Looking back to Nov. 16, 2018

Written by Christy Hoots

The following information was entered into the Nov. 16, 2018, edition of The Ledger Independent:

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Bracken Animal Shelter adds grooming station

BROOKSVILLE — A new grooming station is making things easier for the Bracken County Animal Shelter.

BCAS Director Pat Taylor said the shelter recently had only a small tub in a crowded area of the shelter and it was difficult to bathe medium and large dogs.

"The room just wasn't big enough for medium and large dogs," he said. "It was a cramped space."

Taylor said he was initially introduce to the grooming station by a local veterinarian.

"Dr. Glass told me about the benefits of having such a station in the shelter," he said. "I reached out and was letting people know we needed something like that."

According to Taylor, Woodmen of the World responded by helping set up a fundraising account, which received the $2,500 needed to purchase the station.

"We've had it for about a month and a half now," he said. "It's been wonderful. We have space to bathe our larger dogs."

According to Taylor, he can walk larger dogs into the tub and if they have fleas, it's easier to treat them.

"The room was made by combining two kennels into one big space," he said. "Before, we did not have adequate tub space and now, we've utilized two of our kennels and it's much better. Our dogs can be treated for fleas easier. No matter how dirty they are when they come in, we can take them right to the grooming station and get them clean."

Taylor said it has helped to make the dogs even cleaner than before.

"With having this much space and ability to clean the animals, they look better and smell better," he said. "We've always worked to keep the kennel area smelling nice, but it's even better now. We've had people comment on how clean the dogs are."

According to Taylor, the grooming station is an invest he would advise for any shelter.

"It's probably the best thing an animal shelter could invest in," he said. "It's one of the nicest things to come into this shelter in my 11 years."

Taylor said he was appreciative of all of the support the shelter receives.

"We get a lot of support from the county and the community," he said. "I'm appreciative everything they all do for this shelter. It wouldn't be possible to run it without them."

Anyone interested in adopting an animal can call the shelter at 606-735-3475.

"I'm often out on calls," Taylor said. "But, I will work with people when I know they're coming."

Civic group finds KY lawmakers made some transparency improvements but more work is needed

McKenna Horsley
Kentucky Lantern

In its latest report on legislative transparency, the Kentucky League of Women Voters found some improvements in 2026, but still says there is more work to be done.

During the 2026 legislative session, the General Assembly lessened the use of surprise meetings, declining from 47 surprise meetings in 2024 to 28 in 2026, the League said. Committees held 90% of their meetings at scheduled times this year, compared to 79% in 2024.

The League also said more legislative journals were published. In 2023, the most recently published journal was from the 2019 legislative session. As of 2026, the most recent journal is from the 2025 session.

However, the group's latest full report continues to highlight ways the public is excluded from the legislative process, such as fast-tracking of bills through the General Assembly.

Some methods to do that include giving bills a reading shortly before it appears in a committee meeting, adding last-minute changes to committee versions of bills, having same-day floor votes after a bill moves out of a committee and the House and Senate making substantial changes to a bill in a free conference committee near the end of the session. Both the House and Senate used fast-tracking maneuvers on about 20% of all bills that became law this year, the report said.

"Kentucky lawmakers work for the people of Kentucky," said Jennifer A. Jackson, the LWVKY president, in a statement. "Although our latest transparency review shows areas of improvement, decades of expedited lawmaking tactics continue to limit participation. We must remain committed to ensuring that Kentuckians play a meaningful role in shaping the laws that affect them."

The League has been tracking legislative transparency in the General Assembly since 2023.

In response to the report, a Senate Republican spokesperson said the caucus appreciated "the League's latest report acknowledging positives of committee scheduling and access to legislative journals.

"The timing of a bill's final steps does not always capture the public discussion and committee work that preceded them, including work during the interim," the spokesperson added. "Kentucky's part-time legislature operates under firm constitutional deadlines, and it has used these procedures for many years. That context should be considered when evaluating the process. Committee meetings remain open to the public, with committee and floor proceedings livestreamed. Bill texts, votes and extensive legislative history are available online. We encourage Kentuckians to contact their senators throughout the year.

"We remain committed to being accessible and responsive to the people we serve."

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Health

From page 1A

Symptoms may include frequent coughing or wheezing, shortness of breath, difficulty taking deep breaths and excess phlegm or mucus.

Smoking is the most common risk factor for COPD, as well as exposure to secondhand smoke, exposure to environmental or workplace breathing hazards, having a family history of COPD and asthma. Women and adults over the age of 65 are also more likely to develop COPD.

The ACHD noted that nearly 16 million American adults suffer from the disease and many more may have it without realizing. Although there is currently no cure, certain treatments are available.

Finally, the ACHD stated that Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, affecting memory, thinking and behavior.

"It is a progressive brain disease that impacts millions of individuals and their families," it added.

According to the Mayo Clinic, 6.9 million Americans age 65 or older currently live with Alzheimer's disease, 70 percent of which are age 70 or older. The exact cause of Alzheimer's is unknown, and it cannot be prevented.

Early indicators of Alzheimer's may include memory loss, difficulty completing familiar tasks, confusing times or places, experiencing difficulty finding words when speaking or writing, misplacing items and losing the ability to retrace steps, and experiencing changes in mood, behavior and personality.

The ACHD expressed that early detection is vital in helping individuals and their families access treatment, plan for the future, connect with resources and allow caretakers to play a critical role in providing care and support. Although there is currently no cure, work is being done every day to research this disease.

To learn more about Alzheimer's and how to help, visit www.alz.org or call the 24/7 helpline at 800-272-3900.



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Story ideas, news tips, etc., should be called in to the newsroom between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call 564-9091.

Delivery Problems
Circulation Customer Service:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Periodical postage paid at Maysville, KY.
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