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Boyle crews assist after fatal Herrington Lake collision

By Casey Roberts
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE, Ky. — Boyle County emergency crews were among the agencies that responded to Herrington Lake after a pontoon boat collision Saturday evening led to a two-day search and the death of a 25-year-old Nicholasville man.

Search crews recovered the body of Nazar Svintozelskyi, 25, at approximately 3:50 p.m. Monday, July 6, according to the Mercer County Fire District. The recovery ended an extensive search that began after the crash near Herrington Woods Road in Mercer County.

Officials said Svintozelskyi's body was located in approxi-

mately 184 feet of water. He was transported to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office in Frankfort for an autopsy.

The Svintozelskyi family, a Ukrainian family living in Nicholasville, was on the lake when the collision occurred shortly after 8 p.m. Saturday. Mercer County Fire District and Mercer County EMS responded

to the scene and established operations near Pandora Marina.

One person was recovered from the lake with traumatic injuries and flown by helicopter to the University of Kentucky. Three others were rescued with minor injuries and transported to a Danville hospital, officials said.

A family friend identified the

seriously injured man as Oleksandr Svintozelskyi, Nazar's father.

The Boyle County Fire Department Water Rescue and Dive Team was requested through Bluegrass 911 and deployed to Mercer County to assist with the search and

See **BOYLE**, 2A



CENTRE COLLEGE

Gov. Andy Beshear speaks to students participating in the 2026 Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program during a visit to Centre College.

Beshear encourages scholars during Centre visit

Kentucky governor reflects on his own GSP experience during visit to Centre College

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear encouraged students participating in the 2026 Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program to embrace new experiences and build lasting relationships during a recent visit to Centre College, according to a Centre College news release.

Beshear spoke for more than an hour with more than 300 students attending this summer's Governor's Scholars Program on Centre's campus. A member of the program's 1995 class, Beshear reflected on how GSP helped shape his confidence and outlook.

"I owe this program so much," Beshear said in the release. "I came to Governor's Scholars not

quite sure of myself."

According to the release, Beshear told students the program helped him realize he was not alone and that there were others who valued learning, supported one another and believed in his potential.

After his opening remarks, Beshear answered questions

See **BESHEAR**, 2A

Ephraim McDowell Adds PET Scanner

New imaging technology brings advanced diagnostic testing closer to home for regional patients

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE, Ky. — Patients receiving cancer care in central Kentucky will have expanded access to advanced diagnostic imaging following the installation of a new PET scanner at the Ephraim McDowell Commonwealth Cancer Center.

According to a news release from Ephraim McDowell

Health, the addition of the positron emission tomography, or PET, scanner marks a significant investment in the health system's cancer services and will allow patients to receive advanced imaging in Danville without traveling outside the region.

PET scans provide physicians with detailed information about

See **EPHRAIM**, 2A



NORTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

One of Jon Cherry's photographs featured in Be The People: Portraits of Contemporary America, now on display in the Norton Center's Grand Foyer Gallery through May 2027.

Norton Center exhibit highlights contemporary America

By Josely Labarrere
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE, Ky. — A photography exhibition at the Norton Center for the Arts is giving visitors a chance to reflect on the meaning of American identity through images of the country's recent past.

"Be The People: Portraits of Contemporary America" is now open in the Grand Foyer Gallery and features work by Kentucky photographer Jon Cherry. The exhibition is part of America250KY, the statewide observance tied to the 250th

anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Cherry, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist and artist, uses the exhibit to examine life in the United States over the past five years. His photographs explore moments shaped by politics, grief, pride, faith and misinformation while asking viewers to consider what it means to be an American today.

The exhibit connects recent national events with the ideals at the center of the country's

See **NORTON**, 2A

INDEX

Classifieds	7A	Sports	10A
Crossword	5A	Sudoku	5A
Deaths	5A		



81° | **69°**
Showers

OBITS

PATRICIA A. LAMP, 91
RONNIE D. LEE, 69
LEONARD L. KING, 87

Danville, Kentucky

\$1.50 Newsstand



BOYLE

Continued from 1A

recovery operation.

Boyle County dive teams and boats joined responders from Mercer, Garrard and Jessamine counties, along with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, Mercer County Emergency Management, Garrard County Emergency Management and Kentucky Emergency Management.

Mercer County officials also enlisted the help of

Rapid Response Services of Dublin, Ohio, whose specialized recovery team assisted in locating Svin-tozelskiy.

In a statement released Monday evening, Mercer County Fire District Public Information Officer Dan Eades extended condolences to the family and thanked the agencies and volunteers who participated in the operation.

"It is a very sad ending for Nazar's family," the statement said, adding that the recovery also brings closure after days of

uncertainty.

The department also thanked Kamp Kennedy Marina and The Oar House for providing meals for search crews, Burgin Family Resource and Youth Services Center for supplying snacks and drinks, and Pandora Marina for allowing its facilities to serve as the command center throughout the operation.

Those who know the Svintozelskiy family have described them as generous, compassionate and deeply committed to

helping others.

A family friend said Tonya and Oleksandr Svintozelskiy were among the first families to volunteer with U4U Kids, a rehabilitation project for Ukrainian orphaned children. When organizers sought host families, the Svintozelskiys welcomed two Ukrainian girls into their home.

The friend said the family's home became a place of comfort not only for the girls they hosted but also for other Ukrainian children involved in the

program.

"I will never forget that month or the incredible generosity this family showed to Ukrainian children," the friend wrote in a public message. "It was during that time that I truly saw how sincere, compassionate and selfless they are."

Support efforts for the family continue.

Kamp Kennedy Marina in Lancaster is collecting gift cards and financial donations for the five people involved in the collision at 4646 Bridge

Road in Lancaster.

Donations are also being accepted through Venmo at @KMG7.

A separate fundraiser has been established for the Svintozelskiy family. Donations may be sent through Cash App to \$Antonina1976, and a GoFundMe titled "Support for Alex's Family After Boating Accident" has also been created.

The cause of the boating collision remains under investigation.

NORTON

Continued from 1A

founding, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Rather than presenting a single answer, the collection invites viewers to consider how those ideals are understood, debated and

tested in modern life.

Cherry's work has appeared in national and international

publications, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Associated Press and Reuters. His background as a working photo-journalist gives the exhibit a documentary focus,

using real people and real moments to show the complexity of the country in recent years.

The Norton Center is presenting the exhibition as part of a broader opportunity for visitors to consider both history and the present day. While the nation's 250th Independence Day has

passed, the questions raised by the exhibit remain current: how Americans understand one another, how national events shape communities and how citizens continue to define the country's future.

The exhibit is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday

through Friday. Guided group tours are available by request, and Norton Center staff said the exhibit will remain on display through May 2027.

Visitors may also view the Norton Center's permanent collection while at the venue. The collection includes Ex Astris, a 14-foot brass-

plated sculpture by Louisville artist Tom Lear located at the entrance to the Grand Foyer; the Haven Gillespie Fountain and Plaza; and The Walking Man, an original work by Auguste Rodin donated in 1980 by David Grissom in honor of his late father.

EPHRAIM

Continued from 1A

how organs and tissues are functioning by detecting changes at the cellular level. Unlike many traditional imaging methods, the technology can help identify cancer

earlier, evaluate how patients are responding to treatment and provide information that assists physicians in making treatment decisions, according to the release.

Health system officials said offering the service on a full-time basis locally will improve access to

specialized cancer care for patients throughout the region. The scanner is expected to reduce travel time for patients and their families while making it easier to receive diagnostic testing as part of ongoing treatment.

The expanded service also is intended to

strengthen continuity of care by allowing more patients to receive advanced imaging close to where they live and where they are already receiving treatment. According to the release, keeping those services within the community can improve convenience

while helping patients maintain consistent care throughout the course of their treatment.

Hospital officials said the investment reflects Ephraim McDowell Health's continued effort to expand access to advanced medical technology and strengthen

cancer care services across the region.

The Ephraim McDowell Commonwealth Cancer Center is based at 520 Techwood Drive in Danville. Additional details are available by calling (859) 236-2203.

