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The Paintsville Herald

April 8-14, 2026

Volume 124, Number 14

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Several members of Amateur Radio Community Services were awarded certificates by Paintsville/Johnson County Emergency Management Director Paul Burchett on behalf of Judge-Executive Mark McKenzie.

Paintsville Herald photos by Tony Fyffe

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Amateur radio club members recognized for help during winter storm

By TONY FYFFE
STAFF WRITER

Several members of a local amateur radio club were recognized on April 2 by Paintsville/Johnson County Emergency Management Director Paul Burchett

for their assistance during the winter storm in late January.

Burchett presented the members with certificates on behalf of Judge-Executive Mark McKenzie during the monthly meeting of the Amateur Radio Community Services group at the Johnson

County Public Library.

"I wanted to take this opportunity to come out and meet everyone, and let you know that we greatly appreciate everything you all do and everything you do for us," Burchett told club members.

Burchett, who became the

EM director last year after the death of the late Gary McClure, who was his father-in-law, said the agency values amateur, or ham, radio operators, especially during a disaster.

See CLUB, Page 7A

Paintsville native helping send Americans back into deep space

By JERRY BOGGS
CENTRE COLLEGE

When Artemis II lifted off on Wednesday, April 1, from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, among those keenly watching the rocket soar into space was Jimmy Skaggs, who has spent the last 20 years helping humans return to the moon.

Skaggs serves as Spacecraft Flow Manager for Lockheed Martin, the lead contractor for the design, development, testing and production of the Orion spacecraft for NASA's Artemis missions.

"I tell everyone I meet that I have the greatest job in the solar system," he said. "It's already the best job on the planet. We're tasked with sending humans to deep space and returning them home safely. That's pretty impactful to think about."

With the launch of Artemis II, Skaggs took his place in the history of space exploration as American astronauts ventured to the moon for the first time since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.

Contributing to the next evolution of American space exploration wasn't on Skaggs' mind when he enrolled at Centre from Paintsville High School. In fact, he arrived in Danville dreaming of another high-profile career path.

"The movie 'Jerry Maguire' had just come out, and I was going to go to law school and be-

come a sports agent," he said. "I went to Centre because it was by far the most renowned, prestigious and best school in the state. And that's what I was looking for."

But chance intervened in those career plans. As Skaggs prepared to enjoy the summer after his graduation, a phone call from a cousin who worked at Kennedy Space Center changed the entire trajectory of his life.

"I was going to go home and just have this fun summer, but he said, 'Why don't you come down here and work instead?'" Skaggs recalled.

So the 21-year-old Government major from Centre College made the drive to Florida and put his skills to use in the U.S. space program, picking up some pointers from his cousin, Greg Daniel, along the way.

"He helped me learn what it takes to be successful in this business, which doesn't mean you need to be the smartest person in the room," Skaggs said. "But maybe the best listener in the room."

When working with literal rocket scientists every day, the ability to understand complex issues, zero in on logical next steps in the problem-solving process and communicate with a wide array of coworkers has been crucial.

"It's not that I took computational fluid dynamics in college or anything, but I can listen to people, pick up things, and understand what

See SPACE, Page 2A

Ex-prison guard sentenced to four years in inmate assault case

A PAINTSVILLE HERALD
STAFF REPORT

A four-year sentence was handed down on April 2 to a former corrections officer at the United States Penitentiary Big Sandy in Martin County who pleaded guilty in 2025 to federal charges of conspiracy against rights and deprivation of civil rights involving the assault of inmates at the facility.

U.S. District Judge Robert E. Wier sentenced Terry Melvin to 48 months on each charge, to run concurrently, and one year of supervised release after he completes his prison term.

Melvin, of Johnson County, pleaded guilty to the charges in January 2025 as part of a plea deal with prosecutors.

Melvin was a lieutenant at the USP Big Sandy, where "staff illegally assaulting inmates was a commonplace occurrence," according to the plea agreement.

An associate warden and a captain at the prison "conspired, along with

See INMATE, Page 3A

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Paintsville Herald photo submitted by Paul Burchett

Crews with West Van Lear Fire Department, Kentucky Division of Forestry and Paintsville-Johnson County Emergency Management responded to the Davis Branch fire near Rockhouse, which started on April 3 and burned into April 4.

Davis Branch fire starts near Rockhouse, no evacuations reported

By MYCCA DECKER
NEWS EDITOR

A forest fire on Davis Branch near Rockhouse started on April 3 and burned in the hills above nearby homes, according

to Johnson County Emergency Management Director Paul Burchett.

“The fire started about 3 p.m.,” Burchett said. “The cause of the Davis Branch fire has not been determined because it started on top of the hill,

according to witnesses.”

No evacuations or property damage to homes had been reported, he said.

Burchett said the Kentucky Division of Forestry had a team in the hills establishing a ring around

the fire so it could burn itself out. West Van Lear firefighters were protecting houses while forestry crews worked the fire in the hills.

Agencies on scene included the West Van Lear Fire Department, the Ken-

tucky Division of Forestry and Paintsville-Johnson County Emergency Management.

Burchett said rain moving into the area overnight helped extinguish the fire.

Burchett reminded

residents to stay safe and remain aware of open burning rules.

“Please remember that there are burning restrictions and caution has to be used at all times,” Burchett said.

SPACE Continued From Page 1A

some of the challenges are for people and help them solve some problems,” he said.

NASA introduced the Artemis moon exploration program in 2017, the latest evolution of the U.S. space program that kicked off

with Project Mercury first sending Americans to space in 1961. The Gemini Program was highlighted by the first American to walk in space in 1965 and the Apollo Program brought us the moon landing in 1969. The space shuttle program saw 355 people go to space across 30 years and 135 missions, culminating with the com-

pletion of the International Space Station.

As the shuttle program began to wind down, Skaggs left United Space Alliance in 2006 to join Lockheed Martin, where he spent two years as a software planner on the U.S. Navy’s Fleet Ballistic Missile Program. But his sights were still set on the stars.

“I was now at Lockheed Martin,” he said. “And Lockheed Martin had just won the Orion contract to build the Orion spacecraft.”

Skaggs saw an opportunity to move back into space exploration in 2008 when a position opened on the Orion project that he said was right up his alley — with one caveat.

“It was an engineering planning position and, of course, not having an engineering degree, you’re a little disadvantaged by that,” he laughed. “But to tie it back to my Centre experience, one cool thing is you don’t have to be the smartest person in every room you walk into. But if you can get the two smart-

est people in the room together ... and serve as a facilitator and get them to understand each other’s perspective ... that’s where I was adding value in those days.”

