves the right to reject any letter. Send to Casey Roberts, 463 S. 4th St., Danville, KY 40422 or casey.roberts@bluegrassnewsmedia.com

SPORTS SLEUTH

K Q N K H E B Y W T R O L B J
 G E B Y W U R P Y N K I G A D
 B Z X V S Q O M H K I G E S C
 S A Y W M T U S P E Q P U K N
 L L J H O E U F O E L C C E A
 Y X L L O K V P R U S D S T Q
 S N I E R C P S T I C K D B N
 M O K J B A H F D O E C B A E
 F S T E E R I N G W H E E L P
 Z N I L E V A J Y X V S O L O
 U T R N O T A B Q P O P M L R

Wednesday's unlisted clue: CAPES

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Thursday's unlisted clue hint: TIED AROUND THE BULL

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|----------------|
| Barbells | Discus | Pole | Steering wheel |
| Basketball | Foil | Racket | Stick |
| Baton | Javelin | Reins | Trophy |
| Broom | Paddle | Shot put | |

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3/12

WORD SLEUTH

Y F S C Y U Q N J F C Y V R O
 B L T E H E B X B U R O L I E
 B M R M L S B E Y V S Q N K H
 E B A Y W K A E T R O L J G E
 B H W L C N C N Y T W U C R P
 N E B K Y A O I I U N U G D B
 Z X E C I R N W P O R V S Q O
 M K R F M F R D M R I G E C A
 Y W R U F I S E Y T Q P N L J
 H F Y E C O L R H A Y X V U S
 Q P N M K J C K H C F E C B Z

Thursday's unlisted clue: ROPE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Friday's unlisted clue hint: NBA STAR STEPH

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|------------|
| Bacon | Coffee | Lemon | Rice |
| Bean | Franks | Milk | Strawberry |
| Candy | Ham | Pickles | Trout |
| Cherry | Lamb | Redwine | |

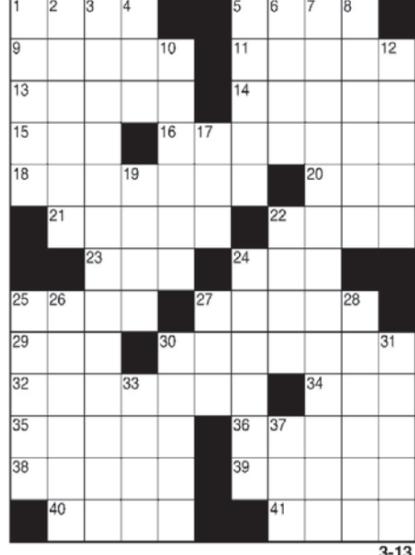
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3/13

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 36 Copter part
 - 1 Class ender
 - 5 Emulates Drake
 - 9 Verdi pieces
 - 11 Bay
 - 13 Angola neighbor
 - 14 Long look
 - 15 Exalted work
 - 16 Skippy suits
 - 18 Tidies up
 - 20 Devour
 - 21 Celtic priest
 - 22 Hideous
 - 23 Wee worker
 - 24 Frothy brew
 - 25 Dossier
 - 27 Insignificant
 - 29 Chick holder
 - 30 Chewy candy
 - 32 Buttercup's cousin
 - 34 Aussie bird
 - 35 Rome's river
- DOWN**
- 10 "Amen!"
 - 12 Irritable
 - 17 Neither
 - 1 Dem. nor
 - 2 Ate away
 - 3 Math course
 - 4 Fall back
 - 5 Dangers
 - 6 Opposed
 - 7 Math course
 - 8 Continuing story
 - 19 Melody
 - 22 Radius
 - 24 Drying frames
 - 25 Achievements
 - 26 Set off
 - 27 "Oh, wow!"
 - 28 Delete
 - 30 Ballet company
 - 31 Tackle box
 - 33 Israel's
 - 37 Above, poetically



3-13

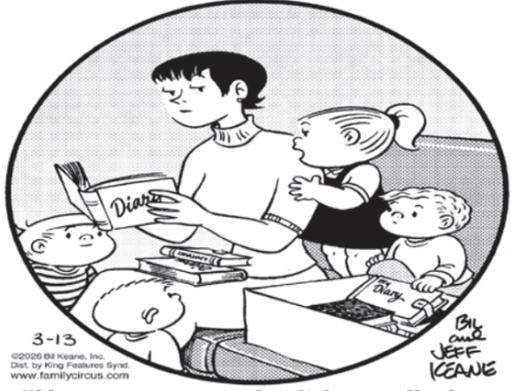
SUDOKU

		4	5				6	
				4	8	5		
				1				2
2		8			9	4		
9			1			8		
			7		6			
				7				3
	8			6		2		
			4			7		

Level: Advanced

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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"How come you don't have diaries for the years AFTER you were married?"

