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The Martin County-Tug Valley

# MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

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## Former industrial waste pit used as sewer disposal site

Environmental questions raised

BY ROGER SMITH and RACHEL DOVE  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

MILO — Spence Branch residents live in the shadow of a domestic septage disposal site that formerly was an industrial waste pit. Residents say sewage waste is being trucked up the hillside and is finding its way back down in runoff following hard rains and seepage into the soil, and the stench is more than they can stand.

Resident Arnold McCoy says the odor of human feces became apparent about six to eight weeks ago while motorists traveling Route 645 reported the stench around the same time. Motorists said they

See FORMER, page 3A



An Environmental Strike Team, county officials, health department officials and Spence Branch resident Arnold McCoy visited the domestic septage disposal site off Route 645 near the Martin-Lawrence county line. (Citizen photo by Roger Smith)



Arnold McCoy and his grandson outside McCoy's Spence Branch home Saturday. (Citizen photo by Roger Smith)

## York receives new child porn charges

BY RACHEL DOVE  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

PIKEVILLE — A Beauty man already under federal indictment for producing and distributing child pornography is

facing additional charges following the release of a new indictment Thursday in U.S. District Court in Pikeville.

Donald York Jr., 69, was in

See YORK, page 7A



Donald York (left) during his arrest in August 2021 in Martin County. He is pictured with Martin County Constable Bradford Preece. (Citizen photo by Roger Smith)

## Fletcher, Beshear speak on teacher shortage

BY PHILL BARNETT  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

FRANKFORT — Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Lawrence County Superintendent and former Sheldon Clark High

School principal, and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear were among those to speak in Frankfort Monday at a press event held by the Ken-

See FLETCHER, page 7A



The brand-new Casting for Kids ADA-accessible boardwalk at Paintsville Lake will be one of the first of its kind in Kentucky and will be open by spring. (Photos courtesy Jason Kinner)

## Accessible boardwalk to be constructed at Paintsville Lake

BY PHILL BARNETT  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

PAINTSVILLE — Paintsville Lake is getting a new boardwalk sponsored by Casting for Kids, a series of annual fishing tournaments that benefit children's charities including local Shriners orga-

nizations.

A project that has been in the works for three years, the boardwalk will be wheelchair accessible and will sit approximately 1 foot above the water, allowing children with disabilities the opportunity to fish at Paintsville Lake while making the task easier for all.

In addition to allowing easier access for strollers and foot traffic, the Boardwalk will allow those in wheelchairs and those with limited mobility to access the water much more easily.

According to Casting for

See BOARDWALK, page 4A



Marianne Spence

## Debord woman dies in crash

BY RACHEL DOVE  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

DAVELLA — A Monday afternoon accident on New Route 3 near Venters Branch resulted in the death of a Debord resident.

Martin County Sheriff John Kirk received a call at 3:19 p.m. Monday reporting an SUV alongside Route 3 with airbags deployed and no sign of anyone around. Kirk dispatched Deputy Billy Patrick to the scene. While Patrick was en route, 911 dropped the tones

See DEBORD, page 2A

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# Tug Valley to get bleacher upgrade

BY KYLE LOVERN  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

WILLIAMSON — What school administrators, coaches and fans have wanted to see at Tug Valley High School's gymnasium will come to fruition.

The basketball and volleyball gym, also used for Physical Education classes, will be getting all-new bleachers installed in the very near future. The Mingo County Board of Education approved the improvement during its Jan. 17 regular meeting. The topic had come up in a previous meeting. County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Johnny Branch said the reason for the upgrade was because the bleachers currently seating the public at the school's sporting events are the same ones used for fan seating when TVHS was built in the early 1980s.

Because of their age (40-plus years), Branch said the gym's bleachers have become outdated and unsafe for public use and needed replaced. "The bleachers are very old and they have fallen into greater disrepair... they do not pull out correctly, people have fallen, we're not ADA compliant, so something definitely has got to be done about them," Branch said.

The newly renovated bleachers being considered include a section of approximately 150 stadium-styled, folding seats that would be situated behind the scorer's table. Those seats would come at an additional cost of about \$33,000 and, if included in the renovation project, would be used for reserved seating.

The new seating will bring the school into ADA compliance and will ensure the



This is a sample picture of what the new Tug Valley bleachers will look like. (Courtesy of Machelle McCormick)

public's safety. However, Branch said a slight downside to the proposed new bleachers would be a reduction in the overall seating capacity of the gym. Mingo County School's maintenance director, William Hensley, said the gym's current seating number is around 1,485. By becoming ADA compliant, coupled with all the other added accessibility features — including adequate wheelchair accessibility — he

said the gym's new seating capacity would be reduced to around 1,275 people.

Hensley said the purchase of the new bleachers would go through cooperative purchasing and would not require the project to be bid out to additional companies. He said the current bid already on the table is valid for 20 days.

Board member Amy Hannah, who has supported the new seating renovation at TVHS, said the total cost of the

project without the stadium chairs comes in at \$292,168 — and \$325,581 with the additional upgrade.

Board member James Ed Baisden motioned to approve the \$325,581 needed to complete the project. The BOE approved an additional \$25,000 to cover any contingency expenses that might be added to the estimated total in the future.

The other BOE members are Machelle McCormick, Tom Stone and John W. Preece.



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# Mountain Citizen honored with state press awards

BY PHILL BARNETT  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN



LEXINGTON — The Mountain Citizen brought home three awards for news excellence in the 2022 Kentucky Press Association news and advertising contest.

The KPA honors top talent in news and advertising across the Commonwealth each year during its annual convention. The 2022 Winter Convention was from Jan. 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington.

Publications are separated into award divisions based on circulation and frequency. This year, weekly publications were divided into three divisions based on circulation, with Weekly 1 being the lowest and Weekly 3 being the highest. The Mountain Citizen competed in the Weekly 3 division.

Sports writer and columnist Kyle Lovern won second place in the Best Sports Feature Story category for his article "Robin Harmon Newsome one of Kentucky's best."

The article features Martin County sports icon, Robin Harmon Newsome, taking a retrospective look at her career from being one of the first and best female basketball players in the state through her coaching the Lady Cards to a 57th District Championship title last season.

"Kyle brings decades of experience and skill to our newspaper," Citizen publisher Roger Smith said of Lovern.

Lisa Stayton, Smith and Rachel Dove took home a silver medal for Best Investigative Story or Series for their co-written story "Pigeon Roost residents live in fear of next heavy rain."

The trio used this article to highlight the unintended consequences of logging in Martin County. Worsened by improper reclamation techniques, excessive deforestation and stream sedimentation in the Pigeon Roost area, rainwater rose to dangerous levels last year causing damage to homes and infrastructure.

"The residents featured in our article received no resolution or help from local or state government," Stayton said. "And our award is no consolation to Pigeon Roost, but we're glad their story impressed the judges at the Illinois Press Association. The investigative piece was a great team effort. Rachel and Roger have about 70 years of combined experience in investigative reporting."

Phill Barnett placed second in the Best Use of Social Media or Multi-Media category for his two-part coverage of Noah Thompson's first single release post-American Idol. The single was a cover of Rihanna's "Stay," which Thompson performed to great ac-

claim on his way to victory in the world-famous reality singing competition.

The Mountain Citizen published an interview with Thompson in print and digitally on MountainCitizen.com, accompanied by a YouTube video. At the time of press, the video interview had over 87,000 views on the Mountain Citizen YouTube page.

"Phill is multi-talented and brings a fresh voice to our newspaper," Citizen publisher Roger Smith said. "We're lucky to have him on our team."

This year was the Mountain Citizen's first time competing in the Kentucky Press Association contest and attending the convention in several years.

"We would like to thank everyone on the Mountain Citizen web, news and advertising teams for making 2022 a success, as well as our sponsors for keeping independent journalism alive in eastern Kentucky," said Smith. "But first and foremost, we couldn't have done it without you, the reader. Thank you."

Smith says to look for the newspaper to have more contest entries next year.

## DEBORD

FROM FRONT PAGE

for the Inez Volunteer Fire Department and the sheriff's office to respond to a vehicle crash with one person reportedly inside the front seat slumped over under the airbags.

The sheriff and Chief Deputy Chris Kidd responded, along with Patrick, NetCare Ambulance, Martin County Rescue Squad and the fire department.

Upon arrival, Kirk checked the pulse of the unresponsive female and could detect none. EMS immediately began life-saving measures, including CPR. They loaded the patient and were quickly en route to

Highlands Appalachian Regional Medical Center.

According to Kirk, evidence at the scene, including tire marks on the roadway, indicate that Marianne (Fletcher) Spence, 41, of Davella, lost control of her SUV and crossed the northbound lane, striking the hillside and continuing for several feet before coming to a stop in the ditch-line.

Kirk said the driver was not wearing a seat belt during the impact. Spence, who had visible head, chest and abdominal trauma, was pronounced dead on arrival at the medical center.

"So far, we haven't been able to locate any eyewitnesses to the accident," said Sheriff Kirk. "It's quite possible that anyone driving by the vehicle may have thought the driver hit a deer and had got a ride away from the scene because this area is a hot spot for deer crossing the roadway. Thankfully, someone stopped and got a better look inside the vehicle and realized someone was trapped inside. I only wish the outcome would have been different and that no loss of life had occurred."

The sheriff requests any witnesses to please call his office at 606-298-2810.

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KING'S DAUGHTERS

# FORMER

FROM FRONT PAGE

noticed it immediately after crossing the Lawrence County line into Martin County.

"There's a lot of ways I can think of that we could use to welcome folks to Martin County, but the smell of human waste is not one of them," Spence Branch resident Arnold McCoy remarked. "I can only imagine what it will be as the summer months and hot temperatures are upon us. It will be unbearable. You know it's not healthy to be smelling crap every time you step outside." According to McCoy, no one in their community was made aware that the Martin County Health Department granted a permit for a domestic disposal site for the local company Dirty Works. Residents say they began noticing the tanker trucks traveling in the area but assumed they were servicing septic tanks belonging to their neighbors.

That idea changed, however, when the foul odor began drifting down into the hollow and the stream began to stink.

Residents reported the location served as a "fly ash pit" (coal combustion residue) more than 20 years ago. They and county officials believed the electric company used it as a disposal site. However, after a visit Tuesday from a Kentucky Environmental Strike Team, the question arises as to whether the electric company or a steel mill in Ashland dumped waste at the site.

"It looks like to me that the public should have input on what is approved in their neighborhood that is going to affect their lives," said McCoy. "We were kept in the dark."

Following Tuesday's inspection, the question of the appropriateness of the industrial waste material for septic disposal also arises. A team of investigators will return later this week to test the material and the water in a Caribbean Sealed pond on the slope below the pit.

Richard Helton, the environmentalist for the health department, stated he issued the domestic septic disposal site permit last year. The site consists of three or four trenches that McCoy estimates are about

250 feet long, 20 feet wide and 8 feet deep.

Helton explained the same practice used for residential septic permits is used for large disposal sites. The criteria require soil sampling to ensure the ground can absorb the liquid waste. According to Helton, the solids disintegrate over time.

McCoy and those living on Spence Branch disagree.

"I guarantee you that anything on this mountain that was flushed down the toilet into a septic tank that is then pumped out by Dirty Works is not disintegrating," said McCoy. "There's a surplus of used condoms and plastic applicators that are now along the hillside and in our creek. To make matters worse, the septic system waste has apparently overflowed the banks of the ash pit that is a pond during heavy rainfall. One is as dangerous as the other when it comes to contaminating creeks and the soil in our gardens and yards."

McCoy has lived on Spence Branch for 50 years.

"We have a serious health issue here on Spence Branch, and I don't care who says otherwise," he said.

Helton visited the area Jan. 24 and sent an email saying he failed to detect an odor associated with raw sewage. He noted he did not see any location of runoff or leaks going into the creek.

"I have no clue how he couldn't smell this," said McCoy. "I guess there's always a chance he went in on the opposite side of the mountain, or he was downwind. All I know is we smell it, and it gets quite a bit worse after a hard rain or when the temperature rises."

John Mura with the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet told the Citizen his agency would deploy an inspector from the Division of Air Quality. He said the inspector's findings would determine his cabinet's next steps.

McCoy says the waste pit was never lined, as recommended by the EPA, to control seepage into the ground. He suspects the material contains a brew of dangerous chemicals and heavy metals.



This septic disposal site consists of three or four trenches 250 feet long, 20 feet wide and 8 feet deep in an abandoned industrial waste pit above Spence Branch of Milo. (Citizen photo by Roger Smith)

"The children here on Spence Branch play in the creek all summer long," remarked McCoy. "We were never made aware of the dangers of the coal ash should it make its way down the hill into our soil and waters, but now on top of that concern, we've got raw sewage that's being dumped on top of the already contaminated ground that's seeping into our creek."

"How would you feel if you knew your children had unknowingly been exposed to these chemicals and toxins and would continue to be? I can tell you how you'd feel. You would be as mad as all heck, throwing a fit and demanding something be done."

McCoy and 27 other residents of Spence Branch signed a petition and delivered it to Martin County Judge Lon Lafferty's office Friday.

"It seems to me that Martin County is always ignored, and our complaints and concerns are brushed aside like we aren't worthy of the time and effort it takes to do the right type of investigation," said McCoy.

"Why are we any less deserving than the folks in Lexington and Louisville? It shouldn't matter how many families live here if it's a thousand or thirty. We deserve to have our health and safety protected just like every other location in the state. We're sick and tired of being brushed to the side or completely overlooked."

This is a developing story.

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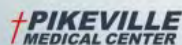


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# COURTHOUSE

## DEEDS

INEZ — Martin County Clerk Susie Skyles reported the following deeds recorded in her office.

Sherman Jude, Judy Jude, Kristina Marie Stacy (first party) to Benny Ray McGinnis Jr. (second party).

Christy Brown (first party) to Martin County Historical Genealogical Society Inc. (second party).

Richard M. Young (first party) to Vonda Young (second party).

Richard M. Young (first party) to Vonda Young (second party).

Terry Fraley, Toni J. Fraley (first party) to Terry Fraley, Toni Fraley, Brian Cumbo (second party).

Gloria Slone, Woodrow Slone (first party) to Heather Hall, Ethan Hall (second party).

Debbie McCoy (first party) to Carlos Michael Swency (second party).

Robert Smith, Gladys Smith

(first party) to Roger L. Anderson, Jamie Anderson (second party).

Kennis Maynard (first party) to Marsha Maynard (second party).

## DOCKET

INEZ — Judge John T. Chafin heard the following cases Jan. 20 in Martin District Court:

Michael Dale Dalton (arraignment) — Assault, fourth degree (domestic violence) no visible injury; Dismissed without prejudice at request of complaining witness.

