

# TORNADOES,

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**Tyler Popplewell lost livestock and part of his livelihood in the May 16, 2025 tornado.**

Wilson confirmed.

“There absolutely were two funnels that night,” Shane Roy, a Gosser Ridge farmer, said with confidence. “I can take you back on my property and show you.”

Roy lost two barns, two grain bins, a silo and a 200-pound calf that was never found.

Wayne Wilson, a retired sergeant with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, watched the tornado go in front of his home.

He knows well the land and waterways of this area and contributed to the survey with his knowledge of the geography.

Locally, based on information gathered and researched by the Storm Alert Center, the location of the second funnel probably started at the mouth of Rocklick Hollow, to the northwest side of the Stillwater Community, and tracked just over one half mile.

Once the funnel tore through Stillwater, it lifted just before Gosser Ridge Road where an older farm house and mobile home sat at John Roy Road and neither sustained major damage.

Had the tornado remained on the ground in that area, those homes would have been destroyed, yet they suffered little to no damage.

Just 1.7 tenths of a mile up the road, Crawford Gosser and Jeremy Roy’s homes were completely destroyed.

Gosser’s roof wasn’t found and part of Jeremy Roy’s roof was found about a mile away in the Narrow Ridge Community of Pulaski County.

These sub-vorticies (secondary funnels) are sometimes the reason some tornadoes have sporadic damage where one house is completely leveled and the house next to it is barely scratched.

On April 27, 1971, the last major tornado to hit Russell County and Gosser Ridge, it was also determined by Dr. Ted Fujita (the one who developed the Fujita F-scale levels) to have more than one funnel along East KY. 80 near Fairview.

Recovery and rebuilding efforts can be seen all across Eli and the Gosser Ridge Road Community.

At Eli, Matthew Tucker’s home was spared from the tornado, but a few yards away he lost a barn, outbuildings and fence with another barn sustaining major damage.

“It’s overwhelming,” Tucker said, reflecting

back on the event. “You don’t know what to do next in regards to cleanup and rebuilding because there’s so much yet to be done. Clean up and rebuilding is going kind of slow with working a full time job. I’m getting one barn repaired and some work is being done on fences and the big barn I totally lost is almost cleaned up to start building back.”

“As I go back on my property looking at the damage, I can see silos and grain bins that were not visible before,” he said. “It’s likely to be property from Gosser Ridge. Things will never be the same as far as the landscape and some buildings. There will always be things you can see to remind you of the night it happened.”

Tucker went on to thank the people that helped with the community clean up the week after the storm—a group from SPARC recovery and all his wonderful family and friends.

Tyler Popplewell has been milking cows most all of his life.

The May 16th tornado changed the scenery of his farm by destroying his milk barn, toppling trees and throwing metal roofing all over his property.

“We were in the basement and there was just a popping and cracking sound that lasted about 30 seconds, but I didn’t hear the sound of a train as most people do,” Popplewell said.

When daylight came, Tyler said the first thing he thought about was where he was going to milk his 100 plus dairy cows.

“All my cows were accounted for but my barn was destroyed and we had to put down two cows because they were injured in the storm,” he lamented. “The biggest challenge thus far is the cows having to leave the barn, them not used to being out in the sun, they are just not used to it. Since the tornado, I have lost several cows due to the extreme heat and other diseases.”

Popplewell explained how he was scared of storms and remembering the late Garfield Gosser coming to Salem School to talk to his class about the April 27, 1971 tornado.

Pointing to various locations around his farm, Tyler is confident there were two funnel clouds that came thru last spring based a lot on local people’s videos he has seen of the tornado passing thru.

Whether there was more than one funnel may never be known, but many witnesses will always believe more than one funnel evolved from the main one which left a trail of destruction to London, Kentucky.

Linda Gosser Helm, daughter of the late Crawford Gosser, says her husband Danny and son Matthew have worked hard putting up new fencing, cleaning up and putting a roof over the subfloor of her father’s home.

“The hardest part was seeing everything mom and dad worked for be taken away but we recovered several things from the house,” she said. “Our dad and mom had a what not shelf on the wall with four, wooden red cardinals, they were not disturbed in the storm and it makes me wonder if that means anything.”

Helm remembers the 1971 Gosser Ridge tornado.

“One thing that was different...the smell in the air afterwards,” she recalled. “In 1971, there was a musty, earthen smell, kind of like a plowed ground. “Last year’s damage didn’t have that here.”

