

Panthers fall to Murray 62-14 after Beard's bright start

BY WES ELROD
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

Friday night the Russellville Panthers football team took the long road trip to Murray for their week five matchup against the Murray Tigers, a Class 3A state tournament runner-up team from last season. After a tough first quarter, the Panthers fell to the Tigers 62-14 but avoided the shutout for another week as they fought to the last whistle. The Panthers have dealt with adversity early and often this season, as they still look for their first win on the year. Similar to last season, the Panthers had a slow start but turned it around in the second half through their district games, winning five straight to close out. Head Coach William Griffin looks to keep their district title streak going for the three-peat.

The Tigers looked to pull away early, going up 48-0 by the second quarter, before the Panthers responded with a touchdown drive. After senior Jacoveon Temple-Dickerson was sidelined with an injury entering the game, freshman quarterback Amari Beard was slated to start and was a bright spot for the Panthers offense. The first touchdown drive of the night was capped off by Beard running it in from two yards out, scoring his first career touchdown and the first of his season. Beard also punched in the two-point conversion.

The Panthers have continued to look for the right combination with the offensive line and seemed to have found it against the Tigers; paired with Beard's elusiveness, the guys in the trenches didn't allow a sack after giving up 13 in their first three games. Beard would later score another rushing touchdown for the Panthers in the fourth quarter on a 14-yard carry, as the Panthers are still looking to develop their identity on offense. Beard looks to be the QB-1 for the foreseeable future and seems to have the composure to take over the position early on.

Coach Griffin highlighted the offense led by Beard as a positive takeaway. "I thought we played our best game offensively despite the score. I felt Amari Beard took a major step in the right direction of being the field commander of the offense. He controlled the offense well

and made some really good throws and decisions with the football. He had the two rushing touchdowns and the two-point conversion, showed great maturity and looked very poised in the pocket."

On the flip side of the ball, the Panthers' defense is still a work in progress, as Griffin stated, "Still have a lot of work to do defensively but having to move guys around for various reasons makes it really hard to get some cohesiveness amongst our defense. A lot of inexperienced players and the physical side of the defense have been a struggle for us but we are getting better each week."

Coach Griffin emphasized that with all of the moving pieces, one of their challenges they face on a weekly basis is building that cohesiveness. "Gaining cohesiveness will still be a struggle because we still don't have all of our guys full-time each day and each week and as a new varsity head coach, I'm still trying to learn how to navigate through it. It is not something I have had to do as much in the past, but it is the new norm and we cannot use that as an excuse to not be prepared for each game. We want our kids to be involved in as many things as possible, and that is something that is not going to change and that is okay."

Moving along the schedule, the Panthers will go on another road trip tomorrow night, as they will go up against Hopkins County Central. Last season they came away with a 44-17 win in the matchup, as the Panthers will hope to repeat that again this season.

Wes Elrod can be reached by emailing wpechagolla@gmail.com.

Cougars cruise past Patriots 47-7 to open district play with third straight blowout

BY WES ELROD
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The Logan County Cougars opened district play at home against the Allen County-Scottsville Patriots on Friday night. The Cougars were crowned the victors 47-7, getting the running clock once more before the half. After a dominant showing last week on the road against Greenwood, the Cougars are rolling as they have won their third straight game. With the victory, the Cougars move to 4-1 on the season as they will hit the road again tomorrow night for their second district matchup against



Senior Elijah Sells (4) evades the tackler on the run, throwing a stiff arm to wave off the defender.

Calloway County. The Cougars elected to receive the opening kick, as senior Elijah Sells fielded the return to the Cougars' 46-yard line. Sells made a 29-yard

catch one play later to move the Cougars' offense to the Patriots' 25-yard line. Fellow wideout Ty'Sean Thomeczek put his first catch on the board for a

touchdown from quarterback Liam Costello, who made his first start of the season. Less than a minute gone, the Cougars already held a quick 7-0 lead. Costello and Thomeczek had a massive day, as the duo connected for four touchdowns, with the wideout having five catches for 92 yards. Costello went an efficient 15-for-17 for 206 yards, five touchdowns and two picks.

In the backfield, track star Lane Bush passed the century mark for a third straight game with 14 carries for 125 yards and a score. Carson

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LEGAL NOTICE

**CITY OF LEWISBURG
BUDGET HEARING**
The City of Lewisburg, Kentucky will hold a Public Hearing at Lewisburg City Hall on Monday, September 28, 2026, at 5 p.m., for the purpose of obtaining oral and written comments from citizens regarding the proposed annual budget and the use of Municipal Aid Program Funds as contained in the proposed budget total. Any person(s), especially Senior Citizens and handicapped individuals, that wish to make comments, should contact Mayor Kathy Stewart by Monday, September 28, 2026, so that the city can make arrangements to obtain their comments. Handicapped individuals wishing to attend the hearing should contact the person named above by the appropriate date if special arrangements are necessary.
**Kathy Stewart
Mayor, City of Lewisburg,
Kentucky**

LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL PUBLICATION OF
ORDINANCE IN SUMMARY
CITY OF AUBURN,
KENTUCKY**
**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-05
AN ORDINANCE ADOPT-
ING THE ZONING MAP
AMENDMENT
RECOMMENDED
BY THE LOGAN JOINT CIT-
IES/COUNTY PLANNING
COMMISSION REGARDING
A ZONING CHANGE OF 232
PETERSON AVENUE, AU-
BURN, KENTUCKY FROM
INDUSTRIAL I TO MEDIUM
DENSITY RESIDENTIAL R-3**

In accordance with KRS 83A.060(9), the undersigned, a licensed, practicing attorney in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, summarizes this Ordinance as follows:
1) This Ordinance amends the Zoning Map of the City of Auburn such that the real property located at 232 Peterson Avenue, Auburn, KY 42206 shall be changed from Industrial I to Medium Density Residential R-3. Said real property is more particularly described in the application of Fountain Walter Shifflett, III, to the Logan Joint Cities/County Planning Commission.
2) The full text of this Ordinance and its attachments is available for copying and inspection at the office of Auburn City Clerk, 103 East Main Street, Auburn, Kentucky during normal business hours.
3) The City Council of Auburn, Kentucky enacted this Ordinance after a first reading conducted on August 10, 2026, and a second reading and passage on September 14, 2026.
**CERTIFICATION OF COUN-
SEL:**The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that the foregoing is an accurate summary of City of Auburn Ordinance No. 2026-05.
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City of Elkton's

Harvest Fest

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Saturday, September 26th, 2026

Historic Public Square, Elkton, Kentucky

Dustin Kines
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM

Jake Clayton Band
10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Andrew Mack Band
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Vendors and Food Trucks - 9 am to 3 pm

Free Children's Area - Inflatable Bouncers - 10am- 3pm

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