

## New Futuriti.org homepage makes it easier for Kentuckians to find their futures

FRANKFORT - Kentuckians now have a new, more user-friendly way to find what they're looking for on Futuriti.org, a career and education exploration website maintained by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). A new home page allows visitors to select who they are in order to narrow down what they're looking for on the site. Selections include:

### CAREER CHANGER OR ADULT LEARNER

Current College Student  
11/12th Grader  
9/10th Grader  
Middle Schooler  
Parent/Guardian/Grandparent

### COUNSELOR/EDUCATOR

All users can access the site's core feature, Future Finder, from the homepage. This feature includes information and Kentucky-specific wages on more than 700 occupations, where you can get credentials for these jobs, and Kentucky apprenticeship opportunities, and a listing of career pathways available at all high schools and technical schools in the Commonwealth.

"Futuriti has always been intended for ALL Kentuckians, however much of our user

interactions with students and educators showed that people weren't finding what they need as easily as we thought," said CPE President Aaron Thompson. "After listening to this feedback, our team developed a new way for people to find exactly what they're coming to Futuriti for, right from the homepage."

In February 2025, Kentucky became the first state to turn its postsecondary and occupational data into a student-facing website. Since then, Futuriti.org has found its way into the hands of more than 45,000 users — from middle and high school students to parents and educators, to adults searching for a new career path. It has also grown to include features such as ways for military veterans to translate their service into civilian job experience, a Kentucky Registered Apprenticeship listing, and new pages highlighting emerging high-demand industries, such as aerospace and aviation and film and television.

Through 2026, CPE will continue to build upon the momentum of Futuriti, with the additions of a scholarship database, a living wage calculator, an employer database, a personalized automated chat feature and additional resources for classroom use.

## Marion County schools excel at robotics competition



Photo courtesy of Marion County

Marion County Public Schools had a great RCX Robotics competition on Saturday, March 7. All four elementary schools and both middle schools did amazing in the competition. Elementary winners: 1st place West Marion and 2nd place Calvary Middle school winners: 1st Marion Middle and 2nd Lebanon Middle All four teams advance to State at Rupp during STLP on April 24.

## Retired Teacher Grandparent Essay County Winner



Mary Wiser, a Glasscock Elementary student, is this year's Retired Teacher Grandparent Essay winner. Her essay entitled "My One of a Kind Granny" featuring Grandmother Susan Downs is the county winner and will advance to regional competition. Mary is the daughter of Amy Vittitow and Kevin Wiser. Pictured are Wendy Brady (classroom teacher), Mary Wiser, Susan Downs (grandparent) and Pamela Marks (grandparent essay chairperson)

## COURT

FROM PAGE A1

The Office of Consumer Protection opened an investigation into "Your Hometown Heroes" after individuals associated with the organization were arrested in Marion County for allegedly lying to consumers to secure donations. According to arrest documents, they told potential donors that they were veterans, despite never having served in the military. One of the individuals will face criminal charges at a May trial in Marion County Circuit Court. "Stealing in the name of those who have

sacrificed for our country is not just fraud—it is a betrayal of honor itself," said Attorney General Coleman. "These bad actors preyed on the generosity and patriotism of Kentuckians, and we are proud to shut them down."

"Veterans earned their benefits through service and sacrifice, and they deserve both protection and respect. We fully support thorough investigations and due process, and we appreciate the Attorney General's commitment to holding accountable anyone who exploits veterans. Fraud against those who served will not be tolerated in Kentucky," said Nicole Horseman, State Commander, Department of Kentucky VFW.

## OBITUARY

### Robert Bruce 'Robin' Ballard, 69

Robert Bruce 'Robin' Ballard, 69, of Lebanon, passed away Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at his home. Born February 6, 1957, in Marion County, he worked as an Ultrasound Technician for the Spring, View Women's Center and for Dr. William Kirk. He enjoyed reading and spending time with family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, C.E. and Nora Belle Ballard; two brothers, Stanley Ballard and Scott "Brillo" Ballard; one sister, Margaret "Peggy" Newton.