“The most important

thing to me in all of this is that dad made it thru the storm alive to have been 99 years old, I am most thankful for that,” Helm said. “We are so grateful for the help from the community and strangers. A new garage has been built on the same foundation the old one was on, a hoop barn and cattle holding pen have been built, all our cattle survived and farming operations hasn’t stopped.”

Matthew Helm, Crawford’s grandson, had plans that fate-ful Friday to go to Red River Gorge but decided not to go.

“I was aware of the severe weather potential, had a bad feeling and didn’t make the trip,” he said.

Matthew was one of the first family members to arrive on the scene.

“After I got there, I realized, the tornado had taken everything, it’s was all gone,” he remembered. “My first thought was to find Pa Crawford.”

Around 9:30 that night, Jeremy Roy, his wife Ashley and family were in their basement after getting the alert.

They could feel pressure in their head and chest just before the tornado hit their home.

“It never lasted very long, maybe five to eight seconds, and then it was over,” Jeremy said.

Knowing Crawford Gosser’s home across the road was destroyed, Jeremy went to find him and then went next door to his mom and dad’s, Charlie and Carol Roy, to make sure they were okay.

Besides their home, a 32’ x 48’ garage was destroyed—along with four vehicles, two boats and a swimming pool.

“Parts of our house were found on the Narrow Ridge Road in Pulaski County,” he said.

“In the end, I am very fortunate to have people who offered help,” Roy said. “My hope was to be in our new home in a year from the storm. We are now laying floor and putting in cabinets, it’s all a work in progress.”

# Community Calendar

## Join a Lifesaving Team and Donate Blood with KBC

Kentucky Blood Center is holding a blood drive Thursday, Feb. 26 from 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. CST at South Ky RECC. Community Room located at 2405 N Main St. Jamestown, KY 42629. All good teams need a uniform, so in addition to the honor of helping a neighbor in need, those who give blood at this blood drive will receive a “Team Donor” long-sleeve shirt (while supplies last) – a nod to the 2026 Winter Olympics. In addition, one donor will win a \$100 gift card sponsored by Lake Cumberland Housing Agency. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule a donation, visit [kybloodcenter.org](http://kybloodcenter.org) or call 800.775.2522.

## Lucinda Cemetery

LUCINDA CEMETERY, RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY Board of Directors Meeting for 2026 will be held 7/13/2026 @ 6:00 pm CST via Zoom. Those with plots and/or loved ones buried in Lucinda who are interested in listening to the meeting need to contact Denise Whittaker at least 24 hours prior to the meeting by calling and leaving her a message with contact information at 606-308-3835 or by email [bernis777@gmail.com](mailto:bernis777@gmail.com) to obtain sign in information/directions.

## Senior Community Service Employment Program

Accepting applications for part-time positions in Adair, Clinton, Cumberland, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Wayne, and Whitley. Must be 55+ years of age, meet limited income guidelines, be unemployed and looking for employment. Call Connie Foster at 606-210-1129 or Jolene Aleman at 270-566-5316 or visit [www.goodwill.org/SCSEP](http://www.goodwill.org/SCSEP) Let us help you re-enter the workforce!

## D.A.V. Meeting

The D.A.V. meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M. CST at 155 Owentown School Road Russell Springs, KY

## TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weight loss support program whose goal is to help men/ women/youth to become healthier by losing weight in a sensible manner. The local chapter, TOPS 396 Russell Springs meets Mondays at 5pm at Liberty Baptist Church, 215 Wilson Street in Russell Springs. Online memberships and virtual chapter memberships are also available. Yearly membership dues are less than \$50, first visit is free. Questions? Text/ call Bonnie, chapter leader, 270-566-1284 or visit TOPS. Club.org

## God’s Food Pantry of Russell County

God’s Food Pantry of Russell County God’s Food Pantry of Russell County is open Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 12:00-4:00 PM. The pantry is located at 101 Brian Walters Dr. In Russell Springs. Call for information 270-866-7992.

## Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) Men

Monday nights at SPARC(Sobriety, Peace, Awareness, and Recovery) 270-585-5377 at 6:00 PM

## Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday nights at 6:00 PM, First Baptist Church, Russell Springs, KY. Thursday nights at 5:30 P.M., The Springs, 226 Jamestown St., Russell Springs. Monday nights at 6:00 P.M. Solid Rock Church 189 West Drive Russell Springs.