Jordan Delong (motion to set aside bench warrant) — Theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others \$1,000-\$10,000; Bench warrant set aside, preliminary hearing set 2/14/23 at 10:30 a.m.

Jordan Delong (motion to set aside bench warrant) — Terroristic threatening, third degree (four counts), menacing (four counts); Bench warrant set aside, pretrial 2/14/23 at 9 a.m.

INEZ — Judge Brett Butcher heard the following cases Jan. 24 in Martin District Court:

Darrell Spence (hardship license hearing) — Operating motor vehicle under influence of alcohol 0.08, first; Order.

Jackie Blackburn (arraignment) — Terroristic threatening, third degree; One-year conditional dismissal, no contact with Chris Maynard.

Patrick Lee Blackburn (arraignment) — Harboring a vicious animal; Plead guilty, 30 days probated over one year, no new charges and keep other dog up.

Derek Brian Cunningham (arraignment) — Speeding 23 MPH over limit; failure to produce insurance card; Motion and Order.

Rondal Lee Endicott (arraignment) — Speeding 10 mph over limit; no/expired Kentucky registration receipt; failure to produce insurance card; Order.

Samuel Horn (review) — 1. Possession of controlled substance, first degree, first offense (methamphetamine); 2. Drug paraphernalia-buy/possession; 1. Previously indicted; 2. Dismissed.

Jeremy Ray Howell (arraignment) — Receiving stolen property \$1,000-\$10,000;

Bench warrant \$500 cash. Roseanna Jude (arraignment) — Operating on suspended/revoked operator's license; speeding 15 mph over limit; Plead not guilty, pretrial 3/7/23 at 10 a.m.

Dorothy Spence Litton (motion to set aside failure to appear) — Harassment, no physical contact; Overruled, no appearance.

Justin Scott Maynard (arraignment) — Violation of Kentucky EPO/DVO; Plead not guilty, no contact with victim, pretrial 2/7/23 at 10 a.m.

Linda Mollett (arraignment) — Terroristic threatening, third degree; Plead not guilty, pretrial 2/7/23 at 10 a.m.

Reanna Cline (pretrial) — No insurance, first offense; operating on suspended/revoked operator's license; no/expired registration plates; Bench warrant \$500 cash.

Michael Wayne Farley (pretrial) — Assault, fourth degree (domestic violence) no visible injury; Dismissed on condition of no unlawful contact.

Corbie Fyffe (pretrial) — Operating on suspended/revoked operator's license; operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol/substance, first; operating motor vehicle under

influence alcohol/substance, third; failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, first; Reset pretrial 2/7/23 at 10 a.m.

James W. Harless (pretrial) — Drug paraphernalia-buy/possession; Reset 4/18/23 at 10 a.m.

Jodie Christina Jude (pretrial) — No/expired registration plates; Reset 4/4/23 at 10 a.m.

Caitie Lynn Maynard (pretrial) — Insufficient headlights; inadequate silencer (muffler); instructional permit violations; Dismissed, proof shown.

Ivan Maynard (pretrial) — Operating on suspended/revoked operator's license; license to be in possession; failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance, first; Reset 4/18/23 at 10 a.m.

Ivan Maynard (pretrial) — Operating on suspended/revoked operator's license; failure to produce insurance card; failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security first; failure to wear seat belt; Reset 4/18/23 at 10 a.m.

Richard Devada McCoy (pretrial) — Theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others \$1,000-\$10,000; Reset 2/28/23 at 10:30 a.m.

Jordan Delong (preliminary hearing) — Theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others \$1,000-\$10,000; Amend to disorderly conduct, first degree, eight days to serve, CTS eight days.

Jordan Delong (pretrial) — Terroristic threatening, third degree (four counts); 2. menacing (four counts); Pleaded guilty, 12 months to serve, probated over two years on condition he has no contact with Morgan Collins, Debra Moore, Justin Bowen, Melissa Slone, stay off property of Ricky Horn estate.

Jordan Delong (pretrial) — Operating vehicle with expired operator's license; Pleaded guilty, 10 days to serve, credit 10 days, waived court cost.

Taylor Gordon Howell (preliminary hearing) — Violation of air pollution standards and rules; Previously indicted.

Jeffrey Pinson (preliminary hearing) — Theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others \$1,000-\$10,000; Reset 2/28/23 at 10:30 a.m.

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## BOARDWALK

FROM FRONT PAGE

Kids, "This will be one of the first of its kind in Kentucky to allow a disabled child the chance to fish, skip rocks or watch sunsets at water level."

The project will also include an ADA-accessible kayak launch, giving more people the chance to experience kayaking as well.

Casting for Kids board member Tony Gullett explained how the boardwalk came to be. This year will be the ninth year that Casting for Kids has hosted an annual charity fishing tournament at Paintsville Lake, so the site is near and dear to the Casting for Kids board, including founding member Chris Ferguson.

"Chris decided he wanted to make a ramp for special needs kids to fish," explained Gullett. "So he sat down with Bocooc

Engineering and had it drawn up. In the process, our county judge here said, 'Hey, let me see what I can do.' So they were able to help with a grant to help us with [the boardwalk]."

The project is a collaborative effort between several agencies and community organizations. Kentucky State Parks, Johnson County Community & Economic Development, Casting for Kids, Bocooc Engineering, Big Sandy Shrine Club, Ferguson Excavation and the City of Paintsville are all involved in the completion of the boardwalk.

Along with grant money attained by Johnson County Judge Mark McKenzie's office, Casting for Kids and their community partners raised the funds necessary to construct the boardwalk.

Ground was broken on the project in December and it has progressed rapidly. While a completion date has not yet been set because of unknown weather conditions, the project is in its final stages and will be ready for prime fishing season. "I'm really positive it will be ready for spring," said Gullett. The Casting for Kids fishing tournament at Paintsville Lake

on April 30 is a great opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the power of accessibility. This event will show that everyone can take part in outdoor activities regardless of their abilities.

The new Casting for Kids Boardwalk at Paintsville Lake State Park is a testament to the importance of accessibility in outdoor spaces. It is a great example of how much can be achieved when a community comes together to make a difference.

Follow the Casting for Kids Facebook page to stay up-to-date on the project.



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The Mountain Citizen - The Staff

## MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

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ROGER SMITH  
PUBLISHER

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## The Mountain Citizen

### 298-7570

# Arrest Report



Martin County Sheriff John Kirk



INEZ — Martin County Sheriff John Kirk's office reported the following arrests.

**Lonnie Joe Robinson**, 43, of Tomahawk, was arrested Saturday at Zip Zone in Lovely for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/substance, drug paraphernalia buy/possession, no/expired registration plates and prescription controlled substance not in original container. Sheriff Kirk responded to a call about Robinson being passed out under the wheel of his truck for over an hour at the Lovely Zip Zone. The sheriff's report states Robinson had slurred speech, was unsteady on his feet, failed field sobriety tests and admitted he had taken Adipex, oxycodone and gabapentin. According to the police report, Robinson had a "dope pipe" in his truck seat, prescription receipts for oxycodone and gabapentin filled on Jan. 25 but did not have any of the medication, and an oxycodone tablet in his seat near the console.

**Dennis Maynard**, 37, of Lovely, was arrested Saturday on Himlerville Street, Beauty, for menacing and terroristic threatening. Deputy David Adams responded to a complaint from dispatch that a male called saying his phone was stolen. Adams says he found Maynard sitting at the kitchen table at Maynard's cousin's house. When the deputy tried to talk to Maynard, he kept getting up, trying to fight with the officer. After Adams attempted several times to get Maynard to tell him what was happening, Maynard told the officer that he would whip his and Sheriff Kirk's ass.

**William McGuire**, 47, of Lovely, was arrested Saturday on fourth-degree assault.

**Paul Chaffin**, 42, of Louisa, was arrested Thursday on Main Street, Inez, for second-degree



Lonnie Joe Robinson



Dennis Maynard



William McGuire



Paul Chaffin



Stephanie N. Chafin



Matthew Daniels

arson, operating on a suspended or revoked operator's license, improper registration plate, failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, contempt of court libel/slander resistance to order, contempt of court libel/slander resistance to order. Sheriff Kirk made the arrest.

**Stephanie N. Chafin**, 24, of Louisa, was arrested Thursday on Main Street, Inez, for first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). Chief Deputy Chris Kidd reports assisting Sheriff Kirk on a traffic stop after Deputy Billy Patrick did an open-air search with K-9 indications. According to Kidd, Chafin stated, "All it could be is the scale." A search yielded a black scale inside a black bag. A plastic bag inside the scale contained a white powder substance. "The female openly stated, 'That's old meth.'"

**Matthew Daniels**, 32, of



Samuel Preston



Carl D. Daniels Jr.

Tomahawk, was arrested Jan. 25 for failure to appear. Adams made the arrest.

**Carl D. Daniels Jr.**, 37, of Tomahawk, was arrested Jan. 25 on Route 645, Tomahawk, for probation violation (for a felony offense). Adams made the arrest.

**Jonathan E. Sherman**, 34, of Tomahawk, was arrested Jan. 25 on a bench warrant for court. Kidd made the arrest.

**Samuel Preston**, 42, of Tomahawk, was arrested Jan. 24 on Milo Road, Tomahawk, for first-offense aggravated DUI, disregarding stop sign, all-terrain vehicles violations, failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, license to be in possession. Deputy Adams stopped Preston

after he "flew through the stop sign" at the intersection of N. Milo Road and KY-645. Adams reports Preston had slurred speech and a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath and advised the deputy that he had drunk an entire pint of vodka. The police report states that after Preston was arrested, he said he already knew he was going to jail because he was drunk, and he believed he would blow a 0.190 to a 0.200.

The test result was 0.180. *Editor's note: The above represents a list of individuals arrested. The charges against them are accusations and they are presumed innocent until proven guilty.*

## Former sheriff candidate arrested on soliciting a minor for sex charge

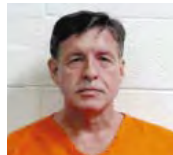
BY RACHEL DOVE  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

MONROE COUNTY, W.Va. — A former Gilbert, W.Va., resident who was an unsuccessful candidate for the office of sheriff in Mingo County has found himself on the wrong side of the law and is currently incarcerated in the Southern Regional Jail on a \$10,000 cash bond.

According to information provided by the Monroe County Detachment of the West Virginia State Police, Jeffrey Scott Cline, 57, of Wayside, W.Va., was taken into custody Monday evening as a result of a sting operation. He is facing charges of soliciting a minor for sexual activity through text messaging and use of obscene material with intent to seduce a minor.

Sergeant S.S. Keaton stated he received a complaint earlier this month from a parent who reported Cline was attempting to solicit sex from their 14-year-old daughter. A sting operation ensued, during which an undercover state trooper posed as the juvenile and continued communications with Cline to lure him into being captured.

The criminal complaint states that Cline sent obscene images to who he believed was the juvenile and arranged to meet up with her Monday



Jeffrey S. Cline, formerly of Mingo County, was arrested Monday in Monroe County, W.Va., on charges involving soliciting an undercover officer posing as a female juvenile.

evening. Instead, troopers met Cline in the parking lot of the Wayside Post Office, where he was arrested on the two felony charges. He was taken into custody without incident and arraigned before Monroe County Magistrate Kevin Miller.

Trooper Keaton believes there is a distinct possibility there may be additional underage victims who were contacted by Cline with the intent to solicit sex who have yet to report the crime and encourages them to come forward with their information. The contact numbers for residents of Mingo County would be the Mingo County Sheriff's Department at 304-235-0300 and the Williamson Detachment of the WVSP at 304-235-6000.

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# AI writing tools are the future

BY PHILL BARNETT  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

Artificially intelligent writing tools like ChatGPT, based on the latest language models developed by OpenAI, are taking the world of writing by storm. Professionals and amateurs alike can generate pages of written content in seconds.

And it's really good. Scary good. I asked one such tool, Perplexity.ai to write a summary of the Martin County Water Crisis and this is what it produced in less than three seconds:

"The Martin County water crisis began in 2000 when a coal slurry spill contaminated the area's water supply with cancer-causing disinfection byproducts and coliform bacteria [1]. Residents of Martin County have faced a water emergency comparable to Flint, Michigan, with issues such as leaks, contamination and inoperable water-tokens kiosks[2][3]. This has forced people in remote areas to hook up to under-resourced rural water infrastructure that was already stretched thin[4]. The crisis is a consequence of a deep-seated local economic and political power system mired in small-town politics[5]."

Each of those bracketed numbers is the online source where the AI found the information it reported back. While Perplexity.ai is geared toward short-form summaries of topics, other tools like ChatGPT and Canva's built-in Magic Write feature can generate entire school papers, often undetectable by plagiarism software, which has Writing teachers and professional writers everywhere a bit concerned, as you might expect.

To make matters even more concerning, Microsoft just announced a multi-billion dollar investment deal with OpenAI and plans to integrate OpenAI's state-of-the-art AI language tools into its entire suite of software, including Word. Google, already a major partner of OpenAI, is expected to do the same with its suite of tools, including Docs.

In other words, virtually everyone who uses a computer to write will soon have the power of AI writing tools at their fingertips, whether they seek them out or not.

While the initial reaction of any writing teacher or professional is likely to be fear, it is important that we embrace these new tools, which are quickly on their way to the mainstream.

Because of the ease with which a student can now conjure up a paper or free response, we must be more conscious of the tools at their disposal when giving out assignments, regardless of subject. Having taught at the high school and college levels, I've seen firsthand how much effort a student will put into not having to write.

But this isn't anything new. Math teachers had to adjust when the calculator became a household tool and again when Wolfram Alpha made every math problem as solvable as a Google search. Spelling teachers don't let their students use Spell Check when taking a test.

We can't just ask students not to use AI writing tools. They just won't listen and we often won't be able to tell the difference. On top of that, nothing is stopping writing professionals from supercharging their workflow with these tools, so teaching students to use them effectively will only better prepare them for real-world writing tasks.

To make assignments bulletproof, educators will need to play around with these tools themselves and keep up-to-date with the capabilities of the software. While things will inevitably change as time goes on and language AI improves, here are a few tips for the current state-of-the-art I've picked up from a deep dive into tools like ChatGPT and Perplexity.ai.

## Current limitations

There are currently many limitations to the language AI on which most of these new tools are built. Writing about ChatGPT for Inside Higher Ed, professor Steven Mintz said, "It's unhelpful on topics with fewer than 10,000 citations. That factual references are sometimes false. That its ability to cite sources accurately is very limited. That the strength of its responses diminishes rapidly after only a couple of paragraphs. That ChatGPT lacks ethics and can't currently rank sites for reliability, quality or trustworthiness."

