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CeCe's Cuddly Comfort

DeSimone's mission provides cuddles and comfort to other children

By CRYSTAL CECIL
R-H STAFF

Coralyne DeSimone is a little girl with a big heart. Coralyne, better known to most as CeCe, wants every child to find comfort in their time of need and the impact is felt far and wide. Her mission, CeCe's Cuddly Comfort, provides stuffed animals to children undergoing pediatric surgeries at Taylor Regional Hospital. Her mom, Tiffany DeSimone, says this project was born after CeCe had nasal cautery surgeries at a young

age. At the time, CeCe's older brother, Brooks, had just completed a service project in his fourth grade class at Kentucky Christian Academy. CeCe decided she wanted to start her own project. She didn't waste any time. "While still in recovery, she said she wanted to give stuffed animals to pediatric surgery patients as her service project," Tiffany said. Now, it's become her ministry. At only 11 years old, CeCe has collected and donated 137 stuffed animals



CeCe DeSimone holds one of her personal favorite stuffed animals— a sloth.

to Taylor Regional Hospital this year alone, bringing her grand total to an amazing 202 stuffed animals donated in the past year. "Each cuddly friend will be given to a child undergoing surgery — offering comfort, courage, and a reminder that they are not alone," a release by TRH said after the most recent donation. "What started as one little girl's desire to give back, has grown into a beautiful ministry that is touching so many young lives in our community."

See Comfort, page 10A

Guthrie encourages farmers to enroll in FBA Program by April 17

Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02) released the following statement encouraging Kentucky farmers to apply to receive one-time payments through the Farmer Bridge Assistance program after the United States Department of Agriculture announced the opening of the enrollment period for the program, which closes on April 17, 2026.

"It is essential that qualifying Kentucky farmers take action to receive their Farmer Bridge Assistance program payments during the ongoing enrollment window," said Congressman Guthrie. "After an extremely difficult year in agriculture, this incredible program will help producers get financial relief ahead of the spring planting season. I am grateful for the diligent efforts of the Trump Administration to support those who work around the clock to keep our nation fed and clothed."

Important Information to Apply for Farmer Bridge Assistance Program Payments:

On December 8, 2025, President Trump and the USDA announced the creation of the FBA program, dedicating \$11 billion in tariff revenue to provide one-time payments to support agricultural producers impacted by recent trade market disruptions and continued increased production costs from the Biden Administration. The USDA also announced the launch of a payment calculator so that farmers can estimate the total payment they can expect to receive as a part of the FBA program.

See Farmers, page 3A

Celebrating National FFA Week



Green County High School FFA members waited at Northgate Plaza this past Friday to begin their journey to the high school, commemorating National FFA Week and "Drive Your Tractor to School Day." At left, FFA members drove their tractors along Industrial Park Road before school began, carrying on a local tradition during National FFA Week.

Photos by Clevis Jeffries

2026-27 Kentucky fishing and hunting licenses available

New license year for outdoor recreation in Kentucky began March 1

The 2026-2027 Kentucky license year for fishing, hunting, boating and more began March 1. Outdoor enthusiasts are able to purchase all the licenses, tags and permits they need to enjoy Kentucky's outdoors through the end of February 2027.

Licenses and permits are sold online through the Ken-

tucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's License Sales portal and the My Profile app, both searchable on the department's website at fw.ky.gov. Licenses and permits also are sold at agent locations across the state. A list of license agent locations by county is available on the department's

website.

The 2026-27 license and permit fees will remain the same as the current license year ending Feb. 28, 2026. License and permit fees for the 2025-26 license year were increased slightly across the board in January 2026 following a new, inflation-based pricing system measured on

the Consumer Price Index, the national measure of inflation calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Federal Duck Stamp and application fees were exempt from CPI adjustments.

In Kentucky, a license covers basic hunting or fishing for many species, whereas additional state permits

are required when pursuing specific species, such as fishing for trout or hunting for migratory birds, deer, wild turkey or black bear. Sportsmen's-type licenses include multiple species permits as well as basic hunting and fishing privileges.

See License, page 3A



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