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3/13

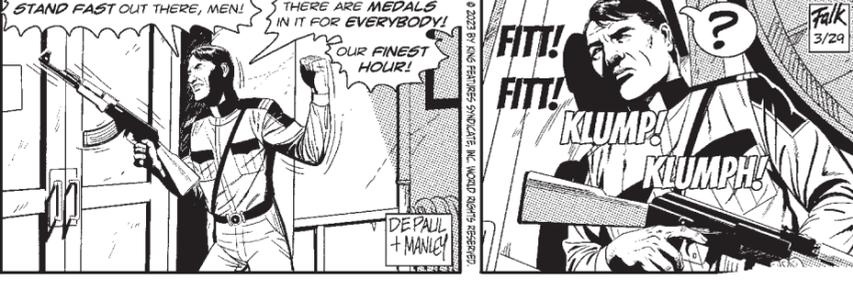
Zits



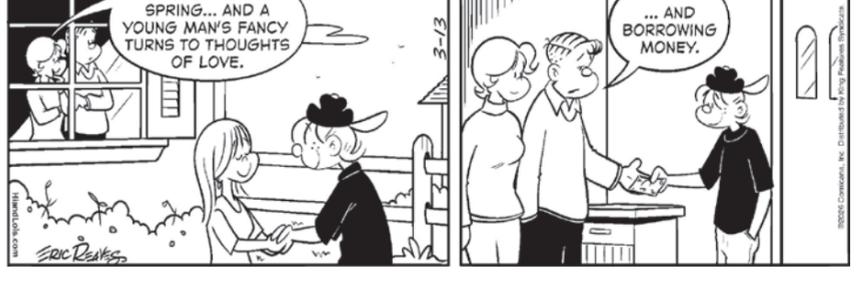
Blondie



Phantom



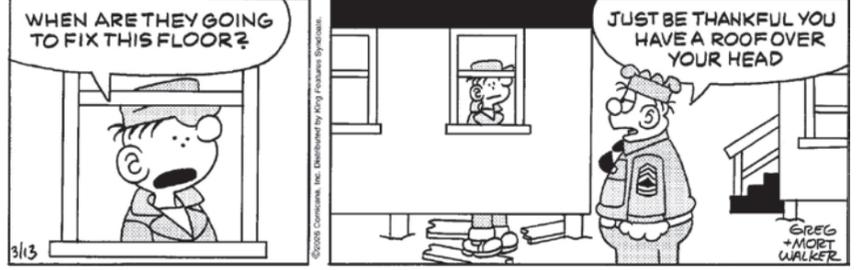
Hi & Lois



Dustin



Beetle Bailey



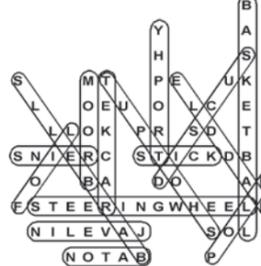
Pardon My Planet



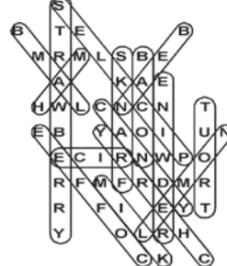
ANSWER BOX

3	2	4	5	9	7	1	6	8
1	9	6	2	4	8	5	3	7
8	5	7	6	3	1	9	4	2
2	6	8	3	5	9	4	7	1
9	7	3	1	2	4	8	5	6
5	4	1	7	8	6	3	2	9
4	1	2	8	7	5	6	9	3
7	8	5	9	6	3	2	1	4
6	3	9	4	1	2	7	8	5

IN ATHLETE'S HANDS



SURNAME OR FOOD?



HOROSCOPES

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For Saturday, March 14, 2026

Today highlights the importance of community, making the current cosmic weather perfect for socializing and gatherings. The Mercury retrograde is ideal for taking time out to catch up with family and friends.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

Some friendly competition might be what you need. Find a game, sport or activity that you love and join in on the fun!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

Your intuition will help you to better connect and relate to the people you encounter today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

It's a good day to take a class or lead one. The exchange of information and ideas will invigorate you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

Getting outside your comfort zone will yield a rewarding outcome.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Take time to water and nurture the relationships that you cherish the most.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

You've been working hard to keep up with your obligations. Make sure that your body gets the care and fuel it needs to keep up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Your love life gets some support from the stars. Take advantage of it!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Time at home or with your family is what you need most.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You might crave some creative fun or intellectual engagement. Activities like reading, crafting, singing or dancing might fit the bill.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Today is favorable for making improvements to your home or living space.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

You might be in the mood to mix and mingle. You've got great timing for connecting with people online or in person.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

You need some time to yourself. Prioritize your "me time."

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You're extremely intentional about the goals and opportunities that you pursue. You never chase after what you want; you would much rather wait for the right timing or right thing to come along instead, trusting that your intuition will help you to identify what's best for you.

Birthdate of: Stephen Curry, professional basketball player; Olivia Dean, singer-songwriter; Simone Biles, gymnast.

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WORD SLEUTH • **UNDER THE —**

K C B Y W T R O L J S G E B Y
 W O M U B R P N E U K R I G D
 B M I Z M X V S R Q O E M K I
 K M C G U E C F I A Y T W U S
 Q A R E H T A E W A L N P N L
 J N O I T C I D S I R U J H F
 E D S L E L B A T G C O A Y X
 V O C U C S Q P N U G C N M K
 J F O N O I S S E R P M I H F
 E C P O T G I B B Z Y X V U T
 R Q E C N E U L F N I P O M L

Friday's unlisted clue: CURRY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Saturday's unlisted clue hint: UNDER THE — OF DARKNESS

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| Big top | Impression of | Microscope | Thumb |
| Command of | Influence | Rug | Weather |
| Counter | Jurisdiction | Surface | Wire |
| Gun | Law | Table | |