Skaggs found that while he might not have the technical training to develop all the complex equations needed to solve the problems his coworkers encountered, but he did have a knack for helping coworkers collaborate to chart the best path forward.

“A lot of those skills

I developed in my many classes at Centre,” he said.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re applying those skills to something that’s directly in your field of study or trying to solve a complex stress crack in a pressure vessel that needs to hold oxygen while it goes out into space, it’s the same kind of issue,” he laughed. “It comes back to communication and selling your point and being able to get people to understand each other.”

As astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, make history by journeying farther into space than any humans before, Skaggs is already hard at work on the program’s next horizon, with equipment for what will be Artemis III, IV and V under construction in his building.

It’s the realization of a dream that began the summer after his Centre graduation and fully took shape when President George W. Bush announced the goal of returning to the surface of the moon.

“I knew when I was watching that press conference in 2004 that would be my career,” Skaggs said. “That’s where I’m going to be someday.”

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Several lodged in Big Sandy Regional Detention Center

AN APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS
STAFF REPORT

Several people were lodged recently in the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center. Those lodged in the jail included:

Monday, March 30

Nicholas Alexander Adkins, 24, of Rhubens Road, Louisa, failure to appear in court.

Jason Kenneth Fields, 41, of Peter Cave Road, Inez, first-degree, first-offense possession of a controlled substance (carfentanil or fentanyl derivatives) and first-degree, first-offense possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

Timothy Dean McClure, 62, of Castle Fork Road, Stam-baugh, possession of a handgun by a convicted felon and traffic charges.

Tuesday, March 31

Sandra Dee Baldwin, 55, of McCarty Branch Road, Hager Hill, first-degree, first-offense possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), first-offense DUI, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess and traffic charges.

Courtney Smyth Conley,

33, of Witten Lane, Wittensville, failure to appear in court.

Anthony Darrell Saylor, 38, of East Maple Street, Salyersville, first-degree, first-offense trafficking in a controlled substance (more than or equal to 2 grams of methamphetamine), first-degree, first-offense trafficking in a controlled substance (heroin), receiving stolen property \$1,000 or more but less than \$10,000 and contempt of court.

Dylan Michael Stapleton, 25, of Ky. 1559, Sitka, failure to appear in court.

Jackie E. Bailey, 44, of Ky. 979, Harold, first-degree, first-offense trafficking in a controlled substance (more than or equal to 2 grams of methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia-buy/possess and a traffic charge.

Raymond Eugene Keeton Jr., 19, of Sugar Camp Spur, Salyersville, receiving stolen property.

Jeffery Wayne Pinson, 33, of Robinson Way, Lexington, first-degree bail jumping and failure to appear in court.

Steven Tyler Rose, 41, of Ky. 1624, Flat Gap, contempt of court.

Wednesday, April 1

Makayla Dawn Ball, 29, of Lower Springtown Road, Burnwell, failure to appear in court.

Madison Marie Dindal, 22, of North Grapevine Road, Sissonville, W.Va., first-offense DUI, second-degree disorderly conduct and traffic charges.

Parker McCoy, 64, of Golf Lane, Louisa, first-degree, first-offense possession of a controlled substance (hydrocodone) and tampering with physical evidence.

Melissa Marie Mills, 38, of Meades Branch Road, Louisa, first-offense DUI and a traffic charge.

Dennis R. Moore, 45, of Inez, third-degree possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified), probation violation and failure to appear in court.

Jennifer Lynn Rowe, 40, of Middle Fork Road, Salyersville, fourth-degree assault (minor injury) and third-degree trespassing.

Arnold Michael Sexton, 68, of Main Street, Paintsville, third-degree possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified) and tampering with physical evidence.

James C. Sizemore, 52, of Dick Fannin Lane, Tomahawk, first-degree, first-offense pos-

session of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), first-degree, first-offense possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified), third-degree possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified), drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, first-degree, first-offense possession of a controlled substance (fentanyl) and first-offense DUI.

Howard Chad Connelley, 45, of Middle Fork Road, Salyersville, traffic charges.

Ira Ervin Blankenship, 45, of Woodman Creek, Majestic, failure to appear in court.

Betty Mae Burdell, 50, of Walters Branch, Williamsport, alcohol intoxication.

Burl Jason Holland, 47, of Jim Arnett Branch, Salyersville, alcohol intoxication and third-degree criminal trespassing.

Jamie Cisco Howard, 41, of Mill Branch Road, Paintsville, traffic charges.

Amber Leah Jacobs, 33, of Ky. 1426, Harold, probation violation.

Timothy Lynn McKenzie, 52, of Salyersville, public intoxication.

Ashley Nicole Williams, 38, of Breeden Road, Breeden, W.Va., bench warrant served.

Thursday, April 2

Clifton Dwayne Barker, 39, of Litteral Fork Road, Salyersville, failure to appear in court and contempt of court.

David Austin Dotson, 29, of Sugar Camp Road, Salyersville, first-offense DUI (aggravating circumstances) and first-degree wanton endangerment.

Geanetta Marie Kellough, 43, of Ky. 469, Keaton, failure to appear in court.

Steven R. Tackett, 41, of Elkhorn Creek Road, Ashcamp, failure to appear in court.

Brandi Nicole Chapman Clark, 45, of Crestwood Drive, Prestonsburg, first-offense prescription controlled substance not in proper container and traffic charges.

Thelma Fluty Goforth, 54, of Coldwater Road, Inez, second-degree unlawful transaction with a minor and first-degree wanton endangerment.

Alyssa Beth Minix, 22, of Copperhead Road, Salyersville, second-degree disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Kenneth Ova Pack, 67, of Budget Inn, Louisa, bench war-

See LODGED, Page 7A

INMATE

Continued From Page 1A

other Big Sandy senior staff, to use unconstitutional force against inmates who were requesting protective custody through an 'unofficial' policy," the agreement said.

Melvin, other lieutenants and senior staff were told of the unofficial policy during a meeting in early 2021, the agreement said. Prior to the meeting, the prison's special housing unit, where inmates who requested protective custody were placed while their complaints were investigated, had become full, the agreement said.

During the meeting, the associate warden and the captain instructed the senior staff to deal with all protective custody requests in the same illegal manner, with the goal of reducing occupancy numbers in the special housing unit, according to the plea agreement.

They instructed senior staff to give inmates the option of withdrawing their protective custody request or pretending to assault staff in the lieutenants' office and be subject to an illegal use of force against them, the agreement said.

