

# KHSAA Dead Period ends

BY GRAYSON COUNTY NEWS

Grayson County student-athletes are active again following the conclusion of the KHSAA Dead Period.

Via the KHSAA Dead Period, student-athletes in Grayson County and across the state were sidelined June 25-July 9.

The Dead Period was adopted 20-plus years ago by member schools in response to concerns about year-round

play and practice and parental and coaching desire for some down time from interscholastic play. Member schools adopted the period of June 25-July 9 as a time of inactivity, which followed the pattern of the historic idling of southern textile mills, and this time allows administrators, coaches, student-athletes and their families a time where they are not committed to school play.

According to Article 3 of

Bylaw 26 (The Dead Period), it states that: "Students may not receive coaching or training from school personnel (either salaried or non-salaried) and school facilities, uniforms, nicknames, transportation or equipment shall not be used each year in any KHSAA-sanctioned sport or cheer-leading squad during the period beginning June 25 and ending through July 9. School funds may not be expended in support of interscholastic

athletics in any KHSAA sanctioned sport during this period. These restrictions shall not apply to any postseason wrap-up activities, celebrations and recognition events relating to a spring sports team at a school which participated in KHSAA state championship play in that particular sport during that particular year."

Grayson County fall sports teams are currently preparing to compete in their 2025 seasons.

## Two to join WKU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming 2025

Two dedicated and proven leaders from the fields of education and health care will join WKU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni this fall.

George Nichols III and Connie Moreland Smith will be honored during WKU's 2025 Homecoming Celebration.

The 34th class of noted alumni will be inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni during the Hilltopper Excellence Awards on Thursday, Oct. 30 at WKU's Knically Conference Center. Presented by Franklin Bank & Trust, the Hilltopper Excellence Awards will include additional recognitions for alumni and supporters of WKU, which will be announced at a later date. For more information, contact the WKU Alumni Association at (270) 745-2586.

### GEORGE NICHOLS III ('83)

George Nichols III is the 10th President and CEO of The American College of Financial Services, an accredited, nonprofit institution located in King of Prussia, Pa., with more than 18,000 students serving the financial services industry.

He joined the College after a 17-year stint at New York Life, where he held principal roles in sales, strategic initiatives and public policy. Prior to joining New York Life, George was Kentucky's first Black insurance commissioner, leading regulation of the state's \$10 billion insurance industry through his expertise in health insurance reform and financial services integration.

In 2021, he was named

to Forbes' inaugural edition of "The Culture 50 Champions," which identified models of business excellence who uplift Black and Brown communities through their craft and philanthropic efforts. From Business Insurance Magazine, George was the inaugural recipient of the Alonzo Herndon Award, named in honor of the founder of Atlanta Life Insurance Company, the largest Black-owned insurance company in the U.S.

Longtime donors and supporters of many areas at WKU, George and his wife, Cynthia Jean "CJ" ('82), were named the University's Philanthropists of the Year in 2018. In recognition of a gift to support student services, the Cynthia and George Nichols III Inter-cultural Student Engagement Center was named in their honor in 2017.

With an extensive history of public service, George currently serves as Chair of the National Board of Trustees for City Year, a nonprofit that provides high-impact student, classroom and school-wide support in urban areas. He is also a former member of the WKU Board of Regents, the WKU Board of Advisors and the WKU Foundation Board of Trustees.

In addition to earning a

degree in Sociology from WKU, Nichols received an associate degree from Alice Lloyd College in 1980 and a master's degree from the University of Louisville in 1985. He earned the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy designation from The American College of Financial Services in 2023.

He continues to lean on the love of CJ and their three adult children, Courtney Nichols, Jessie Nichols ('13) and George Nichols IV, and his unyielding faith.

### CONNIE MORELAND SMITH ('82, '91)

A visionary leader with more than 40 years of experience, Connie Moreland Smith serves as President and CEO of Med Center Health, a premier health system headquartered in Bowling Green, Ky. Throughout her tenure, which began in 1981 and culminated in her appointment as President and CEO in 2011, Connie has strategically expanded Med Center Health's reach and impact across south central Kentucky. Under her leadership, the system has grown to encompass more than 30 locations, including seven hospitals and a comprehensive network of more than 500 providers representing 50+ specialties, making it the largest healthcare employer in the region.

Her commitment to collaboration and innovation is evident in the establishment of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine-Bowling Green Campus, the state's first four-year regional medical school, ensuring a pipeline of future

physicians. Furthermore, Connie forged a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership with WKU to develop The Medical Center-WKU Health Sciences Complex, a hub for nursing and physical therapy education and an advanced simulation lab.

Connie's WKU academic credentials include an associate degree in Nursing in 1982 and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1991. She also earned a Master of Science in Nursing Administration from the University of Louisville. Connie has been a Registered Nurse since 1982 and a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator since 1995. A member of the American College of Healthcare Executives since 1994, she became a Fellow in 2001. Her exceptional leadership has been acknowledged through accolades such as the 2013 ATHENA Leadership Award and induction into the WKU College of Health & Human Services Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Junior Achievement of South Central Kentucky Business Hall of Fame in 2021. She was also recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for 2012 for the College of Health & Human Services. Beyond her executive duties, Connie actively contributes to workforce development and education, and she has served on the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

Connie's Hilltopper Family includes her husband, Rickey K. Smith ('86); daughter, Melanie Smith Wyatt ('04, '13); and son-in-law, Jeremy Wyatt ('00).

## Electronic communication by players clarified in high school softball

No player shall be allowed to transmit or record audio or video from the playing surface in high school softball.