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WORD SLEUTH • **— THE —**

U Y T V T Q K O L I G D B Y W
 T R P O M R K C I F D B Y W K
 U W I N N I E P O O H S Q C O
 O Y M D R K K P I L F D U I B
 Z N A W I I E Y P X C B W S U
 S O D D E K A I Q I S T O U N
 O N G O E H Y R T S R L A M J
 H F F Y T Z C L A D C K A E Y
 W L B I V T I P L E S Q C C B
 P Y H N L K I E N I L K L A W
 B H F E C B Z Y S W B C V F J

Saturday's unlisted clue: CLOAK

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Monday's unlisted clue hint: — THE FAT

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Beat clock | Face music | On fly | Tie knot |
| Billy Kid | Hit hay | On go | Walk line |
| Bye | Jack Ripper | Pass buck | Winnie Pool |
| Clear air | On dot | Seize day | |

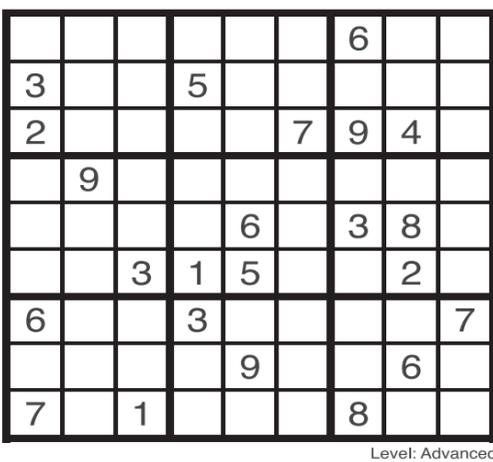
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CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 42 Hymn closers
 - 5 Dump output
 - 9 Prefix for frost
 - 10 More exquisite
 - 12 Freshen
 - 13 Smith's place
 - 14 Beach in a 1964 song
 - 16 Feel queasy
 - 17 Ran into
 - 18 Quandary
 - 20 Sports spots
 - 22 Pinnacle
 - 23 Cultural spirit
 - 25 "Fernando" group
 - 28 Unbroken
 - 32 Museum display
 - 34 Worker, e.g.
 - 35 Utterly
 - 36 Citrus fruit from Japan
 - 38 They may be copped
 - 40 Art supporter
 - 41 — Haute
- DOWN**
- 1 Small frog
 - 2 Florid
 - 3 Sign
 - 4 Probed, cat-style
 - 5 Abattoir waste
 - 6 God, in Roma
 - 7 Cloverleaf part
 - 8 Group in power
 - 9 Kind of ballerina
 - 11 Kick back
 - 15 Japanese writer
 - 19 Sunup site
 - 21 At hand
 - 24 Running wild
 - 25 Modify
 - 26 Charged
 - 27 Lively Spanish dance
 - 29 Mistreats
 - 30 Side-walk
 - 31 Diving ducks
 - 33 Block-heads
 - 37 Matching
 - 39 Trickery



SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



3-14
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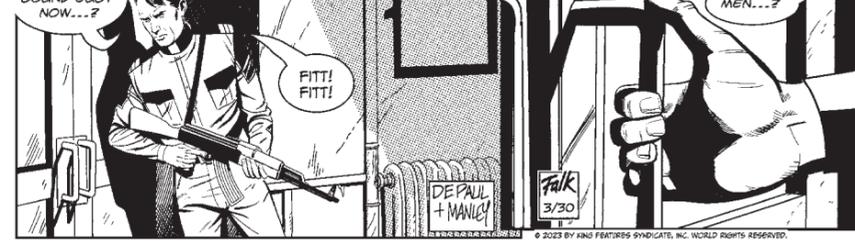
Zits



Blondie



Phantom



Hi & Lois



Dustin



Beetle Bailey



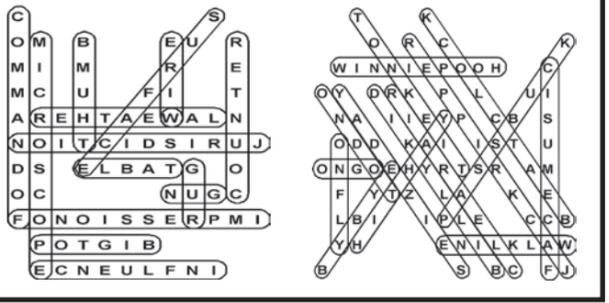
Pardon My Planet



ANSWER BOX

9	7	4	8	1	2	6	3	5
3	8	6	5	4	9	1	7	2
2	1	5	6	3	7	9	4	8
1	9	8	2	7	3	4	5	6
5	2	7	9	6	4	3	8	1
4	6	3	1	5	8	7	2	9
6	4	9	3	8	5	2	1	7
8	3	2	7	9	1	5	6	4
7	5	1	4	2	6	8	9	3

UNDER THE — — THE —



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For Sunday, March 15, 2026

We still have a few days of the Mercury retrograde to go. As such, today will be favorable for reviewing our plans and goals, as well as making adjustments as needed, brainstorming ideas, and troubleshooting problems. We're encouraged to focus on what kind of future we want to create and identify the steps to get there. Using the power of creative and intuitive thinking will aid us in determining how to best move forward. Meanwhile, the day bodes well for building community with others and spending time with friends.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Don't pressure yourself to make any hard and fast decisions right now. You have time. Use today to rest and relax.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Revisit your goals. Are there adjustments that you need to make to stay on track?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
You may not yet be ready to execute your plans. Going over the details again and making revisions as necessary can help ensure a smoother process.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Challenge yourself to think positively today. Don't give in to self-limiting thoughts or beliefs.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
It's time to address something or someone you've been avoiding. You won't be able to run away from it this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Be mindful of getting into petty disagreements. Thoughtfully pick and choose your battles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Embrace the spirit of spontaneity, especially when it comes to romance or making plans with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
It's a good day for activities that enable you to feel like a kid again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Maybe a heart-to-heart with a family member is necessary so that some tension can be alleviated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Use today for cleaning out your inbox or revising a project that you're working on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
It could be easy to overspend today. Watch your money.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