"If the inmate refused to withdraw their request, as part

of the conspiracy, after which staff would illegally assault the inmates and falsely claim in paperwork that the inmate had assaulted them ("swung" at them)," the agreement said.

Those inmates would then be moved to other Bureau of Prisons, which would reduce the population in the special housing unit at USP Big Sandy, the agreement said.

Several senior staff members, including Melvin, participated in the conspiracy, the agreement said, and Melvin "willfully used unreasonable force on inmates on numerous occasions."

"The Defendant knew that participating in this conspiracy was wrong, but he and other lieutenants received promotions in order to go along with it," the plea agreement said, adding that Melvin and other lieutenants also received monetary rewards of approximately \$6,000-\$8,000 at the direction of the captain.

In April 2021, an inmate who requested protective custody was hospitalized after suffering extensive bruising, facial lacerations, a concussion and rib pain during an assault by Melvin and several other senior staff, the agreement said.

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BUT GOD:

"All of God's grace, in one tiny face"

BY CANDRA ADAMS
FOR THE PAINTSVILLE HEARLD

"All of God's grace, in one tiny face." I've heard that saying so many times before, but never really understood it until I became a mother. There's just something about becoming a parent that reshapes your entire world. Especially walking the journey of raising three baby boys, each arriving in their own time and own special way, has been nothing short of life-changing for our family.

Six years ago, my first child came into this world and suddenly, it all made sense. (*Kyson, what a true blessing you are.*) The instant connection that you feel once you see them lock eyes with you. The love that you two share, and you know right from the beginning that you're going to protect them at all costs. My first pregnancy went so smoothly. No issues at all. But what I didn't know was that the next two pregnancies to follow would be quite the opposite.

Kyler made his appearance a couple of years after Kyson and was born 2.5 months early. We were told his lungs were collapsed, his kidneys weren't working, heart issues, you name it. A whirlwind of emotions followed: fear, uncertainty, and a kind of helplessness that you just cannot put into words. From the hospital rooms, the waiting, the beeps on every monitor, you stay tensed up at all times, not knowing how it's going to go, day by day or even second by second, really. You lose sleep. You wait. You wonder. You pray the hardest you have ever prayed before. Every breath he took, every ounce he gained, literally every milestone he hit, felt like a mountain victory. After being transferred to UK and further evaluation, it was determined that he was just fine. He's 4 and thriving now.

My last baby, Brayson, born just recently, came in just like his brother. Literally, they share the same birthday, which honestly blows my mind. He couldn't wait to enter the world either and showed up a little over a month early. The same fear followed as before. The same weight on my chest until I heard him take his first breath. What a sigh of relief it is when you hear your baby cry out for the first time. His big brothers were anxiously awaiting his arrival as well and were so excited to welcome him into this world. He was taken directly to the NICU after birth, so they saw their baby brother through a glass window for the first few weeks of his life. Such a hard thing to experience when all you want is to have your family together, and your children don't understand why they can't hold him or be involved as they'd like to be.

My husband and I prayed and trusted the Lord that, just as before, he would bring us through this and that our baby would come home soon. A week prior the Lord spoke to me and told me that he'd be coming home on February 26. From then on, whenever someone asked when he was getting released, I'd tell them without hesitation, "the 26th." I believed it, my husband believed it. We put all our faith in it, and guess what: on the 26th, he was released from the NICU. Bray got to stay home for 4 short days before having to give him up. This time, he was rushed to the ER in the middle of the night because he had stopped breathing and was turning blue. RSV tried to claim his life, but God said He was bigger. After a week and a half's stay in UK, he got to come back



Candra Adams' sons: Kyson, Kyler and Brayson

home, and he's thankfully doing so much better.

In the fragile days of all the uncertainty, we found ourselves leaning on something deeper than we ever had before – our faith. It wasn't the kind of faith that you speak about casually, yet it was the kind you cling to when everything feels entirely out of your hands. We prayed harder, trusted more, and slowly began to understand what it truly means to surrender it all.

Through it all, we saw God move in ways we couldn't ignore. Strength showed up when we had none left. Peace came in moments that should have been overwhelming. And little by little, our boys grew stronger.

Looking back now, those difficult beginnings didn't break us; they built us. They deepened our faith, strengthened our marriage, and reminded us of what truly matters. Today, our home is filled with the laughter, energy, and chaos of three healthy boys, and it's a sound we will never take for granted.

Our journey taught us that even in life's most uncertain moments, there is purpose, there is growth, and there is grace waiting to be found. When we look at our boys, we don't just see how far they've come; we see a living reminder of just how faithful God has been to our family.

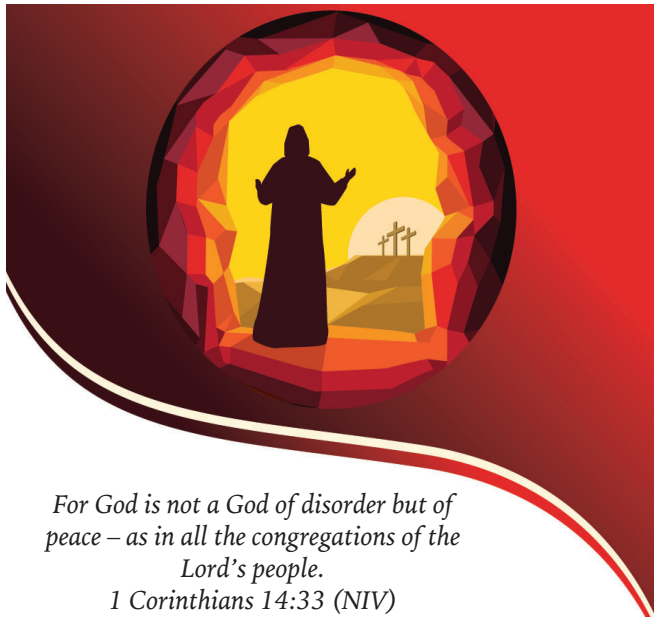
"I shouldn't be alive
My future was six feet under
One foot in the grave
No hope to be saved, yeah
I shouldn't be alive
But I'm a miracle child
Defied every diagnosis
And as close as it came
I can stand here and say
I'm a miracle child
Death, where is your sting?
My Savior's word is final
I am resurrected
Blood-protected
I am a miracle child..."
– Lyrics from "Miracle Child"
by Brandon Lake

Dedicated to my 3 precious boys. May you always know that you're nothing short of a miracle.

