

# Country music singer partners with Kentucky Proud

Lancaster native and country music singer and songwriter Alex Miller will soon be repping Kentucky grown and produced agricultural products as the newest brand ambassador for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's (KDA) Kentucky Proud program.

"Alex is just as Kentucky as it gets," Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. "Because he comes from an agricultural background, he is the perfect spokesperson for Kentucky Proud products. Like Kentucky Proud products, he represents the authenticity of this state. It couldn't be a better match."

As the official agricultural marketing brand of the state for more than two decades, Kentucky Proud raises awareness of the state's ever-expanding agricultural efforts to promote Kentucky's farmers, farm families, and farm impact products grown, raised, or processed in Kentucky by Kentuckians. Through this new partnership,



Straight South Imagery

ALEX MILLER

Miller will help amplify that mission presence, both on the stage and to his fanbase and growing national at scheduled appearances in fun,

approachable ways to connect consumers with Kentucky producers and celebrate the Commonwealth's rich agricultural heritage.

"I come from a long line of Kentucky farmers, and I can tell you that the work is hard but incredibly rewarding," Miller said. "I am honored to join other Kentucky ag producers as a part of Kentucky Proud. This chance to serve as an ambassador will allow me to highlight the accomplishments and amazing products spotlighted by this great program. I love Kentucky, and I will always do all I can to share the wonders of the Commonwealth. As an American FFA degree recipient, this was an easy opportunity to say 'yes' to, and I'm eager to get started."

After performing at local jambores and nursing homes, Miller got his first big shot on the stage after joining the Garrard County High School FFA and taking part

in its talent show. His performances took him all the way to the National FFA Convention where he performed for thousands.

In 2021, Miller participated on the hit television show *American Idol*. The national exposure earned him the opportunity to open for acts such as Hank Williams, Jr., Lee Brice, Josh Turner, Shenandoah, Brooks and Dunn, and more. His singing and guitar skills have also brought him to the country music meccas of the Ryman Auditorium and the Grand Ole Opry.

Miller credits his grandfather, who is a farmer, with the drive and dedication to pursue his passion for singing and performing.

Miller who has upcoming tour dates in North Carolina, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and throughout Kentucky, recently released his current single for Billy Jam Records, "The Byrd," featuring country hitmaker Tracy Byrd.

## GCS

FROM PAGE A1

to communicate electronically with students outside of the designated traceable platforms (such as social media or text messaging); however, officials noted that individual waivers must be signed for each employee or volunteer, and parents may set expiration dates for waivers.

For example, Robinson said a parent/guardian could sign a waiver permitting a coach to communicate with a student through an electronic means outside the designated traceable platforms through a specific date by which point their sport will have concluded for the season. Waivers will soon be available on the district's website, as well as through each school/principal, and a parent or guardian may choose to revoke the waiver at any time.

The waiver is not required for family members; however, the law defines a family member as a parent/legal guardian, brother, sister, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, or grandparent. Some district employees noted Tuesday that this definition does not include cousins or in-laws.

"It's hard to be a mom and

a school employee or a dad and a school employee," said Robinson.

Robinson also specified that the law does not prohibit teachers, school employees, and school volunteers from communicating electronically with parents or guardians outside of the approved traceable platforms.

School Board Attorney David Vickery said SB 181 "is a horrible law" that officials hope will be either repealed by legislators or significantly changed.

According to Vickery, certified employees found to have violated the law will be referred to the Kentucky Standards Board for disciplinary action, while classified employees will be disciplined by GCS. The law states that school volunteers found in violation will be prohibited from future school volunteer opportunities.

School Board Vice Chairman Darrell Witten said there is currently a petition circulating that has been signed by over 10,000 educators requesting legislators change the law, and local board members intend to meet with Grayson County's elected representatives — Rep. Samara Heavrin and Sen. Steve Meredith — to advocate for positive change.

School Board Chair Brett Abney also sought to clarify that the Grayson County School Board, by adopting a policy setting permitted traceable communications platforms and requirements for employees and volunteers, is doing so to comply with state law and is not setting the law. He encouraged those with questions about the law to reach out to the aforementioned elected representatives.

SB 181 may be reviewed online at [apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/25rs/sb181.html](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/25rs/sb181.html).

