

BBQ & Barrels returns May 8-9

BY KEITH LAWRENCE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

BBQ & Barrels is returning to downtown on May 8 and 9 with a full weekend of free entertainment, bourbon and expanded barbecue offerings.

Last year, an estimated 30,000-plus people from several states came for the event.

Some came for the barbecue. But more came for the bourbon tasting.

"The bourbon experience at BBQ & Barrels is now one of the best in the country," Mark Calitri, president of the Owensboro-Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau, said Monday. "We're bringing in the biggest names in the bourbon industry, offering rare and hard-to-find pours and giving people real access to the distillers behind these brands."

He said, "This is a serious bourbon event, and it shows that Owensboro knows how to host world-class experiences."

This year, the festival kicks off at noon May 8 on the Courthouse Lawn Stage with live music.

The music is free and there's more of it this year.

On opening night, DJ Shay's Dance Party will be on the Owensboro Racing & Gaming Main Stage on the Owensboro Convention Center's front lawn.

On May 9, the Courthouse Lawn stage will have live music during the day.

And that night, country singer-songwriter Chase Matthew will take the main stage at the convention center.

The show is free, which means standing-room only.

A limited number of pit passes will be available for purchase at



Clint McManaway, left, and Ralph Scott with Meatheads BBQ out of Knottsville cook whole chickens on an open fire Saturday, May 10, 2025, while participating in the Backyard BBQ Cookoff during BBQ & Barrels.

Photo by Greg Eans, Messenger-Inquirer | geans@messenger-inquirer.com

bbqandbarrels.com.

Matthew, 28, got his break in 2021, when country rap artist Upchurch heard some of his songs online and signed him to his Holler Boy label.

Songs since then include "County Line," "Love You Again," "Darlin'," "Saltwater Cinderella," and "Drives My Truck."

Last year, the CVB said a record 40 distilleries participated in the Bourbon Experience with just under 700 people buying tickets to sample and buy whiskies at the convention center.

People came from as far away as northern Michigan and Austin, Texas, as well as Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia.

New this year, is the Artisan Craft Expo, which will take over the first-floor exhibit halls of the convention center.

It will feature a wide selection

of handcrafted items and specialty food vendors.

Hours for the free expo are noon to 7 p.m. the first day and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the second day.

The CVB said there will be

more barbecue than ever, with dozens of vendors.

The YMCA BBQ 5K, 50/50 raffle, backyard cook-off, carnival and church cooking teams will all be back.

The Bourbon Experience

will again be inside the convention center, offering a tasting experience with bourbons from across the country.

Ticket information for the Bourbon Experience will be released soon, the CVB said.

McLEAN COUNTY NEWS

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Monday-Friday 7AM-3PM

Holidays advance deadlines 24 hours.

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REQUIREMENTS:

- High school diploma or GED
- Must be 21 years of age or older
- Water and sewer license preferred, but not required
- Ability to work well as part of a team
- Ability to troubleshoot and problem solve
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Individuals interested in applying may pick up an application at Island City Hall, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Pollard Management Group of Kentucky, LLC, 483 Lamb Road, Madisonville, Kentucky 42431 has applied for Phase II bond release on Increment 3 of Permit No. 875-8003, which was last issued on 7 January 2026 (Permit No. 875-8003 MI-11). The application covers a total area of 97.0 acres located approximately three miles north of Sacramento in McLean County.

The permit area and this increment are located at the junction of KY 2385 and Whobry Road, and west of Pond Drain.

The bond now in effect for Increment 3 is Bond #SUR0067561 in the amount of \$403,500. Approximately 33.1% (\$133,700) of the current bond amount of \$403,500 is included in the application for release.

For the Phase II release on Increment 3, the following steps have been completed: (1) Revegetation has been established in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and the standards for success of revegetation have been met. (2) The lands are not contributing suspended solids to stream flow or runoff outside the permit area or increment in excess of regulatory requirements. (3) The provisions for sound future management of permanent impoundments have been implemented. These reclamation requirements were completed in September 2025.

Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, by Friday, **20 March 2026**.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Tuesday, **24 March 2026 at 9:00 A.M.** at the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources (KDNR), Madisonville Regional Office, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, Kentucky 42431-1683. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by Friday, **20 March 2026**.

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