The fruits of an organized life

Spring cleaning is an effective way to bring about a feeling of renewal just as the weather begins to improve. While organization can certainly be tough amidst our daily lives with work and family, it can also bring us much clarity as we navigate our lives. We may find the springtime to be the best for decluttering our homes or offices, but we can also discover peace in clearing our minds. Particularly, we may consider whether there are feelings or responsibilities that are weighing on us, and from there, we can work to address these matters. In being organized in both the physical spaces we are most often within as well as our own minds, we can find a state of clarity in working towards our goals and in maintaining our relationships with God and others.

–James Stone



*For God is not a God of disorder but of peace – as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.
1 Corinthians 14:33 (NIV)*

Thought of the week



BY CHAPLAIN GARY SLONE
DR.GARYSLONE1@YAHOO.COM

Nobody is perfect. That is a fact because we are human and human nature is flawed and sinful, thus we will never be perfect on this earth. This premise has resulted in many folks either never accepting Jesus as their personal Savior or falling away from HIM. Friends, God sent HIS Son Jesus to cover our sins, and those sins are covered when we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. But remember, we are still human and sin will continue in our life. The big difference is when we have Jesus, we have an advocate in Heaven and HE forgives us still today, all we have to do is ask for it!

*Our scripture reading today comes from Psalm 31 Verse 1
"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered."*

Local church directory

CHECK WITH CHURCHES FOR LIVE STREAMING SERVICES

BAPTIST

CHESTNUT GROVE ENTERPRISE BAPTIST, 327 August Circle, Pastor Roger Sparks, Lowmansville, 297-6200, S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.. Thurs. 7 p.m.

CHRISTIAN UNION BAPTIST 4540 KY Rte. 469, Keaton, Tim Salyer, Min., 265-3222, W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. 6 p.m.

COLLISTA FREEWILL BAPTIST, 1293 KY Rte. 825, Hager Hill, Toby Johnson, Min., 789-5585, S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

EASTSIDE FREE WILL BAPTIST, 6100 Main Street, Thelma, 789-1777, Bubby Davis, Pas., 789-1112, S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. & Children's Church 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

FAIRVIEW FREEWILL BAPTIST, 137 Green Valley Rd., Staffordsville, Pas. Harold Williams, 297-1911, S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST, 330 College St., 789-3168, S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., Wed. 6:30 p.m.

FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST. Third St., Larry Blair, Min., S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., 2nd Sat. 7 p.m.; Thur. 7 p.m.. Children's S.S. 9:45 a.m.. Youth Group 2nd & 4th Fri. 5:30pm Bus available

FLAT GAP BAPTIST. Pastor Robert Blanton, 75 Flat Gap Dr., S.S. 9:30 a.m.; .S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

HAGER HILL FREEWILL BAPTIST, 2344 Rte. 1428, Hager Hill, 789-4427, Ronnie Spriggs, Min., S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

HAMMOND FREEWILL BAPTIST. 2856 Hammond Rd., 297-2281, Isaac Rowland, Min., W.S. 6 p.m. & 3rd Sun. 11 a.m., 3rd Sat. 7 p.m.

LIBERTY BAPTIST. 3567 St. Hwy. 825, Denver. 297-664, S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

MAZIE BAPTIST Martha, Richard Barker, Min., W.S. 1st

Sun. 11 a.m.; 1st Sat. 7:30 p.m., Tues. & Sun. 7:30 p.m.

MEADES BRANCH FREEWILL BAPTIST, Michael Marcum, Min., S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

MEALLY FREEWILL BAPTIST, 3910 KY Rte.40 E., Meally, Dr. Greg Coleman, Min., 789-1757, S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

NEW HOPE FREE WILL BAPTIST, Rt. 581, Tutor Key; Southie Fannin, Pas.; S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m., Wed. 6:30 p.m.

OIL SPRINGS FREEWILL BAPTIST, Pickle Fork Rd., Oil Springs, S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

OPEN FORK UNITED BAPTIST, Hwy. 172, Lowell Ferguson, Min., W.S. 10:30 a.m., Sat. 7 p.m.

PAINTSVILLE UNITED BAPTIST, 2nd & Church St., Chris Rowland, Min., W.S. 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., 4th Sat. 6:30 p.m.

PIGEON ENTERPRISE BAPTIST, Oil Springs, 297-4055, S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

POINT PLEASANT ENTERPRISE BAPTIST, KY Hwy. 1092 (Barn Rd., Flat Gap), Delbert Music, Min., W.S. 11 a.m. & 2nd & 4th Sun. 6 p.m., First Sat. 7 p.m.

RED BUSH ENTERPRISE BAPTIST, 10729 KY Rt. 172, Red Bush, 265-4600, S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 3rd Sun. 6 p.m., Sat. 7 p.m.

RICEVILLE FREE WILL BAPTIST, Riceville, Joe Scott, Min., S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

ROCKHOUSE FREEWILL BAPTIST, 58 KY Rt 2039, 789-5591, S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

SITKA FREEWILL BAPTIST, 2746 KY Rt. 201, Sitka, 297-6150, Jim McKenzie, Min., 265-3461, S.S. 10 am, W.S. 11 am, Wed. Night Service 7 pm.

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OPINION

For Comments on the Opinion Page, contact:

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"I disapprove of what you say, but I defend to the death your right to say it." - Voltaire

COLUMN



Backyard Banter

Jeff Vanderbeck

DOGE: Good or bad?

This administration has cut down on regulations to boost domestic industry, particularly in the energy sector.

We now have more secure sources of domestic energy due to the expansion of oil and gas production. And we have stricter border controls where the screening process is more in favor of only allowing in vetted individuals who want to be part of our American culture.

We want immigrants from all over, but they must enter legally, and that is a key point for the Trump administration. All that is good.

Now on to less attractive policies and appointees. DOGE, Hegseth and Kennedy. I can just stop here and let you enjoy your coffee or beer, but that would be too easy.

Kennedy is a mess. As head of Health and Human Services, he is clueless about the plight of the American people, and he is no more qualified for that position than I am.

Kennedy claims that vaccines and taking Tylenol during pregnancy cause autism and

ADHD, WiFi causes cancer and chemicals in water cause sexual dysphoria in children.

He staged a dead bear that looked to be run over by a bicycle in Central Park. He wants us to eat liver because it is the most affordable meat with a high amount of protein.

You can't really blame him because of the parasite that ate half his brain. At least he has an excuse.

On DOGE, when Trump took office, he appointed billionaire Elon Musk to run DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency. The mission of DOGE was to identify government waste, fraud and abuse and cut that out of the budget.

Musk claimed he would reduce spending by \$1 trillion. That's a lot of zeros. Moderate conservatives had a glimmer of hope as we all want to cut fraudulent government spending. But that is not what happened.

