

## Sports Briefs

From staff reports

### OWEN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SEEKS 12U SOFTBALL PLAYERS

OWENTON — Owen County Parks and Recreation's registration for the upcoming season has closed but 12U softball players are still needed.

To register a 12U softball player, contact Michael Cox via phone (859-469-2690).

Additional information is available on the Owen County Parks and Recreation Facebook Page.

### GEORGETOWN COLLEGE DANCE TEAM TO HOST FIRST RECRUITMENT CLINIC

GEORGETOWN — The Georgetown College dance team is scheduled to host its first recruitment clinic at the

George H.W. Bush Center from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, March 15.

The focus of the clinic will be to recruit dancers for the upcoming season and seasons in the future. It will also prepare prospects on what to expect for tryouts.

The cost of the clinic will be \$40 per participant.

"I am so excited to meet our new recruits and connect over what makes Georgetown special, and to educate, inspire, and share an unforgettable day of dance together," Georgetown College Coach Peyton Blanton said.

A link to register for the clinic is available online at <https://georgetowncollegedancecamps.totalcamps.com/About%20Us>

Anyone interested in the clinic may contact Blanton directly via email ([peyton\\_blanton@georgetowncollege.edu](mailto:peyton_blanton@georgetowncollege.edu)).

The dance team will compete at both regional and national competitions in addition to performing at Georgetown College football and basketball games.

## Kentucky to host largest annual 'Archery in the Schools' state tournaments

BY STAFF REPORTS

FRANKFORT — Kentucky will host the nation's largest annual school archery tournaments March 13-14, as 9,241 student archers from 415 schools are expected to compete in the Kentucky National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Bullseye Tournament. More than 3,000 of those students are also competing in the NASP State 3D Tournament.

Held at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville since 2016, the tournament has grown into one of the largest state-level sporting competitions held anywhere.

The in-school, co-ed program introduces students in grades 4-12 to international-style target archery. Students learn archery as part of their school curriculum and are then eligible to compete in school-hosted events for the opportunity to qualify for state and national

tournaments. Each year, more than 160,000 Kentucky students learn archery during the school day as part of their physical education curriculum, and approximately 17,000 compete in Kentucky school-hosted NASP tournaments as part of after-school teams.

In 2002, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources debuted NASP in Kentucky with 21 pilot schools and it has since expanded to more than 900 schools statewide. Nationally, approximately 1.2 million students from more than 9,500 schools participate annually. Since its inception, NASP has put a bow and arrow in the hands of more than 18 million students and has awarded nearly \$5.4 million in cash scholarships to more than 2,000 students.

"Nationally, 50% of student archers say archery in the schools was their first archery experience and 90% of kids learning archery as part

of their curriculum said they love it," said Lisa Johnson, state NASP coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "Schools embrace NASP programming because archery is a sport that fits within their curriculum at relatively inexpensive cost. Archery is naturally inclusive of all students irrespective of physical traits and has a near 50%-50% male to female ratio. It doesn't surprise me to see how many kids love archery."

The 2026 Kentucky NASP state championships will feature two competitions: a traditional bullseye tournament, where archers shoot at a multi-ringed target, and a 3D tournament, where archers shoot at six lifelike foam targets representing various North American game animals. Top-scoring teams and individual archers will advance to the NASP Eastern Nationals scheduled May 7-9, 2026, also at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

The state tournament will take place in the North Wing, South Wing A-C, and the East Hall, with competition flights starting daily at 9:30 a.m. (EDT) on both Friday and Saturday, March 13-14. Spectator admission is free. Parking is \$15 per vehicle and \$30 per bus.

Elementary, middle and high school archers will compete for individual and team honors. The top senior boys and girls from the bullseye and 3D championship will be awarded scholarships from \$500 to \$1000 to the postsecondary school of their choice. Additionally, 10 senior academic archers will be randomly selected to receive \$500 scholarships.

All Kentucky NASP archers and teams are encouraged to participate in the 3rd Annual "Archers Aiming to Reduce Hunger" food drive to support Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry and Feeding America

Kentucky's Heartland to help relieve hunger in Kentucky communities. Participating archers are asked to bring one can or boxed food item. Donations will be collected in the South Wing lobby near the team registration desk.

Kentucky NASP coaches, alumni and friends of NASP will also have an opportunity to participate in a tournament of their very own. Centershot Ministries will be set up in South Wing A for these adults to have an opportunity to compete for fun. Proceeds will go to community archery outreach programs.

Complete tournament results will be available online at NASP Tournaments. For more information, visit the National Archery in the Schools Program webpage on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website ([fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)), or call the department's Information Center at 1-800-858-1549, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (EDT) weekdays, excluding holidays.

## 2026-2027 Kentucky fishing and hunting licenses available

FRANKFORT — The 2026-2027 Kentucky license year for fishing, hunting, boating and more started on Sunday, March 1. Outdoor enthusiasts are able to purchase all the licenses, tags and permits they need to enjoy Kentucky's outdoors through the end of February 2027.

Licenses and permits are sold online through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's License Sales portal and the My Profile app, both searchable on the department's website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Licenses and permits also are sold at agent locations across the state. A list of license agent locations by county is available on the department's website.

The 2026-2027 license and permit fees will remain the same as the current license year ending Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. License and permit fees for the 2025-2026 license year were increased slightly across the board in January 2026 following a new, inflation-based pricing system measured on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the national measure of inflation calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Federal Duck Stamp and application fees were exempt from CPI adjustments.