You might be feeling noticeably irritable or stressed today. Find a healthy way to decompress.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
You don't cave easily under pressure. You're courageous and strong. With each challenge you face, you only grow stronger. You work hard for what you want, and you rarely take shortcuts. You might have a hard time knowing when to take time off and rest because you crave excitement and enjoy the busyness of life. However, recognizing that you don't always need to push or test your limits may be a lesson you must learn. This year encourages you to invite more ease and peace into your life!

Birthdate of: Eva Longoria, actress/producer; will.i.am, rapper/music producer; David Cronenberg, filmmaker.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT/SPECIFICATIONS FOR SEALED BIDS STONE

The Boyle County Fiscal Court is currently accepting bids for the following classes of stone:
#4, #610, #2, #23, DGA, DGA/PVG, #8, #11, #333, #57, #67, Rip Rap Class II, Rip Rap Class III, 665 (shot rock), Scrap, crushed stone base (250).
Bids for each class of stone will be for stone that is loaded at the rock quarry.
Each class of stone must meet or exceed the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's standard specifications.
All acceptable bidders must be certified stone providers with the State of Kentucky.
All bids must be submitted to the Boyle County Judge Executive's office located at the Boyle County Courthouse at 321 West Main Street, Danville, Kentucky, 40422 by 9:00am March 23, 2026. Bids will be opened March 23, 2026 at 9:15am in the Fiscal Courtroom. Bids will be for a one year period.
All questions concerning this bid should be directed to Roger Johnson, Road Foreman, at (859) 319-4802.
The Boyle County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept/reject any/all bids.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT/SPECIFICATIONS FOR SEALED BIDS ASPHALT

The Boyle Co Fiscal Courts is currently accepting sealed bids for the following items:
Class 2 Asphalt Surface 0.38D
Class 2 Asphalt Binder 0.50D
Class 2 Asphalt Base 0.75D
The bid for each item should include a bin price and an in-place price for placement of the asphalt anywhere throughout Boyle County on all types of projects. An additional in-place for patching throughout the County should also be included.
The items must meet or exceed the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's standard specifications.
All acceptable bidders must be certified asphalt contractors with the state of Kentucky.
All bids must be submitted to the Boyle County Judge-Executive's office located in the Boyle County Courthouse at 321 West Main Street, Danville, KY 40422 by 9:00am March 23, 2026. Bids will be open March 23, 2026, 9:15am in the Fiscal Courtroom. Bids will be for a one year period.
All questions concerning this bid should be directed to Roger Johnson, Road Foreman, at (859) 319-4802.
The Boyle County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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House passes major \$801M budget plan

By McKenna Horsley
Kentucky Lantern

FRANKFORT — Seven pieces of legislation — including a vague one-page plan for spending \$801 million and the state’s road projects plan — were approved Tuesday by the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee and passed by the House within a few hours.

With a Republican supermajority, GOP lawmakers easily had the votes to move the bills out of the chamber. Still, a few Democrats voted against the bills and resolutions and denounced the lack of time they had to review committee changes before casting a vote.

“It’s not available for the public to see. Don’t know what’s in it. Didn’t have time to read it, so I’m a no,” said Rep. Adrielle Camuel, D-Lexington, while the House voted on House Bill 501, which is the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet budget.

Democrats have made similar arguments this legislative session and in years past. Some advocates, such as the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, have also called for legislators to avoid giving floor votes to bills on the day they move out of committee. However, Republicans — who control the House and Senate — have defended their transparency to the public.



KENTUCKY LANTERN PHOTO

Republican House Speaker David Osborne looks out onto the House floor as lawmakers line up to file legislation with the clerk.

Speaker David Osborne, of Prospect said most of the bills passed Tuesday in the A&R committee and on the floor had been public information for most of the legislative session.

“There were some small tweaks on some of the bills. The alcohol bill got a little bit smaller, some small changes on that, but overall the road plan was exactly as filed,” Osborne told reporters. “So, I think the overwhelming majority of substance was unchanged.”

In order to veto-proof bills from Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear, both the GOP-controlled House and Senate must pass them by April 1 to ensure

they have enough time to override gubernatorial vetoes.

The bills and resolutions that now go to the Senate are:

- HB 9 makes changes to sales taxes on alcoholic and cannabis-infused beverages.
- HB 501, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet budget.
- HB 502 allots money for statewide road projects over the next two years.
- House Joint Resolution 75 sets up the six-year road project plan.
- House Joint Resolution 76 highlights priority county road projects in the six-year road project plan.
- HB 869 sets up the

rural building and job creation revolving fund and would require the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to work with the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet to promote jobs created in the state as part of incentive programs.

• HB 900 would direct \$800 million over the next two years to one-time spending, but it doesn’t explicitly say how the dollars would be used. It also includes \$1 million in spending for the current fiscal year.

On HB 900, Osborne said the House and Senate have “yet to agree on a final amount of money” and have different opin-

ions on what should be in the final bill. He added that about \$30 billion in requests have been made for one-time spending.