BESHEAR

Continued from 1A

from scholars for nearly an hour. Students asked about issues facing Kentucky, including data center regulation, drug overdose deaths and women's reproductive rights. One student also asked about

Beshear's future political plans.

Beshear, who cannot seek a third consecutive term as governor, stopped short of announcing any future campaign but acknowledged his plans may have changed since his 2023 reelection.

"I walked offstage in 2023 after a reelection,

looked at my wife and said, 'Woo, I'll never have to run for office again,'" Beshear said in the release. "And I'll put it this way, I'm not sure that was correct."

Much of the discussion also centered on Beshear's time in GSP and the advice he had for students preparing to begin their senior year of high school.

He told scholars the program gave him a broader understanding of diversity by introducing him to students from different backgrounds and communities across Kentucky.

Beshear also encouraged students to stay connected with one another after the program ends.

"This is a network that will follow you through

life," Beshear said in the release. "And when it's tough at school, when it's tough within your community, lean on these folks."

UK researcher unveils hidden star clusters in galaxies

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. – A University of Kentucky researcher is helping uncover how stars are born and evolve deep inside galaxies by revealing dozens of previously hidden star clusters buried in cosmic dust.

Using a combination of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and radio observatories,

including the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) and the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA), the study provides new insight into how galaxies build their stellar populations over time.

The findings from "Hidden Gems in the Hearts of Nearby Galaxies: Evolution of Young Massive Star Clusters in Circumnu-

clear Rings" were presented recently at the meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Pasadena, California.

Sajja Shahrin Neha, a predoctoral researcher in the UK Department of Physics and Astronomy, led the new analyses that expand earlier work on galaxy NGC 3351 and introduces a second galaxy, NGC 1097, to better understand how young star clusters form and evolve.



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Ephraim McDowell Health expands lab technology across health system

Staff Report

DANVILLE, Ky. — Ephraim McDowell Health has completed a major investment in new laboratory technology across its health system, a move officials say will improve the speed, accuracy and consistency of diagnostic testing for patients throughout central Kentucky.

The modernization project includes new laboratory automation and diagnostic systems at Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville, Ephraim McDowell Fort Logan Hospital in Stanford, Ephraim McDowell James B. Haggin Hospital in Harrodsburg and the Ephraim McDowell Commonwealth Cancer Center in Danville.

Among the upgrades is the installation of the Beckman Coulter DxA 5000 Total Laboratory Automation system at Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center. Fort Logan Hospital received a DxA Fit automation system, James B. Haggin Hospital expanded its chemistry testing capabilities and the Commonwealth Cancer Center added new hematology analyzers.

Health system officials



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the Ephraim McDowell Health laboratory team are joined by representatives of the Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce during a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the installation of new laboratory automation and diagnostic technology at Ephraim McDowell Fort Logan Hospital in Stanford.

said the new technology is designed to streamline laboratory operations by automating many of the manual steps involved in processing and testing patient specimens. The upgrades are expected to reduce opportunities for human error, improve consistency of results across multiple facilities and shorten the time it takes physicians to receive critical test results.

The investment also expands the health system's ability to perform more advanced diagnostic testing, including high-sensitivity troponin I testing, which is used to help quickly evaluate patients experiencing suspected cardiac events.

In addition to improving patient care, the new automation systems are

intended to support future growth by increasing laboratory capacity without requiring additional space. Officials said the technology also allows laboratory professionals to devote more time to complex clinical work rather than routine manual processes.

"This investment reflects our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality healthcare close to home," said Dan McKay, president and CEO of Ephraim McDowell Health. "By advancing laboratory automation and diagnostic capabilities across our system, we are enhancing patient safety, improving efficiency and ensuring our communities have access to the latest innovations in laboratory medicine."

Lisa Snyder, system director of Laboratory and

Pathology at Ephraim McDowell Health, said the upgraded technology strengthens both the quality and efficiency of laboratory services.

"By advancing laboratory automation and diagnostic capabilities across our system, we are enhancing patient safety, improving efficiency, and ensuring our communities have access to the latest innovations in laboratory medicine," Snyder said.

According to Ephraim McDowell Health, the laboratory modernization initiative is part of the organization's ongoing efforts to improve quality, expand access to advanced medical technology and support its mission of delivering high-quality care throughout the region.

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:

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Patricia A. Lamp, 91



On May 23, 2026 the world became a grayer place because a ray of sunshine, Patricia A. Lamp, faded away. She was 91. Patty was born in Louisville, KY on December 6, 1934 to Edith (Bealmear) and Horace M. Barker. She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in 1952. She attended Western Kentucky State College, Bellarmine University and the University of Kentucky. If one were to encapsulate

Patty's life in a single phrase, "a life well lived" would not be adequate. She was a born athlete, she loved learning and she was an expert at making people feel welcome and valued. She loved being active and, at one time or another, she played tennis, racket ball, golf, skiing, diving, bicycling, and skating. In high school, Patty won at least five diving championships and was invited to try out for the Olympic Diving Team. In her thirties she learned to ski and won at least seven medals in NASTAR and Ohio Valley Ski Council competitions. She approached everything she tried with enthusiasm. For Patty, learning didn't stop because she had reached a certain age. In her forties, she learned to pilot a single engine airplane. At the age of fifty she earned her RN License. At the age of 77, she decided that she wanted to learn to play the cello. Taking a cello class might have stretched her courage and determination, but it didn't stop her. When she signed up for the beginning cello class at UK, she didn't know that it was primarily children in the class. She persevered to the very end and proudly appeared, on stage, for the class recital. Privately, she confided that she was hoping the audience would think that she was one of the instructors. Patty loved being a mother and spoke about it with such joy and devotion. She frequently commented that losing a child must be the worst thing that can befall a parent. She felt blessed that all her children remained safe and healthy during her lifetime. Patty had one daughter, Laura C. Gibson (Jeff), and two sons, Eric Vance (Julie) and Marc Vance (Leticia). There are four granddaughters: Anne-Claire Gibson, Shelby Vance (Tom), Elizabeth Vance, and Rebecca Vance. Patricia was preceded in death by her first husband, Henry M. Vance, brothers Bruce and Larry Barker and her stepson, Andrew Lamp. She was the wife of Thomas Lamp. Patricia's attitude about life can be summed up in the advice she left for her granddaughters. "These things I would suggest to you: Of greatest importance are kindness and thoughtfulness. You will never regret being kind or thoughtful. Throughout your life make time to keep in touch with each person who has been special to you. Keep a lighthearted attitude, experience all you can, and have fun! Make time for stillness; quiet the monkey mind and feel the joy." Patty was, without question, one of the kindest and most loving of people. She was a loyal and devoted friend, a wonderful mother and grandmother. She had a gift for making people feel welcome, valued, and cared for. She brought warmth, laughter, and light into every life she touched. The world is a little less bright without Patty in it, but the love, joy, and friendship she gave so freely will remain with all of us who were lucky enough to know her. The funeral service will be 10:00 A.M. Saturday, July 18, 2026 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 210 N. Main Street, Versailles, KY. Interment at 1:00 P.M. with her parents at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 1600 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth for the Camp Maria Nature Center, in memory of Patricia Lamp: <https://nazareth.org/project/camp/>. Donations may also be mailed to Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048. Memorial donations can also be made to GreenHouse17*, in memory of Patricia Lamp: <https://greenhouse17.org/donate-now/>. Donations can be mailed to GreenHouse 17, P.O. Box 55190, Lexington, KY 40555-5190. *GreenHouse 17 is an advocacy agency providing support to victims of partner abuse.

Finding God's love in life's simple

Life has a way of spinning like a Ferris wheel... beautiful, bright, but always moving. The older we get, the more we realize that the real treasures aren't found in the rush, but in the pauses. The couch-time or time gathering around the dining table sharing in conversations. The walks where hearts open. The hugs that reset the soul. The quiet moments where God whispers and we actually hear Him.

We chase bucket lists, vacations, long weekends, and those are wonderful gifts. But the true substance of life is found in the simple, sacred connections God places right in front of us. The people beside us. The moments that seem small but carry

eternal weight.

