

DEATH NOTICES

Terry Wethington, 76, of Liberty, died April 22, 2026.
 Patricia Pike, 66, of Liberty, died April 22, 2026.
 Eddie Rice, 87, of Middleburg, died April 22, 2026.
 W.C. Brogle, 95, of Hustonville, died April 24, 2026.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Russell Coleman signs a commitment to protect Kentucky's kids.

Kentucky updates child abuse response protocol for 2026

By Tom Latek
 Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT – Attorney General Russell Coleman joined Kentucky prosecutors, law enforcement, advocates and medical professionals to release an updated framework for the collaborative response to child sexual abuse.

The Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission on Child Sexual Abuse unveiled its Kentucky Model Protocol for Local Multidisciplinary Teams 2026, marking the first time the Protocol had been updated since 2021. Following feedback from those who encounter child victims every day, the Commission made the framework more user friendly with a table of contents and more

charts and reference materials.

“Those using this Protocol are working some of the most heinous crimes against our children. While it’s something I wish we didn’t need, I am grateful we have it,” Coleman said. “As a father and the Attorney General, I’m indebted to the Commission and all those who stare into this darkness to help Kentucky kids find justice, healing and hope.”

The Statewide Model Protocol is a mandatory blueprint law enforcement officers, social workers and prosecutors follow to investigate child sex abuse cases. The protocols seek to minimize trauma, encourage collaboration among agencies, and hold offenders accountable.

A smidgen is a unit of measure

Psalm 90:4 “For a thousand years in thy sight are but yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.”

Anyone who considers themselves a southern gourmet cook knows what a smidgen is. It’s like a “bit” or a “pinch” or a “tad.”

At any rate, a smidgen is a legitimate unit of measure south of the Mason-Dixon Line. As of yet, however, I haven’t seen a spoon in a measuring set with such an amount. We simply have to guess or use our best judgment.

Measurements in time and materials control us. We are in bondage to watches, clocks, and calendars. Flight schedules, work time clocks, and even time settings for distance determine our every movement.

Some websites and other publications are now adding “read time” to articles.

Many in today’s world if asked, can answer the question in minutes. How far is it to the next town? “Twenty minutes.” “At what speed?” would be a reasonable response.

Could a carpenter build a house without a tape measure? Could a cook bake a cake without measurements? Of course not!

We are physical beings. Our life span, the years of our marriage, and the ages of our children are all stated in numbers. Doctors weigh us when we go for a checkup. The results of our blood tests are stated in numbers.

We “count heads” for attendance and count how many were saved (received Jesus as Lord and Savior) at a crusade or on a mission project. Numbers are important to us.

The number of believers is surely important to God. Second Corinthians 5:15 “And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

Second Peter 3: 8 “But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day with the Lord is like a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.” God is spirit, infinite and eternal.

So, why is time irrelevant to God? Because He is infinite and eternal!



VAN YANDELL

If we speak of eternity in God, we must not only look to the future but also to the past.

If God will always be, He must have always been.

Many astronomers and other scientists want to assign numbers to the existence of the sun, the Earth, the galaxy, and the universe.

Many engage in a pointless debate over how old the planet or the universe is. The distance across the Milky Way galaxy is (we’re told) 100,000 light-years, and the universe is 97 billion light-years across.

Should we really be concerned with the distance to Mars or Proxima Centauri? Our individual curiosity factors want to know some things, and for many, those distances are intriguing but inconsequential in our everyday lives or our eternal destination.

But what is really important? The Bible teaches that we have an eternal soul. No one has ever seen such a thing. No one has ever died and come back to report on Heaven or Hell, except to write a book or a movie script.

No one knows where the eternal soul resides; if it is asleep, concealed in a body cell, or flows through one’s veins or central nervous system.

The Bible tells us to believe by faith (Ephesians 2:8). Faith is believing in something that cannot be proven or that common sense tells us cannot be true. Faith is a steadfast belief in something’s truth.

Can we understand in a world of skepticism why so many are turning to non-belief?

A question asked was, “Why do you believe in God?” Can anyone give a logical or reasonable explanation for why we exist?

To believe that something came from nothing (on its own/spontaneous generation), or that order came from chaos, takes more faith than believing in a Creator God.

Granted, religionists cannot

prove God, but the evidence is overwhelming. How much evidence does it take to make a fact? The answer to that is with the individual.

The non-believer must also ask the question “What if I’m wrong?” Whereas there is no (court of law) proof of God, there is no such proof of evolution.

The non-believer must think we, the planet, the atmosphere, the universe came from somewhere. Since there is no such thing as spontaneous generation of matter, where and how did all things begin?

What makes sense to you? Why do you exist? Why do we think, have emotions, or die?”

Our Creator (John 1: 3) was also subjected to numbers. He was born the person Jesus 2026 years ago, lived to the age of 33, was on the cross for 6 hours, in the grave for 3 days, and lived after His resurrection for 40 days before ascending into Heaven.

