

**LOCAL BRIEFS**

**HOSPITAL APPROVES BIDS FOR CT, MRI MACHINES**

Trigg County Hospital's board of trustees has approved bids from Canon Medical Systems for a CT scanner and MRI machine that will be used in the hospital's new cardiac clinic.

During a special-called meeting on May 3, the board accepted a bid of \$585,421 from Canon for the CT scanner and a \$1,100,581 bid from Canon for an MRI machine.

Trustees also approved a motion to buy out the current lease on its GE CT machine at a cost of \$150,715. Chief Financial Officer Don Michael said the hospital still had a couple of years left on that lease.

The board further approved a further bid of \$758,000 for the modular building to house the MRI.

CEO John Sumner said the MRI will take six months to come, and the CT scanner should possibly be in by June 15.

**COLEMAN-SHAW TO BE RECOGNIZED**

Retired Nashville, Tennessee, broadcast journalist and former Cadiz

resident Tuwanda Coleman-Shaw will be recognized for her outstanding professional achievements and contributions to the community during a program slated for 7 p.m. June 28 at the Trigg County Recreation Complex.

Shaw retired in January after working 41 years for NewsChannel 5 in Nashville, initially as a camera operator and ultimately becoming a reporter and the producer for the station's Talk of the Town magazine show.

Her recognition will also include the establishment of an annual scholarship for students pursuing studies in journalism and communications or liberal arts, and organizers are seeking sponsorships to support the scholarships.

The sponsorships will also support the recognition for Coleman-Shaw, with donors featured in advertisements included in a souvenir book for the event.

For sponsorship inquiries or to confirm participation in the program, email cadizinformer@gmail.com or send a reply to P.O. Box 982, Cadiz, Kentucky 42211.

Speakers for the June program will include NewsChannel 5 anchor

Amy Watson, local physician Dr. Chester L. Crump and George Radford, president of Genesis Express Inc.

**TOURISM OUTLINES UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITY**

During the commission's meeting on Tuesday, tourism Executive Director Bill Stevens shared several projects the Cadiz-Trigg County Tourist Commission is pursuing, among them a Just Add Water partnership that emphasizes all the things that be done on the area's lakes and rivers — kayaking and canoeing, for instance.

He also highlighted Kentucky After Dark, which he said emphasizes the "creepies and crawlies" that can be found in the county.

Tourism's Jamie Lewis said the agency has recently responded to a thousand requests for information about the area, and officials noted that the Friends of Lake Barkley will donate funds to Ashley Joiner, manager of the Lake Barkley State Resort Park, for use during the upcoming fireworks at Lake Barkley.

Reach Tonya S. Grace at 270-887-3240 or tgrace@kentuckynewera.com.

**Suicide prevention tool available for free online**

BY SARAH LADD  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

*This story discusses suicide. If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, please call or text the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.*

Kentuckians who want to learn how to help prevent suicide can do so through a new free online suicide prevention training tool.

This training comes from University of Kentucky Healthcare and is called QPR, which means Question, Persuade and Refer. These words refer to the steps a person can take to help prevent suicide.

During this roughly

hour-long training, UK says, people "learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis, how to respond to someone in crisis and where to refer someone in need of help."

Julie Cerel, a suicidologist and professor in UK's College of Social Work, said in a statement that "knowing how to ask if someone is thinking about suicide and getting a person at risk to the appropriate resources will help keep people alive."

The training is free to anyone in the state and available here: <https://kyqpr.ukhc.org/>.

Suicide is a leading cause of death in the

United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Deaths by suicide increased in 2022 from 2021 levels. Someone died every 11 minutes in 2021 from suicide, and more than 12 million Americans thought about it.

Overall, suicide rates were on the rise between 2000-2018, according to CDC data. The numbers dipped in 2020 but nearly reached the 2018 peak again by 2021. In 2021, at least 816 Kentuckians died by suicide.

For emergency help in suicide prevention or other mental health crises, call or text 988.

**Fact checking vaccine claims**

BY SARAH LADD  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

In the last month, new COVID-19 variants — known as FLiRT and part of the omicron family — emerged as the dominant strain in the United States.

COVID-19 vaccines are still recommended for protection against the virus, according to the Kentucky Department for Public Health. Kentucky currently has low levels of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for COVID-19, according to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

A CHFS spokesman told the Lantern that KP.2 has already been confirmed in the state. Kentucky does not have any KP1.1 cases, spokespan Brice Mitchell said. These variants are called FLiRT.

"These variants are not thought to cause more severe disease but do have some mutations in the spike protein that may make them more resistant to immunity conferred by vaccines and prior infections," Mitchell said.

Still, the department "continues to recommend that all Kentuckians six months of age and older remain up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations."

Despite that advice, not everyone is con-

vinced. In the fourth year of COVID-19 — and about 3.5 years since the vaccines came to Kentucky — vaccine misinformation persists, even in Frankfort among elected officials.