These limitations will not be around forever as the quality of AI writing tools will continue to improve with further research and design, but they are valuable to keep in mind when using these tools and when giving writing assignments.

## Recent and personal events

The current iteration of AI writing tools are trained on almost all publicly available instances of writing available on the internet up to 2021. That means that asking about recent events will produce less than stunning results.

For instance, most of the language models will leave out Elon Musk's recent purchase of the company when asked for a history of Twitter.

However, some AI like Perplexity.ai are armed with the powers of a modern search engine as well, giving them access to more current events. Though Perplexity.ai is limited to short-form answers, the information gathered from it could be fed to a long-form AI writing tool to produce a full paper.

Asking students to compare/contrast recent events becomes a much more difficult task for the AI, as it will not have access to the full context of the event without the student doing significant research to feed to the AI. For history classes, this might look like comparing past events to present ones.

The AI will stand no chance of detailing local events or landmarks that have little online presence. Personal events are also good choices as long as you ask the students to write about something verifiable. For instance, a writing teacher could ask everyone to bring in a show-and-tell item to accompany their personal narrative assignments.

The main takeaway here is to be as specific as possible. Play with AI tools to see how they handle your questions first. AI writing tools would have no problem answering "Explain the water cycle," but they would all struggle with "Explain how the video we watched in class demonstrates the importance of the runoff stage of the water cycle."

The AI will come up with an answer, but it's unlikely to be the exact correct answer, making it obvious when students do not write responses themselves.

Asking students to summarize their writing without reading from their papers can also help weed out the laziest of AI users. In fact, most of the strategies we've been using to catch plagiarism for decades will still work here.

## Citing sources

Most AI writing tools have not yet added the source-citing feature that Perplexity.ai has. On top of that, many of the sources cited by Perplexity.ai and tools like it are reference sites like Wikipedia, which are well-known to be off-limits for school papers.

Additionally, these AI will almost never use scholarly research articles for their information, springing instead for pop science and news articles.

Therefore, requiring students to cite scholarly sources takes away a major advantage of the AI writing tools currently on the market by forcing them to go through the research process.

In these instances, tools like Perplexity.ai make great research tools. Asking Perplexity for a summary of a topic is a quick way to digest the big picture while also generating links for further reading. And indeed, the webpages found at many of these links will reference legitimate scholarly sources, which the student can then dive into for deeper research.

## Outlines

Perhaps the most useful component of the latest AI writing tools is their ability to generate effective outlines for writing. Many of the most common writing tasks, such as crafting a news article, are hardly more efficient when using AI tools than when writing *an outline*.

By the time you list all of the important details to the AI, all it has left to do is arrange the information into a digestible order.

For this reason, we should introduce these tools to students as springboards for writing rather than robots that will do their bidding.

While the immense power of AI writing tools can be overwhelming, the best way to remove the threat of a weapon is to ensure everyone is trained in safely using it, especially when the weapon isn't going away any time soon.

If we do not train our students now while the technology is still developing, they will fall behind the rest of the world who choose to use it. And if we as educators do not understand the technology enough to craft our lesson plans around it, the students will use it behind our backs and fail to learn the lessons we are tasked with imparting to them.

It is our duty as educators to prepare young minds for the world they'll face after graduation. That world is rapidly changing, so when we spot emerging trends like AI writing tools, we must adapt as quickly as possible.

"Your old road is rapidly agin' / Please get out of the new one / If you can't lend your hand / For the times they are a-changin'."

—Bob Dylan

# OPINION



## UNCOMMON SENSE

### Classified document stink piles

An Old Testament story records an overwhelming infestation of frogs throughout Egypt. There was no place in Egypt where frogs were not present in large numbers. The plague was sent in response to Pharaoh's attitude toward the Israelite people who lived in slavery under his rule.

When God ended the plague, there were piles of dead frogs all over Egypt. In the streets, bedrooms, bathrooms, closets, storage facilities and places we can only imagine. It became a very stinky situation as they raked up the dead frogs and piled them up all over Egypt.

The classified document saga seems to be growing in similar fashion to the dead frogs of Egypt. They appear to be everywhere and they stink. The odor has to be particularly bad for Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden as well as Vice President Mike Pence.

First came the big raid of Trump's home in Florida. Late at night, FBI agents went through his home and personal items and carried out boxes of documents. Next, we hear that Biden has had classified documents in his home for years. They seem to be scattered everywhere throughout his house. Then, Mike Pence in Indiana

has more classified documents.

What are these men doing with these documents? They are scattered out like the dead frogs of Egypt.

Again, what are these individuals doing with classified documents? I used to keep a big box of comic books when I was a kid. I would read a comic and then put it in the box. Sometimes I would read them again. I definitely knew that I had them. Why would past administrations hold on to classified documents? How did they get to the locations where they were found?

The National Archives has asked all former presidents to sack for classified documents. Jimmy Carter? Where would he have them? In his family Bible? Mixed in with old Sunday school lessons that he has taught at the local Baptist Church? I don't think so, but you never know who might have picked them up, packed them in a box, and placed them on a shelf in his garage.

What about George W. Bush? Could documents be under the seat of his old truck?

Bill Clinton has emphatically stated he does not have any classified documents, but he has made emphatic statements

before.

These former presidents have said they do not have such documents.

Did Trump carry these documents out of the White House when he and his family climbed aboard the presidential helicopter? I've never seen Trump or Biden carry anything. Which aid picked up some boxes and tossed them into the moving van? Where is White House security when it comes to classified documents?

Only time will tell, and we may never know for sure about the plethora of classified documents. We hope they aren't reading some of them in China or Russia. Who can say for sure where they are not being read? We do not know for sure whether or not someone else has them. Could another family member have a box or two somewhere? How much money would China, Russia or others pay for classified documents?

Democrats and Republicans will point fingers and scream about all this in the next election. Both sides will try to make the other side look worse, but it appears there is plenty of stink everywhere.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools,



Dr. Glenn Mollette

including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 13 books, including "Uncommon Sense," "Spiritual Chocolate" series, "Grandpa's Store," "Minister's Guidebook Insights from a Fellow Minister." His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. Listen every weekday at 8:56 a.m. on XM radio 131, visit him online at glennmollette.com. "Grandpa's Store" is a fun and adventure-filled story from the perspective of a child and young teen in the late 50s and early 70s, an era of simpler American small-community life. Available on Amazon and wherever books are sold.

## Legislative Update: Why lower income taxes?

BY REP. BOBBY MCCOOL

Before I begin this week's legislative update, I want to thank everyone who took the time to complete my legislative questionnaire. As I read through the responses, I noticed that someone asked, "Why do we want to lower income taxes?" and thought I might answer it in this column. The fact is, there are plenty of reasons this is a good strategy for our commonwealth.

As you may know, Kentuckians saw their individual income tax drop from 5% to 4.5% on Jan. 1 of this year, leaving an estimated \$625 million in the paychecks of Kentuckians throughout the commonwealth. The cut is the result of HB 8, passed by the legislature in 2022 despite a veto by Governor Beshear.

HB 8 established the framework for the individual income tax to be cut in half a percentage point increments until it is eliminated entirely. The measure sets a series of triggers that must be met before the legislature can approve an incremental cut. Those triggers exist to protect necessary funding for state programs that serve Kentuckians and are based on state revenue, economic forecasts, and the state's budget reserve trust fund. The next cut, to 4% as of January 2024, has already been triggered and the House voted to approve the cut during the first part of this year's session.

Eliminating the income tax does require, at least in part, moving to a consumption-based economy to gain revenue. To put it simply, con-

**Contact Rep. Bobby McCool**

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Meeting Calendar Information:  
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Coolidge, people should work more for themselves and less for their government. By cutting the income tax, individuals keep more of their hard-earned money and choose when and how to save, invest, or spend it in their communities. It is this kind of spending that strengthens local economies, grows independently owned businesses, and benefits communities.

Second, it is proven to help grow the economy and we know it works. Lawmakers lowered the income tax from 6% to 5% as part of the first tax reform package passed by the new conservative majority in 2018. As a result, our commonwealth saw record-low unemployment, historic investments, and we are on track to shatter revenue records when pandemic shutdowns hit in 2020.

For more evidence, let us compare two states: Kentucky and Tennessee. Tennessee's tax structure is based on consumption and not income. The median income in Tennessee in 2019 (pre-COVID) was almost \$4,000 higher than ours. Equally interesting, Tennessee's poverty rate is 25% lower and the percentage of their population on Medicaid is 11% lower. To put a human face on the contrast, consider that, despite having 2.5 million more people, Tennessee actually has fewer children in their foster care system. While some may cite Tennessee's place as home to the country music industry, that industry and others — including healthcare, banking, and tourism, have grown there because of government policies — including taxes.

The third "why" is simple, people choose to live where tax structures benefit them and their families. In a tight labor market like we are experiencing today, taxes can help recruit workers. According to Census figures, approximately 700,000 people left California in 2021 and 2022. They left for a simple reason — they were overtaxed and over-regulated and it was simply too expensive to live there anymore. Californians pay an income tax ranging up to 13% depending on income and where they live. Many have moved states like Texas, where no individual income tax exists. Also, despite being among the most taxed states in the nation, California has a \$25 billion deficit. Comparatively, Texas has a \$30 billion surplus.

Ultimately, it boils down to this: if you keep doing what you've been doing, you're going to keep getting what you've been getting. Our commonwealth ranks far too close to the bottom on indicators of health, wealth, education, and happiness. This is an incredible place, but we have great potential that has gone untapped for far too long. Kentuckians deserve better.

As always, I hope you will feel free to contact me with any questions or issues. I can be reached through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. Please feel free to email me at Bobby.McCool@lr.ky.gov. If you would like more information about the legislature, you can visit the Legislative Research Commission website at legislature.ky.gov.

# YORK

**FROM FRONT PAGE**  
dicted by a federal grand jury in June 2022 on two counts of producing child porn and one count of distributing it. The superseding indictment opened Thursday charges him with two additional counts of producing child porn and one additional count of distributing.

York is accused of coercing a female juvenile into engaging in sexually explicit conduct so he could produce porn. According to the indictment, the explicit conduct included using sex toys and foreign objects, such as a metal water bottle and Coca-Cola brand soda bottle, and performing oral sex on an adult male.

The indictment states the crimes occurred between September 2019 and April 2020. The federal court has seized

a cellphone, laptop computer and two hard drives that belonged to York.

York also faces pending state charges on an indictment handed down Aug. 5, 2021, in Martin County. That indictment charges York with first-degree rape of a minor, first-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, second-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, and possession/viewing of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor for acts that allegedly occurred from 2019 to 2020.

The Martin County indictment also accuses York of giving the female juvenile Gabapentin (Neurontin) and marijuana before the sexual performances.

The state case in Martin Circuit Court has been on hold

pending the outcome of the federal trial now scheduled for April 10 after numerous postponements.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Matt Runyon says if York is found guilty of the federal charges, he will then stand trial in Martin County on any state charges different from the federal charges.

"You can't charge a defendant in two different court systems on the same charges, but you definitely can if the charges are different," Runyon explained. "According to what I see, at least three of the charges the state has are separate from those in the federal indictments. If found guilty in both courts, the judge would decide whether the sentencing would be served consecutively or concurrently."

York was initially remanded to the Big Sandy Regional Jail in Paintsville following his indictment in Martin County.

Following the federal indictment in June 2022, he was incarcerated in the Pike County Detention Center, where he remains.

"I'm sure additional information has come to light since Mr. York has now been indicted in federal court for the second time and faces two additional charges," said Runyon. "As information unfolds and comes to light, you often see this happen. Federal investigators are very thorough and only bring charges when they have evidence they feel will secure a conviction."

Runyon said the state is prepared to proceed with its case following the federal trial.

# FLETCHER

**FROM FRONT PAGE**  
tucky Association of School Administrators.

The KASA called the press conference to bring attention to the shortage of teachers in Kentucky. According to Beshear, there are 11,000 teacher vacancies in schools across the Commonwealth. This shortage was already an issue pre-2020 but was worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Fletcher is the co-chair of the Retention focus area group for the KASA's Coalition to Sustain the Education Profession Steering Committee, along with Dr. Jason Glass, the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education.



Lawrence County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Robbie Fletcher speaks at a press conference held by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators Coalition to Sustain the Education Profession in Frankfort Monday. (Courtesy photo)

The Coalition is led by Executive Director Dr. Rhonda Caldwell, who has recruited experts from the fields of elementary, high school and post-secondary education, business, industry, labor and government to provide policy recommendations for the state of Kentucky.

The Retention focus focuses on making sure new and existing teachers continue their positions as long as possible.

"Whenever you get the opportunity to speak on behalf of teachers, on behalf of the educators, it's really just an honor to do so," said Fletcher.

Fletcher spoke at the press conference Monday emphasizing the drastic reduction in applicants for teaching positions in eastern Kentucky.

"I made a comment at yesterday's presser that I was a middle school principal once upon a time, and I was talking to a good friend of mine, who was a principal in Northern Kentucky," said Fletcher. "And I was complaining because I only had three certified applicants for a Language Arts position in middle school. Now, if I would get three certified applicants for a middle school Language Arts position, I would be thrilled."

error is counting on a Republican-run state legislature to put his plan into action, the proposal has supporters from both sides of the aisle, especially among school officials.

"When it comes to Education First, I believe if any plan will support not only teachers but also our bus drivers, our cooks, janitors, our classified people, you will not find a single superintendent that would be opposed to that," said Dr. Fletcher.

Governor Beshear, Dr. Fletcher and the entire Coalition to Sustain the Education Profession agree: Kentucky's school system must become a more competitive employer in order to solve the teacher shortage.

Visit <https://education.ky.gov/teachers/NxGenProffpages/certification.aspx> to learn more about becoming a teacher in the state of Kentucky.

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Fletcher and others from the Coalition pointed out that teacher retention and recruitment are essential to reducing the shortage.

"We need to find ways to not only keep the teachers that we have but also to find ways to recruit the best and the brightest," said Fletcher. "Maybe they're an excellent Math student in high school, or maybe they're an excellent English student, or maybe they just have great people skills and connect with young people. We have got to find ways to find those students so that they want to be educated, they want to be teachers, they want to move on. But we have to make it so they can support their families."

In a tweet Tuesday morning Governor Beshear said, "Kentucky is losing teachers. We can't remain competitive because we rank 44th nationwide for starting teacher pay. And without teachers to lead our classrooms, our children are falling behind. Our teachers, school staff and children deserve better."

