



The bridge is located at the junction of KY 805 and Austin Road in Haymond.

# Bridge is closed at Haymond, may be down until August 10

A bridge on KY Highway 805 at Haymond, near Neon, has been closed and could be shut down for at least a month.

According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 12 office in Pikeville, the bridge, located at mile point 4.20, was closed as part of a replacement project now underway.

Shantana Woodward, the spokesperson for District 12, said the original plan for the replacement called for the existing bridge to remain open while the new structure is being built, but that plan had to be shelved because of “safety concerns.”

“As a result, the bridge

(has been) demolished and a detour implemented,” Woodward said.

The project, which began with preliminary work earlier this month, has since undergone changes in its traffic control plan because of safety concerns,” District 12’s Shantana Woodward said.

According to Woodward, work should be finished and the new bridge opened “on or before Saturday, August 10, before the start of the new school year.”

Drivers who use the old bridge are being asked to follow the following detour information:

- Southbound traffic: Take US 23 South to US

119 South and back to KY 805

- Northbound traffic: Follow signs to US 119 North to US 23 and back to KY 805

“Central Bridge Company is the contractor for this important infrastructure project, which will result in a safer, more reliable crossing for KY 805 once complete,” Woodward said.

“Motorists are advised to follow posted detour signs and allow extra travel time. The Cabinet appreciates the public’s patience and cooperation as we work to improve safety and reliability across our highway system,” she added.

## ‘G-broke’ dates for Social Security, Medicare trust funds have moved up

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON**

The go-broke dates for Medicare and Social Security’s trust funds have moved up as rising health care costs and new legislation affecting Social Security benefits have contributed to earlier projected depletion dates, according to an annual report.

The go-broke date — or the date at which the programs will no longer have enough funds to pay full benefits — was pushed up to 2033 for Medicare’s hospital insurance trust fund, according to the new report from the programs’ trustees. Last year’s report put the go-broke date at 2036.

Meanwhile, Social Security’s trust funds — which cover old age and disability recipients — will be unable to pay full benefits beginning in 2034, instead of last year’s estimate of 2035. After that point, Social Security would only be able to pay 81% of benefits.

The trustees say the latest findings show the urgency of needed changes to the programs, which have faced dire financial projections for decades. But making changes to the programs has long been politically unpopular, and lawmakers have repeatedly kicked Social Security and Medicare’s troubling math to the next generation.

President Donald Trump and other Republicans have vowed not to make any cuts to Medicare or Social Security, even as they seek to shrink the federal government’s expenditures.

Social Security Administration Commissioner Frank Bisignano, sworn into his role in May, said in a statement that “the financial status of the trust funds remains a top priority for the Trump Administration.” A common misconception is that Social Security would be completely unable to pay benefits once it reaches its go-broke date.

“Current-law projections indicate that Medicare still faces a substantial financial shortfall that needs to be addressed with further legislation. Such legislation should be enacted sooner rather than later to minimize the impact on beneficiaries, providers, and taxpayers,” the trustees state in the report.

# Our Appalachia

As seen through the eyes of photographer Malcolm Wilson of Blackey



Letcher County’s acting animal control officer, Dakota Kitchen holds five, female beagle pups rescued this morning on Route 7 just about two miles west of the Blackey bridge. Someone left them on the side of the road where Christine Whitaker once ran a thrift store. A beagle rescue away from here will be taking these pups to a new location this weekend where they will find new homes.

**Refresh any room** in your home with a beautiful new look.

**Welcome to Nest.**  
We are a carefully curated haven where style, comfort, and charm meet. We offer a thoughtfully selected mix of new and gently-used furniture, home accessories, and unique gifts.

**nest.**  
35 Bentley Avenue | Whitesburg  
606-634-6283 | [www.myneststore.com](http://www.myneststore.com)

**Our team of pros offer cuts, color and styles made convenient and affordable for all!**

Barbers Bo Cook & Richard Brown & beauticians Natasha Dowdy, Amber Fields, and Pat Johnson are here and ready to serve you. Entire families are welcome at our Barber and Beauty Shop.

**Cut A Way**  
347 Main Street | Whitesburg | 606-633-0528

**Last Preschool & Kindergarten Registration**  
**Register Now!!**

Get ready for an exciting new school year! We are thrilled to announce that we are having one last registration before the school year starts. Please go to <https://www.letcher.kyschools.us/article/2177449>

**DATES:**  
**AUGUST 5, 2025**  
**AUGUST 6, 2025**

■ Registration Now Open!  
● Dates: August 5, 2025 and August 6, 2025  
● Time: 9:00am-3:00pm  
★ Location: West Whitesburg Elementary School

✦ **PROGRAMS OFFERED:**  
**PRE-SCHOOL: AGES 3-4 | ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**  
**KINDERGARTEN: AGE 5 BY 8/1/2025 - | FULL-DAY**

■ **WHAT TO BRING:**  
CHILD’S BIRTH CERTIFICATE  
SOCIAL SECURITY CARD  
IMMUNIZATION RECORD  
CUSTODY OR MEDICAL DOCUMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)  
PROOF OF RESIDENCY (UTILITY BILL, LEASE, ETC.)

■ **ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BRING:**  
CHILD’S CURRENT PHYSICAL  
CHILD’S CURRENT EYE EXAM  
HEALTH INSURANCE CARD  
PARENT/GUARDIAN ID  
PROOF OF INCOME ( PRESCHOOL)

**How to Register:**  
Visit our website <https://www.letcher.kyschools.us/article/2177449>, Scan QR Code, and register today. For more information, please call Regina Brown or Shanna Smith at 606-633-4455 or email [shanna.smith@letcher.kyschools.us](mailto:shanna.smith@letcher.kyschools.us).

**Crystal R. Hatton, RDH**

Hygiene Appointments Available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; Monday and Friday by Appointment Only.

Please contact us to set up a comprehensive plan for for your dental health at (606) 633-4854

We provide dental implant restorations; partial dentures; complete dentures; cosmetic restorations including crowns and veneers; laser dental bleaching system; root canals, and routine restorative and emergency care.

We accept most dental insurances like Liberty, United Healthcare Medicare and Medicaid, Delta Dental of KY and VA, Cigna, AETNA, Guardian, Anthem and many, many more.

Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Dr. David A. Narramore, DMD**  
**353 Main Street**  
**Whitesburg, KY 41858**  
**(606) 633-4854**