Among the other policy and procedure updates approved Tuesday to comply with newly implemented state laws were:

- As required by House Bill (HB) 342, the establishment of a program to provide Grayson County High School students with a financial literacy credit, which, according to GCHS Principal Shane Decker, will be split between students' freshman and sophomore years;
- As required by SB 19, the establishment of a moment of silence and reflection to start each school day;
- As required by HB 73, the establishment of a program through which the schools will provide age-appropriate information about sex extortion

to students in fourth grade and up; and,

- As permitted by HB 240, schools may now hold kindergartners and first graders back if they have not met the necessary reading requirements to progress to the next grade level. Following the discussion, the board voted to adopt the 2025 policy and procedure updates.

In other business, the school board:

- Granted approval for GCS to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2025-2026 school year, allowing each student to receive breakfast and lunch each day at no cost to the student.
- Voted to increase the extra-curricular admission/gate fee from \$5 to \$7 for all regular season home games and allow all Grayson County School District students to attend regular season home games for free. This increase is to assist with covering the increased cost of purchasing a digital platform to accept digital payments for events. Officials said tickets for regular season home games will be available to pre-order online, and, moving forward, no tickets will be purchased with cash at the gate.
- Approved a resolution

adopting the 5-Standard KASA Superintendent Effectiveness Framework. According to Witten, this is a new superintendent evaluation model that reduces the standards from seven to five, eliminating redundancies.

- Passed a motion acknowledging the District has reviewed the "Data Security and Breach Notification Best Practice Guide" and implemented best practices that meet the needs of personal information.
- Approved a payment of \$340,111.69 to Redlee Construction for the Grayson County Technology Center addition/renovation project. According to Robinson, the project is currently behind schedule due to rain, but contractors are hoping to catch back up.
- Approved the adult meal price formula. Last year's meal price for adults was \$4.85.
- Approved the 2025-2026 a la carte prices.
- Granted approval for Food Service to continue using HPS, a group buying organization, for food and supplies procurement for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Voted to continue using Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) for fresh dairy and bakery procurement and

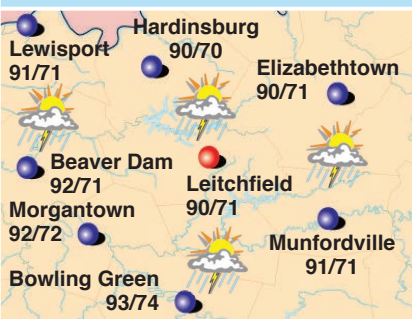
contract awards for the 2025-2026 school year. Contracts will become effective Aug. 1.

- Approved the hearing report conducted by Vickery for the 2025-2029 District Facility Plan. This is the final step in establishing the District Facility Plan.
- Approved revisions to the 2025-2026 salary schedule for miscellaneous adjustments to the Aides/Monitors schedule and the Extra Service schedule.
- Approved the Fiscal Year 2026 District Funding Assurance.
- Approved the 2025 Revised Certified Evaluation Plan. Evaluations are now required on a five-year cycle rather than a three-year cycle.
- Approved the ARC chairpersons for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved the Special Education Policies and Procedures manual amended July 2025.
- Approved the service fee agreement with Rough River PT for 2025-2028.
- Declared a bus and various technology as surplus property.
- Awarded the sale of a Ford lawn and garden tractor to Dalton McStoots for \$2,525.

## The Grayson County News Weather

Today	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Scattered T-storms	Few Showers	Scattered T-storms	Isolated T-storms	Isolated T-storms	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
90° 71°	89° 70°	87° 71°	89° 70°	90° 72°	85° 65°	81° 63°

### Area Forecast



### Local Discussion

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a 45% chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 90°, humidity of 64%. South southwest wind 2 to 6 mph. The heat index for today could reach up to 96°. The record high temperature for today is 105° set in 1930.

### Sun and Moon

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
7/12	5:34 a.m.	8:07 p.m.	9:44 p.m.	7:08 a.m.
7/13	5:35 a.m.	8:06 p.m.	10:13 p.m.	8:17 a.m.
7/14	5:35 a.m.	8:06 p.m.	10:39 p.m.	9:25 a.m.
7/15	5:36 a.m.	8:05 p.m.	11:04 p.m.	10:33 a.m.
7/16	5:37 a.m.	8:05 p.m.	11:29 p.m.	11:41 a.m.
7/17	5:37 a.m.	8:04 p.m.	11:57 p.m.	12:51 p.m.
7/18	5:38 a.m.	8:04 p.m.	Prev Day	2:03 p.m.