In a progress report published by the Coalition, the team recommends six strategies to begin addressing the teacher shortage. The Coalition recommends conducting a comprehensive study of the education system, improving the teacher certification program in Kentucky, exploring financial recruitment incentives, joining forces between disparate programs to create a single "Be a Kentucky Teacher" portal for applicants,

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# Laid Back Country Picker's 'Go West' streaming everywhere starting Feb. 2

BY PHILL BARNETT  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

FALLSBURG — The Laid Back Country Picker's new album "Go West" will be streaming everywhere starting Feb. 2. That's right. Laid Back's music will be hitting the internet for the first time. Fans of the Fallsburg-based country-rakw icon have been waiting for this moment since the release of his self-titled debut album in 2017.

"Go West" finds Laid Back back at his typical antics: singing about American heroes and scenes from life and legends of the tri-state underscored by blistering electric guitar.

This record takes on a grittier sound, featuring Hayden and Kenny Miles on supporting instruments. The Miles brothers, known for their band Wayne Graham, own Fat Baby Studios in Whitesburg, where

by John Gast.  
"Teresa and I travel West almost every summer," Laid Back told the Mountain Citizen, referring to his wife and alter-ego of LBCP drummer and guitarist Honey. "A few of

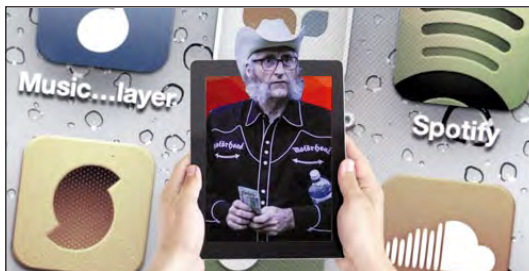
"Open your mind to the things you know to be true." —The Laid Back Country Picker

"Go West" was recorded and produced. The album art for "Go West" was created by Wayne Graham drummer/vocalist Hayden Miles and is a Gonzo Manifest Destiny-inspired painting "American Progress"

the songs are direct results of those trips. "Magic City" and "Go West" in particular. It just seemed to be logical and I love the Gast painting."

As always Laid Back does an excellent job of distilling the

See LAID BACK, page 12A



The Laid Back Country Picker's new album "Go West" will be streaming everywhere starting Feb. 2. (LBCP Photo courtesy Zach Curry / Musical Moonshine)



Martin County Middle School Academic team

## MCMS Academic team shows off

On Saturday, Jan. 14, the Martin County Middle School Academic team participated in the KAAC district tournament. With a full team of 15 competitors, the Cardinals showed off our Martin County pride against several other local schools.

Three students — Blake Stacy, Drake Bowen, and Landon Hager — will be moving on to compete at our regional tournament. Stacy placed fourth on the Science test and fifth on the Social Studies test, Bowen placed

fifth in math, and Hager placed fourth in Social studies. In addition, MCMS won the prestigious Katherine C. Hume Award for outstanding sportsmanship.

The upcoming regional meet is Saturday, Feb. 4, and our ath-

letes will be competing for a chance to go to the state tournament in Louisville. Good luck to the students, and GO CARDS!!

Sam Lever and assistant Miranda Johnson coach the Cardinals.

## How to avoid vision problems from diabetes

BY JOSEPH BROWN  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



Diabetes is a disease so prevalent in the U.S. that it is considered an epidemic. In Kentucky, according to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 13.6% of the adult population has diagnosed diabetes, seventh in the nation.

Another 33.8% of Kentuckians have been diagnosed as having pre-diabetes. Diabetes can result in devastating consequences financially and physically for the families and those who have it.

With a diabetes diagnosis, you must be aware of the risk factors you face. One of these risk factors is that you can develop a serious eye condition called diabetic retinopathy. It causes vision loss and blindness in those who have diabetes by causing issues with the blood vessels connected to the retina.

If you have diabetes, it is important to get an eye exam once a year, since you may not

Diabetes can cause blindness. (smiart/Stock/Getty Images)

notice any symptoms in early stages. Catching this condition early on will be the best course of action in preventing vision loss.

What are the symptoms?

- Changes in vision, such as trouble reading or blurred vision
- Fluctuating vision
- Spots or dark streaks floating in your vision
- Dark or empty areas in your vision
- Eye pain or redness
- Difficulty seeing in the dark

What can I do to prevent dia-

See VISION, page 12A

## Six factors linked to lower risk of dementia

'May never be too late'

A new study of more than 29,000 older adults in China has identified six habits "that are linked with a lower risk of dementia and a slower rate of memory decline." Annabelle Timsit of The Washington Post reports, "Eating a balanced diet, exercising the mind and body regularly, having regular contact with others, and not drinking or smoking... were associated with better cognitive outcomes in older adults." Specifically, the six modifiable lifestyle factors were:

Exercise: At least 150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week.

Diet: Appropriate daily amounts of at least seven of 12 food items (fruits, vegetables, fish, meat, dairy products, salt, oil, eggs, cereals, legumes, nuts and tea).

Alcohol: Never drank or drank occasionally.

Smoking: Never smoked or a former smoker.

Cognitive activity: Exercising the brain at least twice a week (examples: reading and playing cards).

Social contact: Engaging with others at least twice a week (examples: attending

community meetings or visiting with friends or relatives).

The study was conducted from 2009 to 2019 and published in the British Medical Journal. "While researchers have long known that there is a link between dementia and factors such as social isolation and obesity, the size and scope of the new study adds substantial evidence to a global body of research that suggests a healthy lifestyle may help brains age better," Timsit writes. "It also suggests that the effects of a healthy lifestyle are beneficial even for people who are genetically more susceptible to memory decline — a 'very hope-giving' finding for the millions of individuals around the world who carry the APOE4 gene, a major risk factor for Alzheimer's disease," said Eef Hogervorst, chair of biological psychology at Loughborough University, who was not involved in the study.

Timsit notes, "Memory naturally declines gradually as people age. Some older people may develop dementia, an umbrella term that can include

See DEMENTIA, page 12A



Bradley Goble (center) sings for the Martin County Senior Citizens Center seniors every chance he gets.

## Seniors celebrate Goble

INEZ — The seniors at the Martin County Senior Citizens Center had a party Jan. 26 for Bradley Goble to celebrate his Beta Club win for his singing performance.

The seniors sure are proud of him. Bradley comes to the center and sings every chance he can get. The seniors wish Bradley good luck in the next competition.

(Right) Seniors at Martin County Senior Citizens Center celebrating Bradley Goble's Beta Club win. Goble is pictured center.



# DEVOTIONAL

## FUNERAL NOTICES

### Brenda Lou Fraley 1956-2023

Brenda Lou Fraley, 66, of Tomahawk, passed away at her home Monday, Jan. 23, 2023.

She was born June 7, 1956 to the late Samuel Elzie Goble and Irene Howard Goble. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Fraley.

Brenda is survived by her two daughters, Roberta (Harry) Houston of Big Elk and Mari Lou Fraley of Tomahawk, and her grandchildren, Lexie Eller, Justin Eller, Brody Eller, Shelby Houston, Ryleigh Taylor, Devon Cassidy, Daniel Cassidy and Skynrd and Luna Fraley. She is also survived by her siblings, Calvin Goble of Johnson County, Delilah Goble of Martin County and Ricky Goble of Lawrence County.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Jan. 27, 2023 at the Callaham Funeral Home in Inez, with Casey Carver officiating. Burial was at the Maynard Cemetery in Tomahawk.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a donation be made towards the funeral costs. Arrangements were under the direction of the Callaham Funeral Home in Inez.

### Cecil Spaulding 1932-2023

Cecil Spaulding, age 90, of Kermit, W.Va., passed away Jan. 30, 2023 at his residence.

Born Aug. 2, 1932 in Wayne County, W.Va., he was the son of the late Ves and Alsie Brewer Spaulding. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by four brothers, Andy Spaulding, William Spaulding, John Spaulding and Gid Spaulding, and three sisters, Rosie Spaulding Fields, Polly Spaulding Porter and Margaret Spaulding Hodge.

Cecil is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Mollie Maynard Spaulding, one son, Jason (Amanda) Spaulding of Marrowbone, and two daughters, Samantha Spaulding of

Beauty and Barbara Ferguson of Warfield. He is also survived by three great-grandchildren, Keegan Potter, Anna White and Maryssa Salmons, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Crum Funeral Home. Burial will follow at the Spaulding Cemetery on Jennies Creek. Arrangements are under the direction of the Crum Funeral Home in Inez.

### Donald Gauze 1941-2023

Donald Gauze, 81, of Louisa, passed on to his heavenly home Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023 surrounded by his family.

Donald was born Feb. 18, 1941 in Pilgrim to the late Jimmy and Ollie (Fields) Gauze. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his great-granddaughter Alexandria Elle Kincer and siblings Ina Ruth Muncy, Kennis Gauze and James Gauze.

Donald attended Fallsburg Tabernacle Church. He was a retired heavy equipment operator at Wolf Creek Collieries.

Survivors include his wife Diana Hern Gauze; children Teddy (Sheila) Gauze, Brad (Dwana) Gauze, Scott (Anna) Gauze, Holly Warf and Matthew Warf; grandchildren Heather Gauze, Taylor Lemaster, Larisa Skaggs, Brandon Gauze, Garrett Lemaster, Chelsea Kincer, Alayna Gauze, Alyssa Frasher and Aaron Pennington; great-grandchildren Blake Lemaster, Wyatt Lemaster and Hadley Skaggs; siblings Kay Simpkins, Darrell Gauze, Bonnie Runyon, Judy Jackson and Claude Gauze; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Jan. 27, 2023 at the Young Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Rudy Crockett officiating. Burial was in the Gauze Cemetery.

Young Funeral Home was entrusted with the care of Mr. Gauze and his family.

## Pastor's Pen

BY JACK WARD

### The greatest thing Jesus ever said

Some people have a way with words. They just have such a grasp of language and an eloquence of speech that they are always saying things that are deeply profound. Jesus was a person like that. All through the years of His recorded ministry, one thing about Him kept the people spellbound, and that thing was His ability to say things in a manner in which they had never been said before.

Just a brief glimpse into the Gospels proves this beyond question.

In Matthew 7:28-29, the Bible says that the people were astonished at His doctrine, because He had taught with power and authority. In Luke 4:22, the people who heard Him speak here were again amazed at the power of His spoken word. Even His enemies were astounded at the word which fell from the golden tongue of the Son of Man. (John 7:46)

Then, when we take a few minutes to consider some of the things Jesus said, we can see why the people were astonished. Jesus made some truly great statements! For example:

"Before Abraham was I am..." John 8:58  
"I and my father are one." John 10:30  
"...he that hath seen me hath seen the father..." John 14:9

"...I will come again, and receive you unto myself..." John 14:1-3  
"Surely I come quickly..." Rev. 22:20

"Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath ever lasting life." John 6:47

Every single one of those statements is a goldmine of theological truth and is absolutely necessary in our understanding of just who Jesus Christ really is. However, in the passage we have today, there is a statement that is made by the Lord Jesus that may just be the single greatest thing He ever uttered.

I know that is a big statement, but everything else He said and did either stands or falls on the truth of the statement that He made in John 19:30. As Jesus was preparing to give His life a ransom for Sin, the Bible tells us that He made this simple statement, "It is finished!"

I believe that these are the greatest words Jesus Christ ever spoke and I would like to tell you why.

It means that we do not have to work for our salvation. Eph. 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

It means that we do not have to try to be good in order to be

saved or to stay saved. It is none good but one and that is God.

It means that our salvation comes to us on the basis of pure, simple faith, Acts 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

It means that while God could never accept me as I really am, a sinner condemned and unclean, but He will receive me because of His Son, in whom I have trusted and in whom I have by faith received the salvation purchased for me. Jesus shed His precious blood on the cross to cover my sins. Therefore as far as my salvation is concerned, "It is finished."

All of this was accomplished on the cross. "It is finished." What God has finished, who are we to try to add anything to it? Who are we to say there is more to do? 1 Peter 1:18-19: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, for your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Hear Pastor Jack's sermons and more, including sermon texts, at [www.tomahawkmb.com](http://www.tomahawkmb.com)



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## Notes From Calvary

BY GREG CROM  
Church Pastor



### Aggression in Recession Part 3

"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Luke 12:27-28

Psalms 19:1 states "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Well, according to Luke 12, it looks like the Earth didn't want to miss out on teaching us about the goodness of the Lord either! There we read how that God is good, and He longs to take care of all He has created, especially His children!

The last couple of weeks we have written of the wonderful provision of our God for those He calls His own. We reminded you of an episode in the life of Isaac, at a time when the world he lived in was experiencing

economic upheaval. There was a famine in the land, but the Lord was able to bless him anyway, and his crops and his herds of animals still thrived! The point? God is not hindered from providing for His people just because the economic environment is not conducive for growth, in fact, He can multiply the blessing right in the middle of a famine.

Now, last week we mentioned how that a lot of people are nervous concerning the economic future, and wondering how they are going to make it if things don't change soon. Many Christians have thrown their lot in with the "a lot," and are just as scared of going without the things they need to live. In times like these we are tempted to buy into the world's ideas of economics, especially their ideas on lack. We must remember that we are called to walk by faith, not by what we see in the natural, and we must strive to base our lives on the

reality of the Bible. As children of God, we should have a different understanding of the availability of resources in this world, and therefore a different perspective on lack. We should understand that with God there is always provision, in fact there is abundance!

So, really, to make our reality the reality we see described in the Word of God, we must put our financial trust in God alone. We can't put our trust in man or money, both will fail us in time. What we can do though is remember the lesson from the motto on our money and put our trust in God. The phrase, "In God We Trust" on our money should be a continual reminder that the relative wealth of our nation should not be our confidence. God alone should be our confidence. If there ever was, is, or will be a guaranteed return on your financial investment—it will be the return you

See RECESSION, page 10A



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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Antioch Independent Baptist Church  
Rt. 1439, Wolf Creek Rd., Pilgrim,  
Ky. Sun. 10:30 a.m.  
Darrrell Damron - Pastor  
Rex Endicott - Assist. Pastor

Beauty Church of Christ  
Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday Morn. Bible Study -  
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship -  
11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship  
Service - 6:00 p.m.  
John Jude, Randy Cassidy - Pastors

Beauty Church of Nazarene  
Sun. School 10:00 a.m. Morning  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Sun. Eve. 6:30 p.m./Wed. Prayer  
7 p.m.

Bethel United Baptist Church, Sunday  
School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. Thursday night services  
7:00 p.m. Marion Blair - Pastor

Big Elk Freewill Baptist Church  
every Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Sunday  
School 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning  
Worship 11:00 a.m. Youth Monday  
6:30 p.m.