Survivors include his wife, Sandy Coulter Ballard; one son, Michael Vincent Ballard of Lebanon; one daughter-in-law, Nicole Knopp Ballard of



Lebanon; three grandchildren, Ava, Payton, and Brady Ballard; five sisters, Kathy Ballard of Leitchfield, Janet Cecil of Bardstown, Gail Taylor (David) of Balltown, Ann Kilkelly (Ken) and Susan Hamilton (Bill), all of Bardstown; six brothers, Wayne Ballard (Beverly) of Rineyville, Alan Ballard (Yvonne) of

Forsyth, Georgia, Kurt Ballard (Jan) of Culvertown, Richard Ballard of Louisville, Brian Ballard of Loretto, and Stan Ballard of Bardstown; his mother-in-law, Mary Gen Coulter of Lebanon.

Funeral Services for Robert Bruce "Robin" Ballard will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Mattingly Funeral Home, 195 Holy Cross Road, Loretto. Rev. Deacon Joseph R. Dant will officiate. Cremation will follow.

The visitation is 4-8 p.m. Friday at Mattingly Funeral Home with a prayer service at 7 p.m. by Rev. Deacon Joseph R. Dant.

## POLES

FROM PAGE A1

poles with each crew replacing about two poles per day. He said at a rate of 10 poles per day the goal is to complete the replacements by the end of June.

Griffith said the tree trimmer crews will be out again cutting tree limbs and clearing the power line right-of-ways. He noted that by keeping the trees trimmed power outages are reduced during storms/ He said the trimming is done on a five year rotation, with each section being trimmed every five years.

"Marion County has been the easiest and best to work with," Griffith said. Griffith has been working with all counties in the Inter-County service area and said he is appreciative of the staging area and all the cooperation he has received from the county.

Also at Thursday's meeting, the court opened sealed bids for a new sanitation trailer for the transfer station. A single

bid of \$186,978 was received from CMI Equipment Sales in Goodlettsville, TN. The previous trailer was built for the county in 2022 at a cost of \$160,000. Approval of the bid was tabled for further review by the court.

At the last meeting of the Fiscal Court, magistrates approved a quote of \$6,700 for testing of the elevator at the Dave Hourigan building. The county is required to have the elevator load tested every five years. County Judge-Executive David Daugherty informed the court that Elevated Facility Services had misquoted the work and the testing will only cost the county \$2,770.

A proposal to name a private lane off of Bald Knob Road was tabled. The proposal was to name the road Whippoorwill Way. Magistrates said there was already a road named Whippoorwill in the county and they did not want any confusion for first responders if dispatched to either road.

Magistrates approved two resolutions at Thursday's meeting. The first would

designate KY55 to US68 as The Purple Heart Memorial Highway. The second would name the Jessietown Bridge as Veterans Memorial Bridge. Both seek to honor armed forces veterans in Marion County.

In other matters, the court approved two funding requests. Loretto Youth Flag Football League will receive \$1,500. \$1,000 will come from Magistrate Jackie Fogle's discretionary fund and \$500 from Judge Daugherty's discretionary fund. Marion County High School Project Graduation will also receive \$1,500 from the court. It was also announced that Project Graduation will be held at the Marion County Event Center & Sportsplex this year.

Will Knight, Event Center Director, said the donated sign for the Event Center is on its way. He also noted the Makayla Epps basketball tournament is receiving great response with 25 teams registered so far for the event.

The next meeting of the Marion County Fiscal Court will be on Thursday, March 19, at 4 p.m.

## UPCOMING ABSOLUTE AUCTION

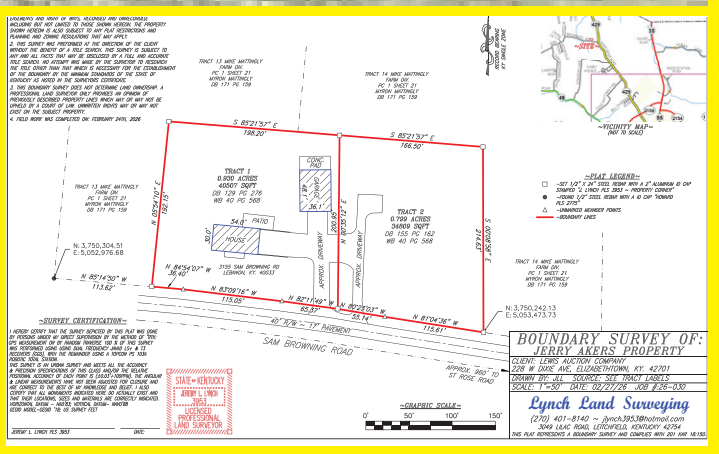
SATURDAY, MARCH 21 • 10AM

3155 SAM BROWNING RD, LEBANON KY



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