Isn't it something how God sprinkles His goodness into our ordinary days? It is like confetti falling in front of our eyes. Plus what about:

- A rainbow stretched across the sky at just the right moment
- A gentle nudge to call someone
- A pet who senses your sadness and rests their head in your lap
- A grandchild bursting with adventure
- A text you've been waiting for
- A hug that feels like healing
- Flowers from a co-worker "just because"
- Someone cleaning out your car as a love offering disguised as service

These aren't coincidences. They're reminders. God is near! God is kind! God is intentional!

Scripture tells us, "Every good and perfect gift is from above". James 1:17.

Not just the big gifts, every good thing. Every smile. Every act of kindness. Every moment that

lifts your spirit. They are all love notes from the Father.

And here's the beautiful part:

- We get to join Him in the sprinkling.
- A kind word.
- A small gesture.
- A helping hand.
- A moment of presence.
- A prayer
- A heart genuinely concerned
- A simple act of goodness that shifts someone's entire day.

Our world can be changed by me or you. It is one offering of love at a time.

As we recap our celebration of freedom, rest, and family this weekend, may we remember the greatest truth of all:

- God loved us first.
- God loved us fully.
- God sacrificed it all.

And now, we get to reflect that love in the simplest, sweetest ways, and let it continue.

May your week be filled with His whispers, His wonders, and His goodness... sprinkled everywhere you go.

Bright Blessings,
Tiffany



TIFFANY JOHNSON



The Advocate-Messenger



**CINDY WILSON
WINNER**

DEATH NOTICES

- Ronnie D. Lee, 69, of Liberty, died July 5, 2026.
- Leonard L. King, 87, of Stanford, died July 5, 2026.
- Bill Funeral Coffman, 62, of Harrodsburg, died July 5, 2026.
- Gene Funeral Stinnett, 76, of Harrodsburg, died July 3, 2026.
- Curtis E. McAninch, 62, of Harrodsburg, died July 4, 2026.
- Michael Carroll McAninch, 59, of Berea, died July 6, 2026.
- Phillip Davis, 77, of Liberty, died July 7, 2026.
- Brenton Wade Cleary, 61, of Lexington, died July 7, 2026.

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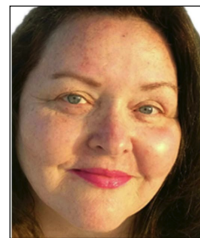
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It's never too late to go home

Years ago, Kenneth Allen fired up the John Deere and headed for a Minnesota county fair. Why not? It wasn't far—practically beside his spread. No big deal, right?



R.A. MATHEWS

Oh, but it was. The Chisago County Sheriff's Office was notified immediately, and a state legislator happened to be on the scene and got involved. According to USA Today, the joyriding incident was over within minutes—Kenneth Allen didn't have permission to take the tractor and was escorted home.

"Kids will be kids," his father told Fox 9.

But Kenneth's father quickly popped the hood and removed the tiny battery from the toy tractor. Yes, two-year-old Kenneth Allen had quietly

disappeared from his yard during the evening, driving his miniature John Deere to the county fair, heading out for a solo ride on the Tilt-A-Whirl.

Countless parents across the nation laughed—misbehaving children are nothing new. But can you think of one in the Bible? Does Scripture ever tell us of an errant child?

Give that some thought, I'll wait.

Okay, here's a hint: They're everywhere!

Cain killed his brother Abel; Jacob deceived his father to steal his brother's blessing; Hamor's princely son defiled Dinah; Jacob's ten sons sold their brother Joseph into slavery, and we aren't even out of the first book of the Bible. All of that happened in Genesis. (Genesis 4:1-8, 27:1-35, 34:1-2, 37:12-28)

Perhaps Scripture's most famous immoral child is the one who demanded his inheritance and then squandered it on wild living. We call him the prodigal.

You may wonder what "prodigal" actually means. Merriam-Webster defines it as "One who spends or gives lavishly and foolishly; One who returns after an absence." The prodigal did both. He wasted his money, ended up starving, and went home.

What most don't consider is that the prodigal didn't return out of love. It wasn't because he missed his father. He returned because his life had become hopeless.

It can take that. Many must face a crisis, whether it's an illness, failing marriage, financial need, death of a loved one, or something else, before they can say, "I need God, and I need Him desperately."

Jesus painted a vivid scene of the prodigal's return. Who first saw the wayward son?

- 1) The older brother
- 2) The servants
- 3) His mother
- 4) His father

Think for a second—this is an important moment.

It's No. 4, the father. Jesus

said: "While [the prodigal] was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him..." (Luke 15:20)

Why was his father first?

Because the father had looked down that road every day, longing for his child's return. Jesus tells us this parable for a specific reason, hoping we'll see that we have the same loving, forgiving Father in heaven. God longs for our return. He lets us go, refusing to force us to stay, but every day He hopes we'll come home.

Most Christians know this story so well that it bores them. "Yada, yada, the prodigal," they'll say. "I'm frugal, love God, go to church, end of story."

But consider this: Are you on the path God has chosen for you? Or have you made your decisions without praying, listening, and following what God wants? It may be as big as the choice of a job or as small as helping with Sunday School. You may keep failing

to invite the neighbor to church or fear criticism for speaking God's truth to the man hurting his wife.

You know in your heart what it is.

Young Kenneth Allen also knew. He was a naughty boy, taking off without permission. But his father said, "I was glad to see him."

Our Father feels the same.

You may be starving emotionally or spiritually, in poor health, or in financial ruin. Your relationships may be a mess, and you may feel hopelessly lost.

Listen to me, there's always hope with God. He is forever there. You can get down on your knees or simply bow your head. Do it right now. Confess your mistakes. God loves you and will help you.

Whatever has happened, it's never too late to go home.

Copyright © 2019, 2026 R.A. Mathews. The Rev. Mathews (BA, MDiv, JD) is the author of the "Reaching to God" series. She can be reached at RAMathews.com.

Things to think about when you can't sleep

I'm sure it has happened to everyone at some time or another. We are sitting in front of the TV, trying to stay awake as our eyelids feel heavier than a cement block.



JACK GODBEY

I mosey into the bedroom and crawl under the covers, and suddenly I'm wider awake than the taste tester at the Red Bull factory. I just lay there in bed tossing and turning, and suddenly my brain kicks in and thinks that now would be the appropriate time to ponder all of life's questions.

Folks say the older you get, the wiser you become. Whoever started that rumor has obviously never lain

awake at two in the morning staring at the ceiling fan, wondering what your dog is thinking about you. I used to think getting older meant I'd finally have all the answers. Instead, I just have better questions. Take my dog, for instance, every time I throw a tennis ball, he tears off like he's trying out for the Olympics, then brings it right back. Now, I'm lying here in bed thinking about it. I've always assumed he wanted me to throw it again and that he loves chasing the ball. What if, in reality, my dog just thinks that I really enjoy throwing the ball, and he is doing me a favor by getting it for me?

I then begin to wonder about poison. If a box of rat poison expires, does it become less poisonous, or does it just age like Grandma's

cast-iron skillet and get stronger over time? Who knows.

Have you ever thought about the fact that we pay good money for garbage bags only to throw them away? Obviously, I do when I'm trying to sleep. I realize that's their only job. They make them, we buy them, and then just throw them away. I won't even mention what we do to toilet paper. I twist and turn a little more, and then I start to wonder if a set of twins ever realizes that one of them was a surprise to their parents.

I began to stress about all the house cleaning I need to do, and it was then that I realized that every single time we clean one thing, it makes something else dirty. The more we wash the dishes, the dirtier the sponge gets. The

more we bathe, the dirtier the shower gets. It never stops. Cleaning is essentially relocating dirt until the company leaves.

I begin to wonder who in the world decided that the English language would be made up of words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings, such as "ate" and "eight". I think they are just trying to confuse me. I remember when I was just a child in elementary school, the spelling teacher did her best to teach me to spell the word caught. She used an example and said, "Spell what happens when you have a bear in a trap." I spelled, "r-u-n". I failed the class, but I still insist I was right to this day. I wondered why there are silent letters in words. They don't do anything and

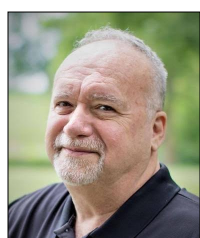
serve no purpose. They just hang around. Come to think of it, I know a few people like that as well. Still, I will go to my grave preaching that the g in Bologna just doesn't belong.