Big Elk Old Zion United Baptist  
1st Sat. 7:00 p.m.  
1st Sun. 11:00 a.m./Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
Darrrell Combs - Pastor

Big Sunday Church  
Intersection 645&40 Sunday morning  
10:30 a.m. Sunday night 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday night 7:00 p.m.  
Nursery provided Youth Classes  
Terry Dalton - Pastor

Boonescamp Church of God Thurs.

Night at 7:00 p.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Church at 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Night at 7:00 p.m. Jack  
Woody - Pastor

Buck Branch United Baptist Regular  
Monthly Meeting/6th Sat. 6:00 p.m.,  
5th Sun. 10:30 a.m.  
Buddy Stacy - Pastor

Calf Creek Community Church  
Sun. School 10 a.m., Sun. Eve. 7:00  
p.m. Bible Study, Sat. 5:00 p.m.  
Youth Service, Every Other Tues.,  
7:00 p.m., Theodore Dalton - Pastor

Calf Creek United Baptist  
Prayer meeting 7 p.m., Thurs.  
Sun. Service 11 a.m., Sun. School 10  
a.m., Pre-School to Teen & Adult  
Class Maurice Mills - Pastor

Calvary Temple of Lovely Sun,  
School 10:00 a.m., Morning Service  
11:00 a.m., Midweek Worship &  
Youth Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
Greg Crum - Pastor

Crum Missionary Baptist  
Sun. Services, Sun. School 10:00  
a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. and 6:00  
p.m., Wednesday Services 7:00 a.m.,  
Rev. Don Matney - Pastor

Crum Separate Baptist in Christ  
Sun. School 10 a.m., Sun. Eve. 7:00  
p.m. Tuesday Prayer Serv. 7:00 p.m.  
Willis Allen - Pastor

Davella Church of Christ  
Sun. Church 10:30 a.m./Eve.  
6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer 7:00 p.m.  
Roger Harless - Minister

Davisport Freewill Baptist  
Wed. night services 7:00 p.m. Sun.  
school 10:00 a.m.  
Sun. services 11:00 a.m.  
Luther Fletcher - Pastor

Eagle's Nest Christian Center Sunday  
School 10:30 Sunday Even. Service 7  
p.m. Wed. Evening Worship 7 p.m.

East Kermit Church of God Sun,  
School 10 a.m. Morning Service 11  
a.m., Sun. Eve. 7p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

East Kermit Freewill Baptist Sun,  
School 10:30 a.m., Sun. Eve. 7:00  
p.m., Prayer Meeting 7 p.m., Wed. Youth  
Group Meetings Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
David Viars - Pastor

Elizabeth United Baptist, Pilgrim Fri.  
night prayer services, 7 p.m. Church  
services held on third week-end of  
each month Sat. 2:30, Sun. 10:30  
Prentice Meade - Pastor  
Rush Muncy - Pastor

Faith Christian Center Sun. 11 a.m./  
Sun. Eve. 7 p.m. Wed. Eve. 7 p.m.  
Across from Joy Bldg.  
Keith Slone - Pastor

First Church of the Nazarene Sun,  
School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. &  
6:30 p.m.  
Rick Osborne - Pastor

Freedom Freewill Baptist New Rt. 3 -  
Debord  
Sun. Sch. 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service 7 p.m.  
Mike Smith - Pastor

Friendship United Baptist Sun,  
School 10 a.m. Church 3rd Sat.  
Each Month 7 p.m.  
Gethsemane United Baptist Every  
2nd Sat. & Sun. 7 p.m. Mon. 7 p.m.  
Ed James - Pastor

Gospel Light Freewill Baptist Sun,  
School 11 a.m. Church 12:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Prayer Serv. 7 p.m.  
Glen Blevins - Pastor

Inez Church of Christ  
Coldwater Road  
Sunday Morning Bible Class 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship Service  
10:55 Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible  
Study 7 p.m.  
Elders Dewey Ward and James  
Maynard

Inez Church of God/Mt. Cathedral  
Sun. School 10 a.m. Morn. Worship  
11 a.m. Sunday & Wednesday Night  
7 p.m.  
Vicky Vinson - Pastor

Inez First Baptist  
Sun. School 9:45 a.m./Worship 11  
a.m. Sun. Eve. 6 p.m./Wed.  
Prayer 7 p.m.  
Casey Carver - Pastor

Inez Freewill Baptist  
Sun. School 9:50 a.m./Worship 11  
a.m. Sun. & Wed. Services 6 p.m.  
Youth Sun. 7 p.m.  
Richard (Bobby) Davis - Pastor

Inez Golden Memorial United  
Methodist Church  
Sunday School 10 a.m./Worship 11  
a.m. Bible Study Wednesday  
at 7 p.m.  
David Heintzelman - Pastor

Inez Nazarene Church  
Sun. School 9:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Sun. Worship 11 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Youth Meeting Sun. 5:00 p.m. Wed.  
evening 7:00 p.m.  
(Rides: 298-7847)  
Rick Osborn - Pastor

Independent Holiness Church of God  
Williams Branch  
Services: Mon., Wed., Sat. 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Sunday  
Church 12 noon  
George Alley - Pastor

Jackson's Chapel Services  
Sun. School 10:00 a.m.; Sun. Church  
11:00 a.m.; Wed. Night 6:00 p.m. Sat.  
Night 7:00 p.m.  
Walter Jackson - Pastor

Kermit First Baptist  
Sun. School 10 a.m./Morning  
Worship 11 a.m. Sun. Eve. &  
Wed. 7 p.m.  
Cliff Butler - Pastor

Kermit Freewill Baptist  
Kermit, W.Va.  
Sun. School 10 a.m. - Worship 11:15  
a.m. Wed. Night Prayer  
Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Cliff Butler - Pastor

Kermit United Baptist  
Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.  
Wed. Prayer 7 p.m.  
Mike Estep - Pastor

Kermit United Methodist  
Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.  
Sun. Eve. 7:00 Prayer/Bible Study  
Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
William Meeks - Pastor

Kirk Memorial Independent Baptist

Big Lick Branch, Rt. 3  
Sat. & Tues. 7:00 p.m. Sun. Sch.  
11:00 a.m.  
Kenneth Ward - Pastor

Laurel United Baptist Wolf Creek  
2nd Sat. & Sun.  
Riley Maynard - Asst. Pastor  
Rush Muncy - Pastor

Little Home United Baptist Service  
1st Sat. of mo. Sun. School 10 a.m.  
Sun. Church 11 a.m.  
Hubert Presley - Pastor

Long Branch United Baptist  
Lovely, Kentucky  
2nd Sun./mo. 10:30 a.m.

Lovely Freewill Baptist  
Sun. School 10 a.m./Worship 11 a.m.  
Wed. Serv. 7:00 p.m.  
1st Sat. Serv. 7:00 p.m.  
Lonnie Smith - Pastor

Martin Co. Freewill Baptist  
Sun. School 10 a.m., Church 11 a.m.  
Sun. Night Service 6 p.m. Wednesday  
Bible Study/Youth Meeting -  
7:00 p.m.  
Jimmy Stanley - Pastor

Mt. Beulah Baptist Mission Holly  
Branch, Pilgrim Ky.  
10 a.m. Sun. school  
11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Church Worship  
Paul Grainger - Pastor

Mt. Cathedral Church of God  
Inez, Ky.  
Sunday morning 11 a.m. Wednesday  
night 7 p.m.  
Vicky Vinson - Pastor

New Freedom Church (Pentecostal)  
Thurs. Serv. 7 p.m. Sunday School  
10:30/Worship 7 p.m.  
Charlie Dingess - Pastor

New Hope Community Church  
Old Rt. 3  
Sun. School & Bible Study 10 a.m.  
Thomas Rainwater - Pastor

New Life Deliverance  
Rt.40 Blacklog, Inez, Ky.  
Sun. & Thurs. 7 p.m.  
William Collins & Donald Ash -  
Pastors

Old Union United Baptist  
Sun. School 10 a.m./Worship 11 a.m.  
Thurs. night Prayer Service 7 p.m.  
Ery Harmon - Pastor

Oppy Church of God  
Sun. School 10 a.m. Bible Study  
Wed. 7 p.m.  
Thomas J. (Bill) Evans - Pastor

Phillip Cove Freewill Baptist Sun,  
School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m.  
Sun. Eve. Worship 6 p.m. Prayer  
Meeting Thurs. Even. 7 p.m.  
Choir Practice Thurs. Eve. 6 p.m.  
Tim Preece - Pastor

Pilgrim Home Community Church  
Rt. 908, Turkey Creek  
Sun. School 10 a.m.  
Sat. 7 p.m. For Youth 7 p.m.  
James (Jimmy) Horn - Pastor

River United Baptist  
Rt. 581, River, Ky.  
Service Every Sunday at 11 a.m.  
Arnold Fletcher - Pastor  
John Fields - Asst. Pastor

Rockcastle Church of Christ  
Job, Kentucky  
Sun. 10:30 a.m. Evening Serv. 6 p.m.

Rockcastle United Baptist 3rd  
Saturday 6:30 p.m. 3rd Sunday  
10:30 a.m.  
Don Fannin - Pastor

Sidney Regular Baptist  
4th Sat. & Sun. of each month.  
Sat. 2 p.m./Sun. 10 a.m.

Silver Creek United Baptist 2nd Sat.  
7 p.m.  
Sun. School 10:30 a.m., Sun. Eve.  
Ora Dillon - Pastor

Spencer's Freewill Baptist Norris,  
Kentucky Sunday School 10am.  
Worship Service 11am.  
Kay Jr. Thompson - Pastor  
Ronnie Childers - Asst. Pastor

St. John Newman Catholic  
Hode, Ky.  
Sunday Mass 9 a.m./Holy Days 4:30  
p.m./Weekday Mass Fri. 4:30 a.m.  
Sr. Jeannette Desorcy -  
Pastoral Assoc.

Sulphur Springs United Baptist  
Sun. School Every Sunday 10 a.m.  
Sun. Church 11 a.m./Tues. 7 a.m.  
Billy Boyd - Pastor

The Remnant Pentecostal Church  
Sun. School 10:00 a.m. Sun. and  
Thurs. night 7:00 p.m.  
Ronald Jude - Pastor

Thelma Friendship Primitive Baptist  
Sat. Eve. 7 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m.  
John Wilson Kirk - Moderator

Tomahawk Church of Christ  
Services every Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Come Study The Bible With Us  
Frank Mills - Pastor

Tomahawk Freewill Baptist  
Sun. School 9:45 a.m./Worship 11  
a.m. First Sun. Serv. 6:00 p.m.,  
Prayer Meet  
Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
Kevin Collins - Pastor

Trinity Freewill Baptist  
Sun. School 10:00 a.m. Morning  
Worship 11:30 a.m. Wed. Prayer  
Service 7:00 p.m.  
John Horn - Pastor

Turkey Creek Church of the  
Nazarene  
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting Sun. school  
10:00 a.m.  
Sun. Morn. Worship 11 a.m. Sun.  
Night 6:00 p.m.  
Dr. Garrett Mills & Dwayne Mills -  
Pastors

Tomahawk Missionary Baptist  
Church  
Rockhouse Rd.  
Sun. School 10 a.m./Worship 11 a.m.  
AWANA Sun. 6 p.m.,  
Sun. Eve. Services 6 p.m.,  
Wed. 7 p.m.  
Jack Ward - Pastor

Vineyard United Baptist  
Rockcastle Creek  
Every Sun at 7:00 p.m.  
1st Sat. 7:00 p.m. Sun. 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Doe Maynard - Pastor

Warfield Church of God  
Sun. School 10:00 a.m./Sun. Evening  
7:00 Thursday Prayer Meeting  
& Family Training Hour, 7:00 p.m.  
Kenneth Gore - Pastor

Warfield Methodist Church  
Sun. School 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
morning 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday night 6:00 p.m. Wednesday  
Service 6:00 p.m.  
David Heintzelman - Pastor

Warfield Missionary Baptist  
Sun. School 10:00 a.m./Morning  
Worship 11:00 a.m. Youth Meet Sun.  
8:00 p.m. Discipleship Training  
5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday  
Prayer Service 6:00 p.m.  
Jennings West - Pastor

Welcome Land Freewill Baptist  
Sun. School 10 a.m./Worship 7:00  
p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet. 7:00 p.m.  
Ray Taylor - Pastor

Wolf Creek Church of God Sun,  
Service 10:00 a.m. Wed. 6 p.m.

Zion United Baptist  
Milo, Kentucky  
4th Sat. 7:00 p.m./Every 4th Sun.  
10:30 a.m.  
Each Friday 7:00 p.m.  
Lonnie Ratliff - Pastor

The Independent Baptist Church  
Inez, Kentucky  
Every Sun at 7:00 p.m.  
Gospel Sing 3rd Saturday of each  
month  
Graville Sweeney - Pastor

Hode Church of God  
Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Sun.  
Service 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night 7:00  
p.m. Warfield, Ky. Route 292-  
North  
Sammy Ray Patrick - Pastor

## Telling the Story... A season for everything BY DAWN REED

My beloved spoke words to me this week that cut me to the quick. I was minding my own business, not bothering anybody, when he announced, "I believe it's time to take down the Christmas decorations." I did not respond.

I hate this time of year: the un-decorating of all things Christmas. I love the colors, the lights, and the tree, and I want the season to go on FOREVER! But, alas, it cannot. To be fair, and don't tell my better half this: I knew it was time. While I'm not over it, most other reasonable people are. They're forging ahead into Valentine's Day, then St. Patrick's Day, and Easter.

The un-decorating of Christmas reminds me of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3. It begins with, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." My Christmas season began the first week of November. It's been a good run. Now we will begin something else.

There are not only seasons of the year but also seasons of life and even ministry. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 chronicles the stages in life. As we age, our focus and our passions change. I would venture to say that our spiritual gifts might change, as well. When our kids are smaller, we might be focused on children's ministry. As they grow, our role could morph into helping with the youth group, etc. The younger you could love faraway missions, while the older you could be passionate about Operation Christmas Child.

Ecclesiastes 3:2-3 are especially applicable since COVID: "... a time to plant and a time to uproot, ... a time to tear down and a time to build. ... So much has changed. We are planting seeds of the gospel, of course, but it seems that we are in a season of uprooting the past ways to do it. We could possibly be tearing down some old traditions and building new ones in their places.

Verse 4 relates to all of us: "... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. ..." It seems there has been a dog year of heartbreak in 2022. There have been numerous times to weep and mourn. During the last 13 months, I can count at least eight people in my circle who have lost a spouse. Two weeks ago, a friend went to heaven earlier than we expected. She had valiantly fought cancer for several years. Last week, a 15-year-old treasure passed away, leaving an army of family and friends. It has been a time to weep around these parts lately. But the time to laugh is coming soon and then the time to dance.