Even Jesus can’t escape measurements and numbers. So, how long is eternity? The most reasonable answer is “It’s a time that cannot be measured!” As a smidgen cannot be measured, neither can eternity.

Proverbs 3: 5 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Is our ability to think a curse or a blessing? Whichever it may be, we must not let it mislead us.

An old Cherokee proverb states: “There is a fight like two wolves going on inside you, one is evil; one is good.” The question asked was, “Which one will win?” The answer: “The one you feed!”

The Bible teaches that there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith-based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6), and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

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Utility rates to rise 5.98% for Kentucky Electric Cooperative

By Tom Latek
 Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT – On Thursday, the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) issued its Final Order in an East Kentucky Power Company (EKPC) rate case, in which the agency accepted a Joint Settlement Agreement (JSA) with modifications.

In their application, EKPC asked for \$79,757,474 or a 7.49 percent increase in revenues. Additionally, all 16 rural electric cooperative utilities who are Owner-Member cooperatives of EKPC, filed applications for a pass-through increase in rates to correspond with the increase in EKPC’s requested increase.

On November 25, 2025, EKPC filed a Joint Settlement Agreement between EKPC, the Attorney General, and Nucor, which were interveners in the matter. It proposed an increase to base rate revenues of \$63,727,181 or 5.99 percent, as well as changes to their existing earnings mechanism (EM) and eliminating

the Generation Maintenance Tracker, shifting to a symmetrical earnings mechanism (SEM).

The SEM would allow EKPC to automatically issue a refund to members if it earned over a 1.6 TIER in a given year and automatically collecting more if EKPC earned under a 1.4 TIER. The Parties agreed that EKPC should collect or return any margins to its Owner-Members for contemporaneous collection or pass-through to Retail Members in the form of a bill charge or credit.

In the order, the Commission modified the JSA, authorizing a revenue increase of \$63,670,273, or 5.98%. It also denied the SEM for several reasons including EKPC’s recent pattern of earning that shows EKPC is more likely to collect from its customers than to issue a refund and because the Commission fears the SEM could allow large bill increases automatically without customer notices or PSC oversight over whether the increases are fair, just and reasonable until after the fact.

Drought grips Ky. with 97% of state affected

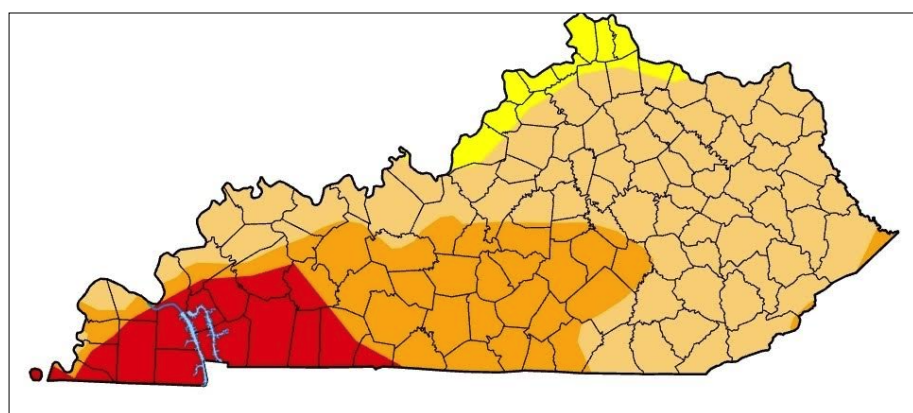
By Tom Latek
 Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT – Continued dry conditions over the past week have led to continued expansion of drought areas in Kentucky, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report, which was issued on Thursday.

Only small slivers of Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties have no drought conditions, which is only 0.03 percent of the state’s land area. That is down from 4.37 percent statewide in the previous report.

Abnormally dry conditions, D0 on the scale that runs up to D4 for exceptional drought, is now reported in 4.82 percent of Kentucky, in areas along the Ohio River between Jefferson and Mason counties. That is a drop from 13.81 percent last week.

Moderate drought conditions, or D1, saw a small increase from the last report, from 55.34 percent to 55.81 percent, but the biggest rises were seen in



NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION CENTER

Most of state is now affected by a drought.

the next two drought categories.

D2, or severe drought is now in 26.76 percent of Kentucky’s land area, up from 23.62 percent that was recorded last week.

Extreme drought conditions, or D3, saw the largest jump from a week ago, going from 2.86 percent to 12.58 percent. This includes large areas of Western Kentucky.

No areas of Kentucky are reported to have D4 conditions this week. See the map that accompanies this story for information on how your county fared.

Brian Fuchs with the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln noted, “Kentucky experienced further degradation, with virtually the entire state now in drought. Moderate and severe drought expanded across western and central areas. The period from November 2025 through March 2026 ranks as the fifth-driest five-month period on record for Kentucky’s western climatic division.”

There may be some good news in the days ahead,

according to the Climate Prediction Center, as Kentucky is being forecast to have near or slightly below temperatures during the period that ends May 2, along with slightly above normal precipitation.

The U.S. Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the NDMC, the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Map courtesy of NDMC.