

# Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital publishes 2024 Community Benefit Report

## Report outlines hospital’s continued impact on health and economic vitality of Pulaski County

BY KATHLEEN BRADLEY  
LPNT.NET

Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital recently published its community benefit report for the 2024 calendar year. This annual report outlines the various ways the hospital is working to support the health and economic vitality of the Lake Cumberland region as part of its mission of making communities healthier.

“For almost 50 years, Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital

has been proud to call Pulaski County our home, and as a leader in our community, we are committed to providing high-quality care, investing in our region’s overall well-being and making a positive impact on those we serve,” said Carolyn Sparks, chief executive officer of LCRH. “This year’s report underscores our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality care possible – both inside and outside our hospital walls.”

LCRH’s 2024

community benefit report highlights its continued efforts to meet the growing healthcare needs of its community through welcoming new providers, adding and expanding service lines and continually investing in its facilities and healthcare technology. For example, in 2024, LCRH added 70 employed and independent providers in primary care, surgical podiatry, general surgery, psychiatry, OB/GYN and pulmonology; and made nearly \$8.2 million

capital improvements, including an advanced CT scanner, catheterization lab upgrades for enhanced cardiac care and minimally invasive procedures, and an ORBEYE exoscope for improved precision in surgical procedures.

Additionally, Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital donated nearly \$66.1 million in health services to those in need, demonstrating its continuous commitment to ensuring everyone has access to care, regard-

SEE LCRH, 3



PHOTO BY ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

**Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., speaks during a nomination hearing with the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on Capitol Hill on April 03, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Paul was the sole GOP co-sponsor on Wednesday April 30, 2025, of a resolution to terminate President Donald Trump’s tariffs.**

# Three U.S. Senate Republicans break with Trump on tariffs but rebuke fails

BY ASHLEY MURRAY  
STATES NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans defended President Donald Trump’s emergency tariffs Wednesday, blocking a largely symbolic measure to terminate the president’s import taxes that have shocked the economy.

The resolution failed in a tied 49-49 vote Wednesday evening. Vice President J.D. Vance broke the tie on a subsequent procedural vote to stop the measure from receiving another chance on the floor.

SEE SENATE, 5



JAMES CRISP — FR6426  
AP

**FILE — Kentucky players and cheerleaders take the field before an NCAA college football game against Louisville on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013, in Lexington, Ky.**

# Kentucky changes its athletic department to an LLC

BY MAURA CAREY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With college athletics bracing for the expected approval of a \$2.8 billion NCAA antitrust settlement, the University of Kentucky is believed to be the first school to convert its athletic department to a limited-liability holding company.

The creation of Champions Blue LLC, approved last week by the university’s Board of Trustees, is seen as a way for Kentucky to become more nimble in finding new revenue.

The pending settlement in the House case will clear the way for schools to share up to \$20.5 million annually with their athletes, but name, image and likeness deals on top of that are seen as a key asset in landing and keeping elite recruits — and that takes money.

The plan calls for a board that will have wide experience in fundraising, and the school noted it hopes to “unlock new revenue streams through public-private partnerships and potentially other transactions, such as real estate.”

“There are so many benefits to creating Champions Blue,” said Jacob Most, UK’s director of strategic communications. “It provides the flexibility needed to help us stay well-positioned during this period of continued evolution in college athletics. We will benefit from a new board of internal and outside experts with sports business experience — including in pro sports — that will help guide us in finding revenue streams to support our teams.”

The so-called House settlement and changing landscape were driving factors in the decision,

and UK said in its announcement Friday that the changes “will add millions more each year to the expenses of inter-collegiate programs.”

An LLC provides some legal protections against losses or risks, and experts said transitioning to one may be a wise choice for major institutions like Kentucky. Being able to make quicker choices in the current landscape could be a key benefit.

It might not work across the board, however.

Making the shift requires thoughtful consideration, said Jim Booz, a former deputy athletic director at Virginia and now the director of college athletics advisory services at the accounting firm James Moore & Co.

“It’s important for every institution to really think about their strategic alignment and what it is that they want to accomplish in this new landscape of college athletics,” Booz said.

“Certainly, a move like

this one allows the University of Kentucky to be a little bit more agile and nimble in executing, in all likelihood, some strategies that they plan to implement post the House case.”

Helen Drew, a sports law professor at the University of Buffalo, said agility is increasingly valuable in college athletics. As the amateur model vanishes, athletic departments are more inclined to make changes.

“The traditional structure has never fit particularly well, and certainly now it does not fit well at all with the transactional nature of college sports,” Drew said. “This is the first institution to acknowledge that we’re in a different era and that the organizational structures that we’ve used up until this time don’t work well with the new reality.”

UK officials said the structure is appealing to all parties, including athletes seeking NIL compensation.

“This structure will

help us create new revenue streams, which when reinvested in our programs and facilities, will help ensure the continued success of our sports programs,” Most said. “In today’s college landscape, isolating the business component enables us to focus on our student-athletes.”

*This story has been corrected to show Jim Booz was a former deputy athletic director at Virginia, not Virginia Tech.*

**Tired of Getting Overcharged For Your Medicare Supplement?**

Put our experience to work for you!  
You may qualify for a lower rate!

**Greer, Whitehead & Associates Inc.**  
**(606) 677-1759**  
**408 South Main St.**

**It’s Our Business to Protect Yours®**

**Business Insurance  
Life | Disability**

**Derick Smith**  
**606-219-5367**

**FEDERATED INSURANCE**

Federated Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries\* | federatedinsurance.com  
Ward’s 50® Top Performer | A.M. Best® A+ (Superior) Rating  
20.00 Ed. 1/20 \*Not licensed in all states. © 2020 Federated Mutual Insurance Company

**Commonwealth Journal**

P.O. Box 859, 110-112 East Mt. Vernon St., Somerset, KY 42502-0859

**Mark Walker, Publisher**  
**Steve Cornelius, Editor**

**CONTACT US BY TELEPHONE:**  
Main office (606) 678-8191      Circulation (606) 679-5200

**CONTACT US BY FAX:**  
Editorial Fax (606) 679-9225      Business office (606) 679-6635  
Advertising Fax (606) 679-4866

**DELIVERY:**  
If you wish to subscribe, or have a delivery problem, contact the Circulation Department via phone or email during working hours Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone calls only can be left on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**  
Call for Total Media Access Rates      Circulation (606) 679-5200  
All subscription prices are subject to a 6 percent Kentucky sales tax.

**POSTMASTER:**  
Please send address changes to:  
The Commonwealth Journal  
P.O. Box 859  
Somerset, Ky 42502-0859

The Commonwealth Journal is published in Somerset, Ky, by CNHI on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, except on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Printed on recycled paper using soy ink.      (USPS-126-020) (ISSN: 0899-1839)

**AMON'S Sugar Shack**

*The Sweetest Place in Town Since 1951!*

**DELICIOUS FOOD • FRESH DONUTS  
HAVE YOU BEEN TO AMON'S LATELY?**

**606.678.4392 • amonsbakery.com**

1900 S. Hwy. 27, Light #13 • Somerset, Kentucky 42501

**KIDS EAT FREE!**

**One FREE Kidz Meal**  
*with adult meal purchase*

**ZAXBY'S**

**ZAXBY'S** CHICKEN FINGERS & BUFFALO WINGS  
**2039 S. Hwy. 27, Somerset**  
**606-416-5495**