## **OBITUARIES**

## Dorothy 'Dot' Ann Riley

Dorothy "Dot" Ann Riley, age 95, of Atlanta, Ga., and formerly of Russellville, Ky., passed away on July 29, 2025, at her home.

Dot was born on Sept. 15, 1929, in Ballard County, Ky., to the late Vera Mae Moss Gilliam and the late Joe Heber Gilliam. The family moved to Russellville in 1930. She worked as a bookkeeper at the Russellville Bus Station for many years, eventually becoming a full-time homemaker. She was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Temple.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Perry Miller Riley; her sister, Mary Jo Dew; and her brothers, Paul Gilliam and Ralph Gilliam.

Dot is survived by her nephew and caregiver, Kevin Dew (Hal Platt) of Atlanta, Ga.; many nieces and nephews; and her loving caregivers,



Beverly, Jackie, June, and Lydia.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9, at Summers and Son Funeral Home, followed by a graveside service at 12:30 p.m. in Maple Grove Cemetery with the Reverend Michael Nichols officiating. A Celebration of Life will be held in Atlanta at a later

Memorial donations may be made to the United Methodist Temple, 395 S. Main Street, Russellville, KY.

## Nancy J. Humphreys

Nancy J. Humphreys, 81, of Russellville, Ky., passed away on Tuesday, July 29, 202,5 at Creekwood Nursing and Rehab in Russellville.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 2 p.m. at Summers

and Son Funeral Home with Bro. Jon Humphreys officiating. Burial followed in the Gant Cemetery. Visitation began at the funeral home on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

## Ashley Caroline Green

Ashley Caroline Green, 31, of Russellville, Ky., passed away on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at her home. The family has chosen

cremation. There will be no services at this time. Summers and Son Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## David R. Stanley

David R. Stanley, 91, of Russellville, Ky., passed away on Monday, Aug. 04, 2025, at his home.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Aug. 8, at 2 p.m. at Summers and Son Funeral Home

with Bro. Gary Ball officiating. Burial will follow in the Maple Grove Cemetery. Visitation will begin at the funeral home on Friday, Aug. 8, from the service.

12 p.m. until the time of

## LTC Connect completes 12-year, \$82.5M fiber optic transformation

**BY ND&L STAFF** 

LTC Connect is proud to announce that its network is now built out to a 100% fiber optic infrastructure. This accomplishment comes after 12 years of continuous construction and converting customers to fiber, while investing over \$82.5 million and enabling fiber service to more than 7,800 locations in south-central Kentucky. This fiber network spans over 917 miles of buried fiber to the premise.

Releasing a statement recently about the news, Greg Hale, CEO at LTC Connect, said having access to a fully fiber, state-ofthe-art network provides access to future technology growth for decades to come. This means customers will be able to stream and game online without lag, have an instant connection for video calls, have access to unlimited entertainment bandwidth, and have

seamless online surfing.

To celebrate this great achievement, LTC Connect will be giving away 1 year of free 1 Gig Internet service to one of its members at their Annual Meeting on Aug. 8, and then all members will be automatically entered for another drawing for 1 year of free 1 Gig Internet service, held on Sept. 8.

LTC Connect has also now improved their broadband packages, added advanced business options, and added proactive network security and enhanced parental control tools to everyone's Internet account via the LTC Connect Commander app.

LTC Connect business customers can now take advantage of advanced new features with the new Smart Biz plans to help boost productivity and growth. These plans feature a dedicated owner, point-of-sale, staff, and custom-

er Wi-Fi networks; network resilience with cellular backup capability; custom content restriction; a branded customer Wi-Fi portal; priority response when issues arise; and more.

"Accomplishing a world-class, 100% fiber network is more than just a milestone—it's a commitment to the future," Hale said. "With this investment, we're empowering our community with the speed, reliability, and capacity to support everything from remote work and education to next-generation innovation for decades to come. We're proud to be leaders in the communications industry by providing our customers with cutting-edge fiber optic service that is as good as any in the world and helping our communities remain leaders in terms of economic development and quality of life."

# Purple Heart Day

n Purple Heart Day, and every day, we should take a moment to honor a special group of American heroes: the men and women from all wars who have received the Purple Heart. This medal is not merely

DENISE **SHOULDERS** a decoration; it symbolizes sacrifice, courage, and the enduring cost of freedom.

The Purple Heart is awarded to those who have been wounded or killed as a direct result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Each medal represents a significant personal sacrifice—a physical or ultimate price paid on the battlefield. From the Revolutionary War, when George Washington first established the "Badge of Military Merit," to the conflicts of today, these brave individuals have faced the challenges of combat head-on. bearing both visible and invisible scars from their dedication.

The history of the Purple Heart is as rich and complex as the nation it represents. Its origins trace back to August 7, 1782, when General George Washington recognized the need to honor ordinary soldiers for their valor by creating the "Badge of Military Merit." This heart-shaped piece of purple cloth, embroidered with "Merit," was a groundbreaking award, open to enlisted personnel for "any singularly meritorious action." Though it fell into disuse for many years, the spirit

of Washington's recognition was revived. In 1932, on what

> would have been Washington's 200th birthday, General Douglas MacArthur officially revived the award as the Purple Heart. Initially, it recognized both meritorious service and combat wounds.

However, by 1944, the criteria were refined to specifically honor those who were wounded or killed in action against an enemy of the United States. This change solidified its unique and solemn significance as a testament to sacrifice on the battlefield.

Receiving a Purple Heart means enduring the unthinkable. It means facing the chaos and brutality of war while emerging with wounds that forever alter one's life, or making the ultimate sacrifice. These soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen have fought for our liberties, confronted danger, and bear the indelible marks of their service. Their wounds are not just physical; they often carry emotional and psychological burdens that last long after the fighting stops.