“Clearly, that’s going to take an exhaustive negotiation to come to an agreement on how we pull a billion out of those requests,” he said. “It’s a process that is larger than can happen just in one chamber. It’s got to be both chambers talking with it.”

The House bill lists several categories in which the \$800 million would be spent: water and sewer project pools, economic development investments and smaller one-time local infrastructure projects and investments.

According to the text of the bill, the measure is titled “An Act relating to government agencies, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.”

The legislation states that the appropriations are supported solely by funds from the budget reserve trust fund account established by KRS 48.705 and “shall not be identified as GF appropriations when certifying the reduction conditions pursuant to KRS 141.020(2)(b) and (c).”

The bill outlines the intent of the 2026 General Assembly to appropriate General Fund money in the amount of \$400,000,000 in fiscal year 2026–2027 and \$400,000,000 in fiscal year

2027–2028 from the budget reserve trust fund account to various state government agencies to support one-time expenditures.

The bill identifies three categories for those expenditures:

- (a) Water and sewer project pools;
- (b) Economic development investments; and
- (c) Smaller one-time local infrastructure projects and investments.

The legislation also states that the General Assembly recognizes the projects and allocations identified in the bill represent an initial phase of planned investments and that additional projects and appropriations within those categories or others may be authorized before the conclusion of the 2026 regular session.

The bill further declares that, because the provisions provide ongoing support for state government agencies and their functions, an emergency exists and the act would take effect upon passage and approval by the governor or upon otherwise becoming law.

Democratic Caucus Chair Lindsey Burke, of Lexington, disavowed the bill during floor debate, saying it seems to say “that we are going to do whatever with \$800 million taxpayer dollars.”

“How can I say, ‘yes,’ to a one page document that allocates \$800 million?” she said. “How can anyone say yes to that?”

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Submitted

PROPERTY TRANSFERS RECENTLY RECORDED IN THE BOYLE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE INCLUDE:

- Ricky and Beverly Presley to Caleb and Jillian Mills, property on Daugherty Road, gift; fair cash value, \$25,000.
- Louis and Ling Walker to Rachel Noe, property on Sixth Street, \$102,000.
- Whitehouse Homes LLC to Amy Lyons, property in The Hunt

Farm subdivision, \$315,000.

- Teresa Pelfrey, Trina and Ron Sawyer, Deidre and Richard Kinter and Deanna and Chris Charles to Express Oil Change LLC, property on Ky. 150 Bypass, \$1,030,000.
- Richard Reed and Stuart and Janice Martt to George Ross Jr., property in Lakedale subdivision, \$377,000.
- Joedy Sharpe Construction Co. to Steve

Corken, property in The Hunt Farm subdivision, \$356,900.

- Ernest and Heidi Gipson to Sherita Miller, property in Shelby Green subdivision, \$264,000.
- Haas & Haas Properties LLC to Lex Alpha Tech LLC, property on Henson Avenue, \$137,000.
- Amanda Thomas, as executrix of the Felix Irvine Jones estate, to J & JR Construction Services LLC, property in Baugh-

man Heights subdivision.

- 225 West Main LLC to Three Daughters Properties LLC, property on Main Street, \$260,000.
- Ronald and Brenda Brown to 116 E. Main Street LLC, lot in the Danville Historical Area, Project KY, R-64, \$475,000.
- Estate of Marjorie Sheets, by Shari Sheets Alexander as executor, to Melissa Sheets, two tracks in Green Meadows subdivision, \$200,000.

- Nikolette and Seth McKenzie to Karen Gray, property in The Hunt Farm subdivision, \$310,000.
- Alex Milburn to Town & Country Animal Services LLC, 20.8 acres on Ky. 34, \$845,000.
- Dane and Sandra Burris to Chengly Ty and Suth Meng, property in Paula Heights subdivision, \$190,000.
- James and Ginske Hogue to Louis and Ling

Walker, two tracts in Hillcrest subdivision, \$130,000.

- James and Ginske Hogue to Louis and Ling Walker, property in Hillcrest subdivision, \$105,000.
- Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC and Stephanie Arnold, through master commissioner Kevin Nesbitt, to Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC, property on Longview Road, \$139,000.

Pet of the Week: Elias, from stray to superstar

Submitted

Elias is a 4-year-old medium-sized mixed breed with movie-star good looks and a personality to match. His coat is a striking blend of black and warm brown, with a white speckled chest that looks like someone sprinkled a little extra charm right on top. But it's his kind eyes and friendly nature that really win people over.

This handsome guy loves people. He's the kind of dog who greets you with a happy wiggle, a wagging tail, and the unmistakable

excitement of someone who just met a new best friend. After spending time as a stray, Elias seems especially grateful for attention and companionship.

Like many enthusiastic dogs, Elias is still polishing up his manners. When he gets excited, he may jump



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Meet Elias, a joyful dog ready to steal your heart.

up to say hello; he just can't contain his joy! Because of that, he may need a little guidance around smaller children while he continues learning his "four on the floor" greetings. The good news? Elias is smart and eager to please.

Recently, Elias got to go

on a Doggie Day Out field trip, and he made the most of every minute. Volunteers reported plenty of wiggly wagging, goofy moments, and a playful spirit that made the day extra fun. He clearly loved getting out to explore the world and spend time with his

human companions. Adventures, walks, and playtime are definitely high on his list of favorite things.

What Elias wants most, though, is a home of his own: a place where he can relax, learn, play, and finally leave his stray days behind for good.