	Last	New	First	Full
	7/17	7/24	8/1	8/9

### River Levels

River levels are in feet		
	Flood Stage	River Level
Ohio River/Cannelton	16	9.4
Upper	42	11.0
Lower		
Ohio River/Newburgh	20	10.5
Upper	38	14.4
Lower		
Green River/Calhoun	23	n/a
Upper	23	n/a
Lower		

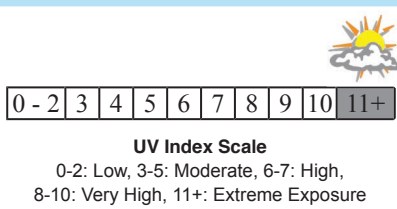
### Last Week's Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Thursday	90	72	86/62	0.00"
Friday	92	76	87/62	0.00"
Saturday	93	76	87/62	0.00"
Sunday	93	77	87/62	0.00"
Monday	86	75	87/62	0.00"
Tuesday	86	72	87/62	0.04"
Wednesday	84	74	87/62	0.00"

Average temp . . . 81.9 Rainfall . . . . . 0.04"  
Average normal . . 74.4 Normal rainfall . . 1.04"  
Departure . . . . . +7.5 Departure . . . . . -1.00"

As reported from Owensboro

### UV Index



### Weather Trivia

What is a heat burst?  
Answer: It is air that is forced downward in a thunderstorm and heated by compression.  
www.WhatsOurWeather.com

### Regional Cities

City	Today		Sun.	
	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx
Akron, OH	93/71	pc	88/69	sh
Ashland, KY	92/71	pc	88/70	sh
Athens, AL	90/73	t	92/72	sh
Bowling Gm, KY	93/74	t	92/72	sh
Brentwood, TN	92/73	t	93/72	sh
Center, IN	93/73	sh	90/72	t
Champaign, IL	89/69	sh	87/65	t
Cincinnati, OH	94/73	t	90/71	sh
Clarksville, TN	93/73	t	92/72	sh
Columbus, OH	92/73	sh	89/71	sh
Dayton, OH	93/73	t	89/69	sh
Defiance, OH	93/71	sh	88/66	t
Dickson, TN	91/72	t	90/71	sh
Evansville, IN	94/73	t	90/72	t
Frankfort, KY	93/71	t	91/70	sh
Franklin, TN	92/73	t	93/72	sh
Glasgow, KY	91/72	t	90/71	sh
Hopkinsville, KY	92/73	t	91/71	sh
Jackson, TN	93/73	t	92/72	t
Lawrenceville, IL	92/72	sh	88/70	t
Lebanon, TN	91/71	t	92/70	sh
Lexington, KY	92/71	t	90/70	sh

### Weather History

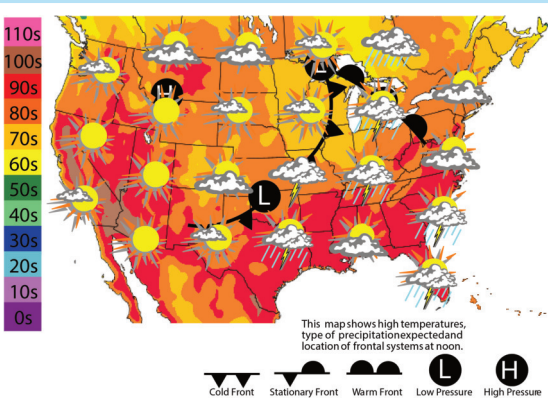
July 12, 1951 - Flooding in the Midwest claimed 41 lives, left 200 thousand persons homeless, and caused a billion dollars property damage. Kansas City was hardest hit. The central industrial district sustained 870 million dollars in property damage.

### Across The Nation

City	Today		Sun.	
	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx
Atlanta	91/73	sh	94/75	pc
Baltimore	94/77	t	93/76	t
Boston	82/67	pc	83/66	pc
Chicago	89/71	sh	84/69	mc
Cleveland	92/75	pc	86/73	sh
Detroit	92/72	sh	88/69	t
Las Vegas	110/83	s	111/85	s
Los Angeles	82/62	pc	81/63	s
Miami	87/81	t	86/80	t
New York	84/72	pc	83/71	pc
San Francisco	69/55	s	68/54	pc
Washington, DC	90/73	t	89/72	t

Weather (Wx): c/cloudy; m/mostly cloudy; p/partly cloudy; r/rain; rs/rain & snow; s/sunny; sh/showers; sn/snow; ss/snow showers; t/thunderstorms

### National Weather



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