At this point, it's just getting ridiculous. The more I try to fall asleep, the more my brain says, "Not tonight, buddy," and instantly starts thinking stupid things like, "If I got a job at the police station sketching pictures of suspects, would that make me a con artist?" If Neil Armstrong tells an unfunny joke about the moon, does he say, "Guess you had to be there". I don't know, and at this point, I don't care anymore.

Finally, my brain slows down, and I start to slowly drift off to sleep just in time for my morning alarm to go off.

God's mercy endures forever, but he cannot compromise

For the last two weeks, we have been discussing the afterlife and who will receive it. Most religions are dogmatic about their salvation ideas, and Christianity may be the most narrow theological view of them all. The exclusive view that following Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven has always been under scrutiny, and I'm facing this hostility today more than ever. I hear arguments such as: how could a loving and merciful God send anyone to an eternal hell just because they chose the wrong religion? Consider the billions of individuals who have embraced their families' religious path simply because they trust what they have been taught. We read stories of God's strictness and how His truth cannot be com-



BILLY HOLLAND

promised, yet human nature still hopes He is lenient and forgiving. This subject has been on my heart lately, and I even had a dream the other night where I saw an endless multitude crying and agonizing, which was disturbing. I woke up, and my first thought was that I was seeing what it would be like at the judgment - they knew it was too late. This brings me to some important questions of my own: Since most Christians accept there is only one Savior who declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," why aren't we more broken-hearted about those who do not know Him? If we really believed the majority of the world would suffer eternal punishment because they are not born again, then why do we ignore it? Why aren't we praying, and witnessing more, or standing on the street corner preaching the gospel? Or are we just happy for ourselves and not concerned about others? Grieving for the lost is not the

same as pitying those who are not blessed like us. We are called to demonstrate our faith by our works, or our love is nothing more than an emotional whim.

A popular idea about salvation is that everyone has the free will to choose whatever they want to believe. This, in turn, makes each individual responsible for where they will spend eternity. The call of Christians to evangelize the world is more focused on those who have never heard of Christ than on trying to convince someone to abandon their religion and become a Christian. However, we are reminded of the analogy of keeping a cure for a deadly plague hidden. Is the gospel the power unto salvation or is it not? Maybe this is a subconscious excuse to not meddle in other people's business and just be glad you have the antidote. There is also a view that is opposite to the free-will philosophy, called predestination. Some Christians believe that before the world was created, God

selected certain ones to be saved, which causes a lot of hostility from those who argue that this is not fair. The response is that God has sovereign authority and can do whatever He wants.

If the doctrine of election is true, this would explain the lack of missionary support, personal evangelism, and weeping over the lost, since eternal salvation has already been decided. I personally have a hard time with this view, as the Bible discusses the importance of faith and personal choice. This raises another simple question: whether a person believes what the Bible says. Some believe that when God leaves the ninety-nine and rescues the one, it means reconciling all humans to spend eternity with Him, but others say this is not the correct context. Between the tsunami of religious interpretations and the critics that declare the Bible is not divinely inspired and does not really mean what it says, it's easy to see how religious pluralism,

universalism, and even annihilationism are growing. If all the passages about spiritual discipline and sacrifice, along with the small gate and a narrow road that leads to life, and only a few will find it, are discarded as an exaggeration, then it's easy to see how the rebellious human nature has created its own non-threatening version of salvation. It's true, everyone wants to go to heaven, but just how strict is God when it comes to sending invitations? Do you see Him as lenient, sneaking a few favorites through the back door? His truth cannot bend or be made to deal. According to the Bible, the overwhelming majority of every person who has ever lived will suffer forever. Not only all unbelievers, but every person of every other religion that has ever existed.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. To read more about the Christian life, visit our website at billyhollandministries.com

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SPORTS SLEUTH

TOUR DE FRANCE: PELOTON TALK

FLIGDBEYWTRPMKI
FDBYWUSTQBORTMK
IFRDBZXWTUUESQO
NLKEJHFDGESNCAY
WVTCTSENLGSQCEP
NLKIAFILOAHSCHF
SPRINTICCLDNUEC
BZYWFATHVYEEUMS
REDARAPASDCHPQP
NBREAKAWAYMICAL
JDDIHEHCANAPBEG

Wednesday's unlisted clue: BOGOTA

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

- Attack Cadence Echelon Pedal
Bicycle Cogset Gap Shifter
Breakaway Deraileur Mussette Sprint
Bunch Drafting Panache

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WORD SLEUTH RED TULIP VARIETIES

VFDVODAESAXVTQO
MJREDPRINCESSHF
PCSEDOAELIYWURP
NAPLNNOTIOHJHAF
DBRTZNALXLSLV
RQYAOHIRBOIIDMK
IHNFDRDWGSBSNED
BZGEPEOYWAGWUIR
VTRARQONBOSNOFL
NLCKIHHATFHAIDC
AZXMLOHKCO TSCKW

Thursday's unlisted clue: PARADE

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

- Ali Baba Kingsblood Red Princess Spryng
Capri Linifolia Red Shine Stockholm
Casa Grande Parade Seadov Toronto
Fusilier Red Hat Showwinner

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CROSSWORD

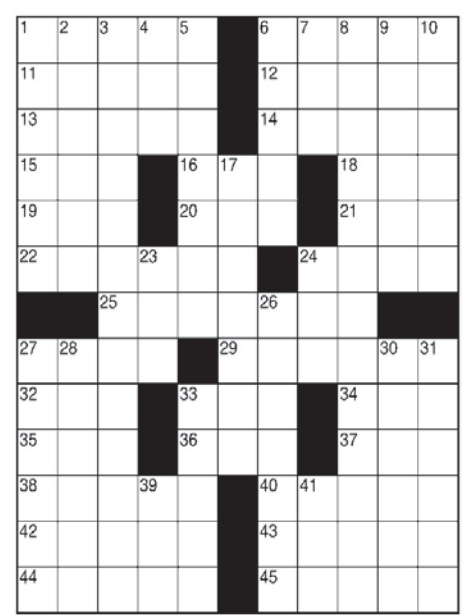
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS 40 They have handles
1 Remote locations?
6 Produces wader
11 Politician Lott
12 Sheepish
13 Mountain group
14 Fuses
15 Conclude
16 Clumsy person
18 Set ablaze
19 Candle count
20 Spoil
21 Seth's mother
22 Business deal
24 Guitar part
25 Chided
27 Flower feature
29 1979 NBA champs
32 Hold title to
33 Angry group
34 Singer Reed
35 Lend a hand
36 Copying
37 Chemist's place
38 Toll



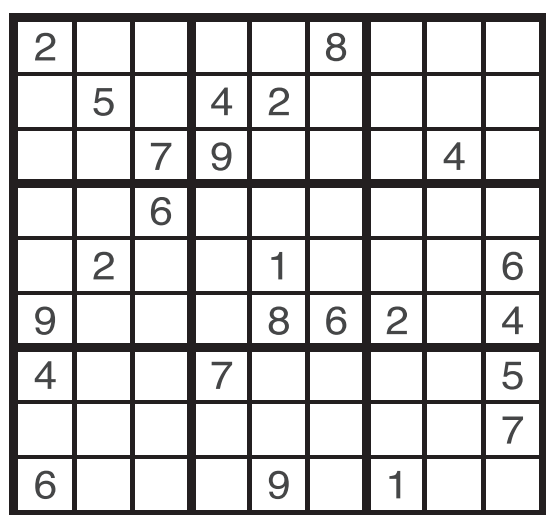
DOWN

- 8 Astonishing things
9 Salad green
10 Sonnet part
17 Sun blocker
23 Garnet or topaz
24 Marsh machine
26 Pipe fill
27 Heavy rain
28 Feeling of guilt
30 Rough
31 Group within a group
33 Fountain orders
39 Allow
41 Dog holder



7-10

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



©2026 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

"This is Rose's baby. His name is Bud."