DOGE was supposed to restructure government agencies and cut out the wasteful government workforce. We know that some government jobs can be a

free ride and that some people in positions are useless.

Musk eliminated government programs, canceled over 4,000 government contracts and laid off over 300,000 employees. I'm not convinced the right employees were terminated.

SNAP benefits were cut, hurting food-insecure Americans. Healthcare benefits were cut, keeping the poor sick, adding the financial burden on healthcare facilities, which are being forced to close.

Medical research funding was halted. Don't tell me the pharmaceutical companies are not jumping for joy! "Keep 'em sick, and they are forced to buy our drugs." And personal data was compromised because Musk had teenagers who may be tech savvy, but are lazy and unable to understand personal data breaches heading up the finance research.

Musk left in May after he and Trump had a tiff over the Big Beautiful Bill, which Musk thought undermined DOGE's mission. Good riddance.

Remember waste, fraud and abuse? Well, that's where war monger and former weekend anchor Hegseth comes in.

Since September, Hegseth

has gone on a spending spree of taxpayers' money. He spent \$15 million on ribeye steaks — no liver for him. He spent \$7 million on lobster tails and \$2 million on crab legs. He spent over \$225 million on fancy furniture, \$3.5 billion on cable TV and tech support and \$5.9 billion on IT that can't be fully accounted for.

He kicked journalists out of the Pentagon because they would not sign a release stating that they would only report what they were told, and is now salivating over killing people in Iran. If we obliterated Iran's nuclear capabilities last year, why are we bombing them now?

Hegseth defended his spending spree by touting that he had that money in his budget, and if he didn't spend it this year, he would lose that money for next year. Isn't that frivolous spending the epitome of waste, fraud and abuse? Why is Congress allowing that spending spree to continue?

You decide if DOGE was good or bad.

Congress needs to go, as does the entire D.C. swamp. I thought after Obama/Biden, this country couldn't be more of a disaster; I was wrong.

Thanks for reading The Paintsville Herald.

COLUMN



Fillin' In Russ Cassady

Image and effect

selfishness and greed. However, that's not a reason not to seek purity; it's just an acknowledgment that perfection is not achievable.

A current situation in the commonwealth is a reminder of how image matters and that maintaining

image is a challenge, especially when corruption is alleged or even implied.

For years now, the tea leaf readers and political gurus have been mentioning Gov. Andy Beshear as a potential presidential contender. In a political world where viciousness has become a desired trait, Beshear's "nice guy" image has been seen by many in the Democratic Party as a positive trait in their desire to return to the highest office in the land.

However, the "nice guy" image is one that's difficult to carry. In order for it to last, the nice guy has to work very hard to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

In politics, it's nearly impossible. In Kentucky, doubly so.

And while many in the Democratic milieu would rather avoid the reality, Beshear has some baggage that could weigh down his image.

Some of that baggage came back up this past week with the indictment of London Mayor Randall Weddle on four counts of violating campaign finance laws. The class D felonies Weddle faces carry a potential prison sentence of one to five years.

Three years ago, the Kentucky Lantern reported that Weddle's family and employees of a company he co-founded contributed at least \$300,000 to Beshear's re-election campaign.

According to the Kentucky Lantern, the indictment alleges that in the last days of 2022, Weddle violated the state law that limits the amount a person can give to a political committee. At the time of

the contributions, the Kentucky Lantern reported, the limit was \$2,000 per election to a candidate's campaign and \$5,000 to the state-regulated committee of a political party.

Campaign finance is always sticky. It's nearly impossible to avoid the appearance of quid pro quo, especially as in the case of Weddle, where the contributions have been called into question.

Whether Weddle did anything against the law is up to the jury, but it's likely he wanted to be in the governor's good graces with anything given — properly or improperly. Whether that was for personal gain or the good of his community, well, that's up in the air. One thing I've learned in this business is that motives are difficult to pin down with any degree of accuracy.

The problem for Beshear is that, regard-

less of the governor's intentions, if he even had any, this will stick to him. Even if Weddle is ultimately found not guilty, even if the governor barely knew who Weddle was before the Kentucky Lantern found the issues is beside the point.

In the court of public opinion, many undoubtedly will never wait to see the outcome of the court case or care, even if their algorithms feed it to them. Their minds will always go back to the idea that there was a quid pro quo, even if there wasn't one. And you can bet that the GOP will do its best to ensure that first impression sticks if Beshear throws his hat in the ring in an attempt to become President Trump's successor. That's the nature of campaigns, especially national ones.

See CASSADY, Page 7A

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JUST KIDDING!!

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Obituaries

Page 6A • April 8-14, 2026 • The Paintsville Herald



Dr. Willard Charles Arnold Jr.

Dr. Willard Charles Arnold Jr., of Sitka, died Monday, March 30, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born in Kansas City, Mo., Jan 20, 1943, the son of the late Willard Charles Arnold Sr. and Betty Hollingsworth Arnold.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Sandra Arnold and Jodie Kavanaugh; and one daughter, Elizabeth Arnold.

He is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Candace Arnold; five daughters, Jodie Ramey (Roy), of Keaton, Lacey Ramey (Josh), of Keaton, Michiko Arnold (Greg), of Sitka, Gabby Arnold, of Jacksonville, N.Car., and Melissa Pierce, of Paintsville; six grandchildren, Pax Ramey (Camryn), McKinley Ramey, Abigail Carter (Zeph), Chasity Ramey, Evelyn Arnold and Estelle Arnold; one great-grandson, Wilder Ramey; and one sister, Janece Buckner.

He devoted over 40 years of his life to serving others as a healer, caring deeply for both his country and his community. Through both his professional skill and personal compassion, he touched and saved countless lives, whether through medical care, encouragement, honest advice or a simple

act of kindness. Even in everyday moments, he left a lasting impression, rarely leaving a conversation without offering help or receiving heartfelt thanks. He lived by his oath to "do no harm", a principle that guided every aspect of his life, and his legacy of care, integrity and humanity will not be forgotten.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 4, in the Phelps and Son Funeral Home chapel with Steve Hazelett officiating. Burial followed in Highland Memorial Park, Staffordsville.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Phelps and Son Funeral Home of Paintsville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.phelps-sonfuneralhome.com.

This is a paid obituary.



Opal Blair Castle

Opal Blair Castle, 90, of Flat Gap, died Monday, April 6, 2026.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, in the Jones-Preston Funeral Home Chapel with Larry Blair officiating. Burial will follow in the Johnson County Memorial Cemetery, Staffordsville.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Jones and Preston Funeral Home of Paintsville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.jones-prestonfuneralhome.com.



