

OBITUARIES

Lonnie R. McGaughey, 68

Lonnie R. McGaughey, age 68, husband of Linda Kaye McGaughey, passed away on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at Frankfort Regional Medical Center. He was born in Shelby County, KY, on August 22, 1956, to the late Elvin Marshall McGaughey and Hester Louise Waldrige McGaughey.

Lonnie worked almost two decades as a line worker at Buffalo Trace Distillery. He was a member at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mount Eden, KY. Lonnie found deep joy in the simple pleasures of country life. He spent much of his time outdoors tending to his farm—raising tobacco and cattle, working with his horses, and cutting hay. He was a skilled gardener and took pride in the work of his hands. One of his greatest joys was exploring the open road on his Harley-Davidson.

Along with his parents, Lonnie was preceded in death by his sister, Wanda Drury.

Lonnie is survived by his wife, Linda Kaye McGaughey of Lawrenceburg; his two sisters, Helen Hood (Larry) and Sheila McGaughey, both of Chaplin; his nieces and nephew, Kalan Hood, Stacy Drury Duke, and Brian Drury; and his great nieces and nephews,



Emma Hood, Adelle Hood, Jake Hood, Kyle Drury, and Tyler Duke.

Funeral service will be 12:00 PM Monday, May 5, 2025, at Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home with Bro. Noal Cotton, Jr. officiating. Burial will follow in the Highview Cemetery in Chaplin, KY. Visitation will be held from 5 – 8 PM on Sunday, May 4, and after 10 AM on Monday at Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home.

Serving as pallbearers will be Kalan, Brian, Kyle, Ronnie, Randy, and Jake. Honorary Bearers will Stacy, Tyler, Emma, and Adelle.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home, Lawrenceburg, KY. Condolences may also be expressed at www.ritchieandpeach.com.

Glenn “Pappy” Evans Burgin, 74, husband of Patsy Ann Harrod Burgin, passed away peacefully in his home at Lawrenceburg, KY surrounded by family on Sunday, April 27, 2025. He was born November 23, 1950 in Shelby County, KY to the late Charles Evan Burgin, Jr. and Aline Frances Mischler Burgin.

Including his parents, Glenn was predeceased by his brother, Mark Douglas Burgin.

Glenn 'Pappy' Evans Burgin, 74

Glenn is survived by his wife, Patsy; a daughter, Sarina Burgin Haney (Curtis); a brother Jeff Burgin; three sisters-in-law, Vickie Burgin, Karen Jeffries (Mike) and Cathy Lyons (James); a granddaughter he loved dearly, Hailey Bowman; three step-grandchildren, Matthew Haney, Heather Watkins, and Dalton Haney; four great grandchildren, Olivia Willard, Peyton Haney, Paisleigh Haney, Madelyn Haney; and several nieces and nephews.

If desired, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Glenn to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741 or The Gideon’s International, Anderson County Camp, P.O. Box 61, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

Visitation was held on

Thursday, May 1, 2025, and Friday, May 2, 2025 followed by service at Ritchie and Peach Funeral Home, 701 N. Main St., Lawrenceburg, KY 40342. Pastor Leslie Bentley will be officiating.

Arrangements are entrusted to Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home, Lawrenceburg, KY. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.ritchieandpeach.com.

Merry Elizabeth Corn Driskell, 75

Merry Elizabeth Corn Driskell, 75, wife of Stephen G. Driskell, passed away May 2, 2025 at her home in Lawrenceburg. Born in Anderson County on March 12, 1950, Merry was the daughter of the late Presley K. Corn and Callie Mildred Drury Corn.

Along with her par-

ents, Merry was preceded in death by her son, Logann Stephen Shane Driskell; a sister, Wanda Corn; and her brothers, Floyd W. Corn, James Presley Corn, and Chesley T. Corn.

Including Steve, her husband of 48 years, she is survived by two grandchildren, Bentley Shane

Driskell and Brianna Michelle Watson; a great grandson, Kason Stephens; a daughter-in-law, Mindy Drummond Driskell; and a sister, Mildred Rogers.

Merry chose cremation and no public services will be held.

Memorials in memory of Merry Driskell are

suggested to Bluegrass Care Navigators, 643 Teton Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home, Lawrenceburg, KY. Condolences may also be expressed at www.ritchieandpeach.com.