Beginning a new season in life can be a little scary. The unknown is so... unknown. No matter what season we are in, God continues to be faithful. He is there helping us, guiding us, strengthening us, and sometimes showing us to the next stage.

Ecclesiastes 3:7 is something I pray about daily: "a time to be silent and a time to speak." It's that whole quick-to-listen, slow-to-speak thing from James 1:19. When my beloved mentioned the un-decorating of Christmas, I didn't say a word. But he was right.

The decorations are coming down this weekend.

## NOTICES

FROM PAGE 9A  
**Gregory Dale Meade**  
1970-2023

Gregory Dale Meade 52 of Kirk, W.Va., went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023.

He was born Aug. 15, 1970, the son of the late Roger and Lydia Hager Meade. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his former wife Krisie, the mother of his two daughters; his maternal grandparents Bell Hager Kirk, Riley Hager and Fred Kirk; his paternal grandparents Alfred Meade and Roanna Marcum Meade; and several very special family members.

Greg was a loving father and grandfather. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Those left behind to cherish his memory include his two daughters, Kayla Meade (Kenny Baisden) and Alexius Meade, and two stepchildren, Jayley Messer and Jayce Messer, whom he loved as his own. He also leaves behind his loving grandchildren, Reagan Baisden, Karsyn Baisden and Zaylee Baisden. He is also survived by his brother James Meade and sister Susan Meade (Jason Evans).

Greg enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He loved hunting and spending time outdoors. Greg was always so full of life and smiling. He always lived his life to the fullest, and anyone who met him knew he was loud and over the top. He never met a stranger, and if he saw someone needing help, he would do everything he could to help them. Even in death, he continued to give by being an organ donor. And the best part was he would never walk away without saying he loved you. He made sure you knew you were special to him.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Jan. 27, 2023 at the House of Prayer in Kirk, W.Va., with Kenny Workman, Greg Taylor and C.D. Wolford. Burial was at the Deskins Marcum Meade Cemetery, Scott Vance, Little Calvin Muncy, Eric Muncy, Little James Parsley, Pat Browning, Lewis Cisco and Isaac Dillon were pallbearers. Mullins Family Funeral Home, Warfield, is honored to serve the family.

## Gary Lynn Hayes II

1968-2023

Gary Lynn Hayes II, 54, of Kermit, W.Va., passed away at his home on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023.

Born Nov. 12, 1968 in South Williamson, he was the son of Rita Maggard Hayes of Kermit, W.Va., and the late Gary L. Hayes.

Gary was a disabled coal miner. Survivors include his son, Derek (Alexis) Hayes of Aflex, and a grandson, Eli, with a baby girl on the way. He also leaves behind a special nephew, Jeff Maggard.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Jan. 25, 2023 at Mullins Family Funeral Home, Warfield, with Ken Allen and Ronnie Pinson officiating. Burial was at the Parsley Cemetery of the Left Fork of Marrowbone, Kermit, W.Va. Mullins Family Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

## Maggia Hinkle

1946-2023

Maggia Hinkle, 77, of Beauty, passed away Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023 at Highlands ARH Medical Center in Prestonsburg.

Born Jan. 9, 1946 in Beauty, she was the daughter of the late Tive and Tennessee Crum Hinkle. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her siblings James F. Hinkle, Herman Hinkle, Nelson Hinkle, Opal Boggs, Ada Sluss, Ellen Hinkle, Margie Whitaker, Georgia Hinkle, Betty Jo Waller, Helen Stage and Oma Whiting.

Maggia was a homemaker. Survivors include two special nephews, James (JB) Waller and Zachary Waller, and several nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Funeral services will be conducted at noon Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, at Mullins Family Funeral Home, Warfield, with Joe Mullins officiating. Burial will follow at the Tive Hinkle Cemetery on Bone Hollow, Beauty. Mullins Family Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

## RECESSION

FROM PAGE 9A

receive by placing your trust for future provision in God our Father. Remember Jeremiah 17:5-8? The trees planted by the water, whose leaves stay green, are free from worry in drought, and who always produce fruit are the trees who stretch their roots to the river that is the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, we can trust in God. He's a great provider, and according to Psalm 24:1, Psalm 50:10, and Haggai 2:8. He has plenty to go around! Just in case you didn't know, the idea that we are going to run out of resources before the Lord comes back is not from the Bible—that's a worldly, godless ideology! Our God has access to all the abundant resources of this planet, and He wants to provide for His children.

We just have to... you've got it... trust in Him! God is the "breadwinner" in our family and He can bring home the bacon too! As a matter of fact, from a Biblically historical perspective, it's often in times of famine for the world that God can increase the wealth of those who will look to Him. Ask Abraham, or Isaac, or Jacob even, and they will tell you that God is beyond just helping us to survive a famine. He can enable us to thrive right in the middle of the lack of the world!

Greg Crum is pastor of Calvary Temple Church in Lovely.

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# MCMS announces Students of the Month

WARFIELD — Principal Brent Haney and staff announced Students of the Month at Martin County Middle School.

Hunter Dials, Ruby Kitts, James Bentley, Liam May, Harrison Jude, Jacob Bowman, Kaitlynn Mann, Londyn Fraley, Gaven Grace, Drake Bowns, Aaron Horn and Abby Jude made the prestigious list.



Aaron Horn



Drake Bowns



Gaven Grace



Harrison Jude



Hunter Dials



James Bentley



Jacob Bowman



Kaitlynn Mann



Ruby Kitts



Liam May



Londyn Fraley



Abby Jude

## Calls up 26% since 988 launched

BY MELISSA PATRICK  
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

In the six months since the new, easy-to-remember 988 suicide and crisis lifeline launched, calls have increased 26%, Gov. Andy Beshear said Thursday.

Beshear said at his regular weekly news conference that the “mental health version of 911” is designed to connect people in a mental health emergency with someone who is specifically trained to help them.

Since the new number launched in July 2022, Beshear said trained counselors have responded to an average of 2,450 calls per month.

“That means that since 988 has been instituted, we’ve had a 26% increase in calls per month in comparison to the first half of 2022,” he said.

Susan Dunlap, a spokeswoman for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, told Kentucky Health News in an email that text messages have also increased. She said there had been 646 suicide hotline texts from a Kentucky-

based phone number in the first half of the year, and 3,238 in the six months since 988 was launched, a 401% increase.

The new line is proving its value in other ways. Beshear said there has been a 14% decrease in abandoned calls and 92% of Kentucky’s 13 participating call centers have answered calls in less than 20 seconds.

“You don’t want to have somebody on hold when they’re going through a mental health crisis,” he said. “This is great news. It means the 988 helpline is working.”

Beshear encouraged Kentuckians struggling with a mental health crisis to use this resource.

“Remember, it’s OK to not be OK, right? We all go through difficult times and sometimes we go through trauma that our bodies and our minds are not designed to take, that nobody could handle no matter how strong we are. So please reach out. These are people who have trained and who have helped other people, that are ready to help you through your most dif-



ficult time,” he said. “I mean, let me tell you, you got people out there that love you, whether it feels like it or not, they love you. They want you to be with them the next day, and the next year, and the next decade. So if you need that help, please dial 988, no stigma, no shame, just a community and a commonwealth that loves you and wants you to get the help that you need.”

*Kentucky Health News is an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, based in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.*

## No special training to prescribe opioid used to treat addiction

The federal government has lifted extra requirements for doctors who want to prescribe buprenorphine, a partial opioid that is used to help drug users beat addiction. That will be a boon for rural areas, including most of Kentucky, that have a disproportionate share of overdoses and a shortage of doctors willing to prescribe it.

Gone is “a time-consuming process that both discouraged doctors from prescribing the drug and created an unhelpful stigma around the medication, advocates say.” Krista Mahr and Daniel Payne report for Politico Pulse. “As deaths from opioid overdoses reached record numbers, access to buprenorphine remained elusive: Just 11% of people diagnosed with opioid use disorder received FDA-approved medication in 2020.

That changed with the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act, “which was added to the year-end omnibus bill passed in December,” Politico reports. “Practitioners



who want to prescribe buprenorphine to their patients will still be required to get a DEA license as they would any other controlled substance like morphine or Xanax. But they won’t have to face additional administrative requirements that have slowed down patient access to the drug for years.”

The action by Congress spurred the plan of the Department of Health and Human Ser-


vices, which said last April that it would allow most medical providers to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid-use disorder without being trained and getting a waiver. Assistant Secretary for Health Rachel Levine said in the press release that rural patients seeking such therapy can have a hard time accessing it because of transportation issues and the relative lack of qualified prescribers. But buprenorphine can be prescribed for a month at a time and taken at home, meaning rural patients don’t have to travel so much, and can easily get it even at mobile clinics. About 40% of U.S. counties don’t have a healthcare provider who is approved to prescribe buprenorphine, an active ingredient in Suboxone, the preferred drug in medication-assisted treatment for substance-use disorder, according to a federal report.

*Reprinted from Kentucky Health News, an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, based in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.*

# Flash Back

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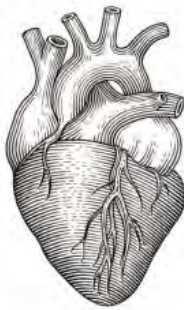
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"Go West" album artwork by Hayden Miles of Wayne Graham and Fat Baby Studios

## LAID BACK

FROM PAGE 8A

entire idea, a feeling or vibe and bottling it as uncut Kentucky rock-n-roll. The album feels like a road trip to Vegas with Hunter S. Thompson at the wheel from start to finish. "Also 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' played into the title. I love how Tarantino handled that culture and the whole Laurel Canyon scene," said Laid Back.

Some of fans' most beloved songs from the past few years of touring make an appearance on "Go West," including "Honey Bun," "LB's Truth," and "Cooper." The latter two have been featured on Sirius XM shows produced by Johnny Knoxville and Shooter Jennings respectively.

The LBCP's alter-ego David Prince also plays guitar in his wife Teresa's band, Luna and the Mountain Jets, and is a heavily-decorated social studies teacher at Lawrence County High School. It's no wonder considering the historical reference in the album's cover.



"American Progress" by John Gast (1872)

His time spent and devotion to teaching are paralleled only by his dedication to rock, having spent time touring with national acts like the Georgia Satellites and raising cane with local favorites like his former band Night Train. When asked if he had a message for the good people, LB simply responded: "Open your

mind to the things you know to be true."

Follow the Laid Back Country Picker on social media and his website [laidbackcountrypicker.org](http://laidbackcountrypicker.org) to keep up to date with his latest releases and tour dates. Listen to his music on Spotify, Apple Music and everywhere music is streamed starting Feb. 2.

## DEMENTIA

FROM PAGE 8A

Alzheimer's, and generally describes a deterioration in cognitive function that goes beyond the normal effects of aging. But for many, 'memory loss can merely be senescent forgetfulness,' write the authors of the BMJ study — like forgetting the name of that TV program you used to love or that pesky fact you wanted to look up.

"Memory loss is no less damaging for being gradual, and age-related memory decline can in some cases be an early symptom of dementia. But the good news, the researchers say, is that it 'can be reversed or become stable rather than progress to a pathological state.' . . . At the start of the study, researchers conducted baseline memory tests as well as testing for the APOE gene. They also surveyed participants about their daily habits. Participants were sorted into one of three groups — favorable, average and unfavorable — based on their lifestyle.

Over the course of the study, the researchers found that people in the favorable group (four to six healthy factors) had a slower rate of memory decline over time than people with unfavorable lifestyles (zero to one healthy factor). People living favorable lifestyles that included at least four healthy habits were also less likely to progress to mild cognitive impairment and dementia. . . . Notably, this held true even for people who carried the APOE gene associated with a higher risk of Alzheimer's disease.

"Some of the study's findings differ from the results of other large studies conducted in the United States and in Eu-

rope, says Hogervorst. For instance, the BMJ study found that the lifestyle factor with the greatest effect on reducing memory decline was a balanced diet. Other studies have suggested that diet matters less in old age than physical and mental exercise, says Hogervorst. Still, its results align with the broad scientific consensus that there is a link between how we live and our cognitive function as we age — and perhaps more important, suggest that it may never be too late to improve your brain health."

Reprinted from Kentucky Health News, an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, based in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

## VISION

FROM PAGE 8A

etic retinopathy? The best course of action is managing your diabetes with a healthy diet, regular exercise and fol-

lowing your doctor's instructions with medications. You should also ensure you get a regular eye screening and monitor your blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure at

all times.

What kind of treatment is available? If caught early, your doctor will likely recommend more regular eye exams. However, in the later stages, there are a variety of treatments available to stop your vision from worsening, such as injections, laser treatment or eye surgery. Overall, it is important to see your doctor with any concerns you may have to find the right course of action for you.

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## Cardinals survive and advance to Elite 8 in All 'A' State tournament

### Cardinals slay Harlan, fall to Evangel

**BY ROGER SMITH**  
 MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

RICHMOND — Dreams do come true. The Martin County Cardinals survived and advanced to Elite 8 play in the All "A" State tournament, slaying the Harlan Green Dragons in the first round Thursday before falling to eventual tournament

champion Evangel Christian Friday.

This was 15th Region All "A" champion Martin County's first-ever appearance in the All "A" state tournament played at McBrayer Arena, Eastern Kentucky University.

"It's every kid's dream that plays basketball in the state of Kentucky to play in a state tournament," Martin County Coach Jason James said. "To win makes it even sweeter."

Below is a recap of the tournament action.

**Cardinals come back to slay Harlan Green Dragons**

See CARDS, page 4B



Luke Hale drains a jumper to lead the Cards with 17 points against Evangel Christian in the All "A" State Tournament. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Peyton Davis holds his finish after draining three 3-pointers in the third quarter of the Elite 8 game Friday in Richmond. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Dray Duff goes low on the drive to get to the lane. Duff finished with eight points and five assists in Martin County's loss to Evangel Christian in the All "A" State Elite 8. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)

## Lady Cards clip Eagles, crush Barbourville

### MCHS gets third straight district win

**BY ROGER SMITH**  
 MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

The Martin County Lady Cards went 2-0 last week, clipping the Johnson Central Lady Eagles on the road for their third straight district win by at least a 20-point margin before crushing visiting Barbourville.

The Lady Cards improved to 17-4 on the season and are 3-1 in district play.

Below is a recap of the action.