Ronald Cantrell

Ronald Simmie Cantrell, 59, of Paintsville, died Saturday, April 4, 2026.

He was the son of the late Arnold and Melva Cantrell.

He was a devoted and loving husband to Susan Cantrell; and a proud father to Blake Cantrell (Ocie), Corinna Childress, Jennifer Jenkins (James Jenkins), Megan Cantrell and the late Joshua Deyo. He was also a cherished grandfather to Kenton Cantrell, the late Luke Jenkins, Adrianna Nuncy, Arthur Childress, Simon Davis, Kylie Davis and Ryder Davis.

His love for his family was evident in everything he did. He was a caring husband, a steady father and a proud grandfather who treasured every moment spent with his loved ones. More than anything, he will be remembered for the joy he brought into every room. He was full of life, laughter and jokes, always the highlight of any gathering or family function. His presence was one that could lift spirits and bring people together. His laughter, stories and larger-than-life personality will be deeply missed, but forever remembered by all who knew him. Though he may be gone from our sight, the love and joy he shared will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Thursday, April 9, in the Phelps and Son Funeral Home chapel with William Jenkins officiating. Burial will follow in the Cantrell Family Cemetery, Swamp Branch.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Phelps and Son Funeral Home of Paintsville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.phelps-sonfuneralhome.com.

This is a paid obituary.



Linda Duncan

Linda Duncan, 70, of Paintsville, died Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Monday, April 6, at Mayo Memorial United Methodist Church with Leslie Robinette officiating. Burial followed in Highland Memorial Park Cemetery, Staffordsville.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Jones and Preston Funeral Home of Paintsville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.jones-prestonfuneralhome.com.



Ricky Fairchild

Ricky Fairchild, 51, of Staffordsville, died Monday, March 30, 2026.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 2, in the Jones-Preston Funeral Home chapel with Harry Neal Frisby officiating. Burial followed in the Fairchild Family Cemetery, Staffordsville.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Jones and Preston Funeral Home of Paintsville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.jones-prestonfuneralhome.com.



Trixie Meek

Trixie Meek, 86, of Williamsport, died Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at her daughter's residence in South Point, Ohio.

She was born in Martin County, Feb. 1, 1940, the daughter of the late William Spence and Daisy Bowen Spence.

In addition to her mother and father, Trixie was preceded in death by her husband, Hobert Meek Sr.; four brothers, George Spence, Curtis Spence, Howard Spence and Luther Spence; and two sisters, Ruby Mollette and Dorothy Setser.

She is survived by six sons, Hobert Meek Jr. (Tammy), Jerry Mitchell Meek (Pam), Paul Rick Meek, Thomas Meek (Robin), Houston Meek (Tammy) and Maurice Meek (Penny); four daughters, Brenda Ratliff (Larry), Linda Watkins (Roger), Tammy Scarberry (Rex) and Michelle Watts (Michael); 14 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, in the Phelps and Son Funeral Home chapel with Tim Preece and Hobert Meek officiating. Burial followed in the Tackett Family Cemetery, Staumbaugh.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Phelps and Son Funeral Home of Paintsville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.phelps-sonfuneralhome.com.

This is a paid obituary.



Marlene Ward

Marlene Fitch Ward, 67, of Thelma, died Friday, April 3, 2026.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at the First Christian Church of Paintsville with Ben Stephens officiating. Burial followed in the Fitch Family Cemetery, Meally.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Jones and Preston Funeral Home of Paintsville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.jones-prestonfuneralhome.com.



"Tooter" Whitt

Evalée "Tooter" Whitt, 75, of West Liberty, died Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Friday, April 3, in the Jones-Preston Funeral Home chapel with Russell Moore officiating. Burial followed in the Lyon Cemetery, Keaton.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Jones and Preston Funeral Home of Paintsville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.jones-prestonfuneralhome.com.

April 2026
Imagine, Learn, Grow
444 Main St, Paintsville
(606) 789-4355 / helpdesk@jcplky.org

"Find Your Joy!" at the library during National Library Week 2026, April 19th-25th. The colors of spring are bound to inspire joy. We hope you find ways to enjoy, both within the library and outside its walls. **Of special interest to our expectant parents and families with young children this month is the Parent Expo on April 21st at JCHS. You'll see our library staff there along with all our great community partners. More info coming soon!

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Join us for a 5-Week American Sign Language (ASL) Class With Tracy Jackson on Tuesdays, April 14th, 21st, 28th May 5th, 12th	1 NO STORY HOUR	2 12PM-2PM: Crochet & Embroidery	3 Visit our FB or Instagram page to play our newest guessing game	4 Meet Libby
6 11AM: Johnson County Senior Citizens Center Crafts 1PM-1:45PM: Gentle Yoga	7 6PM-6:30PM: Imagine, Learn, Grow Story Time	8 11AM-11:30AM: Imagine, Learn, Grow Story Time	9 5PM - 7PM Family Movie Night: <i>The Super Mario Bros. Movie</i>	10 10AM-11AM: Elevate Early Learning Collaborative 11:30AM-12:30PM: Garden Club	11 11AM-1PM: Paintsville Historic Walking Tour
13 1PM-1:45PM: Gentle Yoga	14 5PM-7:30PM: Book Signing: John Sparks 6:30PM-6:30PM: Test Run Tuesday: Kids' Coding 6PM-6:30PM: Imagine, Learn, Grow Story Time 6PM-7:30PM: ASL	15 *Digital Downloads 10AM-12PM 11AM-11:30AM: Imagine, Learn, Grow Story Time	16 4PM-5PM: Tied With Love 6PM-7PM: BookTalk <i>What the Dead Know</i> By: Laura Lippman	17	18 11AM-1PM: Family Fun Day: Garden Party
20 1PM-1:45PM: Gentle Yoga	21 11AM-12PM: Homeschool Extra Curricular 4PM-5PM: Teen Writers Meeting 5PM-7PM: EELC Parent Expo** 6PM-7:30PM: ASL	22 11AM-11:30AM: Imagine, Learn, Grow Story Time	23 10AM-1PM: AppalReD 12PM-1PM: JCPL Book Club <i>The Wicked Girls</i> By: Alex Marwood 4PM-5PM: Teen Meeting	24 Guessing Game Winner Announced!	
27 1PM-1:45PM: Gentle Yoga	28 5:30 PM- 6:30 PM: Test Run Tuesday: Canvas Painting 6PM-7:30PM: ASL	29	30 *Digital Downloads 3PM-5PM 5PM - 7PM Teen Movie Night: <i>The Good Dinosaur</i>		

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Anytime Materials Pick-up Locker
Winter is a great time to become familiar with our locker. It is open 24/7 and can help you navigate those tricky weather days when it's hard to make it to town. Reserve books online or by phone and pick them up by scanning your JCPL card or entering your card's barcode number.