If you're looking for a friendly, joyful dog who will greet you every day like it's the best day ever, Elias might be your guy.

Don't wait - apply at dbchs.org/adopt and plan to meet all of our adoptable pets. DBCHS is open 1-5 pm Monday-Wednesday, 11-5 pm Thursday, noon-4 pm Friday, and 10-3 pm Saturday.

The Danville-Boyle County Humane Society, established in 1972, is a nonprofit that relies on generosity. Current needs: dry dog food and bleach. Stop by to donate or visit our Amazon Wishlist: <https://rb.gy/hcozh>.

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PREP SPORTS

DCA returning to Rupp

By **MIKE MARSEE**
Contributing Writer

SOMERSET — A repeat is no easy feat.

Danville Christian earned its second consecutive trip to the Boys Sweet 16 by winning the kind of game that made the Warriors appreciate their achievement all the more.

The Warriors won the boys 12th Region Tournament on Tuesday by edging West Jessamine 37-33 in a championship game that came down to the final seconds.

“God is so good,” DCA guard Eli Perez said. “I mean, we don’t deserve this. We could have lost this game easily. God has been with us the entire time.”

For the third time in as many regional games, DCA held its opponent to its lowest point total of the season. This time, however, the Warriors also had their score of the season, and the lowest score in any game they’ve won in their eight seasons in the KHSAA.

They were held to 18 points in the first three periods but got 19 in the fourth quarter to put away West Jessamine and become the first area boys team to repeat as regional champions since Lincoln County in 2008.

“It’s a very difficult thing to do, and all glory to God because he has sustained us throughout the year, watched over us,” DCA coach Shaun Busick said.

DCA (23-7) will play defending state champion Great Crossing (23-11) in the first round of the Boys Sweet 16 at 8:30 p.m. March 18 at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

“The opportunity to go back a second time, I don’t think it’s hit me,” Busick said. “To go one time is a lifetime event, but to go twice and in back-to-back seasons, we just praise God for the opportunity he’s given us.”

After returning three starters and two others who saw significant playing time at the state tournament last season, DCA won seven of its first eight games and went 10-0 against 45th District opponents and 15-2 against the 12th Region.

The Warriors won their two district tournament games by a total of 12 points but defeated their first two opponents in the regional by a combined margin of 48.



Dre Motley shows the championship trophy to his Danville Christian teammates Tuesday following the Warriors' victory over West Jessamine in the boys 12th Region Tournament championship.

MIKE MARSEE

Their final game at Pulaski County was far different, however, as there were six ties and six lead changes before the Warriors took control with 3-point baskets on three straight possessions in the fourth quarter.

The Warriors were 0 for 9 from long range before 6-10 Geu Leek Ateny, their best and most prolific 3-point shooter, connected with 5:11 to play to give them a 23-21 lead.

Reserve Josiah Bradshaw then answered a 3 by West Jessamine’s Gavin Murphy with one of his own, giving DCA the lead for good at 26-24.

“That one that Josiah hit was probably as big as any 3-pointer in this school’s history,” Busick said.

After a defensive stop, Ateny drilled another 3 to put DCA up 29-24 with 3:59 remaining.

“I’ve just got to be ready every time because my team would always find me on the 3-point line or whenever I’m open, so I was just ready to shoot it,” said Ateny, who led the Warriors with 16 points, eight rebounds and four blocked shots.

It was still a four-point game when Perez delivered a dagger, a three-point play with 1:28 to play that gave DCA its largest lead at 34-27.

West Jessamine (19-11) still had hope because the Warriors missed three of six free throws in the final minute, but Ben Mikels slammed the door when he made the second of two foul



Geu Leek Ateny (back) and Ben Mikels of Danville Christian defend a shot Tuesday by West Jessamine's Kaden Floyd during the second quarter.

MIKE MARSEE

shots with 3.4 seconds left to set the final score.

“I knew we had to make it a two-possession game ... and it was a great feeling once it went through that net,” Mikels said.

Several DCA players said they expected a close game, but not one in which points came at such a premium.

“Not necessarily, but at halftime, for sure, it set in,” guard Cole Dadisman said. “You could definitely tell (by then). So we adjusted. (We were) more patient, knowing that it was going to be low-scoring. Our shots really, really mattered, so you’ve got to take care of the ball.”

Every basket was earned in a

game that saw the two teams combine for only 68 field goal attempts.

“They were good contesters, making us take tough shots. Their defense is really good on ball,” Dadisman said.

Perez scored seven points, Graham Domidion scored six and Mikels had six rebounds for DCA, which led 14-12 following a first half in which there were only 11 made shots.

West Jessamine (19-11) took a 20-18 lead into the fourth quarter after the Warriors scored only twice in the third.

“I think sometimes you’ve just got to win with your defense and rebounding, and tonight it

See **DCA**, 11A

DCA's Meyer receives KHSAA award

By **MIKE MARSEE**
Contributing Writer

Grace Meyer of Danville Christian has been named the 2026 Midway University/KHSAA Girls Basketball Student-Athlete of the Year.

The Student-Athlete of the Year awards program recognizes male and female student-athletes for all KHSAA-sanctioned sports and sport-activities.

The Male and Female Student-Athlete of the Year awards are based on athletic performance, academics and excellence in community service. Students must possess an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better to qualify.

Meyer, a senior, will be eligible for the overall Midway University/KHSAA Female Student-Athlete of the Year award.

