

Golden Eagle Athena back at Bernheim Forest

BY KATELYN NORRIS
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Athena, the golden eagle, is back at Bernheim for the winter. The nearly seven-year journey of tracking the eagle is one small part of the larger Eastern Golden Eagle Conservation Plan.

In 2019, Bernheim captured the golden eagle Athena and began tracking her migration patterns. At the end of 2025, Andrew Berry, director of conservation at Bernheim, said they are amazed her tracker has worked for so long, giving them a unique look into the lives and migratory patterns of the Eastern golden eagles.

Berry said the project with Athena extends nearly a decade and began with the golden eagle Harper in 2015, who became Athena's mate. After several years, he said they were able to capture Athena and her tracker has been transmitting since.

The longevity of Bernheim's research has been instrumental for the conservation plan and their



Submitted

Eastern Golden Eagle Athena, right, is back at Bernheim Forest for the winter. Tracking the eagle has been a a nearly seven-year journey with the Eastern Golden Eagles Conservation Plan.

partners. Berry said they are connected to a network of researchers throughout Eastern North America that track different eagles in their winter and summer ranges. The data collected lets them know what the birds do through their year — where they go, when they switch ranges and more.

Berry said it's different for the golden eagles at Bernheim during the winter versus the summer when they are in Canada for their nesting

ranges. He said they're able to feed all of that data to the network of researchers and publications so others can learn more about the eagles.

"It helps us understand one of these species that's really cryptic within Bernheim," he said. "(They're) not seen, very often misunderstood. ... These eagles are around, but people aren't seeing them. It gives us a window into what they do throughout the year, and especially their role as an apex predator too. They're

important to have around Bernheim, but not much is known about them."

In the 2025 cycle for Athena she visited at least 95 protected areas in the U.S. and Canada. Her GPS transmitter recorded 21,003 data points from winter in Kentucky to northern Manitoba in Canada back again to the states. From Jan. 1 to Dec. 9, she traveled 6,455 miles.

In her wintering period at Bernheim, Athena will move across upland forests, ridges, wetlands and prairies and take advantage of the topography and thermals. This allowed her to converse her energy while soaring.

Berry said they also track another golden eagle at Bernheim, Hermes. As of early December, the younger male bird had not yet returned to Bernheim. However, Berry said this gives them an opportunity to see different behaviors in the golden eagles.

In contrast to Athena, Hermes does not appear to have a nesting range yet. Berry said he's more nomadic

and follows what they believe to be a migratory caribou route in Quebec.

"He really takes his time coming back down south, even though it's really cold up there right now," Berry said. "Whereas Athena, a soon as October hits, she's got a strategy and a destination. She gets going and really headed south. It shows the differences between strategies, even within the Eastern golden eagles."

Berry said the Eastern Golden Eagle Conversation Plan came from the Eastern Golden Eagle Working Group in 2023. He said the eastern eagles are distinct from their western counterparts in Rocky Mountains. The eastern eagle will inhabit mostly forest areas as opposed to the open mountainous landscapes out west.

He said the conservation plan is focused on what habitats are the eastern golden eagles drawn to and what makes them different. Currently, he said the eastern golden eagles are facing a lot of threats right now. Wind

turbines, lead poisoning in scavenged carcasses, and leg-hold traps pose a threat to the birds. Most of all loss of habitat is affecting the eastern population as they fly along their migratory route — longer flights over agricultural areas with less than favorable places to roost.

"The conservation plan focuses on some of the things we can do to protect the species, including protecting their habitat, establishing more large, forested protected areas," he added. "We are doing more research and tracking to understand what habitats and what are the resource requirements for these birds throughout the year."

Public education is an integral part of their work. Berry said they know they have an audience and a great group of supporters and donors toward their efforts.

For more information on Athena and her journey in 2025, visit bernheim.org/news/a-year-in-the-life-of-a-golden-eagle-athenas-2025-journey.



Submitted

John Hardin High School students look over a display with information about DECA, a school organization which prepares students for the fields of marketing, finance, hospitality and management.



Submitted

John Hardin High School DECA members participate in a Halloween event at the school in October. The Bulldogs Chapter recently earned national recognition for work done on a national promotional campaign.

John Hardin DECA claims national title

BY GREG THOMPSON
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

John Hardin High School's DECA Chapter has earned a National Promotional Campaign Award based on its participation with community events.

"We had to write up all the promotional and educational events that we participated in and what the members did at each," Chapter Advisor Thomas Miller said.

Information submitted by the JHHS chapter then was reviewed by National DECA for approval. Awards are given as either gold, silver or bronze. John Hardin earned the bronze status.

"We are hoping to next year to earn a higher level," Miller said. "We were the only chapter in the state to earn this level."

There are nearly 4,700 DECA chapters nationally. Of those, fewer than 200 chapters earned such recognition in the DECA chapter campaigns.