Deaths due to drugs decline in Kentucky

FRANKFORT – Last week, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that overdose deaths in the commonwealth decreased for the third year in a row, with a 30.2 percent decrease in 2024 compared with the previous year.

Among Black Kentucky residents, which had not previously seen a decrease, 170 died from a drug overdose, a decrease from 271 in 2023, marking a 37.3% decrease. According to the 2024 Kentucky Drug Overdose Fatality Report, 1,410 Kentuckians lost their lives last year to a drug overdose.

Fentanyl was present in 62.3 percent of overdose deaths, and methamphetamine was present in 50.8 percent of overdose deaths. The two continue to be the most prevalent drugs contributing to overdose deaths in the state. The report also indicates that most Kentucky age groups saw a decrease in overdose deaths, with the only increase being among those ages 75-84.

“I am thankful that more Kentuckians are alive and in recovery today compared with last year,” Beshear said. “But we still mourn and grieve our 1,410 Kentuckians who lost their life last year to addiction and the many more who we lost before that. Every life lost is a child of God, and someone’s mom, dad, son, daughter and loved one. We won’t stop until every Kentuckian is saved from addiction.”

In 2023, Kentucky reported a 9.8% decrease compared with 2022. In 2022, there was a decrease of 2.5% from 2021, marking the first year Kentucky saw a decrease in overdose deaths since 2018. By working together, the Governor said, Kentucky is saving lives. He credited the state’s continued decline in

overdose deaths to several factors including:

More than \$29.7 million was distributed in grant and pass-through funding from the Office of Drug Control Policy;

170,000 doses of Narcan were distributed;

84 syringe exchange program sites served 27,799 unique participants;

More than 142,310 Kentuckians received addiction services through Medicaid;

More than 17,390 Kentuckians received addiction treatment paid for by the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort;

More than 17,980 Kentuckians received recovery services (housing assistance, employment services,

transportation, basic need services, etc.) in their community paid for by the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort;

19 Kentuckians sought treatment through the Kentucky State Police Angel Initiative;

More than 3,320 incoming calls were made to the KY HELP Call Center with more than 14,080 outgoing follow upcalls; and

21 counties are now certified as Recovery Ready Communities representing nearly 1.5 million Kentuckians.

“Today’s announcement is made possible by every state agency, local community, health department, addiction treatment program and advocate who has put politics

aside and fought for our Kentuckians to obtain recovery. Thank you for moving Kentucky forward and doing this good work,” said Office of Drug Control Policy Executive Director Van Ingram. “If you are a family member of one of the Kentuckians who lost their lives to an overdose last year, we are praying for you and will continue this work in your loved one’s honor.”

Brandon Fitch, program administrator for recovery services with the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, said: “Kentucky’s commitment to recovery is saving lives across

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Second case of measles confirmed in Kentucky

MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Public health officials continue to urge Kentuckians to ensure their children are immunized against measles, as they announced the state’s second confirmed measles case in 2025.

The case was a child who was traveling through the state when they sought treatment, according to a news release. The child, who is not a U.S. resident, was diagnosed at a health care facility in Kentucky, which is why the case is counted as a Kentucky incident.

The Kentucky Department for Public Health says the health care facility adhered to strict safety protocols, thus eliminating the risk of spread to other patients.

“There are no other cases and no risks of exposure to Kentuckians associated with this case,” according to the release.

A Cabinet for Health and Family Services spokeswoman told the Kentucky Lantern Friday that the child was “unvaccinated, school-aged and is no longer in Kentucky.”

The first case of measles in Kentucky in 2025 was reported in February. This case occurred in a resident who had recently traveled

internationally to an area with ongoing measles transmission. The state health department reports there were no other confirmed cases associated with the February measles case.

Measles could become endemic again

Kentucky’s latest case of measles comes as new research from Stanford University, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, found that “at current state-level vaccination rates, measles may become endemic again” in two decades, meaning it would become a common disease again.

Further, the study estimated there would be 11.1 million cases of measles over the next 25 years if vaccination rates for the disease drop 10% and 51.2 million cases over the next 25 years if childhood vaccination rates were cut in half.

The estimates are based on a simulation of what would happen in the U.S. under various vaccination rates for children.

The researchers add that small declines in measles vaccination would cause this to happen more quickly, whereas small increases in vaccine coverage would

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