Zits



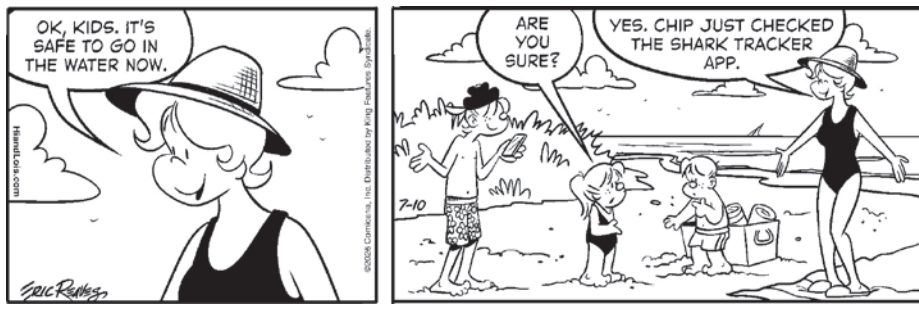
Blondie



Phantom



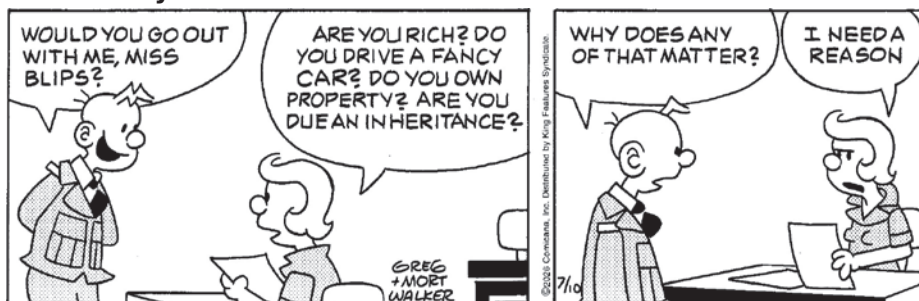
Hi & Lois



Dustin



Beetle Bailey



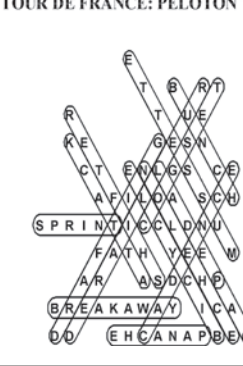
Pardon My Planet



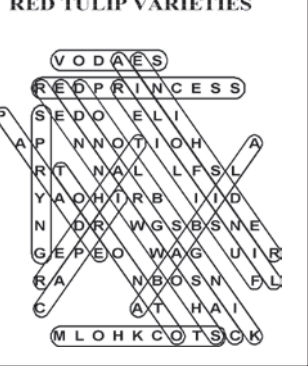
ANSWER BOX

Grid with numbers 2-9 for word placement.

TOUR DE FRANCE: PELOTON TALK



RED TULIP VARIETIES



HOPOSCOPES section with astrological advice for various signs like Aries, Taurus, Gemini, etc.

HOPOSCOPES

For Saturday, July 11, 2026
There's an upbeat energy in the air that should put people in a sociable mood.
ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
Birthdate of: Lil' Kim, rapper; Lisa Rinna, actress/TV personality; Michael Rosenbaum, actor/podcaster.
Get more of Mecca's astro-guidance at www.mylifecreated.com.
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Where data centers may rise next

Data centers are being proposed – and sometimes approved – all over

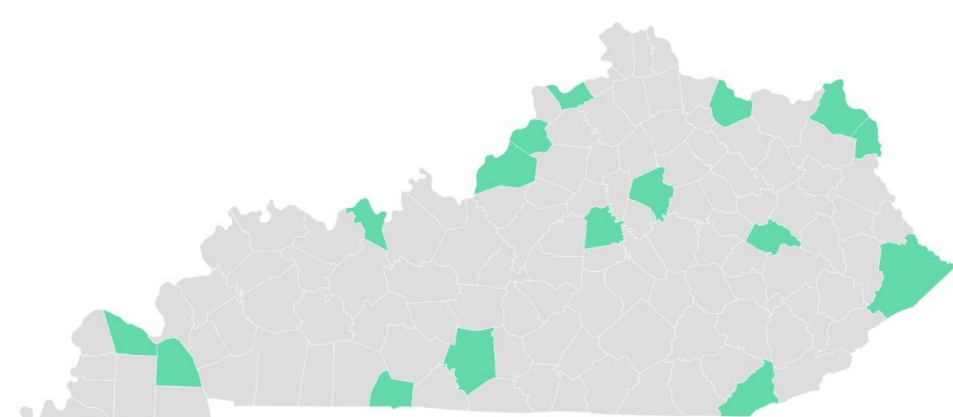
By Liam Niemeyer
Kentucky Lantern

Ever since Kentucky lawmakers approved statewide sales tax breaks for hyperscale data centers, developers are eyeing the state as a place to build these potentially massive, electricity-intensive operations.

The state has long been home to smaller data centers that power various online services such as digital cloud storage. But with the surge of billions of dollars of artificial intelligence investment from technology companies, expansive data centers coined as “hyperscale” that can consume a similar amount of electricity as an entire power plant have been proliferating across the country.

While smaller data centers generally have an electricity capacity of 1 to 5 megawatts, hyperscale data centers can consume at least 100 megawatts of power, if not much more. An undisclosed company looking to build such a center in Mason County would use an enormous 1.2 gigawatts of electricity; the coal-fired Hugh L. Spurllock Generating Station in that county can produce, at max capacity, roughly 1.3 gigawatts.

Some counties and cities have pushed back against data center development by passing temporary bans permits and construction, responding to concerns from residents over the



A Kentucky Lantern map highlights counties where hyperscale data centers are proposed, approved or already operating as developers pursue projects across the state.

PHOTO, GRAPHIC BY LIAM NIEMEYER

high electricity usage, potential water usage and noise. Developers and some local elected leaders point to a potential boon in local tax revenue.

The Kentucky Lantern created a map – with regular updates planned – of where developers want hyperscale data centers, where such centers have received local government approval to begin construction and where such data centers are already operating in the state.

Data center proposals may be added or removed from the map depending on each project’s progression.

Barren County — PLANNED: Kentucky Industrial Alliance, a company that has gathered land holdings in Barren County, is proposing to build a hyperscale data center and is suing the Cave City city council over a data center moratorium passed by the council, according to online local media outlet

Barrenside. A proposal document, reported on by Barrenside, details the site could use a combined 2 million square feet and have a combined electricity capacity of 1.2 gigawatts.

Bell County — PLANNED: WYMT reported that Murray Industries, a company that owns land in Bell County, says it’s looking to invest billions of dollars in constructing a data center. Hundreds of people attended a Bell County Fiscal Court meeting June 26, concerned about water quality and noise.

Boyd County — PLANNED: Investor-owned company Terawulf announced plans in June to place a hyperscale data center at an industrial park in Boyd and Greenup counties, potentially using up to one gigawatt of electricity when fully operational.

Carroll County — PLANNED: The Carroll County Fiscal Court on June

24 approved a motion to send a letter starting the process to provide state tax breaks to Deca Companies, which wants to build a data center in the county.

Fayette County — PLANNED: DartPoints, a Dallas-based data center developer, bought the site of Lexington a data center with plans to expand the capacity. The Lexington Herald-Leader reported a temporary moratorium on data center permits passed by the Lexington Urban County Council is preventing the center from operating.

Greenup County — PLANNED: Investor-owned Terawulf, a company that began operations mining bitcoin, is proposing to build a data center with a maximum power capacity up to 1 gigawatt, at an industrial park in Greenup and Boyd counties.

Hancock County — PLANNED: Terawulf is proposing to build a data center with a maximum

power capacity of 482 megawatts at the site of an idled Century Aluminum mill.

Jefferson County — PLANNED: The Louisville Metro Council approved plans for a 1.6-million-square-foot hyperscale data center by developers Poe Companies and PowerHouse Data Centers in West Louisville in March, according to Louisville Public Media. The approval came despite local opposition over concerns regarding potential air and water pollution. The city is now considering a draft ordinance to regulate hyperscale data centers.