"I feel like this proves that even though we are a small chapter compared to others, that we can achieve great things when we put our mind to it," Miller said. "I think it makes us drive harder for more honors in the future."

The chapter adviser credits his DECA students and its leadership for the accomplishment. Under the



Submitted

John Hardin High School DECA Chapter President Aspen Delaney contributed to its award-winning performance.

leadership of Chapter President Aspen Delaney and officers Miles Davis and McKenzie Dixon, the

chapter worked together to earn the national recognition.

"Aspen also was reaching out to members of the community to enhance our membership and promote DECA through Hardin County and surrounding counties," Miller said.

The John Hardin Chapter will receive its award during the Kentucky DECA Convention, scheduled for March 1-3 in Louisville.

Originally known as Distributive Education Clubs of America, DECA prepares students for possible business fields - such as marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

Greg Thompson can be reached at 270-505-1414 or gthompson@thenewsenterprise.com.

Kenton County reports pediatric flu fatality

BY SARAH LADD
KENTUCKY LANTERN

A Kenton County child who had not been vaccinated against the flu this season has died from influenza, Kentucky's first pediatric flu death this season, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services announced Tuesday. This comes as Kentucky is experiencing a higher rate of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for the flu among children younger than 5 than in 2024, according to the cabinet.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kentucky Department for Public Health and other health organizations say that most everyone 6 months and older should get an annual

flu vaccine. There are rare exceptions to that guidance, including for those with allergies to vaccine ingredients.

Vaccines are generally available at pharmacies and health care clinics around Kentucky.

"While flu activity is increasing across Kentucky, there are proven steps families can take to protect their loved ones," Dr. John Langefeld, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, said in a statement. "The flu vaccine is safe, effective and widely available. It is the best way to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death."

According to the cabinet, "most" flu and COVID-19

cases are mild but some symptoms signal more serious cases that need medical attention. Those symptoms include difficulty breathing, seizures, bluish lips or face, fevers higher than 104 degrees, coughing that improves but then comes back or gets worse and dehydration, according to the cabinet.

Young children, adults older than 65 and immunocompromised or chronically ill people are most at risk for serious flu cases.

The cabinet also recommends people take general precautions against illnesses like flu: Wash hands with soap and warm water, cover coughs and sneezes and stay at home from work or school when sick.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS



ONLINE AUCTION AUCTION

BIDDING ENDS, JANUARY 13, 6PM

**116 MAGNOLIA CT,
VINE GROVE**

New Construction, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
**For questions or to view the home call
Auctioneer/Broker Bobby Dobson
(270) 737-1839**



ABSOLUTE FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 10AM

**WELDON LOOP AND
UPTON TALLEY RD**

**123
ACRES**

Lewis Auction will offer this 123 Acre farm as a whole and in tracts to the highest bidder watch upcoming adds for more details.

**For questions or to view the home call
Listing App Auctioneer Roger Gonterman 270-300-6607 or
Auctioneer/Broker Bobby Dobson (270) 737-1839**



ABSOLUTE AUCTION

FEBRUARY 21, 10AM

**704 GRANT CIRCLE,
ELIZABETHTOWN**

3 Bedroom, 3 Bath

**For questions or to view the home call
Auctioneer/Broker Bobby Dobson (270) 737-1839**

CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR 2026 AUCTION!

**CHECK OUT ONLINE AUCTIONS. GO TO
LEWISAUCTION.HIBID.COM TO VIEW, REGISTER AND BID.**



LEWISAUCTION CO. L.L.C.

228 WEST DIXIE AVE., ELIZABETHTOWN, KY
www.lewisauction.com

(270) 737-1839



BOBBY DOBSON
KENNY LEWIS
AUCTION TEAM:
MARTY FULKERSON
BARRY RICHARDSON
BARRY BROWN
KELLI GIPSON
STEVE STECK
TYLER HOWELL
BEN COVELL
ROGER GONTERMAN
JAKE REPLINGER

YOUR
CUSTOMER
JUST READ
THIS AD.
**ADVERTISE
WITH US.**

HORIZON
PACK AND SHIP

OPEN NOW!
Skip the Lines. Drop Off & Go!

**BRING THIS
IN FOR 10%
OFF YOUR
NEXT ORDER.**

734 Knox Blvd
Radcliff, KY 40160

Monday-Saturday
9am-6pm

<<< 2 Locations >>>

In Towne Center
207 Towne Dr
Elizabethtown, KY

Monday-Saturday
9am-6pm

U-HAUL
AUTHORIZED DEALER

**CROWNE POINTE
THEATRE**

This is
Your Seat!

**DON'T FORGET
BARGAIN TUESDAYS!
All Movies only \$5.75**

2908 Dolphin Dr., Elizabethtown, KY
270.600.0090

Purchase your tickets online at crownepointetheatre.com and sign up for our newsletter.