During the 2024 legislative session, vaccine misinformation — specifically around the COVID-19 shots — found its way onto the Kentucky Senate floor and into committee meetings.

A spokesperson for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told the Lantern that the CDC "continues to encourage Americans to get vaccinated, as the COVID-19 vaccination continues to be the best way to protect against serious illness."

The Lantern consulted the CDC, Food and Drug Administration and other sources in response to several vaccine claims made by lawmakers this year.

**CLAIM**

"Covid-19 vaccines caused 'unprecedented rise in sudden cardiac events, miscarriages and stillbirths, blood clots, myocarditis in youth, and sudden deaths among all ages.'"

**RESPONSE**

Receiving the shot does not increase the risk of death from non-

COVID causes. That conclusion is based on safety monitoring after more than 675 million doses of vaccine have been administered.

COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy is safe and not linked to an increased risk of miscarriage or stillbirth, according to safety monitoring and research.

CDC monitoring has identified four rare but serious types of adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination. Two of the adverse reactions — thrombosis and Guillain-Barré Syndrome — were associated with vaccines that have been discontinued in the U.S. and are no longer available.

About 5 people per 1 million doses of vaccine have experienced anaphylaxis, a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that requires immediate emergency medical treatment. It can occur after any medication or vaccination.

Also, an increased risk of myocarditis — inflammation of the heart — is associated with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Varying by age and sex, the rates of myocarditis after vaccination range from 0 to 188 per 1 million doses.

**Graduation set for Tuesday**

BY TONYA S. GRACE  
CADIZ RECORD STAFF WRITER

The youth who will receive their diplomas during next week's graduation ceremonies are really special, notes Trigg County High School senior guidance counselor Janay Futrell.

"They're a great group of kids," says Futrell of the 131 members of the TCHS Class of 2024.

The seniors will graduate during ceremonies at 7 p.m. May 21 in the TCHS gymnasium.

A highlight of the event will be the speeches made by high school Principal Tim Bush and by the class valedictorian and salutatorian.

During his speech, Bush will recognize the school's foreign exchange students, this year including a record five exchange students who have attended classes at the high school.

None of this year's

exchange students are graduates, the guidance counselor notes.

The night will also see recognition for the male and female Wildcats of the Year and for the recipient of the Clyde Doyle Award, given in honor of a former TCHS teacher.

Futrell notes that the 2024 top graduates, including the valedictorian, salutatorian and honor graduates, were to be announced initially during today's Scholarship Day observance.

Scholarship Day was open to the public and was slated for 8:30 this morning at the school.

"It's a big deal," says Futrell, noting that the day involves "hundreds of thousands of scholarship awards" that are given to the youth.

The counselor notes that the school's top students must meet requirements that are established by the Trigg

County School Board, among them meeting all college entrance scores for post-secondary readiness and successfully defending their individual capstone presentations, essentially meeting a benchmark for their senior English class.

They also must have a 94.000 or above grade point average at the end of their semester of graduation, but Futrell notes that being recognized goes far beyond their GPA.

"It's a lot more than just a grade point average," Futrell explains of the honor.

She notes that this year's graduating class of 131 students is a little smaller than usual.

"Most of the time, it's between 140 and 160," the senior guidance counselor notes.

Reach Tonya S. Grace at 270-887-3240 or tgrace@kentuckynewera.com.

[www.cadizrecord.com](http://www.cadizrecord.com)



**SAVE BIG DEALS**

**WKDZ 106.5 FM** **WHVO 96.5 | 100.9 FM** **WPKY 103.3 FM | 1580 AM**

[WKDZradio.com](http://WKDZradio.com) [WHVOradio.com](http://WHVOradio.com) [WPKYonline.com](http://WPKYonline.com)

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**PURSUANT TO KRS 424.290, "MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED, "THE FOLLOWING RACES WILL APPEAR ON THE VOTING MACHINES AND PAPER BALLOTS IN THE PRINCTS LISTED IN TRIGG COUNTY FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, MAY 21, 2024.**

<p>REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION</p>  <p>1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</p> <p><b>PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES</b> (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ryan L. BINKLEY <input type="checkbox"/> Vivek RAMASWAMY <input type="checkbox"/> Ron DeSANTIS <input type="checkbox"/> Donald J. TRUMP <input type="checkbox"/> Chris CHRISTIE <input type="checkbox"/> Nikki R. HALEY <input type="checkbox"/> *UNCOMMITTED*</p> <p><b>STATE SENATOR</b> 1st Senatorial District (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jason G. HOWELL <input type="checkbox"/> Lynn BECHLER</p> <p><b>ALL PRECINCTS</b></p>	<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION</p>  <p>1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</p> <p><b>PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES</b> (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Joseph R. BIDEN JR. <input type="checkbox"/> Marianne WILLIAMSON <input type="checkbox"/> Dean PHILLIPS <input type="checkbox"/> *UNCOMMITTED*</p> <p><b>ALL PRECINCTS</b></p>
--	---