To all Purple Heart recipients, both past and present, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your valor, resilience, and willingness to endure hardship for the greater good inspire us all. I recognize the profound impact your service has had on your lives and the security of our nation. May your sacrifices never be forgotten, and may your legacy remind us of the true meaning of patriotism and the immense debt we owe to those who have given so much.

# My brain feels full: Living in the age of too much information

esterday, I opened my phone to check the weather—and before I knew it, I had learned that it was raining in France, the cost of eggs in New York, and that it was the birthday of a celebrity I don't even

Have you ever wondered how much different your life would look without the constant inflow of information? Our brains were not designed to receive and store so much outside knowledge in such

instantaneous ways. Texts, emails, endless forms of social media-where does it end? The average person is flooded with more information in a single day than most used to consume in an entire lifetime. News used to only be received by word of mouth and knowledge was primarily gained through personal experience and observations, but now it's all at the click of a button. Times have changed but our brain chemistry never should have.

This influx of information is causing major issues with rising rates of mental fatigue, anxiety, depression, and shortened attention spans. News follows us everywhere we go. Even banks, doctors' offices, etc., often have news channels playing on a loop in the lobby. This constant inflow of information keeps us in a shallow headspace and makes us feel surprisingly less connected to the world around us when its intended purpose should've been the opposite.

It's all too much. How much of heartbreaking day and age. our anxiety is induced by the news about matters that will never personally affect us?

In a small town like ours, you'd think we could find an escape—but even here, the overload finds us. Human interaction has become second nature. with many people feeling more comfortable behind a screen rather than face-to-face. We've lost our creativity, imagination, and sense of community in this

So, I'm here to propose that less is more. We don't need to know everything, all the time. Turn off the news. Drown out the noise. Allow yourself to take a break. When we can finally overcome what's being forced upon us, maybe our hearts can then carry the fullness that our brains once

Today, I opened my phone to check the weather. It's sunny in Kentucky—and that's all I need to know.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **AUG 7**

**Zoning Change Hearing** Logan Joint Cities/County **Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing on Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. at the Logan County Chamber of Commerce meeting room located at 116 S. Main St., Russellville. The Commission will consider a zoning change for Parcel #068-00-00-014-06 located on Shelton Lane. All interested parties are invited to attend.

#### **Brent Vernon & Sam in Concert**

The Songs and stories of Brent Vernon and puppet pal Sam will be presented tonight at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 159 W 6th Street, Russellville. Brent Vernon and his pal Sam bring uplifting music, stories, humor, and puppetry. With a variety of creative offerings, his

presentations connect with

all ages, from children to seniors.

## **AUG7&8**

**PreSchool Screening** Logan County Schools is offering Preschool screening at the Logan County Career and Technical Center on Aug. 7 and 8. Please call 270-726-2436 for an appointment.

## **AUG8**

#### Glow Run/Walk 5K and **Cornhole Tournament** Auburn Tourism's Glow

Run/Walk 5K and Cornhole Tournament registration begins at 6 p.m. at the big pavilion in Auburn Park for both events. The race and tournament begin at 7 p.m.

## **AUG8&9** Lake Malone Car,

**Truck, & Tractor Show** Friends of Lake Malone State Park & Lake Malone

State Park presents the 2025 Lake Malone Car, Truck, & Tractor Show Aug. 8 & 9 at the park's primitive camping area. Admission is free. Vendors are invited to set up both days for free. All makes and models of cars, trucks, tractors, lawn mowers, motorcycles, Jeeps and hit or miss engines are welcome. Bring spare parts to swap or sell. The Friends Group will have food to purchase. For more information, you can call David Jernigan at 270-608-2791, Donald Phelps at 270-743-7222, Jerry Hargrove at 270-772-3294, or Lake Malone State Pak at 270-657-2858.

### AUG9 **Cemetery**

**Business Meeting** On Aug. 9, at noon, a business meeting will be held for the Bucksville

Cemetery at Pleasant Hill **Baptist Church fellowship** hall, 2960 Bucksville, Rd.,

#### **Adoption Event** and Donation Drive

Southern Paws and Logan County Animal Shelter are holding a joint adoption event and fill the truck donation drive on Saturday, Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Tractor Supply, 1150 W 9th Street, Russellville.

### Dog Days of **Summer Festival**

Auburn's 9th Annual Dog Days of Summer Festival continues with more events beginning at 3 p.m. — Crafts, Concessions, Silent Auction, Raffle, Pickleball Tournament, and Coloring Contest. The Kid's Parade lineup begins at 6:20 p.m. with the parade starting at 6:30 p.m. Live music by

Artis Green & Wild Aces on

the square at 7 p.m. The Golfcart Parade begins at 8 p.m. with lineup at the fire department.

## **Summer Nights Cruise-In**

Weather and temperature permitting, the next Summer Nights Cruise-In of the year will be Aug. 9 from

5 to 8 p.m. on the square in Russellville. The money raised will benefit the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation, hospice care, Alzheimer's research, and autism support. For more information, you may call Clay Bilyeu at 270-772-1009.

## News-Democrat & Leader

Paxton Media Group • USPS 386-240

The News-Democrat & Leader publishes every Thursday

Address: 104 W. Third St. Russellville, Kentucky 42276 Main phone: 270-726-8394

Postmaster: Send address changes to The News-Democrat & Leader 250 N. Main St. Russellville, Kentucky 42276

The subscription rate is \$51.59 in county,

**PUBLISHER** • Mike Alexieff, malexieff@paxtonmedia.com

\$63.64 out of county, tax included EDITOR • Chris Cooper, ccooper@newsdemocratleader.com **ADVERTISING •** Brian Davis, bdavis@franklinfavorite.com