

Kentucky Lottery hits \$8 billion milestone

BY CKNJ NEWS



The Kentucky Lottery is celebrating record-breaking results in its mission to fund educational opportunities for students and their families across the Commonwealth.

In fiscal year 2026, which ended June 30, the Lottery hit a milestone of generating more than \$8 billion in total earnings for Kentucky since its inception in 1989.

“Each year, lottery proceeds fuel scholarships and grants that have empowered over 1.1 million Kentucky students and their families,” President and CEO Maggie Garrison said in a release issued Tuesday. “Our contribution to education is a remarkable milestone and reflects the Kentucky Lottery’s transformative impact on our state.”

In fiscal year 2026, a record \$419 million in total cash dividends was transferred to the state, funding educational programs that help Kentucky students pursue higher education, workforce training and career advancement.

For more information on the programs funded by the Kentucky Lottery, visit

the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority which administers them.

The Kentucky Lottery had record sales in fiscal year 2026, totaling \$2.38 billion, which is \$224 million or 10.4% more than the prior fiscal year. This allowed the 37-year-old company to transfer record funding to the state, which lawmakers will use to invest in high schools, colleges, and universities in every region of the state through scholarship and grants.

Kentucky Lottery players also won big in fiscal year 2026, with a record \$1.78 billion in prizes paid to winners. Major highlights include massive national Powerball jackpot runs, twice exceeding \$1 billion.

The Kentucky Lottery

became the first lottery in the nation to offer a feature called “Connected Play,” allowing online winners to use a mobile app to purchase lottery games at retail with funds in the players Fun Club wallet.

In fiscal year 2026, retailers earned more than \$80 million in commissions and incentive payments, which helps to strengthen local businesses in cities and towns across Kentucky.

“The Lottery is helping sustain businesses and strengthen local economies through millions in annual commissions and incentives that our retailers earn as our business partners,” Garrison said, “and our winners are investing their prize money back into every community across the Commonwealth.”

Kentucky attorney general sues over abortion pill ads

BY HANNAH PINSKI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Attorney General Russell Coleman filed a lawsuit Thursday against Mayday Health for advertising pills for medical abortions within Kentucky.

The lawsuit, which was filed in Logan Circuit Court, alleges Mayday Health is in violation of the Kentucky’s Consumer Protection Act and asks the organization to stop advertising the pills in Kentucky and pay penalties.

According to the complaint, Coleman is asking Mayday Health to separately pay civil penalties of no more than \$2,000 per violation of the Kentucky Consumer Protection Act.

Mayday Health’s website says it is a reproductive

health education nonprofit, which aims to “share information about abortion pills, birth control and gender-affirming care in any state.” In 2022, the General Assembly passed a law that made it illegal to mail, deliver or distribute abortion-inducing drugs in Kentucky.

Mayday Health did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

Coleman said in a Thursday news release the organization advertised the pills at gas stations and again at the end of August with a banner attached to an airplane at the Kentucky State Fair.

“These out-of-state activists are not only breaking Kentucky law, they seem to delight in

rubbing our faces in it,” Coleman said in the news release. “The State Fair is a beloved Kentucky tradition for families and children to celebrate our Commonwealth. We refuse to allow Mayday to taint our values and put our people at risk.”

In January, Coleman launched an investigation into gas stations and companies that “could be participating” in delivering pills to Kentucky for medical abortions. He sent subpoenas to six gas stations in Western Kentucky counties, Christian, Logan and Simpson, that had advertisements for abortion medication.

The advertisements read: “Pregnant? Don’t want to be? Learn more at Mayday Health.”

MARION

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Hartley and Aubrey Benningfield.

It marked the third stunning comeback of the week that included even a first for the longtime coach. For a team that had struggled to put points on the board, it was an eye-opening week for Culver.

“In all my years of coaching, I can say that

I’ve never had a team comeback from a four-goal deficit. To score 14 goals in a week is also pretty special. I know the girls are pretty proud of themselves. They just keep pushing each other to get better and that’s what it takes,” Culver said.

Marion County hosts Hart County tonight in another crucial game to determine the top seed in the upcoming district tournament. The team will also be honoring its senior

class before the contest. Due to the ceremonies, the junior varsity will play the initial game of the evening followed by the varsity.

On Monday, the Lady Knights make the long journey to Pulaski County, a team that boasts an outstanding 12-3 record. After the undefeated week of games, Marion County sports a 9-2-1 mark with the postseason only a couple of weeks away.

KNIGHTS

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put away two scoring kicks and teammate Landon Spalding added another as the Knights sewed up the district win.

Hart County goalkeeper Matt Greer recorded 17 saves or the margin could have been even greater.

Goals were harder to come by in the pivotal match of the week against Taylor County. The Cardinal locked up the top seed in the district tournament with a 3-0 shutout of the Knights. Taylor County picked up a rare win in Lebanon and

improved to an impressive 9-2-2 record on the season.

Griffin Hansford, Owen Smith and John Zottman all connected for the Cardinals in a 15-minute span to quickly change the dynamics of this contest.

“We knew it would be an intense game. Those three early goals had us reeling, but we were neck and neck with them the rest of the game. It was a good game for us to see the intensity that we will see in the postseason,” Clements explained.

The Knights return to action Thursday night in a non-regional match with Somerset.

LADY

FROM PAGE B1

attempts from the service line. The errors opened the door for the favored Adair County team and the Lady Indians eventually prevailed 15-12.

“We match up with Adair County athletically, but they are a more complete team and know how to finish. Our blocking and defense have been outstanding, but we’ve got to get our offense going. Not having Josie (Gordon) in this game left us without a good balance on offense,” Hibbard explained.

After the marathon five-set loss to Adair County, the team immediately hopped on the bus for a morning match in Owens-

boro in the opening round of the 2A State Tournament.

The morning session found the young Lady Knights paired against an even better opponent in powerful Louisville Christian Academy. Marion County played perhaps its best match of the week with the Lady Centurions, playing to a 22-22 tie late in the first set. However, a missed served keyed a run for LCA to take the set 25-23.

Marion County dominated the second set and led 19-11 only to succumb to its bugaboo of serve reception leading to an LCA comeback and victory 27-25. The deflated Lady Knights were defeated 25-16 in the final set to complete the sweep.

“We played a phenome-

nal match up until one of their servers had a great run and we could never get the momentum back,” Hibbard said.

The following day, Marion County lost in straight sets 25-16, 25-22 in the consolation round of the tournament. Even with the two losses, Hibbard was pleased with the trip and the effort his team put forth.

“This was really a bonus for us. Our girls had a great time and I really think it benefited us well. We’ve taken our lumps now and we’ve gone through the brutal part of our schedule. I love this team. Even though we’re one of the most athletic team we’ve had here in a while, our record doesn’t reflect what’s going on here,” Hibbard added.

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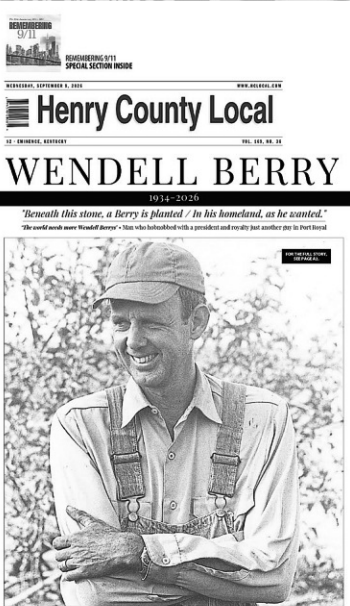
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