Scan the QR code to access the self-guided walking tour of Historic Downtown Paintsville. To register for a guided walking tour, stop by the library, call (606) 789-4355, or email: helpdesk@jcplky.org

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7	5	6	8	1	9	3	2	4
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LODGED
Continued From Page 3A

rant served.
Linda Gail Slone, 52, of Coldwater Road, Inez, second-degree unlawful transaction with a minor and first-degree wanton endangerment.

Friday, April 3
Savanna Marie Ferguson Kitchen, 38, of Conley Drive, Van Lear, public in-

toxication.
Amber Lynn Mitchell, 39, of Highbottom Court, Louisa, theft by unlawful taking or disposition less than \$1 million.
Joanie Renee Adkins Griffith, 35, of Meadow Branch Road, Blaine, bench warrants served.
Sally K. Cole, 53, of North Long Branch Road, Salyersville, first-offense DUI (aggravating circumstances) and a traffic charge.

Joey Lee Thomas, 39, of Ky. 2562, Blaine, public intoxication, third-degree fleeing or evading police, third-degree assault-police or probation officer and second-degree wanton endangerment.

Saturday, April 4
Marsha Lynn Fletcher, 48, of White Oak, Pilgrim, first-degree bail jumping.
Jennifer Rose Howard, 47, of Collett Road,

Salyersville, first-degree, second-offense possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia-buy, possess and failure to appear in court.
Danny Ray Adams, 47, of College Street, Salyersville, public intoxication and second-degree disorderly.
Sunday, April 5
Lloyd Edward Perkins, 40, of Meadows

Branch, contempt of court.
Monday, April 6
Derek L. Dotson, 44, of Cedgap Road, Louisa, first-offense DUI, first-offense prescription controlled substance not in proper container and traffic charges.
Jamie Neal Gibson, 49, of West Maple Street, Salyersville, failure to appear in court.
Lawrence Paul David Hinkle, 24, of Lincoln Ave-

nue, Paintsville, contempt of court.
Charles G. Roberts, 47, of Recycle Drive, Richmond, parole violation.
Editor's note: The above list reflects people who are lodged in the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center. The charges against them are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

CLUB
Continued From Page 1A

"In emergency management, we have a way of communicating, then we have a back-up plan, then we have another back-up plan, so it's redundancy, and you're part of that program," he said. "I got the opportunity to see that in action when we had our first winter storm under my watch. It ended up being not as bad as they anticipated ... But you don't know how that's going to shift. You don't know if you're going to get four inches of ice or you're going to get four inches of snow."

Paintsville/Johnson County EM moved its office from the former 911 center at City Hall to the former location of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office on Second Street.

"Anytime anybody wants to stop by, we're there available," Burchett said. "We've got a lot of room, teleconferencing for the first time ever."

Burchett said he was impressed by Amateur Radio Community Services President John Hager setting up a radio system and "you all were able to communicate when we were there."

"It was a long period of time, but that helped me relay some information to the other emergency managers," he said. "We have our own little group chat with the 12 counties in this area, but...sometimes they don't know everything that's going on, like

you all giving reports." Burchett noted that Hager was part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) team that helped during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Burchett said amateur radio operators play a major role during disasters. Club member Frank Wells said the organization has "a net" every night.

"A net, being a specific time, many people in this room call in to me," Wells said. "Generally, I'm the net control officer. So, at 10 o'clock at night, we run a net that covers from Wise, Virginia, to Boaz,

West Kentucky, 13 miles from the Mississippi River," Wells said. "We have at least two stations, one in Monticello and the other one is on the north side of Lake Cumberland in Russell County. Plus, we got to South Point, Ohio. Our main repeaters are Louisa, Arkansas Mountain at Martin, Inez, in Pike County at Dorton and Salyersville...This year, as of last night, in the month of April, we had 51 contacts, but we've had 4,421 call ins."

The friendly net instantly becomes an emergency net if something goes on, Wells said.

"We don't just say we're going to have an emergency net once a month," he said. "We're on every night."

Burchett said a lot of people don't understand ham or amateur radio.

"A lot of people just think it's a bunch of people get together in the middle of the night and talk to people around the world," he said. "They don't realize how important it is."

He said Hager provided information and kept a log on road conditions during the winter storm.

Club members awarded certificates by Burchett included Hager,

Wells, Bob Dixon, Larry Lafferty, Mitch Pack, Bill Hamm, James Moore, Fred Jones, David Heitzleman, Anthony Sizemore and Paul Combs.

Hager said Amateur Radio Community Services was formed in 2006 for the purpose of "promoting ham radio, providing fellowship, to help other people gain licensure in the field of ham radio and to really do something with it for our community."

The club was formed in February 2006, with 17 members showing up for the first meeting, Hager said. The group now consists of about 40 members

from Johnson, Floyd, Lawrence and Martin counties, he said.

The name of the club shows what the organization is all about, he said.

"We like to use our talents, our equipment, our abilities to help provide communications needs for the community, whether it's helping out with a bike-thon, walkathon or even the boat race on the Big Sandy, and also to provide communications to emergency services when the need arises," he said.

More information about the organization can be found on its website at, <http://ky4arc.com>.

CASSADY
Continued From Page 5A

Carefully cultivated images, even when true, have a difficult time standing up in the light of the level of attention that a national campaign brings.

So, will Beshear be

able to overcome these types of dings on his "nice guy" image if he seeks the highest office in the land? Or, will some campaign contributions that were a drop in the bucket of a much larger pool of money be more costly than anyone imagined?

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ARH highlighted nationally as model for Food Is Medicine innovation

SPECIAL TO APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

Appalachian Regional Healthcare is gaining national attention for showing food can play a powerful role in improving health, according to a statement from ARH.

ARH, the statement said, was highlighted as a national best-practice model for Food Is Medicine during the recent launch of the Florida Food Is Health Institutional Procurement Initiative in Miami. The event was part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' nationwide Take Back Your Health campaign focused on strengthening hospital food systems and expanding patient access to nutritious, locally sourced foods that can help prevent and manage chronic disease.

The national event brought together hospital leaders, agricultural partners, and federal officials focused on expanding

how nutrition is integrated into patient care across healthcare systems across the country, the statement said.

During the event, ARH President and CEO Hollie Harris was invited to help lead a national roundtable convened by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., alongside Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz, according to the statement. Harris, the statement said, was asked to help guide the discussion because of ARH's leadership in implementing Food Is Medicine strategies across rural hospital settings and communities.

