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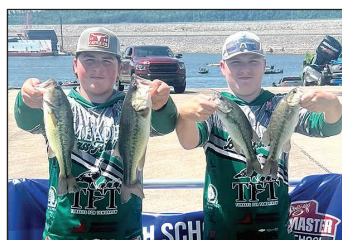
Take a day trip to Historic Squire Boone Caverns

A3



Looking back: Payneville man shares memories

A4



All seven Meade County Bass Fishing teams qualify for state B8

## Annie's Song



Photos by Earlene Bohannon | *The Messenger*  
Annie Hamilton Emond flashing her beautiful smile.

**Earlene Bohannon**  
Editor

When Annie Hamilton Emond began her tenure as Executive Director of The Meade County Chamber of Commerce on July 26, 2019, Meade County had no idea what a treat they were in for.

With a background in graphic design, journalism, volunteerism and her work with United Way, Hamilton Emond was the natural choice to step into the recently vacated role, "I was at Aldi, and I ran into Carole (Logsdon) and she said, "apply for my job", so I did," explained Hamilton Emond.

Hamilton Emond had barely found her sea legs when Covid hit and the world was shut down for the pandemic, "It was such a surreal time," said Hamilton Emond, "We had to be creative, using whatever means we had to do so. We had "Business of the Day" whereas we highlighted a Chamber Business, and we played, "Chamber Bingo" where we invited people in the community to fill in squares by meeting whatever challenges we had created for them—which generally involved them visiting businesses to get their squares marked off." As the world slowly began stepping out again, Hamilton Emond, and her Assistant Executive Director, Malina Thomas, emerged armed with long planned ideas and ready to lead the county into fun and adventure.

When asked about some of her favorite memories, Hamilton Emond said, "oh, easily—the Bicentennial. It was just such a spectacular day for our community. Everything happened as we had

planned; everyone was happy; it was a special day for everyone. It meant so much to the community. It is a one-time celebration that is never going to happen again, and we, and everyone involved, put our very best forward."

"LST was a lot," she said, "it was five whole days, and it was really a lot of work. We were involved with that from morning to night every day it was docked here. It was amazing, of course, because, well, it's a World War 2 ship and so many people came and toured it and had such a great time doing so. It was on the third night it was here that is my favorite memory of that event. The concert was happening; Malina was sitting with her family, and I was tending to the bar and Malina and I were texting one another, just being encouraging towards each other and it occurred to me how wonderful it all was. That's a special memory for me. When the person you work with "gets" what it's all about, and you both really appreciate each other, that's a big satisfaction."

Thomas shared, "Annie and I always had a great time. No matter what event or what was wrong, we fixed it and kept pushing forward for all involved. So, I will miss her and the energy she always had for her job."

Hamilton Emond said some of her favorite memories are when she and Thomas were preparing for the State Fair just weeks ahead of the first Battletown Witch Festival, "We made all of things by hand. We carved out tombstones and pumpkins and made trees; I made a "book" about Leah Smock and made it look old. We cared so much about the

## Groundbreaking held for Baptist Health Emergency and Urgent Care Facility



Photos by Jessica Marcum | *The Messenger*

Officials and special guests gear up for the official groundbreaking.

**Jessica Marcum**  
Messenger Staff

A groundbreaking ceremony was held March 22 for the new Baptist Health Emergency and Urgent Care Facility. The new center promises quicker and more convenient medical access for residents of Meade County, Radcliff, Fort Knox, and northern Hardin County. This addition means that patients will no longer need to drive to Elizabethtown, Louisville, or Corydon for emergency or urgent care needs.

Local officials, healthcare representatives and community members gathered to celebrate what many called a major step forward in improving healthcare access in the region. Hardin County Clerk Brian Smith shared his thoughts during the event. He emphasized the growing needs of the area and praised the placement of the facility. "This facility will serve

the needs of the growing Fort Knox, Radcliff and Meade County communities," he said.

Radcliff Mayor JJ Duvall echoed that excitement and spoke about the honor of being selected as one of the four regional locations chosen by Baptist Health. "We're honored to be one of four locations Baptist is investing in across the region. We will now be able to offer quality care and emergency services to our local communities," Duvall stated.

Baptist Health Hardin President Robert Ramey explained the unique structure of the new facility. Unlike traditional setups that require patients to determine which level of care they need before arriving, this center will house both emergency and urgent care services in one location. Patients will be evaluated and triaged upon arrival. "Patients will be triaged upon arrival to determine if they



**Baptist Health Hardin President, Robert Ramey, spoke about the importance of this innovative free-standing ER and Urgent Care.**

need urgent or emergency care," Ramey said. "This model improves patient flow and helps avoid unnecessary visits to the hospital ER. It will ultimately save lives, especially for those who live far from traditional emergency rooms."

State Representative Nancy Tate expressed her appreciation for the project and its significance for residents of Meade County. "In Meade County, we are in a medical desert. We

do not have a lot of options for ER and urgent care. This is a wonderful opportunity that I am excited about," she said.

One of the speakers, Thom Herrmann, CEO of Intuitive Health, explained why combining urgent and emergency care under one roof is a smart and necessary move. "One-third of patients treated in a traditional ER could have

**Groundbreaking**  
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## Disaster Recovery Center opens in Meade County

**Submitted by:**  
**Meade County**  
**Emergency**  
**Management**

A Disaster Recovery Center has opened in Meade County to offer in-person support to Kentucky survivors who experienced loss as the result of the April severe storms, straight-line winds, flooding, landslides and mudslides. The new Disaster Recovery Center in Meade County is in Brandenburg at the Meade County Fairground; Joseph E. Greer Command Center, 884 Hillcrest Drive, Brandenburg, Kentucky.

Working hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Saturday and 1 - 7 p.m. Eastern Time, Sunday. Disaster Recovery Centers are one-stop shops where you can get information and advice on available assistance from state, federal and

community organizations. You can get help to apply for FEMA assistance, learn the status of your FEMA application, understand the letters you get from FEMA, and get referrals to agencies that may offer other assistance.

The U.S. Small Business Administration representatives and resources from the Commonwealth are also available at the Disaster Recovery Centers to assist you. FEMA is encouraging Kentuckians affected by the April storms to apply for federal disaster assistance as soon as possible. The deadline to apply is June 25. You can visit any Disaster Recovery Center to get in-person assistance. No appointments are required.

To find all other center locations, including those in other states, go to [fema.gov/drc](https://fema.gov/drc) or text "DRC" and a Zip Code



to 43362. You don't have to visit a center to apply for FEMA assistance. There are other ways to apply: online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), use the FEMA App for mobile devices, or call 800-621-3362. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA the number for that service. When you apply, you will need to provide: ▪ A current phone number where you can be contacted. ▪ Your address at the time of the disaster

and the address where you are now staying. ▪ Your Social Security Number. ▪ A general list of damage and losses. ▪ Banking information if you choose direct deposit. ▪ If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name.

For more information about Kentucky flooding recovery, visit [www.fema.gov/disaster/4860](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4860) and [www.fema.gov/disaster/4864](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4864). Follow the FEMA Region 4 X account at [x.com/femaregion4](https://x.com/femaregion4).



**Annie's**  
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