

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The deadline for the Community Calendar is at 4 p.m. Friday. Email to news@caseynews.net.

HAPPENINGS

• St. Bernard’s Lenten Fish Fry, located in Clementsville runs for six weeks each Friday night through April 11, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Adults \$14 per plate, Children 5-12 \$8. Kids four and under eat free. Serving baked or fried fish, slaw, hush puppies, macaroni and cheese, pinto beans, potatoes, cornbread, dessert and drink. Carry-outs are available.

• The VFW Post #5704 will hold a grand opening for its new Post building in Liberty, located at the intersection of Whipp Avenue and Hustonville Street, at noon through 5 p.m. on Saturday,

March 29. All are welcome to attend.

• The Red Hatatudes will meet at noon Wednesday March 26 at Sacred Heart Church to carpool to McKinney Depot for lunch.

• Anthony Cook, VFW Post 5704 service officer, will be at the Casey County Public Library the second Tuesday of every month to talk to veterans about benefits or other services.

SUPPORT GROUPS

• A child bereavement group will meet the first Friday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Outreach Center, 289 Wallace Wilkinson Blvd., in Liberty. For more information call 606-303-1422.

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. every

Tuesday at the First Christian Church fellowship hall. For information, call 606-787-5866 or 606-305-1288.

• Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. every Thursday at Hope Ministry, 882 Caney Fork Road, Liberty. For more information, call 606-448-9176.

• A Narcotics Anonymous open discussion meeting is held at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in the basement at Brush Creek Pentecostal Church on KY 49.

• A Survivor of Suicide support group meets the first Thursday of the month from 6-7 p.m. at the Boyle County Library.

This group is for adults who have had friends or family members die by suicide.

Stats show unemployment up across state from previous year

BY CASEY COUNTY NEWS

Unemployment rates rose in 109 counties, including Casey, between January 2024 and January 2025, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics.

The January 2025 rate of 6% in Casey County accounts for 373 jobless residents local actively seeking employment, the KYSTATS breakdown says. That rate was well above 4.5% recorded here in January 2024, the report said.

The center’s data showed Casey County’s unemployment rate was better than the 6.2% average for the 10-county Lake Cumberland Area Development District

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the commonwealth at 4%. It was followed by Fayette and Shelby counties, 4.3% each; Oldham and Scott counties, 4.4% each;

Bourbon, Jessamine and Nicholas counties, 4.6% each; and Harrison, Todd and Washington counties, 4.7% each.

Wolfe County recorded the state’s highest unemployment rate at 13.8%. It was followed by Lewis County, 12.2%; Elliott County, 11.5%; Magoffin County, 11.2%; Martin County, 11%; Carter County, 10.7%; Menifee County, 10.6%; Lawrence County, 9.8%; Breathitt County, 9.3%; and Morgan County, 9.1%.

County unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings, the KYSTATS news release said.

The comparable, unadjusted unemployment

rate for the state was 5.5% for January 2025, and 4.4% for the nation. Kentucky’s seasonally adjusted January 2025 unemployment rate was released March 13. It remained unchanged at 5.3% from December 2024 to January 2025.

In that release, Kentucky’s statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are adjusted to observe statistical trends by removing seasonal influences such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings.

The statistics do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The data should be only to the same month in previous years, according to the Center for Statistics, an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

New bill aims to combat loss of Kentucky farmland

BY WILL SPENCER
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Kentucky farmers have been struggling with the loss of farmland to large-scale developers for more than a decade. These outside investors purchase and convert the land for other commercial purposes or lease it back to operators.

According to the recently released 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture, Kentucky has lost 17,000 farms and 1.4 million acres of farmland over the last 20 years. In the previous five years, acreage has dwindled by 100,000 each year, averaging to roughly one-and-a-half farms lost per day during this period.

Introduced by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the Protecting American Farmlands Act aims to combat this issue through capital gains tax relief that keeps agricultural land in the hands of active producers.

The new bill aligns with Kentucky Farm Bureau’s Kentucky Farmland Transition Initiative, which supports farmers building equity in land and mitigates financial barriers for those retiring.

Kyle Kelly, director of public affairs for the Kentucky Farm Bureau, said the Protecting American Farmlands Act incentivizes retiring farmers to sell their land to younger farmers.

He explained that these benefits especially maintain generational family investment in agriculture while assisting in transitions to retirement.

Eddie Melton, president of Kentucky Farm Bureau, said the bill allows landowners who sell to active farmers to roll the gains from that sale into an individual retirement account. By deferring taxes, he said the bill gives retiring farmers more control over their financial future while helping keep farmland in production.

“This legislation not only helps ensure that our nation’s farmland remains in the hands of active farmers, but it also provides retiring farmers with a viable pathway to transition their

operations to the next generation,” Melton said.

Melton said the Protecting American Farmlands Act could be a major step in preserving the long-term sustainability of American agriculture.

“We look forward to the lasting impact this legislation will have on farming communities here in Kentucky and across the country,” Melton said.

Daniel Edwards, a partner with Edwards Farms in McCracken County, said this new legislation could ensure local farmers are vested in land over companies or corporations.

“This is going to be a great opportunity for myself, as a young farmer, and middle-aged farmers,” Edwards said. “They knew they can get their hands on property when someone retires.”

Operational since 1969, Edwards Farms has spanned three generations of family overseeing 1,800 acres. Daniel Edwards, who is 27 years old, said this bill would reinforce a lifelong passion for agriculture and broaden his farming scope.

“That’s every young farmer’s goal,” Edwards said. “It’s certainly my goal to buy farm ground to expand. If you’re not growing, you’re going backwards.”

With higher input costs and lower commodity prices, Edwards said farmers are facing severe economic challenges. He noted returns on average crops like corn and soybeans are alarmingly low, saying they “barely meet the production cost.”

However, he said the new bill could alleviate these hardships and thin margins by boosting land ownership and agricultural production. He anticipates benefits in his lifetime if the bill passes, and he said the current losses of 100,000 acres per year could be reduced by half.

“Everybody knows how tough it is right now in the farm economy, but this gives farmers a little bit of hope,” Edwards said. “This gives farmers an idea that, even though things aren’t good right now, we’ve got better things to look forward to.”

CASEY COUNTY SENIOR CENTER MENU

March 26: Country chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, fruit, roll with margarine, and milk	March 27: Crispy chicken, tossed salad, cookie, banana, roll, and milk	March 28: Vegetable soup, tuna salad, oyster crackers, two slices of whole wheat bread, fruit, and milk
--	---	--

Corydon Instant Print

PRINT SHOP & DESIGN STUDIO

•BROCHURES

•DECALS

•POSTCARDS

• FLYERS

• FORMS

•INVOICES

•LETTERHEAD

•ENVELOPES

•YARD SIGNS

•VINYL BANNERS

•BUSINESS CARDS

•GRAPHIC DESIGN

•LOGO DESIGN

• STAMPS

•LABELS

•POSTERS

Let us save you money on all your printing and design needs!

Corydon Instant Print is an affiliate with Paxton Media Group. We specialize in marketing tools to help sky rocket your business! Offering many different services from printing to graphic design. We are devoted to providing quality service for all of your printing needs.

812-738-2035

cip@corydondemocrat.com

SCAN FOR PRICING!