Marshall County — OPERATING: CoreScientific, an investor-owned bitcoin mining company, has operated a data center campus, with an electricity capacity of 150 megawatts, since 2019 near Calvert City.

OPERATING: Riot Platforms, a bitcoin mining company, has operated a 25-megawatt data center near Calvert City since it acquired the site from another bitcoin mining company in 2024.

Mason County — PLANNED: What local elected officials have described as a “Fortune 100” company is seeking to build a data center campus that could use 1.2 gigawatts of electricity capacity in Mason County. The name of the developer has not been publicly disclosed.

Mercer County — SPECULATED: A land

developer is advertising land near the coal-fired E.W. Brown Generating Station for a hyperscale data center. Mercer County officials are also considering an ordinance to regulate data centers.

McCracken County — OPERATING: Riot Platforms, a bitcoin mining company, is operating a 60 megawatt bitcoin mining data center after purchasing the site from another company.

Oldham County — PLANNED: Developer Western Hospitality Partners announced last year it was downsizing and relocating plans for a hyperscale data center to a new site in Oldham County after pushback from local residents.

Pike County — PLANNED: The Lexington Herald-Leader reported June 5 the city of Pikeville had entered into a preliminary agreement with data center developer MD Squared to explore building a \$250 million, 25 to 30 megawatt data center in an industrial park.

Simpson County — PLANNED: Developer TenKey LandCo wants to build a massive data center in Simpson County and is suing county government over an ordinance requiring a conditional use permit.

Wolfe County — OPERATING: A company has operated a data center to mine Bitcoin in an unincorporated part of Wolfe County since 2023.

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Shaker Village to host 29th annual Craft Fair

Press Release

HARRODSBURG — Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill will host its 29th annual Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 1-2.

The event, sponsored by Becky Reinhold of Bluegrass Sotheby's and Peerhouse CPA and Consulting Services, is one of Kentucky's premier craft fairs and features regional artisans and emerging artists.

Visitors can shop for Shaker reproductions and a variety of handcrafted items, including pottery, jewelry, apothecary items, glassware, fiber art, basketry, leather goods, botanical designs, watercolors and more.

The fair will run through the heart of the village



SHAKER VILLAGE

Log snowmen handcrafted by an artisan are displayed at a previous Shaker Village Craft Fair. More than 100 vendors will return to Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill Aug. 1-2 for the 29th annual event, featuring handcrafted goods, live music, food vendors and heritage demonstrations.

along the historic turnpike and will feature more than 100 vendor booths. Guests also can visit the Shaker

Village Bar for drinks and cocktails, and food trucks will be available with lunch and snacks.

Live music performances will be featured throughout the day. Other activities will include a

heritage demonstration and exhibits, including the recently opened "Shakers Stirred."

Early bird admission is available online before July 28. Tickets are free for children 5 and younger and Shaker Village members, \$5 for ages 6-12, \$12 for ages 13-61 and \$10 for seniors, first responders and military members.

Admission after July 28 may be purchased on-site the day of the event. Tickets will be free for children 5 and younger and Shaker Village members, \$8 for ages 6-12, \$15 for ages 13-61 and \$12 for seniors, first responders and military members.

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is in Har-

rodsburg, about 40 minutes from Lexington and 80 minutes from Louisville. To plan a visit or learn more, visit shakervillage.ky.org or call 859-734-5411.

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is a landmark destination that shares 3,000 acres of discovery in the spirit of the Kentucky Shakers. The site includes 34 original Shaker structures and is home to the country's largest private collection of original 19th-century buildings. It is the largest National Historic Landmark in Kentucky.

On-site services include overnight accommodations, dining, catering services, craft shops, exhibits, a farm and garden, and 1,000 acres of restored native prairie.

Shelbyville auction features rare Col. Sanders items

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

SHELBYVILLE — A comprehensive collection of personal Colonel Harland Sanders memorabilia ever brought to public auction will be available to collectors, historians, entrepreneurs, and fans on July 28 at Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville.

Many of the artifacts originate from Blackwood Hall, the longtime home of the Sanders, where the couple lived for about 25 years.

Franchise owners from

around the world traveled to Shelbyville to learn directly from Sanders, often gathering at Blackwood Hall to study the cooking techniques, hospitality standards, and business practices that helped build one of the world's most recognizable restaurant brands.

The artifacts have been preserved by the Settle family, who purchased both Blackwood Hall and the Claudia Sanders Dinner House directly from Colonel and Claudia Sanders in 1974.

That uninterrupted chain of ownership makes



KENTUCKY TODAY FILE PHOTO

Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville.

the collection exceptionally rare and provides a level of provenance seldom available in the memorabilia market.

The collection documents Sanders' personal

life, business career, and public legacy, offering insight into both the man and the cultural phenomenon he became.

The collection is expected to attract interest

from museums, private collectors, franchise operators, food historians, and Americana enthusiasts across the United States and internationally.

For the first time, the personal collection preserved by the Settle family will be offered at auction on the very property where Colonel and Claudia Sanders lived, worked, entertained guests, and shaped the final chapter of their legacy.

"These are not items assembled by a collector," said Bill Menish, auctioneer for the sale. "They are artifacts preserved by

the family who purchased the Colonel's home and business directly from Colonel and Claudia Sanders more than fifty years ago. Together they tell a story few people have ever had the opportunity to see."

A public preview of the collection will be July 27, allowing attendees to view the items before the auction begins on July 28 at 6 pm EDT.

Additional auction details, item information, photographs, and bidding instructions are available at ClaudiaSandersAuction.com

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- Agricultural Diversification
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 - Large Animal - Small Animal
 - Farm Infrastructure
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 - Forage & Grain Improvement
 - Innovative Ag. Systems
 - On-Farm Energy
 - Poultry & Other Fowl
 - Value Added & Marketing

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Boyle County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm improvements.

Application Period:

June 29 through July 20, 2026

No applications will be accepted before June 29 or after July 20, 2026

Application Availability:

**Boyle County Conservation District
Monday – Thursday (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)**

For More Information:

Contact Mary Lawrence or Elizabeth Chunglo at (859) 238-7461 or email mary.lawrence@ky.nacdnet.net or elizabeth.chunglo@ky.nacdnet.net

All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

Administered by
Boyle Co Conservation District
448 N Danville Bypass, Danville, Ky.40422



TRIPPLE HEADER!! ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION With On-Line Bidding

Live Sales Saturday, July 25th at 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, & 12:00 Noon
(All 3 Houses will be sold from 208 Beech Street, Danville, KY 40422)
ONLINE BIDDING LIVE NOW @VipAuctionKy.HiBid.com



We have been authorized to offer at
PUBLIC OUTCRY by the Mr. Donald Haydon Estate
this Tripple Header Absolute Real Estate Auction
Which Includes:

208 Beech Street (10:00 AM) – This 2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom home situated on a large Partially Fenced lot includes Living / Dining Room, Kitchen, Breakfast Nook, Enclosed Back Porch, Central Heat & Air Conditioning, Single Car Attached Garage, Single Car Detached Garage w/ Large Workshop.

130 Nichols Street (11:00 AM) – This 2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom House Situated on a Large Pass-Through Lot Includes Living Room, Eat-In Kitchen, Foyer, Enclosed Back Porch, Central Heat & Air Conditioning, Outdoor Storage Building.

211 Nichols Street (12:00 Noon) – This 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home includes Living Room, Eat-In Kitchen, Central Heat & Air Conditioning, Enclosed Back Porch.

Open Houses – Sunday, July 19th, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

NOTICE: Potential bidders may conduct a Lead Based Paint Test; the successful bidder must sign a waiver at the auction. Announcements made at the sale will take precedence over any prior oral or written statements. Not responsible for accidents. Sold AS IS-WHERE IS with no warranties expressed or implied.

TERMS: 10% down at auction, balance and possession with deed on or before August 28th, 2026. TAXES- The 2026 real estate taxes will be prorated to the day of closing. There will be a 10% Buyers Premium added to the winning bid to determine the final sale price.