**Lady Cards vs. Johnson Central**

PAINTSVILLE — The Martin County Lady Cards dominated Johnson Central's defense in transition. Williams finished with 28 points in Martin County's big district win over the Eagles' No. 3 ranked defense in the state. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



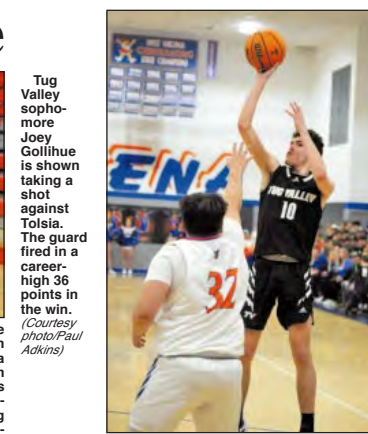
Lightening quick point guard Laken Williams dominates Johnson Central's defense in transition. Williams finished with 28 points in Martin County's big district win over the Eagles' No. 3 ranked defense in the state. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Martin County's Katie Marcum sets her sights on knocking down a midrange jumper. Marcum finished with 14 points against the Johnson Central Eagles, including knocking down a huge 3-pointer. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Tug Valley sophomore Joey Gollihue is shown taking a shot against Tolsia. The guard fired in a career-high 36 points in the win. (Courtesy photo/Paul Adkins)



Tug Valley takes down Tolsia, tops Class 4-A Spring Valley



Braxton Maynard drives baseline to look for a teammate on the opposite corner. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)

### Cards JV swats Hornets

**CITIZEN STAFF REPORT**

INEZ — The Martin County Cardinals JV team held a one-point lead over Magoffin County at halftime Jan. 23 in Inez, but a 43-point second half was a different story. The Cardinals swatted the Hornets 69-40.

The first and second quarters were back and forth the entire way. Devan Maynard scored seven points to keep the Cards close in the first, and Martin County led 12-10 at the end of the frame.

The lead continued to see-saw in the second as both teams went at each other. Maynard knocked down two treys for six points and Ethan Ferrell added six to lead the Cardinals. Russell got going for the Hornets in the second and scored nine points to win the quarter 15-14.

The Cardinals held a one-point lead 26-25 going in at the half.

Martin County came out a completely different team in the first quarter behind 15

See CARDS JV, page 2B



Aiden Mann holds his finish after shooting it from behind the arc. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)

### Tug Valley takes down Tolsia, tops Class 4-A Spring Valley

**BY KYLE LOVERN**  
 MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

The Tug Valley Panthers picked up two wins last week over rival Tolsia on the road and 4-A Spring Valley at home to improve to 10-3 on the season.

Below is a recap of the action.

**Tug Valley takes down Tolsia**

GLEN HAYES, W.Va. — The Tug Valley Panthers jumped out to a 29-17 lead in the first quarter behind 15 points from sophomore Joey Gollihue and 11 from sophomore Ashton Davis against the Tolsia Rebels Tuesday night. The Panthers, ranked No. 4 in Class A, led 50-30 at halftime and never looked back, winning the road contest 84-53 to improve to 9-3 on the season.

Gollihue finished the game with 36 points, including swishing in 6-of-8 three-pointers for Coach Garland "Rabbit" Thompson's squad. The 6-foot-2 guard also had five assists and five steals.

See TUG VALLEY, page 2B

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# David Jones named football coach at Mingo Central

BY KYLE LOVERN  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

LENORE — As rumored and expected, Mingo Central High School will have David Jones as its new head football coach. The hiring was made official Jan. 30 at the Mingo County Schools Board of Education meeting at Lenore K-8 school, pending certification. Jones, a Red Jacket native, most recently coached at Bourbon County. He also had a recent head coaching job at Phelps and coached at the University of Pikeville. "When I left (Phelps) to go to Bourbon County, my plans were always to get back home and I knew it was going to be hard," Jones said. "Because

only a few schools could have gotten me to leave and Mingo Central was literally the No. 1 school on my list. "It just so happened all the stars lined up and when I interviewed, I didn't take it lightly. I knew this job was going to catch the attention of some high-profile coaches in the state and out-of-state coaches," added Jones. "But I'm extremely excited to get started. I can't thank the administration and board enough for choosing me to lead my hometown school and I will not take this lightly. I hope the whole community knows that my heart has always been in West Virginia. I learned what I did — ultimately to come back home

and lead our youth to greatness and that's from our youth league to our high school kids!" Jones grew up in Mingo County at the Little Italy Camp section of Red Jacket. He attended Matewan Middle School and Matewan High School in the first two years of his high school career before going across the Tug River to play at Belfry High School. He also played in the youth leagues in the Red Jacket and Matewan communities. Jones helped lead Belfry to back-to-back state championships in 2003-2004 and was an All-State selection. The speedy running back had a stellar four-year playing

career at the University of Kentucky from 2005-08. He had a free agent tryout in the NFL for the Baltimore Ravens and played arena league pro football. Jones will be the fifth head football coach in school history as he will be taking over the reins from former coach Chase Moore who led the Miners for the past two seasons. In the past, Jones also coached the Kentucky All-Stars in the Hatfield-McCoy Bowl. The new Miners football mentor will have a big debut Thursday, Aug. 24, as MCHS plays at county rival Tug Valley. The two county foes have played each other only once,

way back in 2011, with Mingo Central winning 71-12 at Naugatuck. That was the first year for Mingo Central after consolidation. Jones will look to turn around the Miners program, which has suffered three straight sub .500 seasons. However, the Miners have had success in the past winning the Class AA state title in 2016 under former head coach Yogi Kinder. Despite having a losing record the past two seasons, the Miners have been one of the top teams in Class AA since the school opened in 2011, posting an 89-41 record in 12 seasons and making the playoffs eight times.



Former Kentucky Wildcat football star David Jones has returned to the area and will be the new head coach at Mingo Central.

## LADY CARDS

FROM PAGE 1B

tin County Lady Cardinals traveled to Johnson Central and clipped the Eagles 66-46 for a huge district win Jan. 25. The Eagles (16-4) came in as the No. 3 team in the state for team defense, allowing their opponents to score only 35.5 points per game. No one told the Martin County Lady Cardinals and when the horn sounded, Martin County (15-4) had put up 66 points. Junior guard Laken Williams led the charge as she went off for 28 points for the game.

The Lady Cardinals took care of business against Johnson Central's pressure defense, hitting 8-of-15 for 53% in the first quarter. Katie Marcum, Kennadi Mollette and Alyssa Allen knocked down treys in the first quarter for 3-of-4 from the 3-point line. All five starters got in the books in the first quarter with Marcum leading the way with eight points. The Lady Cards had shot down the Eagles 22-12 at the end of one.

Williams went to work in the second quarter scoring 11 of her 28 points. Martin County took a 36-23 lead in at the half. The Lady Cardinals never let up, coming out of the locker room in the third quarter and firing in 7-of-8 from the field for 87%. Williams and Allen each knocked down two treys to go up 52-35 at the end of three.

The Lady Cards continued to seorch the nets in the fourth quarter, hitting 6-of-7 from the field for 85%. Coach Robin Newsome's team won all four quarters. The Lady Cards shot 61.3% from the field for the game hitting 6-of-10 three-pointers. They also won the war on the boards 33-25. "We shot the ball the best we have all year," Newsome said. "We had to have this one to control our own destiny in district play, and the kids stepped up and got the job done. This was a total team effort. I keep asking these kids to give more and they keep responding."

Williams led all scorers with 28 points, shooting 70% from the field. Williams also had three boards and dished out six dimes. K. Marcum dropped 14 points and pulled down five boards. Mollette came up big tallying nine points, five boards and six assists. Allen netted eight points, six rebounds and three assists. Brooke Marcum had a great floor game finishing with five points, five steals, four boards and three assists. Candace Spaulding chipped in two points. Kaylyn McKenzie and Sophie Younce led Johnson

Central with 13 points each. McKinley Cantrell netted eight points, Becca Wright finished with four, Adyson Burchett and Haylee Marsillett each chipped in three, and Abbie Stambaugh scored two. The Lady Cardinals played 3 district games in a row and won each by 20 points or more. With the win the Lady Cardinals go 3-1 in District play and 16-4 on the season.

### Lady Cards vs. Barbourville

INEZ — Martin County Lady Cardinals crushed visiting Barbourville 66-32 Saturday in Inez. Four players in double figures led the Lady Cards, including Laken Williams with a double-double 15 points and 10 assists, Brooke Marcum with 14 points, Katie Marcum with a double-double 13 points and 18 rebounds, and Alyssa Allen with 10 points. The Lady Cardinals jumped on the Lady Tigers 21-14 in the first quarter, hitting three treys as six players got in the books. Barbourville had a hard time finding the basket in the second quarter and scored only one basket for two points. B. Marcum and Williams led Martin County's 21-2 charge to stretch the lead to 42-16 at the half.

The Lady Cardinals dominated the Lady Tigers in the third, scoring another 20 points and knocking down three treys to push the lead to 62-25. The fourth quarter was a running clock. Martin County Coach Robin Newsome subdued early and often, letting all her players on the court. The Tigers won the fourth 7-4, but the game was out of reach. Williams fired in 15 points and recorded a season-high 10 assists for Martin County to lead all scorers. Freshman B. Marcum dropped 14 points and had five assists. K. Marcum netted 13 points and had a season-high 18 rebounds, while Allen scored 10. Rounding out the Martin County scoring, freshman Chloe May knocked down two treys for six points. Kennadi Mollette finished with five points, and freshman Sophie Harless hit a trey for three.

Layla Brock led Barbourville with 11 points, Sarah Smith scored eight, Lauren Smith netted seven, Marleigh Martin five, Danni Jordan two and Cheyenne Sizemore one. The Lady Cardinals shot 28-for-60 for 46%, connected on 7-of-16 three-pointers for 44%, dished out 20 assists and collected 38 rebounds. The Lady Cardinals dominated the Lady Tigers in the third, scoring another 20 points and knocking down three treys to push the lead to 62-25. The fourth quarter was a running clock. Martin County Coach Robin Newsome subdued early and often, letting all her players on the court. The Tigers won the fourth 7-4, but the game was out of reach. Williams fired in 15 points and recorded a season-high 10 assists for Martin County to lead all scorers. Freshman B. Marcum dropped 14 points and had five assists. K. Marcum netted 13 points and had a season-high 18 rebounds, while Allen scored 10. Rounding out the Martin County scoring, freshman Chloe May knocked down two treys for six points. Kennadi Mollette finished with five points, and freshman Sophie Harless hit a trey for three.

The Lady Cardinals shot 28-for-60 for 46%, connected on 7-of-16 three-pointers for 44%, dished out 20 assists and collected 38 rebounds.

## TUG VALLEY

FROM PAGE 1B

Ashton Davis finished with 18, while Parker Davis and Braydun Ferris both added seven points. Ferris led the Panthers with six assists. Jon Wagoner added 6, while Buddy Marcum and Bryson Ela both chipped in 4 points and Kaden Hale 2.

Tug Valley shot 41% from the floor, but 58% from behind the arc, thanks to Gollihue's eight treys as the team made 11-of-19. The Panthers were 11-of-17 at the charity stripe for 65%.

Parker Watts led Tolsia with 26 points. The Rebels came into the game ranked No. 9 and saw their record fall to 9-6. Tug Valley's defense led Tolsia to 32% shooting from

the floor, but they did make 21-of-25 free throws for 84%. "I thought our kids played extremely well," Coach Thompson said. "It was a total team effort. Joey Gollihue had an all-state performance. I appreciate our fan support."

Score by quarters: Tug: 29 21 19 15 - 84 Tolsia: 17 13 9 14 - 53

### Tug Valley tops Spring Valley

NAUGATUCK — The Tug Valley Panthers picked up another big win with a 77-61 home victory over 4-A Spring Valley on Saturday night.

Sophomore Joey Gollihue continued his great week leading the way with 32 points.

Ashton Davis added 18 and Asker Davis 14 for the Panthers. Braydun Ferris dished out eight assists. Tug Valley plays Friday and Saturday at the Williamson Fieldhouse in the Hatfield-McCoy Shootout. They will

## CARDS JV

FROM PAGE 1B

third quarter. Behind 10 points by Bryson Dials, the Cardinals went off for 20 points to pull away 46-36.

The Hornets had a meltdown in the fourth quarter, hitting no field goals and scoring only four points from free throws.

The Cardinals kept the momentum going with 24 points in the final period to drop the Hornets.

play the final game each night of the event.

Score by quarters: Spring Valley: 14 13 14 20 - 61 Tug Valley: 20 17 24 16 - 77

## 1983 Sheldon Clark teams to be recognized

Martin County High School will recognize the 1983 boys and girls 15th Region championship teams Feb. 8 during a doubleheader against Johnson Central.

The 1983 Sheldon Clark High School cheerleaders and band members will also be recognized.

This is the 40th anniversary of the 1983 Sheldon Clark High School championships.

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## Mountain Citizen

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Compliments of:

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## Players of the Week:

# Lady Cards and Cardinals

INEZ — Martin County Lady Cardinals and the Martin County Cardinals are the Mountain Citizen Players of the Week.

**Martin County Lady Cardinals** are 17-4 and coming off three convincing 57th District wins over Johnson Central 66-48, Paintsville 67-42 and Magoffin County 56-26. The Lady Cardinals won the Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic and finished runner-up in the 15th Region All "A" Classic and the Florida Sunshine Classic.

**Martin County Cardinals** are undefeated in the 57th District, beating Johnson Central 86-66, Paintsville 97-57 and Magoffin County 72-50. The Cardinals won the school's first-ever All "A" Regional championship, defeating Pikeville 72-70 to advance to the All "A" State Tournament and defeated Harlan in the tournament's first round. The Cardinals are 19-3 on the season and won 17 in a row before falling to Evangel Christian in the second round of the All "A" State tournament. Congrats to both teams on being named the Mountain Citizen Players of the Week.

Martin County Lady Cardinals

Martin County Cardinals

**SPORTS**



Peyton Davis goes up against a Hornet defender to add two points to the Cardinals win. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Matt Linville slams one home for a big two points in the Cardinals win over Magoffin County. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)

## Martin County knocks off Magoffin County

**CITIZEN STAFF REPORT**

INEZ — Martin County Cardinals picked up their third 57th District win 72-50 over the Magoffin County Hornets to go 3-0 in district play Jan. 23 in Inez.

The Cardinals brought a 15-game win streak into the contest and improved to 18-2 on the season.

Brayden McKenzie laced up his shoes and knocked down shots from all over the court. At the 4:03 mark in the first quarter, it was McKenzie 12 Magoffin County 3. McKenzie scored 14 points to help the Cardinals to an 18-12 lead at the end of one.

The Cards had another 18-

point second quarter to outscore Magoffin 18-14 and take a 36-26 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Martin County's Luke Hale got going with eight points to help the Cards to an 18-13 third quarter and to push the lead out to 54-39.