Area inductees join regional basketball HOFs

By **Mike Marsee**
Contributing Writer

Six coaches and athletes from area schools were among the inductees into the 12th Region basketball coaches association’s halls of fame.

Inductions were held during their respective regional basketball tournaments.

The local inductees:

GIRLS

Players-Dana Bodner, Boyle County; Emmie Harris, Boyle County; Angie McGlone, Mercer County

Coach-Cassandra McWhorter, Lincoln County/Somerset/Garrard County

BOYS

Contributors-Victor Black, Casey County; Shawn Conley, Lincoln County

KENTUCKY SPORTS

Cats defeat LSU in SEC opener

By **KEITH TAYLOR**
Kentucky Today

NASHVILLE — It took a miracle for Kentucky to beat LSU earlier this season.

This time, the finish wasn’t as dramatic as Malachi Moreno’s buzzer-beater that lifted the Wildcats to a 75-74 triumph in Baton Rouge. An 87-82 win on Wednesday at Bridgeport Arena propelled the Wildcats into the second round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament.

Kentucky (20-12) led by double digits in the second half and escaped an LSU team fighting to extend its season. The Tigers lost nine of their last 10 games and ended with a 15-17 record.

Despite the struggles, advancing in the tournament wasn’t easy for Kentucky, which carried a two-game losing streak into the postseason.

“Fun game,” Kentucky coach Mark Pope said. “This LSU team’s really athletic. They’ve been in every game they’ve played in. I thought they played great tonight. I thought they came in with a great game plan. I’m proud of our guys for being ready to go and competing. I thought the guys started well.”

Kentucky, a rare No. 9 seed in the five-day event, won its opening game in the tournament for the second year in a row under Pope and takes on eighth-seeded Missouri at 12:30 p.m. EST Thursday. The Tigers defeated the Wildcats 73-68 in

one of the team’s most disappointing home losses of the year on Jan. 7.

“They made shots against us when we played them at home,” Pope said. “They made some plays late that really hurt us. They’re a good team. Really well-coached. Coach does a great job. It will be a great challenge, just like every game in this tournament is going to be a challenge.”

Kentucky leading scorer Otega Oweh did his usual with 23 points in the tournament opener, but got some help from the reserves, including Brandon Garrison, who scored 17 of the team’s 29 points off the bench. Back-to-back 3-pointers by Garrison during a 12-1 run in the second half provided adequate spacing for the Wildcats, and it



UK ATHLETICS PHOTO

Brandon Garrison's 17 points were critical in Kentucky's 87-82 victory over LSU in the SEC tournament on Wednesday afternoon in Nashville.

was the last of four ties and 15 lead changes in the contest.

Pope wasn’t surprised by

Garrison’s two treys that

See **CATS**, 11A

Gambling raises alarm in college athletics

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT — As March Madness begins, a new, annual national poll from Sacred Heart University (SHU) in partnership with GreatBlue Research finds widespread concern about the expanding influence of sports gambling on college athletics. According to their findings, most Americans believe sports betting is affecting the integrity of college basketball, and nearly two-thirds worry college athletes may face pressure tied to betting activity surrounding their games.

The findings of the 2026 Sacred Heart University Nationwide Sports Gambling Poll include:

- 56.9 percent of Americans say sports gambling affects the integrity of college basketball either “significantly” or “somewhat.”

- 63.2 percent say they are at least “somewhat concerned” that college athletes may be pressured by gambling activity.

- 51.2 percent believe college students are at higher risk for problematic gambling behavior compared to the general population.

The findings highlight deepening public unease at the intersection of legalized sports betting and amateur athletics, particularly during high-visibility tournaments such as the NCAA men’s and women’s basketball championships.

“College athletics occupy a unique place in American sports culture,” said Andrew Miller, director of SHU’s sports communication & media graduate program.

“Americans may accept legalized sports betting overall, but they clearly feel differently when the pressures associated with gambling reach student-athletes.”

Concern about athlete pressure increases with age. 69 percent of Americans 55 and older say they are concerned that college athletes may face gambling-related pressure, compared to roughly 60 percent of adults under 55.

Similarly, belief that college students face elevated risk for problematic gambling

behavior is highest among older respondents, suggesting a generational divide over the speed at which sports gambling has expanded around college campuses.

“This poll shows Americans remain uneasy when gambling intersects with college athletics,” said Josh Shuart, program director and professor for SHU’s sport management program.

“The concern isn’t just about the games themselves; it’s also about the pressure that betting activity could place on student-athletes and the potential impact on the integrity of competition.”

The poll was conducted Feb. 2–5 among 1,500 U.S. adults was weighted according to age, gender, and U.S. Census region.



Nearly 57% say sports betting threatens college basketball integrity.

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DCA

Continued from A10

was just defense,” Busick said. West Jessamine shot just 35 percent from the field – DCA shot 41 percent – and made only one of seven 3-point tries. The Colts’ leading scorers, Gavin Murphy and Kaden Floyd, had only 10 and five points, seven below their combined average. “We communicated on defense, (focused on) boxing out and getting rebounds and got some stops,” Ateny said. It was stops rather than shots that made the difference for DCA. “You’ve got to win a variety of ways to go to Rupp Arena. We had our way the first two games and played the way we wanted to, and then there’s going to be games like this,” Busick said. “And I think the resiliency of our players really shows through in a game like that.”