REMEMBER: TIME- 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, & 12:00 Noon
DATE- Saturday, July 25th, 2026
PLACE- 208 Beech Street, Danville, KY 40422



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MIKE MARSEE

Kenny Davis, the captain of the 1972 United States Olympic basketball team, speaks about his experiences during a recent appearance at Stanford Church of Christ.

Olympian Kenny Davis reflects on Munich decades later

By Mike Marsee
Contributing Writer

STANFORD — More than 50 years after competing in the 1972 Summer Olympics, Kenny Davis said the events that unfolded in Munich continue to shape his life and remain relevant to audiences of all ages.

Davis, who lives on a farm near Paint Lick in Garrard County, said he never expected to spend decades recounting his experiences at the Olympic Games. Yet interest in both the controversial men's basketball gold medal game and the terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 11 Israeli athletes and coaches has never faded.

"I thought it would go away, but it seemed like everywhere I go, people remember it, ask me about it," Davis said during a presentation last week at Stanford Church of Christ.

Davis served as captain of the United States men's basketball team that famously refused to accept its silver medals after what players believed was an unjust outcome in the championship game against the Soviet Union.

More than five decades later, he remains convinced the team made the right decision.

"The reason we did what we did was hopefully to keep it from happening to other athletes somewhere along the line," Davis said. "We just felt like it was wrong for us to accept (the medals) under those conditions, and the more we thought about it, I think the more we felt that we did the right thing."

The United States led the Soviet Union 50-49 with three seconds remaining before the final three seconds were replayed three separate times, a decision the Americans argued violated international rules. The Soviet Union ultimately won 51-50.

The U.S. team filed a protest following the game, but it was denied about 14 hours later. Afterward, the players voted unanimously to decline their silver medals and skip the medal ceremony.

"The reason we didn't accept the silver medal was we didn't earn the silver medal, we earned

"And I made a promise to myself while sitting there in that stadium that if I was fortunate enough to ... to get back home from Munich alive that I would do everything that I possibly could do to become the most positive person that I could be."

Kenny Davis

Olympian at the 1972 summer games

gold," Davis said.

It remains the only time an Olympic team has refused its medals. The silver medals are still stored in a vault in Switzerland, and the members of the U.S. team have consistently reaffirmed their decision not to accept them. Davis said he has also included instructions in his will directing his family not to accept the medal after his death.

"We sometimes confuse the symbol of the achievement with the achievement itself," he said. "We, the players on that team, know deep down that according to the rules that game was played under, we did win."

For Davis, a Wayne County native, the Olympic controversy became one of two life-changing experiences during the Munich Games.

A three-time NAIA All-American at Georgetown College and the first Kentucky college player to score 3,000 career points, Davis was staying in an apartment building about 40 yards from the residence where Palestinian terrorists attacked the Israeli Olympic team.

He said he slept through the initial assault, during which two Israeli team members were killed and nine others were taken hostage. Throughout the day, he watched the unfolding crisis from his apartment window, seeing both the terrorists and hostages before they were transported by helicopter that evening.

Davis said he went to bed believing the situation would end peacefully. Instead, he awoke to learn the hostages had been

killed during a failed rescue attempt at a nearby airbase.

"This has always been a vivid example to me of why it's imperative that each of us in our lives determine what really is important — not what we sometimes think it is, but what it really is — and once we make that determination that we act on it without hesitation, without delay," Davis said.

The following day, Davis joined approximately 3,000 fellow athletes at a memorial service honoring the victims. He said the experience changed the direction of his life.

"I began to realize that I had seen all the pain and suffering and heartache and negative things to last me a lifetime," he said. "And I made a promise to myself while sitting there in that stadium that if I was fortunate enough to be able to get back home from Munich alive that I would do everything that I possibly could do to become the most positive person that I could be."

Today, Davis continues to share those experiences with audiences, emphasizing gratitude, perspective and the importance of maintaining a positive outlook.

"I can't stand before you this evening to share with you that I've been 100 percent successful in (being positive)," he said. "I can share with you, though, that I get up every morning with the attitude that, regardless of what happens or what takes place, it's still going to be a good day because I'm alive and able to enjoy the beauty that's been created before us."

Former UK guard Kriisa indicted on \$2.2 million fraud scheme

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON — Former Kentucky guard Kerr Kriisa was indicted in connection with a \$2.2 million wire fraud scheme in West Virginia by the Northern District of West Virginia U.S. Attorney's Office.

According to court documents, Kriisa allegedly carried out a scheme "using false representations, fabricated identities, and deceptive communications." Kriisa allegedly posed as different individuals and falsely claimed that his family and family members were in danger and needed financial support.

The scheme took place from November 2022 to 2025. Kriisa posed as his mother requesting money to pay for cancer treatments and other victims were scammed to help "save the family farm." He also signed a false agreement promising to repay one victim \$10,000.

Kriisa was allegedly requesting repeated payments from two of the victims, while also directing one victim to send money under false pretenses. He allegedly conducted his scheme in Monongalia County, West Virginia, and elsewhere.

"Financial fraud schemes erode trust and cause real harm to victims who believed they were helping someone in need," U.S. Attorney Matthew L. Harvey said in a release. "Our office will continue to pursue individuals who exploit others through deception. We are committed to holding them accountable for their actions."

In April 2025, Kriisa allegedly signed a written agreement promising to repay one victim \$100,000 by February 2026, which prosecutors say was also fraudulent.

Kriisa played basketball for the University of Arizona, West Virginia University, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Cincinnati.



KEITH TAYLOR/KENTUCKY TODAY

Trent Noah has been impressive during summer workouts.

Veteran Trent Noah turning heads in summer workouts

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON — Trent Noah never paid attention to critics after he struggled through a "sophomore slump" last season.

Despite not spending his time reading and responding to negativity, Noah has simply stayed on task. Even while he struggled with injuries and consistency, Noah didn't run and hide when the season ended. He quickly announced he was returning for a third season with the Wildcats.

"There's zero part of me that's trying to prove other people wrong," Noah said. "I wake up every day and I do it every day to prove the people in my little foxhole right because they believe so much in me."

The Harlan County product, known by many as "Mountain Mamba," added that Kentucky coach Mark Pope "believes so much in me."

"Doing it for yourself is way bigger than doing it for other people," he said. "When you look at it in that perspective, it shifts the narrative and shifts your mind. Instead of doing it for the negative part of it, (I) think about doing it for my mom, because she's invested so much in me."

Noah also depends on his inner circle for support — his family and coach. That patience has paid off this summer and his teammates, especially Milan Momcilovic, have noticed his improvement on the court.

"I didn't watch a whole lot of Kentucky last year, watched a little bit, so I saw him play a little bit here and there," Momcilovic said. "Coming into the summer, I think he's been the best player so far."

"Coach showed a slide of points per possession, and he's No. 1 by a long shot. Looking at him and learning from him a little bit, because he's been here three years ... he's a veteran in this program; he knows what to do. So I think just watching that and seeing that, because he's a shooter too is cool."

Despite his own status as a veteran, Momcilovic has relied on Noah to help sharpen his knowledge and skills this summer.

"He understands everything — just to watch him and see how he goes about it," he said. "I have my own wrinkle to what I do, but kind of understand it from him, and take off from there."

Noah has also been impressed with this year's squad, which he describes as one that has a lot of "toughness."

"I feel like we're super tough," he said. "We really shoot the three well, and we have a lot of length. I think that that helped us on defense. We're kind of being a little more aggressive this year defensively, and I feel like our length and our size kind of make up for some of the holes that we have."

Entering his third season, Noah believes the best is yet to come.

Community leader Johnson dies at 95

By Casey Roberts
Advocate Messenger

Jack Denny Johnson, a longtime Lincoln County and Burgin educator, school administrator, banker and community leader, died recently at the age of 95.

Johnson was a lifelong Lincoln County resident whose life was marked by service to local schools, civic organizations, Stanford Baptist Church and PBK Bank.