In Kentucky, a license covers basic hunting or fishing for many species, whereas additional state permits are required when pursuing specific species, such as fishing for trout or hunting for migratory birds, deer, wild turkey or black bear. Sportsmen's-type licenses include multiple species permits as well as basic hunting and fishing privileges.

For newcomers to all the great outdoor opportunities that Kentucky has to offer, a reduced-cost sportsman's license is now available for resident first-time buyers. Only individuals who have

not purchased an annual Kentucky hunting or fishing license – or a combination license that includes an annual license – since 1996 are eligible. The \$37 license includes a resident hunting and fishing license, spring turkey permit, fall turkey permit, trout permit, state migratory bird and waterfowl permit and statewide deer permit.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife provides a number of resources to assist avid outdoor enthusiasts and newcomers alike with information on waterbodies, public lands, fishing and hunting education and all the regulations to help anglers and hunters make the most of their time outdoors via its website and the hunting and fishing guides it produces annually. This includes the new Fishing and Boating Guide available online and in print. Another great resource is the Fish Boat KY app. Available free from the Apple App Store and Google Play, the app helps anglers find waterbodies, boat ramps and other water access from the palm of their hand. Users can also search by species of fish, store copies of their licenses, and much more using the smartphone app.

The department receives its primary funding through revenue raised by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits, as well as federal excise taxes generated by the sale of recreational firearms and ammunition, archery gear and fishing equipment.

For questions, the public may refer to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Licenses webpage or type "Licenses" into the search bar on the agency website ([fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)) or contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1549 or at [info.center@ky.gov](mailto:info.center@ky.gov), weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Eastern), except holidays.

## Moore earns second straight Conference USA Player of the Week Award

BY STAFF REPORTS

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky University redshirt sophomore guard Teagan Moore has been named the Conference USA Player of the Week for the second straight week, the league office announced on Monday, March 2.

Moore, who is an Owen County High School graduate, continued to thrive on the court during his award-winning week, powering the Hilltoppers to two dominant home wins over New Mexico State and UTEP and extending WKU's

winning streak to six games. The Owen County High School product averaged 23.5 points, 6.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 0.5 steals per game, shooting nearly 70 percent from the field (16-of-23), 50 percent from three-point range and 68.4 percent from the foul line during the perfect 2-0 week.

In WKU's 93-70 win over New Mexico State, Moore poured in 23 points on 8-of-13 shooting, adding seven rebounds, two assists and a steal in only 29 minutes. Then, Moore followed that performance with an even more

efficient effort against UTEP, scoring 24 points on 8-of-10 shooting, connecting on his lone 3-point attempt, and going 7-for-8 from the foul line while contributing five rebounds and two assists in 34 minutes.

Moore has been one of the most productive players in Conference USA this season, currently ranking second in CUSA in scoring (18.8 ppg), third in field goal percentage (53.1 percent), seventh in free throw percentage (80.2 percent) and 19th in rebounding (5.7 rpg). Since returning from a head injury, the redshirt sophomore

standout has recorded five straight 20-point performances, averaging 24.6 points per game, with WKU going an undefeated 5-0 during that stretch.

Moore and his WKU teammates will be on the road for their final two away games of the regular season, beginning Thursday, March 5 at Missouri State. Tipoff for the WKU-Missouri State men's basketball game is set for 7 p.m. CT inside Great Southern Bank Arena. Live coverage of the WKU-Missouri State men's basketball game will be available on ESPN+.

## Dempsey ranked among 8th Region's Top 10 softball players

BY STAFF REPORTS

OWENTON — Owen County senior Abigail Dempsey is ranked among the 8th Region's Top 10 softball players.

A longtime leader for Owen County, Dempsey is ranked 10th in the Kentucky Prep Softball Preseason 8th Region Players' Rankings, which were compiled after voting was conducted among coaches.

Dempsey thrived as a junior for Owen County in the 2025 high school softball season. As a junior for the Lady Rebels in 2025, Dempsey batted .564 with

25 runs, 31 hits, 45 RBIs, 10 doubles, one triple and eight home runs.

Dempsey and her Owen County teammates have opened preseason practice. The Lady Rebels are scheduled to meet 8th Region counterpart Shelby County for a season opener at Milestone Academy on Monday, March 16.

The Kentucky Prep Softball Preseason 8th Region Players' Rankings follow.

**KENTUCKY PREP SOFTBALL Preseason 8th Region Players' Rankings**

1. Addison Bryant (Woodford County)

- Aubrey Batts (Oldham County)
- Kadie Bosemer (North Oldham)
- Taylor Jones (Simon Kenton)
- Grace Turner (South Oldham)
- Addison Schrecker (South Oldham)
- Bailey Mitchell (Anderson County)
- Myka Brown (Simon Kenton)
- Emma Stevens (Anderson County)
- Abigail Dempsey (Owen County)

Others Receiving Votes from Multiple Coaches: Lilliana Mefford, Norah Ashburn, Madison Clark, Josie Stucker, Peyton Gosney.

## Lady Rebels cruise past Trimble, advance to district final

Girls face winner of Eminence-Gallatin 6 p.m. Friday in Gallatin

BY STAFF REPORTS

GALLATIN — The Owen County Lady Rebels advanced to the 31st District final with a 50-32 victory Wednesday night over Trimble County.

The girls will square off for the district title 6 p.m. in Gallatin between the winner of tonight's (Thursday) game between Eminence and Gallatin.

Against Trimble, the Owen County built a 14-6 lead by the end of the first quarter and cruised the rest of the way.



Photo by Abby Hooven

SEE LADY/PAGE B4 Hannah Mason shoots a 3 in the second quarter vs. Trimble County.

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