The Cardinals kept up the momentum in the final quarter, outscoring Magoffin 18-11 to finish the 16th win in a row for Coach Jason James.

"It was a good district win," James said. "Brayden came out on fire and got us off to a great start. We were able to cause some turnovers in the second half and pull away. Magoffin is a really good team. It was good to take care of them at

home."

Four players scored double figures to pace the Martin County attack.

McKenzie led all scorers with 23 points for the Cardinals. He went 9 of 12 for 82% from the field. Luke Hale flipped in 15 points and tallied seven boards. Jacob Sturgell added 13 points and eight boards. Dray Duff netted 11 points, eight assists and five boards. Matt Linville finished with seven points, seven rebounds and six blocks. Peyton Davis chipped in four points.

Ben Lafferty led Magoffin County with 16 points. Aden Barnett added 11 points. Walker Russell finished with eight points, Zane Whitaker

dropped in six. Brennan Hansen added five and Ethan Salyer tallied four.

The Cardinals shot 30-of-59 for 51%. Magoffin County shot 20-of-64 for 31% for the game. Magoffin connected on 4-of-19 from the three-point line for 21%. The Cardinals had 38 boards and Magoffin had 30 rebounds.

## Lady Cards JV wins over Barbourville

**CITIZEN STAFF REPORT**

INEZ — The Martin County Lady Cardinals defeated the Lady Tigers of Barbourville 38-20 in a game Saturday in Inez.

The Lady Cards jumped out 14-2 at the end of the first quarter. Candace Spaulding and Tamara Workman led the Cards in the first quarter scoring five points each.

The Lady Cardinals took a 24-6 lead in at the half, winning the second quarter 10-4.

Martin County won the third quarter 10-6 and led after three quarters 34-12.

The Lady Tigers outscored the Cardinals 8-4 in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough as the Lady Cardinals easily won.

Tamara Workman scored nine points to lead Martin County. Bella Muncy followed with eight points, Sophie Harless and Chloe May each added six, Candace Spaulding finished with five, and Hallie Mills and Angelina Moore each scored two.

Sizemore led Barbourville with six points, Martin scored five. Boles added four, Cole chipped in three and C. Sizemore netted two.



Tamara Workman sets up her cut within the offense. Workman led Martin County JV with nine points in a win Saturday over Barbourville. (Citizen photo by Stephanie May)

## Linville receives offer from KCU

**CITIZEN STAFF REPORT**

INEZ — After the big weekend for the Cardinals in the All "A" State Tournament in Richmond, Martin County's Matt Linville comes away with a historic team win and a college offer from Kentucky Christian University.

KCU is offering to extend Lineville's basketball career to the next level while achieving his bachelor's degree.

The KCU Knights have watched Linville this season and were impressed with his size and ability to finish around the rim and shoot it beyond the arc.

The 6-foot-3 power forward brings a lot to the table and will be a great addition to any team.

"I'm very blessed to have received an offer from KCU," Linville said. "I've always wanted to play college ball, so having a school give me that opportunity is an awesome feeling. I'm thankful for all my friends, family and coaches that have helped me get to this point, and I am thankful for the coaches from KCU for giving me this opportunity to further my education and basketball career."

Martin County Coach Jason James is no stranger to his athletes receiving offers from the next level.

"I'm just really happy for him," James said. "Matt is the kind of athlete that is going to continue to get better every year. Matt has a very high ceiling, and I'm proud of him."

Coach James also mentioned that other schools are showing interest in his towering forward.



Matt Linville

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## CARDS

FROM PAGE 1B

Martin County (18-2) played the Harlan Green Dragons (19-2) 50-49 in the first round of the All "A" State Tournament Thursday.

Everyone in Martin County growing up has heard the stories of the Inez Indians winning the Sweet 16 state championships in 1941 and 1954 and the Sheldon Clark Cardinals making it to the Sweet 16 in 1983 and winning the first-round game.

This marked the second state tournament berth for the Martin County High School Boys Basketball program in just four years. The Cardinals won the 15th Region to advance to the Sweet 16 in 2020 only to have the country shut down by COVID and the Sweet 16 state tournament canceled.

After 40 years with no appearance in a state basketball tournament arena, Martin County High School players, coaches and fans experienced their first ever All "A" Boys State Basketball Tournament and won the first-round game.

Not many gave the Cardinals a chance of beating the Harlan Green Dragons in the first round. The Dragons' record coming into All "A" State was 19-2. However, someone forgot to tell the Cardinals, who were on a 16-game win streak with an 18-2 record.

Not many people were left in Martin County Thursday morning as fans had made the Richmond trip. The atmosphere inside the arena was electric with the Cardinal cheering section filling up and a buzz in the air. Something big was about to happen.

Harlan got the tip and struck first with a deep 3-pointer to go up 3-0. Dray Duff answered with a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Both teams were off and running. Harlan kept taking deep 3-pointers, missing, but crashing the boards hard for the putbacks. Harlan knocked down a 3-pointer with 35 seconds to go to cut the Martin County lead to 13-12 in the first. The Cardinals held for a last-second shot but missed.

Harlan hit a basket to start the second quarter and went in front 14-13. The Green Dragons struck again on a fast break to go up 16-13, prompting Coach James to call a quick timeout to regroup.

Blake Maynard scored on an out-of-bounds play to cut the lead to 16-15. Brayden McKenzie tied it up 22-22 on a free throw at the 4:33 mark, and Maynard scored again to put the Cards up 24-22 with 3:52 remaining in the quarter. Harlan got a dunk with 1:08 to go up 28-24. The Cardinals hit a free throw to cut the lead to 28-25. Then Matt Linville got loose for a basket to bring the Cards within one 28-27. Harlan scored on a putback to go up 30-27 at the half.

The Cardinals got off to a slow start in the third and Harlan started with a dunk to go ahead 32-27. With 6:56 to go in the third, Harlan took the biggest lead of the game going up 34-27. The Cards fought back to narrow it to 33-31 with 2:45 left in the third. Harlan knocked down a 3-pointer to stretch the lead to 37-31, and Coach James called a timeout.

Harlan scored again to go up 39-31 with 1:11 remaining in the quarter. Linville knocked down a 3-pointer with 22 seconds remaining to cut Harlan's lead to 39-34. Luke Hale drove in with 5.5 seconds to go, missed and got a putback and a foul. The junior made the free throw to cut the lead to 39-37 at the end of the three.

Dray Duff drove the lane for a layup to start the fourth quarter and tie the score 39-39. McKenzie scored a layup off a pass from Harlan with 7:00 showing on the clock to give the Cards their first lead in the second half 41-39. Duff drove the lane and hit the layup at the 6:06 mark to make it 43-39.

Fans were on their feet as the Cardinals were on a 12-0 comeback run before Harlan knocked down a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 43-42. McKenzie got a breakaway at the 4:05 mark to put the Cards up 45-42. Harlan took the lead back at the 3:00 mark 46-45.

Duff found McKenzie on a fast break with 2:52 remaining, and McKenzie laid it in and was fouled. McKenzie knocked down the free throw to put the Cardinals back up 48-46.

Harlan got loose under the

basket, but Linville rejected the shot with just 55 seconds remaining on the clock to give the Cards the ball back. Martin County was up by one when Duff was fouled with 38 seconds remaining. Duff went to the line and knocked down both free throws to put the Cards up 50-47. Harlan scored with 16.9 seconds to go to make it 50-49.

Harlan got the ball back on a missed free throw and called a timeout with 7.7 seconds left in the game. The Green Dragons got off a last-second shot that missed. Sturgell grabbed the rebound and held on as the horn sounded and the Cardinals survived and advanced.

"I'm really proud of our guys," said Coach James. "It was a back-and-forth game most of the way. Our guys stuck together when things got tough and outplayed them down the stretch. We knew rebounding was going to be an issue, but Sturgell came up with a huge one-sequence game at the end. A lot of kids stepped up to make big plays." The Cardinals shot 19-of-44 for 43% from the field. Harlan hit 5-of-37 three-pointers for 13.5% from the 3-point line. The Dragons outrebounded the Cards 47-28. The Cardinals had 12 turnovers, while Harlan had 16.

Duff led the Cardinals going 5-of-10 from the field and 4-of-4 from the free-throw line for 15 points. Duff also had five assists and four steals. Hale followed with 11 points and four boards. McKenzie dropped eight points and had four boards. Linville went 3-of-4 for seven points, six rebounds and four blocks. Sturgell and Maynard each finished with four points.

Will Austin led all scorers with 16 points for Harlan, Jaedyn Gist dropped 14 points, Kyle McLendon scored 13 and Kaleb McLendon finished with four.

The Cardinals advanced to the second round Friday against Evangel Christian.

#### Martin County falls to Evangel Christian

Martin County faced a huge task in the second round of the All "A" State Tournament. The (19-2) Cardinals went up against (17-2) Evangel Christian and fell 86-55 Friday.

Playing without the services of key player Brayden McKenzie, Martin County battled a very athletic team in Evangel Christian. McKenzie, who spent most of the day in the emergency room getting fluids after coming down with a virus, tried to go but was not physically able.

The Eagles jumped out quickly on the Cardinals holding them to just nine points in the first quarter. The Cardinals came out cold, going 4-of-19 from the field for 21%. The Eagles took advantage shooting 9-of-17 for 54% to take a 26-9 lead at the end of one.

The Cards could never overcome that deficit.

Martin County struggled with Evangel's size and athleticism but adjusted in the second quarter and shot the ball much better. The Cardinals were 5-of-10 from the field and knocked down 4-of-7 from the 3-point line. The Eagles never let up offensively, outscoring the Cardinals 21-17 to take a 47-26 lead at the half.

Martin County fought back with three treys by Peyton Davis in the third, outscoring Evangel 20-19, but the Eagles were up by 20 points 66-46 at the end of three.

The Cardinals went cold again in the fourth, hitting 3-of-17 from the field for 17%. Evangel took advantage with another 20-point quarter. The Cardinals shot 19-of-59 from the field for 32%, while Evangel shot 34-of-59 for 58%. Evangel had 38 rebounds and the Cards had 37.

"Thanks to everyone that came out and supported these guys this weekend. You have no idea how much it means to them," Martin County Coach Jason James said. "First ever All "A" regional title and then first ever All "A" Elite 8 appearance is something they should never forget. The good news is our season is not over. We will be back in action at home Wednesday."

Luke Hale led the Cardinals with 17 points and seven boards. Jacob Sturgell followed with 12 points and five boards. Davis dropped in nine

points. Dray Duff added eight points and five assists. Blake Maynard chipped in three points. Linville scored two points and grabbed 10 boards, and Bryson Dials and Ethan Ferrell contributed two points each.

Evangel Christian had four players in double figures. Christian Doer had 31, Kyrin Tilley dropped in 26, Cyr Malonga added 11, Gianni Davis finished with 10 points, Johnny Djema scored four, and Ben Mukadi and Isaiiah Chitapa each chipped in two.

Martin County will play at home Wednesday (Feb. 1) against Knott County Central.

(Right) Martin County's Jacob Sturgell grabs the game's biggest rebound, securing the win for the Cardinals against Harlan in the first round of the All "A" State tournament. Luke Hale jumps for joy in celebration as the buzzer sounds. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Junior Blake Maynard comes into the game for Martin County and immediately scores off a great pass during an out-of-bounds play. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Martin County junior Brayden McKenzie gets his 3-point shot off quickly above a Harlan Green Dragon defender attempting to block Thursday in the All "A" State Tournament. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Martin County's Jacob Sturgell drives to the lane against Evangel Christian in the Elite 8 game of the All "A" State tournament. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Martin County's Matt Linville defends the lane preparing to block Harlan's shot. Linville had a critical block with 55 seconds left to hold on to the one-point Cardinal lead. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)



Martin County High School student pep section during the Elite 8 game Friday in Richmond. Officials said Martin County had the best crowds of the tournament. (Citizen photo by Boo Newsome)

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 MARTIN CIRCUIT COURT  
 CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-CL-003

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ments upon the property for prior years shall be paid from the sale proceeds if properly claimed in writing and filed of record by the purchaser prior to the payment of the purchase price. The property described above is sold subject to any easements, restrictions, defects, liens or encumbrances of record in the Martin County Court Clerk's Office and such rights of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America and/or the record owners thereof.

Printed legal notices are part of the historic record for communities. There's no guarantee history will be preserved online.

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale of the Martin Circuit Court entered the 5th day of December, 2019, in the above cause, for the sum of \$93,298.44, with interest thereon, plus additional sums and costs, and an Order entered January 20, 2023 to set a new sale date; please be advised that I shall proceed to offer for sale at the new county government building, located at 42 E. Main Street, Inez, Martin County, Kentucky, to the highest and best bidder on February 14, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock a.m., upon the terms set forth below, the following property, to wit:  
 Owner: Kevin Hinkle  
 Address: 1034 South Milo Road,  
 Said bond shall have the force and effect of a Judgment for which execution may issue, and a lien shall be retained upon the above-described real estate as additional surety.  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Fiscal Court of Martin County, Kentucky, has proposed to adopt the revised 2023-2027 Amended Solid Waste Management Plan for Martin County, Kentucky. The revised Plan, if approved, will replace the existing plan and serve as the base for handling solid waste in this area.

The following County is within the Solid Waste Management Area subject to this revised Plan:

Martin County, Kentucky

The revised Plan will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the following location:

Martin County Judge-Executive's Office  
 Martin County Government Center  
 42 East Main Street, 2nd Floor  
 Inez, KY 41224

Additional information about the revised Plan is available from the following contact person:

Eric Phelps  
 Martin County Solid Waste Coordinator  
 606-298-2800

Any person wishing to comment on the revised Plan may do so no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this public notice is published, in Judge-Executive Lon Lafferty, PO BOX 309, Inez, KY 41224.


The Fiscal Court will respond to written public comments within 15 days after the end of the public comment period.

A public hearing on the revised plan will be held at 10:00am, February 27th, 2023 in the Fiscal Courtroom at the Martin County Government Center, 42 East Main Street, Inez, KY 41224. The Revised Plan approved by the Martin County Fiscal Court will then be submitted to the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet for approval.

**LOM LAFFERTY**  
 MARTIN COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

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- Thurs., Feb. 2—Open Face Roast Beef, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans or Cole Slaw
- Fri., Feb. 3—Hotdogs with Soup or Fries
- Fri. Night Special: Prime Rib, Baked Potato, Garden Salad, Fresh Baked Bread:  
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- Mon., Feb. 6—Big Mac Salad with Soup
- Tues., Feb. 7—Chicken Tips with Onions and Peppers, Baked Potato, Side Salad and Roll