CATS

Continued from A10

provided a spark for his squad even though he only made two others all season. “He’s always had the green light,” Pope said. “When he took the first one, you could hear all BBN saying like, ‘Shoot it, shoot it’. We all know. It’s awesome.” Garrison played a big role in the first half after Moreno collected two fouls early and played just five minutes in the opening half. Pope said Garrison’s six points in the first half were beneficial and provided a lift with Moreno looking on from the bench. “I thought BG was tremendous,” Pope said. “He gave us

a real boost after Malachi’s two fouls in the first half.” Denzel Aberdeen, who finished with 16 points, said Garrison “came in and stepped up big-time.” “He always comes to the game ready 110 percent,” Aberdeen said. “He’s not backing down to any challenge. I’m just proud of him today for him coming up and stepping up.” Playing in his first game since returning from a broken foot, Kam Williams finished with three points in 17 minutes. Pope said he hopes Williams can continue to contribute regularly in the postseason. “We just felt like he was at a place where we could throw him out there,” Pope said.

GOING GOING GONE! **On-Line Only Living Estate Absolute Auction !!**

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Early Listings

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Out of the Blue

Kentucky forward Mo Dioubate goes up for a shot in Kentucky's 84-77 loss to Florida on Saturday at Rupp Arena. The Wildcats finished the regular season at 19-12 and will need to win five straight games to win the SEC Tournament. (Les Nicholson photo)

Video:



Click the QR code for UK coach Mark Pope's thoughts on the SEC Tournament.



Drive for five

UK faces tough road ahead in SEC Tournament

Kentucky is limping into the postseason and will need to win five straight games to earn a league-record 33rd Southeastern Conference Tournament title this week in Nashville.

Not that anybody outside UK's inner basketball circle is expecting it.

Only once this season have the Cats put together a five-game winning streak. That happened from Jan. 10 to Jan. 24. Inconsistent play and missed opportunities have been a trademark for coach Mark Pope's second UK team.

The Wildcats (19-12, 10-8) had an opportunity to secure one of four coveted double byes for the league tournament. However, a disappointing 96-85 road loss at Texas A&M, followed by an 84-77 setback to No. 5 Florida in the home finale on Saturday, resulted in a No. 9 seed in the league tournament. A win over the Gators would have landed the Wildcats in the quarterfinals.

For the first time since the league

expansion, Kentucky will play in the opening round of the event on Wednesday and will take on LSU in the tournament opener at 12:30 p.m. ET in Nashville (SEC Network).

The loss to the Gators marked the team's fourth Senior Day loss since the 2020 season. Prior to the pandemic, the Wildcats had lost just three times in the home finale since 1967.

Pope said the loss to Florida, which completed a regular-season sweep for the Gators, was "disappointing" but added the Wildcats are springing forward just as the switch to daylight saving time took place Sunday morning.

"The great thing about the tournament is it's one game," Pope said. "There is only one game. It's one game. We will talk about one game. That's all it is, postseason, it's just one game."



Keith Taylor

"We are going to prepare for one game on Wednesday, and we are going to put our whole heart and soul into it, and that's the only thing that matters to us, and that's the beauty of the postseason."

It took a miracle shot for the Wildcats to overcome LSU in Baton Rouge earlier this year, a 75-74 win that propelled the Wildcats to a five-game winning streak. A win over the Tigers when it matters the most could set up a rematch against Missouri and a possible third encounter against the Gators if the Wildcats reach Friday's quarterfinal round.

To reach the Sunday finale, the Wildcats need to win five straight games, which Brandon Garrison doesn't see as a big deal, and offered no excuses.

"We all love playing basketball, so I wouldn't say that's an excuse, but we put ourselves in that position, so we can't make that excuse, but we love hooping," he said. "It'll be a fun ride."

Following the loss to Florida, Pope wasn't ready to grade his

second Kentucky team's performance, but added he thinks the Wildcats remain a "work in progress."

"Ask me when (the season is over)," he said.

That means Pope hasn't given up on the season just yet, and neither have his players, including Mouhamed Dioubate.

"I think we have been in this position before," he said. "I believe in our team to do great. Although we had a lot of losses, I still believe we can be great."

In order for that to happen, the Wildcats can't dwell on the past. A strong point of emphasis will be on the defensive end, an area where Kentucky has made the most improvement in Year 2 of the Pope era.

"When we guard, we're good, and all facets of that have to be great for us (to win)," Pope said. "When we guard, we are in every game. It's really important for us."

Now that the regular season is over, it's time for the final exam and Pope knows the assignment.

By the numbers

Otega Owhe, Denzel Aberdeen, Zach Tow and Walker Horn were the 4 seniors honored on Senior Day.

4

Otega Owhe scored 20 points or more in 14 SEC games.

14

Clara Strack scored 33 points in win over Georgia.

33

The number of players injured for UK: Jaland Lowe, Jayden Quaintance and Kam Williams.

3



Basketball Schedule

January

21
Texas • W • 85-80

24
Ole Miss • W • 72-63

27
@Vandy • L • 80-55

31
@Arkansas • W • 85-77

February

4
Oklahoma • Won • 94-78

7
Tennessee • Won • 74-71

14
@Florida • Lost • 92-83

17
Georgia • Lost • 86-78

21
@Auburn • Lost • 75-74

24
@South Carolina • Won • 72-63

28
Vanderbilt • Won • 91-77

March

3
@Texas A&M • Lost • 96-85

7
Florida • Lost • 84-77

11-15

SEC Tournament • Nashville

Football

April 18

Blue-White Game • Kroger Field