A graduate of McKinney High School, Johnson spent 37 years serving students as a teacher, coach and school administrator. He served as superintendent of the Burgin Independent School District from 1964 to 1974, where he oversaw major school renovations and the construction of the district's gymnasium.

In 1974, Johnson became superintendent of Lincoln County Schools, leading the district during one of the most significant transitions in its history as Lincoln County High School opened following school consolidation.

When the new high school first opened, it did not have a gymnasium. Student-athletes practiced and played home games at what was then Memorial High School in Kings Mountain until a gymnasium was later added to the campus.

Johnson and his staff helped secure community support for the project, which was funded after voters in the Lincoln County school district approved a tax levy. The



FILE PHOTO

Jack Denny Johnson spent his life serving Lincoln County and Burgin through education, community leadership, Stanford Baptist Church and PBK Bank. Johnson died recently at the age of 95.

gymnasium went on to serve as the home of Lincoln County athletics for decades.

Johnson retired from Lincoln County Schools in 1983, but his dedication to education continued long after his formal career ended. He remained active in local schools by visiting classrooms, giving presentations to students and assisting with special projects.

Eric Ralston, president of PBK Bank, said Johnson's passion for education and Lincoln County defined much of his life.

"Jack was so passionate about education," Ralston said. "He would go into classrooms all the time and

"Jack was a great guy, just a fun guy. He had a great personality, a good sense of humor. He always had a smile on his face and was always laughing. I'm going to miss his laugh."

Eric Ralston

President of PBK Bank

give presentations to the students. Sometimes he would help out with special projects. The thing that Jack cared about most in life was taking care of the community, especially Lincoln County. The county and the school system were near and dear to his heart."

Johnson also served for many years as chairman of

the board at PBK Bank. Ralston said Johnson played a major role in shaping the bank's community-first philosophy.

"Jack was a pillar of the community, but beyond that, he was a cornerstone of PBK Bank," Ralston said. "PBK Bank doesn't really exist in the way that we know it today, with the

community-mindedness that we have, without him."

Beyond his work in education and banking, Johnson was active at Stanford Baptist Church, where he taught Sunday school and supported numerous church ministries.

Ralston said Johnson will be remembered as much

for his personality as for his leadership.

"Jack was a great guy, just a fun guy," Ralston said. "He had a great personality, a good sense of humor. He always had a smile on his face and was always laughing. I'm going to miss his laugh."

One memory, Ralston said, continues to stand out.

"A lot of times I would know he was here before he would even make it back to my office because he would be whistling in the lobby," Ralston said. "I would know that whistle anywhere, and I will miss that."

Even in recent years, Johnson remained active at PBK Bank, serving on committees and offering advice and perspective to bank leadership.

Ralston said some of his most meaningful conversations with Johnson came after the bank's weekly committee meetings.

"Some of the best advice I received recently was during weekly meetings at the bank following the committee meetings," Ralston said. "Jack and I would sit in my office for 20 to 30 minutes or so discussing the happenings of the bank. I will certainly miss those discussions and his wisdom. It will be tough without him."

For more than nine decades, Johnson dedicated himself to education, community service, banking and his church. Those who knew him said his influence will continue to be felt for generations.



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Out of the Blue



Pope, Pitino working on series

BY KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

Mark Pope could be seeing more of his college coach in the future. In a wide-ranging interview with Ron Rothstein of CBS Sports this week, Pope admitted that future scheduling adjustments could lead to a home-and-home series with St. John's.

"We're not there now, but if we keep working this way scheduling-wise with getting more flexibility, I can't imagine that won't happen," Pope said. "I would expect that we'll get that done sometime here in the near future."

Pope and the Wildcats defeated the Red Storm 78-66 in the CBS Sports Classic last year in Atlanta.

"That was a fun night for us," Pope recalled. "I always talk about the 17 minutes where we had our group (fully healthy), and they were really good. They were really good against a terrific St. John's team."

Pope said he thinks the former Kentucky and Louisville coach will continue to build a solid program at St. John's.

"He's still got a ton left in the tank and I think they'll continue to be really good," Pope said.

Pope added the Wildcats are "really active" on the recruiting trail and they could add a 15th player to the roster.

"We have a spot open," Pope said. "And there are a lot of intriguing things going on that are all pointed in very, very different directions."



Milan Momcilovic spoke with the media last week.

Perfect fit!

BY KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

It didn't take much for Kentucky coach Mark Pope to convince Milan Momcilovic to play for the Wildcats next season.

"I think it helped watching Pope's teams at BYU when we played them at Iowa State, and you know they beat us pretty good, and I loved the way his teams played, moving the ball, sharing it, a lot of shooting, so that kind of stuck in my mind in the recruiting process, and obviously when he recruited me, you know, his pitch was, you know, he loves playing with shooters. I felt like this offensive system was good for me and we wrapped it up from that."

Momcilovic also considered Kentucky's rich tradition and passionate fan base when making his final decision on his future home following three seasons at Iowa State. He added that relationships also played a key factor.

"It was definitely a part of (my decision) — just because Kentucky is a blueblood, it's one of the biggest brands in college basketball, if not the biggest," he said. "You have to talk about that, but at the end of the day, that didn't re-

"I felt like this offensive system was good for me and we wrapped it up from that."

Milan Momcilovic
UK transfer

ally matter for me. I think I'm more of a relationship-type guy. Obviously the brand's really cool, but I want to have a connection with the head coach and have a good, good relationship."

During his portal recruitment, Momcilovic didn't even visit and relied on relationships and instincts to help determine his next college stop. A pair of Zoom meetings with Pope, including one with Malachi Moreno, made his decision easier.

"I think being three years in college now, I kind of know what to ask, know what to expect," he said. "I could care less what the campus looks like, for real. I don't really care. Everyone's got good facilities, so that doesn't matter at the end of the day. I think just really learning and hearing what the coaches have to say is the most important thing."

Prior to making his decision, Momcilovic was "focused on

the NBA Draft," but once he made his choice, things began to fall into place.

"The decision was pretty easy to come back now with, obviously, NIL, it was pretty easy to make that decision," he said.

During the past three weeks, Momcilovic has gotten to know his new teammates and experienced a learning curve the first week of summer workouts, but now feels comfortable with Pope's offensive scheme.

"We're gonna play with a lot of pace this year, which also is gonna be another thing that's going to benefit me," he said. "We're going to play really fast in transition. I feel like we got a lot of creators at the point guard position and No. 2 position who can get downhill, obviously make a lot of plays and score the ball too. I think we just got a lot of shooters on the team, so that's going to free a lot of things up. So more



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UK Football Schedule

September

Y 5

Youngstown State: 1 p.m. • SECN+

A 12

Alabama: 3:30 p.m. • ABC

TX 19

@ Texas A&M: 3:30 p.m. • SECN

SA 26

South Alabama

October

C 3

@ South Carolina

LSU 10

LSU

OU 17

@ Oklahoma

V 24

Vanderbilt

November

T 7

@ Tennessee

FL 14

Florida

M 21

@ Missouri

L 28

Louisville



Coaches

Tubby Smith

Orlando "Tubby" Smith served as an assistant coach on Rick Pitino's at Kentucky from 1989-91, before taking over as head coach at Tulsa, and then Georgia. When Pitino left for the Boston Celtics at the end of the 1997 season, Smith took over at Kentucky and led the Wildcats to their second NCAA title in three years. Smith spent 10 seasons at Kentucky and compiled an overall record of 263-83. He then coached at Minnesota, Texas Tech, Memphis and High Point before retiring at the end of the 2021-22 season.

Blast from the past



The 1981-82 University of Kentucky Wildcats: front row, left to right: Equipment Manager Bill Keightley, Coach Joe B. Hall, Dirk Minniefield, Mike Ballenger, Derrick Hord, Jim Master, Bo Lanter, Dicky Beal, Associate Coach Leonard Hamilton, Student Manager Roger Thomas. Back row: Graduate Assistant Gordy Parido, Assistant Coach Bob Chambers, Troy McKinley, Charles Hurt, Tom Heitz, Sam Bowie, Melvin Turpin, Bret Bearup, Chuck Verderber, Assistant Coach Joe Dean, Trainer Walt McCombs.

