

2026 DBF Royalty Leading Candidates Week 2



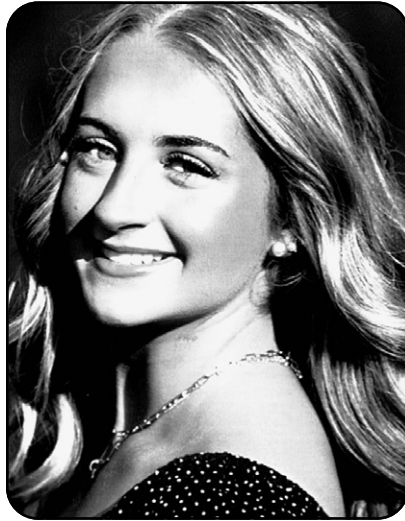
Eevee Ralston



Eli Robinson



Demi Kate Buchanan



Kimber Lynn Grace Ledford

The GFWC KY Barbourville Junior Woman’s Study Club is excited to announce this week’s leading candidates for the 2026 Daniel Boone Festival Royalty Races. This is the second week for leading candidates.

In the 2026 miniature queen race, the leading candidate is **Eevee Ralston**. Eevee is the daughter of Jason Ralston and Lucie Huff of Barbourville. Eevee attends Barbourville Independent Elementary School where she is enjoying school, making friends and being on the dance team. Eevee enjoys animation and doing arts and

crafts. Eevee’s future plans are to become an undercover cop.

In the 2026 miniature king race, the leading candidate is **Eli Robinson**. Eli is the son of Curtis and Lori Robinson of Girdler. Eli attends Barbourville Independent Elementary School where he enjoys playing basketball, football and baseball. His hobbies include riding his motorcycle and playing outside. Eli’s future plans are to become a zookeeper.

In the 2026 princess race, the leading candidate is **Demi Kate Buchanan**. Demi Kate is the daughter of Randy Buchanan and

Ereka Buchanan of Barbourville. Demi Kate attends Barbourville Independent Middle School where she enjoys JAG, choir and being on the middle school dance team. Her hobbies include dance, visiting new places and being a part of her youth group at Beacon Baptist. Demi Kate’s future plans are to become a cosmetologist.

In the 2026 queen race, the leading candidate is **Kimber Lynn Grace Ledford**. Kimber is the daughter of Terry and Donna Ledford of Barbourville. Kimber attends Knox Central High School where she is a member of the cheer

team and DECA. Her hobbies include drawing and painting as well as spending time with her family and friends. Kimber’s future plans are to become a RN to help people and support their better health.

The 2026 Daniel Boone Festival Royalty Coronation will be held Monday, October 5, at 7:00 pm, at Knox County Middle School. Everyone is invited to attend. Admission is \$5.00. The GFWC KY Barbourville Junior Woman’s Study Club would like to extend a very big thank you to everyone for their continuing support as we work together to better our community.



PHOTOS BY KAYLIE FARMER

The Barbourville City Council met in regular session on Thursday, Sept. 10.

COUNCIL FROM PAGE A1

quests. For every five years, it would be \$88,000, and the cameras get replaced every two and a half years. “Here’s the thing, I’m not against body cameras. Our officers are not against body cameras. It’s the cost of the storage for a smaller department,” said Townsley. At the meeting, the annual budget from the past fiscal

year was amended. The annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is as follows: Receipts and revenues: \$7,119,525 Total revenues and cash: \$7,119,525 Appropriations administration: \$2,860,444 Police Department: \$1,520,734 Street Department: \$1,204,252 Fire Department: \$224,420 Recreation Fund: \$544,675 Tourist and Recreation Fund: \$765,000 Total appropriation: \$7,119,525

OPINION

Journalism is essential to democracy. AI can't replace it.

BY MIKE SCOGIN
2026 KPA PRESIDENT

The news last Thursday that 13 skilled journalists in Lexington were laid off was heart-breaking but also frightening.

The suggestion that AI can replace reporters who are trained to observe, interpret, and ask the tough questions is unrealistic. AI is a tool and a resource, but it cannot replace a human reporter.

The real danger here is the declining number of journalists in the field. It is not just newspapers. We have witnessed veteran broadcast journalists who have been sidelined as TV goes through its own shakeout.

So, what are we losing? What is the real value of journalism? Journalism gives citizens the facts they need to make informed decisions. This information is about our schools, taxes, governments, businesses, medicine, and it is information that shapes our lives. A skilled journalist gathers the information, verifies and presents it in a way that can be understood. Journalists hold government entities accountable. The most important responsibility of a journalist and media company is to ask the tough question — the question an elected official may not want to answer. This skill takes courage and patience as it has

become common for officials to deflect attention by insulting or criticizing the reporter rather than answer the question.

- Journalism is a historical record. Births, deaths, milestones, new businesses and tragedies are all part of a community’s record. Much of the history we know of our past is because of the journalists who have gone before us.
- Local journalists tell stories that would otherwise be untold. Find any local media, be it a newspaper or a TV station, and you’ll find stories the national media are not covering.
- Journalism and local media connect communities in a way no other entity can do.
- We have more information at our fingertips than ever before. In the age of social media, blogs, rumors and artificial intelligence, the ability to separate misinformation has gotten more and more difficult. Local journalists are the filter who report the stories through verification, attribution and with accountability.
- Journalism gives people a voice. Their stories are not just about those holding elected office or the powerful. Stories of teachers farmers, small-business owners, young people and veterans fill the pages of good community newspapers.

- Journalism is part of the bedrock of democracy. People participate in their communities when they understand the issues. Coverage of public meetings, local debates and elections provides the information people find necessary for participation.
- Journalists serve as witnesses. Major events are documented by journalists who provide information about what happened and how the community responded. This role is especially important during emergencies and disasters.
- Journalists create accountability. Good journalists acknowledge mistakes, correct the record and explain how they obtain information. This transparency builds trust.
- The value of a journalist is in their presence. Whether it is at a city council meeting, a sporting event, or community event, the actual presence of a journalist cannot be reproduced. Each time they build relationships and knowledge of the community they serve. A good journalist is a good journalist because they know the community.

Mike Scogin is the current president of the Kentucky Press Association, and is the Publisher / President of the Georgetown News Graphic.

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