## SECTION 00100 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

### City of Russell Springs

#### Cast Iron & Asbestos Cement Waterline Replacement

Separate sealed bids will be received for the construction of Cast Iron & Asbestos Cement Waterline Replacement by the Owner, City of Russell Springs, at 487 Main Street, Russell Springs, KY 42642 until 1:00 P.M. local time on March 10, 2026. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at City Hall.

Cast Iron & Asbestos Cement Waterline Replacement includes the construction of approximately 11,100 L.F. of 3”, 4”, 6” and 8” PVC and D.I. waterlines along several roads in downtown Russell Springs as well as all necessary appurtenances.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

CITY OF RUSSELL SPRINGS, 487 MAIN STREET, RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY 42642  
KENVIRONS, LLC, 770 WILKINSON BLVD., FRANKFORT, KY 40601

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained from Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40507 (859-226-5850) and [www.lynnimaging.com](http://www.lynnimaging.com) upon payment of a nonrefundable price of \$200.00 for each set plus any shipping charges.

All bidders shall submit with their bid a Bid Bond in amount of not less than five (5) percent of the base bid. No Bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the scheduled Bid Opening Date. The Bidder awarded the contract shall execute a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond and shall furnish insurance as required, in the General Conditions. The Bidder awarded this contract shall complete this project within 150 calendar days after date of authorization to start work. Liquidated damages will be assessed at \$1,000 per calendar day.

This project is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58, §§ 70901-70953. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States. The following waivers apply to this Contract: BABAA De Minimis, Small Grants, and Minor Components.

Bidders must comply with the President’s Executive Order Nos. 11246 and 11375, which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Bidders must comply with Section 3, Section 109, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act and the contract Work Hours Standard Act. Bidders must certify that they do not, and will not, maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated on a basis of race, color, creed, or national origin. The City of Russell Springs is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Any bid that is obviously unbalanced may be rejected. The City of Russell Springs reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive informalities.

Small, minority and women’s businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to bid this project.

By: Eddie Thomas, Mayor  
City of Russell Springs

### NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE

In order to comply with the orders of the Russell Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Russell Circuit Court shall proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder at public auction the below properties on **Friday, February 20, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., CT, Russell District Courtroom, Russell County Judicial Center, Jamestown, Kentucky.**

Said properties shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and upon (unless otherwise indicated) the following terms and conditions:

A) For the purchase price, the Purchaser(s) must pay in full by cash or good check on the date of sale or the Purchaser(s) may pay ten (10%) down on the day of sale and shall execute a good and sufficient purchase money bond, with approved surety thereon, equal to the balance of the purchase price payable to the Master Commissioner within thirty (30) days. Any such purchase money bond shall have the force and effect of a Judgment and shall be a lien upon the property sold as additional security for the payment of the balance of the purchase price. The Master Commissioner’s bond shall bear interest at the rate the judgment bears from the date of sale until paid in full. **In the event the successful bidder is not paying the full amount of the purchase price on the date of sale, purchaser will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety thereon.** In the event the successful bidder is the Plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the Plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the Judgment amount.

B) Purchaser shall be required to pay property taxes for current tax year and all taxes thereafter, for which the Purchaser(s) shall receive no credit against the purchase price.

C) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title, and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Russell County Court Clerk’s Office and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s).

**The Master Commissioner Sale/Deed is not a warranty of good title.** Possession shall be given to the Purchaser(s) with the delivery of the Master Commissioner’s Deed thereto. Purchaser(s) will assume and be responsible for all risks of loss to the premises upon acceptance of their bid by the Master Commissioner at the Master Commissioner’s Sale.

**Bidder should examine the records of the Russell Circuit Clerk and the Russell County Clerk prior to the sale for further information.** Any statements made the day of the sale shall take precedence over advertised material. Bidder shall be prepared to comply promptly with these terms.

(Sale bonds will bear interest at the rate of Judgment entered in each separate action)

#### SALE NO. 1

**Property address: 14 April Lane, Russell Springs, KY 42642 Map ID: 033-00-00-020.17**  
NEWREZ, LLC, D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING vs. RAYSEAN M. HUGHES AND UNKNOWN OCCUPANT, IF ANY  
Civil Action No. 25-CI-00240 Amount to be raised: \$86,762.98

#### SALE NO. 2

**Property address: 135 Creelsboro Road, Russell Springs, KY 42642 Map ID: 032-60-01-002.00**  
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC vs. ANDREA LASHAE FARLEE  
Civil Action No. 25-CI-00279 Amount to be raised: \$111,849.04

GAIL WILSON, MASTER COMMISSIONER, RUSSELL CIRCUIT COURT