This new language in Rule 1-8-6 of the NFHS Softball Rules Book further clarifies the use of electronic devices and what is permitted in the sport after language was added last year to allow for electronic communication for coaching purposes.

This change was the highlight of the NFHS Softball Rules Committee's rules recommendations as a result of the committee's annual rules meeting held June 15-17 at The Alexander hotel in Indianapolis. The NFHS Board of Directors subsequently approved the rules changes to take effect next year.

"While increased media exposure has positively influenced the growth and visibility of softball, the committee determined that the potential risks associated with players transmitting or recording audio or video through devices during live play outweighed the benefits," said Sandy Searcy, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Softball Rules Committee. "As wearable technology continues to evolve, the committee believed it was essential to establish clear guidelines regarding the

permissible use of such devices to ensure the safety and integrity of the game."

The proper uniform for an umpire was adjusted in Rule 10-4-2, noting that 'charcoal gray' slacks were allowed, instead of 'heather gray.'

"Manufacturers have ceased production of heather gray umpire pants, and this update will help guide umpires toward selecting pant options that are actively being produced and readily available," Searcy said.

Finally, the 2026 Softball Rules Book will include a reformatted Rule 8 for improved clarity and comprehension. Longer sections were separated, and additional article references were added to penalties and effects.

A complete listing of the softball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on "Sports" at the top of the home page and select "Softball."

According to the most recent NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, 345,451 girls in 15,635 high schools played fast-pitch softball in 2023-24 making it the fifth-most popular girls sport, while an additional 6,107 girls participated in slow-pitch softball.

## GSE Summer Startup Program announces 2025 business pitch competition winners

Some of Kentucky's most innovative high school students created business solutions for real-world problems and acquired skills that will serve them for a lifetime during the 2025 Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) Summer Startup Program.

Students tackled challenges ranging from mental health to lithium-ion battery disposal to heart failure

detection. GSE identifies, inspires, and empowers Kentucky's future innovators through its three-week Summer Startup program for high schoolers.

This year, 159 students completed the program in the largest single session in program history, held at the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on March 13, 2025, scheduling a hearing to be held on August 4, 2025, at 9 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for Case No. 2025-00045. This is an examination of the Electronic Application of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Site Compatibility Certificates.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](http://psc.ky.gov).

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](http://psc.ky.gov).

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## LEGAL NOTICE


COMMISSIONER'S SALE  
JULY 22, 2025, at 12:00 P.M.  
GRAYSON COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER  
LEITCHFIELD, KENTUCKY  
GRAYSON CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION II CIVIL  
ACTION NO. 21-CI-00099  
MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP, et al PLAINTIFF  
v.  
KAREN HODGE, et al DEFENDANTS

By virtue of an Order entered on June 17, 2025, the Master Commissioner will on July 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier's check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing interest rate as set forth below, per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner's office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all documents necessary to qualify to bid. Failure to verify the sufficiency of your down payment and your surety or letter of credit prior to the commencement of the Master Commissioner sales on this sale date will result in the Master Commissioner refusing your bid.

Property Address: 5349 Grayson Springs Road, Clarkson, Kentucky 42726  
Parcel Identification Number: 111-00-00-009.0B  
Judgment Amount: \$6,413.14  
Interest Rate: 12%  
Appraisal: \$ 10,000.00

The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount set forth above, plus interest and costs as set forth in the Judgment. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged indivisible and will be sold as a whole, including all improvements. The Master Commissioner makes no warranties concerning the title or to the condition of the property. This property is being sold as is. The property will be sold free of the liens of all the parties hereto and will be subject to all restrictions and easements of record. This property is being sold subject to the right of redemption in favor of the property owner under KRS §426.530.

DOUGLAS P. VOWELS  
MASTER COMMISSIONER  
POST OFFICE BOX 356  
BRANDENBURG, KENTUCKY 40108  
PHONE: (270) 422-5803 [www.graysonmc.com](http://www.graysonmc.com)



## News CLASSIFIED DEADLINE

TUESDAY - 3:00 PM

Contact Customer Service at  
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[classifieds@graysonconews.com](mailto:classifieds@graysonconews.com)  
Monday-Friday 7AM-3PM  
\*Holidays advance deadline by 24 hours.

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Founded by the **Circuit Clerks of Kentucky** in 1992, Donate Life Kentucky Trust is a 501c3 nonprofit. Proceeds from this fundraiser support the lifesaving mission of organ, eye and tissue donation.



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GRAYSON CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION II CIVIL  
ACTION NO. 21-CI-00078  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,  
et al PLAINTIFF  
v.  
JEFF BEASLEY, et al  
DEFENDANTS

By virtue of an Order entered on June 17, 2025, the Master Commissioner will on July 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier's check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing interest rate as set forth below, per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner's office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all documents necessary to qualify to bid. Failure to verify the sufficiency of your down payment and your surety or letter of credit prior to the commencement of the Master Commissioner sales on this sale date will result in the Master Commissioner refusing your bid.

Property Address:  
220 English Street,  
Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754  
Parcel Identification Number: 083-09-10-022  
Judgment Amount: \$10,728.07  
Interest Rate: 12%  
Appraisal: \$ 25,000.00

The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount set forth above, plus interest and costs as set forth in the Judgment. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged indivisible and will be sold as a whole, including all improvements. The Master Commissioner makes no warranties concerning the title or to the condition of the property. This property is being sold as is. The property will be sold free of the liens of all the parties hereto and will be subject to all restrictions and easements of record. This property is being sold subject to the right of redemption in favor of the property owner under KRS §426.530.

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