

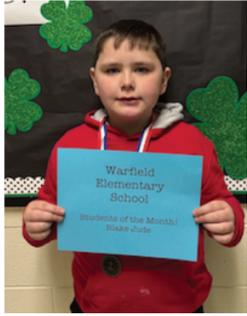
MOUNTAIN LIVING

# Warfield names March Students of the Month

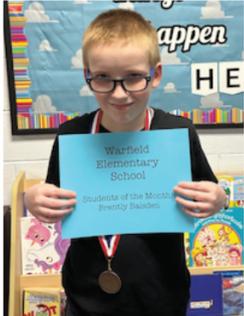
WARFIELD — Principal Jessica Jewell and the faculty and staff at Warfield Elementary School recently recognized the school's March 2026 Students of the Month.

The March honorees are Harper Lawson, Heavenly Hinkle, Kole Robinson, Payton Hutchinson, Eliana Evans, Cotton Bellamy, Brently Baisden, Easton Smith, Walker Jude, Daniel James, Emily Trout, Emma Nichols, Lynda Mollett, Kinzley Pauley, Blake Jude, Emily Mace, Gage Maynard, Hunter Bowen and Brooklyn Nichola.

Warfield Elementary's Students of the Month program celebrates students for their outstanding work, positive attitude and dedication in the classroom.



Blake Jude



Brently Baisden



Brooklyn Nichola



Cotton Bellamy



Daniel James



Easton Smith



Eliana Evans



Emily Mace



Emily Trout



Emma Nichols



Gage Maynard



Harper Lawson



Heavenly Hinkle



Hunter Bowen



Kole Robinson



Lynda Mollett



Payton Hutchinson



Walker Jude



Kinzley Pauley



## Lenore VFD Easter egg hunt draws big crowd, honors chief with award

BY ANNIE HOLLER  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

LENORE, W.Va. — More than 100 children and their families turned out Saturday for the Lenore Volunteer Fire Department's annual Easter egg hunt, an afternoon packed with prizes, food, family fun and a surprise honor for the department's longtime chief.

According to Assistant Chief Skipper Farris, the event drew a large crowd of children eager to hunt eggs, win prizes and enjoy a free lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs. Families also spent time in the bounce house and enjoyed one of the fire department's most popular community events.

"This year, we were very blessed to have a large number of great prizes donated for the egg hunt that included bicycles, ear pods, toys, games and much more," Farris said. "The kids had a great time, and they were beyond pleased with the wonderful prizes for grabs."

Farris thanked the volunteers, businesses and community leaders who helped make the event a success.

"We appreciate each and every volunteer, as well as businesses and community leaders who helped to make it a success," he said.

During the event, Farris, a veteran firefighter with more than four decades of service, received a special community appreciation "Hometown Hero" award from Michael and Tommie Pennington of the Modern Woodmen of America.

"We are here today to honor Lenore Fire Department Chief Jeffrey 'Skip' Farris for his four-plus decades of outstanding service and leadership in the Lenore community," the presenters said.

The fire department's next major community event will be its annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration, which typically draws another large crowd.

"We love giving back to the community that has always shown support for our department, and we extend a special invitation to all who can join us in July," Farris said. "It will be another great event that you don't want to miss."



Lenore Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jeffrey "Skip" Farris was presented a "Hometown Hero" award by members of Modern Woodmen of America during the department's annual Easter egg hunt Saturday. Farris has served the Lenore community for more than 40 years. (Photo courtesy of the LVFD)



Children of all ages competed for prizes during the Lenore Volunteer Fire Department's annual Easter egg hunt Saturday in Lenore. (Photo courtesy of the LVFD)

# Flash Back

## WIN A LARGE 18" PIZZA

Name the Mountain Citizen in the photo and WIN A LARGE 18" PIZZA with pepperoni from PIZZA STOP. Send your answer to: The Mountain Citizen, PO Box 1029, Inez, Ky 41224 or call (606) 298-7570. In case more than one person gets the correct answer, we will have a drawing to decide the winner.

All winners will need to pick up a prize verification form from the Citizen office to claim prize.

**Jennifer Jarrell is the winner of last week's Flashback. She identified Jeffrey Stanley**

**606-298-7570**

THE CITY OF WARFIELD AND THE WARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

# EASTER EGG HUNT

Egg Hunting - Face Painting - Photos With the Easter Bunny - Food and Refreshments

**SATURDAY APRIL 4, 2026**

**11:00 AM**

At The Warfield Park

AGES 0 - 12

## VANISHED

FROM PAGE 1B

fishing, hunting, hiking and gardening—anything that allowed her to spend time outside. Family members say she was a devoted daughter, a loving wife and someone whose absence is still felt every day.

On Oct. 25, 2023, Wolford was reported missing after she failed to return home from running errands. Days later, on Nov. 1, a hunter discovered the burned remains of her pickup truck off a utility road near State Highway 194 East in the Jamboree community, less than 5 miles from her home. Nearby, investigators found Wolford's remains.

Kentucky State Police Post 9 in Pikeville did not release the exact cause of death. However, investigators confirmed suspected foul play and classified the case as a homicide.

Now, with the case still unsolved, Wolford's family continues to speak out

in hopes that someone will finally provide the information needed to bring justice.

Melissa's mother, Anita Wolford, said the grief of losing her daughter has not eased with time. If anything, she said, the pain has only deepened as birthdays, holidays and family milestones continue to pass without her.

Anita lived beside her daughter before her death. The loss leaves her with a void that words can scarcely capture. More than two years later, she still wakes each day carrying the same heartbreak and the same unanswered questions.

"She was such a joy to me. She was my baby girl," Anita said. "The time I have lived on this earth since her death has been nothing short of a nightmare. We have to go on living and celebrate holidays without her, survive the agony of her birthdays. We should have been laughing, loving, eating cake and blowing out candles. Instead, I'm plac-

ing flowers and balloons on a gravestone."

Visiting Melissa's grave is a painful reminder that Anita still does not know who took her daughter's life or why.

"I long to be able to tell her the person who stole her from us has been caught—that they are being brought to justice," said the mother. "But until that day happens, I can only shed tears and continue to make promises that we will never stop searching for answers."

In an effort to generate leads, the Wolford family is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for Melissa's death. While they had hoped the reward would prompt fresh tips, Anita said the flow of information has slowed. She fears the case could fade from public attention.

Still, she believes someone knows more than they have said.

"If you know anything,

please contact the state police in Pikeville at 606-433-7711. They don't need your name, only your information," said Anita. "If you don't trust making a call, then write the details down and mail them in. Just please don't keep what you know to yourself. It may be the missing piece of the puzzle that will solve the murder, bring our family closure and allow my daughter to rest in peace."

For the grieving mother, the plea is about more than solving a case. It is about reminding people that Melissa was a real person whose life mattered.

"Melissa was more than a case number on a box of collected evidence that's sitting on a shelf in a cold case storage area," Anita said. "She was my daughter and she was loved. We will never stop fighting."

VANISHED is an ongoing series examining unsolved disappearances, suspicious deaths and cold cases across the region.

HOP INTO FUN!

# A.B.L.E. FAMILIES ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> | KERMIT PARK 12PM

JOIN US FOR PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY AND EGG HUNT! MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR OWN BASKET!