

Garden Club hosts annual holiday dinner

The Barbourville Garden Club met on November 13, 2025, at the Knox County Extension Office for our annual holiday dinner. Members enjoyed an evening of fellowship and shared a variety of special dishes prepared for the occasion.

President Barry Penn provided an update on last month's District Meeting, after which the club reviewed the five Award Applications being submitted to the Garden Club of Kentucky (GCKY). Past President Juanita Stallard gifted each member attending a glass ornament in celebration of the holidays.



We look forward to judging our Annual Christmas Decoration Competition next month and encourage all residents within the city limits to

participate. Our next meeting will be held on December 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Knox County Extension Office.

Knox Co. Detention Center inmates celebrate as 18 receive GEDs so far during 2025

At the Knox County Detention Center, Wednesday afternoons look a little different than they did a few years ago. In a quiet classroom just off the main hallway, students gather with a mixture of nerves and determination as they sit down to take their official GED tests. For many, it is the first time in years—sometimes the first time in their lives—that a test represents possibility instead of fear.

This shift is the result of a growing partnership between Knox County Adult Education and the detention center. Each week, adult education instructors work with students who want a second chance at earning their GED. Some are brushing up on old skills; others are learning material they never had the chance to master. What they share is hope for a different kind of future.

Jailer Mary Hammons has been central to that effort. A former educator, she recognizes the impact that consistent instruction and encouragement can have on people who are trying to rebuild their lives. Her support has helped create a stable space where learning is possible, even within the



confines of a correctional setting.

In 2024, that progress took another step forward when Laurel County Literacy Council—Knox County Adult Education's managing organization—secured a mobile GED testing lab for the jail. For students, the change was immediate: no more waiting for transport, no more long delays between readiness and testing day. Instead, they could take their exams in a familiar, supportive environment on-site and move toward their goals.

The results speak for themselves. So far in 2025, 18 students have earned their GED at the detention center. Since the facility opened in late 2019, 53 students have reached that milestone. In total, students have passed

319 official GED tests. With each passing test, students become a step closer to reaching that milestone.

Behind each of those numbers is a story—a parent hoping to set a better example, a young adult eager to qualify for a steady job, an individual rebuilding confidence long thought lost. For many, earning a GED is more than a credential. It is the moment when possibilities begin to return.

Program instructor Terry Newquist says the work is not always easy, but it is always meaningful. And as the partnership continues, the classroom door at the Knox County Detention Center will keep opening for the next group of students ready to try again, learn again, and move forward.

Poetry Corner

PETALS

Frances Denise
IG: @francesdenisepoetry
Website: wildflower.cloud

A little girl with pleading eyes
She tugged at my sleeve
She said:
"I'll show you where we died
So we can be alive"

--
You'll find white petals
In every secret place
I buried me
There was no ceremony
No candles
Only a breeze
A sigh caught in my throat
For every second
I unmet me

The most painful thing
I've ever done
Is also the bravest
I took my own hand
We walked through the cemetery
Remembering
Me

Nine months of letting go
Of all the things that
Swallowed me
How I always prayed for summer
Forgetting it was the fall that
Truly stirred me

To submit a poem to be featured, email it to: office@mountainadvocate.com with "Poetry Submission" in the subject line.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE PURSUANT TO APPLICATION NUMBER 918-0504 AM-4

In accordance with KRS 350.070 notice is hereby given that Ferroglobe USA Mining, LLC 332 West Cumberland Gap Parkway, Suite 100, Corbin, Kentucky 40701 has applied for an amendment to an existing permit for a surface, auger/highwall coal mining and reclamation operation. The amendment will add 39.58 surface acres and 107.64 Auger/HWM acres affecting 599.34 acres located 5.25 miles east of Rockholds in Whitley & Knox Counties

The proposed amendment area is approximately 5.25 miles east of Rockholds in Whitley & Knox County Kentucky and is approximately 0.64 miles east of KY 1064 junction with Terrell Hol-

low Road.

The proposed amendment is located on the Rockholds, KY 7½ minute quadrangle map. The amendment area will use a combination of contour, and auger/highwall miner methods of surface mining. The surface mining area to be disturbed by the amendment is owned by Vickie Sams, Jerry & Sharon Grant, Michael Hill, Ronnie Patrick, Donnie Patrick, Donnie Bruce Patrick, Raymond Skeene, Shelia Grant, Amie Rios, Jerry & Sharon Grant, Bobby Joe Terrell, Sherrie Grant, Rhonda McKinley, Jerry McKinley, & Jason Engle & Sherrie Grant.

This is the final advertisement of the application. All comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining

and Reclamation and Enforcement's, Middlesboro Regional Office, 1804 East Cumberland Avenue, Middlesboro, Kentucky 40965-1229. Written comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, 2nd Floor Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

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Greg Helton, Clerk

In compliance with section 424.340 & section 424.120 Kentucky revised statutes, notice is hereby given that the following fiduciary appointments have been made by the court:

NAME OF WARD OR DECEDENT	NAME & ADDRESS OF FIDUCIARY	NAME & ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY REPRESENTING FIDUCIARY	Date Appointed	Creditors must file by
25-P-310 JOSEPH MICHAEL ROSKOPF	JOSEPH MATTHEW ROSKOPF 1497 KY 3436 CORBIN, KY 40701 AND MISTY BROOKE ROSKOPF 710 KY 3436 CORBIN, KY 40701		11-10-2025	6 MONTHS