"We are honored to share what we've learned through ARH's Food Is Medicine work and the partnerships that have made it possible across our service area," Harris said. "For too many years, health systems have focused on treating the most serious health conditions rather than finding ways to keep people well in the first place. Sci-

ence and years of research have told us that food is medicine, and as healthcare providers, we have an important responsibility to help it continue to grow as part of how we care for patients and the communities they call home."

Rather than treating nutrition as an add-on, the statement said, ARH embeds it into patient care across its multi-hospital system. ARH screens patients for food insecurity, offers produce prescriptions, provides medically tailored meals, and serves healthier hospital food. This approach addresses the root causes of chronic disease while supporting both recovery and long-term wellness, according to the statement.

"When health systems take food seriously, it changes lives," said Harris, who also serves as co-chair of Kentucky's statewide Food Is Medicine Initiative alongside Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell. "At ARH, Food Is Medicine isn't theoretical — it has become a

major part of how we care for our patients, support our workforce, and strengthen the communities we serve."

Kennedy, the statement said, emphasized the importance of improving nutrition within healthcare settings nationwide, noting that quality food is foundational to quality care. Federal leaders also pointed to ARH as an example of how hospitals can lead this shift by aligning nutrition, clinical care, and community partnerships.

CMS issued a national Quality and Safety Special Alert during the event encouraging hospitals to align nutrition services with the forthcoming 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and strengthen food service practices that support patient recovery and long-term health outcomes. The guidance reinforces existing Medicare Conditions of Participation requiring hospitals to meet individual patient nutrition needs, maintain dietitian oversight, keep therapeutic diet

manuals current, and integrate nutrition into quality and performance improvement programs.

During a national press conference following the roundtable, the statement said, CMS leadership highlighted ARH's workforce and patient nutrition strategies, noting that the system served nearly 1.9 million meals across its facilities last fiscal year — demonstrating the powerful role hospitals can play in improving health through food.

The event also spotlighted farm-to-hospital partnerships as a key strategy for improving food quality while supporting local agriculture. This approach is already underway in Kentucky through ARH's partnerships with organizations, including the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association to bring more locally sourced food into hospital kitchens, the statement said.

Johnson County launches anti-littering video contest for students

BY MYCCA DECKER NEWS EDITOR

Johnson County students in grades 6-12 are being invited to take part in this year's anti-littering campaign through a video contest organized by the Johnson County Solid Waste Commission.

Johnson County Judge-Executive Mark McKenzie said the 2026 campaign centers on a student video contest open to public school, private school and homeschool students who live in

Johnson County.

According to McKenzie, the contest includes two divisions: grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Students may enter on their own or as a group. The theme is "Small Acts, Big Impact," and videos must be between 30 and 60 seconds long.

McKenzie said the county chose to focus on video this year because it gives students a way to help spread the message.

"They want to do it this way because people really are drawn to videos now," McKenzie said.

"And kids are really good at it."

He said the goal of the contest is to encourage better habits when it comes to trash disposal and to build awareness about littering in the community.

"What we're trying to accomplish is education and changing mindset and changing culture about how we handle solid waste in our community," McKenzie said.

McKenzie said improper disposal of trash and unwanted items can create problems for the public and for the county as

a whole.

"If we do not properly dispose of our unwanted items and our trash and those types of things, one, it becomes a public safety hazard," he said. "But second of all, it simply is just not good practice for a community to not be responsible for proper disposal of solid waste."

He said the contest also gives students a chance to take part in a community effort.

"A lot of times maybe they get overlooked, but this is their community," McKenzie said.

"It's already theirs."

Cash prizes ranging from \$50 to \$150 will be awarded based on placement. McKenzie said winners will be chosen with help from judges who are not members of the Solid Waste Commission.

The deadline to submit videos is April 17.

McKenzie said students can get contest information from their teachers or through the county's Community and Economic Development page on social media.

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Daniel Cameron spoke with supporters during a campaign stop in Paintsville on April 1 as he discussed the May 19 Republican primary for U.S. Senate and took questions from the crowd.

Paintsville Herald photo by Mycca Decker

Cameron visits Paintsville, speaks on primary race and policy priorities

By MYCCA DECKER
NEWS EDITOR

Republican U.S. Senate candidate Daniel Cameron visited Paintsville on April 1, where he spoke with supporters about the May 19 primary and took questions on policy issues ranging from health care and immigration to housing and artificial intelligence.

Cameron said his campaign is continuing to make stops across Kentucky as the primary approaches.

"We're running hard. We're not taking anything for granted," Cameron said. "The polling has been pretty good for us. But at the end of the day, the poll is only as good as the people who go to the polls."

He asked supporters to encourage others to vote in the primary.

"I want to encourage you all today to tell your neighbors, tell your friends, tell your family members how critical it is to come out for the race on May 19," he said.

He said his campaign

has centered on issues he believes matter to Kentucky voters, including taxes, energy prices, prescription drug costs, law enforcement and small businesses.

"I want to ensure that, in Washington, we're putting your money in your pocket," Cameron said.

On energy policy, Cameron said, "We've got to maintain energy independence."

He also pointed to prescription drug costs as a concern he has heard from voters across the state.

"We don't need to live

in a country where you're making a decision about whether to put food on your table or pay for your prescription drugs," he said. "That has to end."

During the event, Cameron referred to his time as Kentucky attorney general while discussing support for law enforcement.

"When I was attorney general, standing up for what was right by our law enforcement community, I stood my ground then," Cameron said.

Audience questions touched on campaign at-

tacks, foreign policy, border security, Medicaid work requirements, AI growth and housing costs.

Asked how he would handle political conflict in Washington, Cameron said he would remain firm in his positions while treating others respectfully.

He said his decisions would continue to be guided by his, "commitment to our Constitution, the common sense values of Kentuckians and my relationship with Christ."

On housing, Cameron said lawmakers should pay attention to institu-

tional investors buying single-family homes.

"We've got to be very careful about them coming into a community, buying up the housing and then jacking up the price," he said.

Cameron ended his remarks by asking for support as the race moves closer to primary day.

"We're going to keep working, we are feeling good about where we are in this race," Cameron said. "Your help is warranted and needed so that we can get across our finish line in first place."

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NATIONAL PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

Nearly 1 million people in the United States are living with Parkinson's disease (PD), and that number is expected to grow to 1.2 million by 2030. PD is a chronic, progressive neurological disorder and the second most common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer's.

During National Parkinson's Awareness Month, community members are encouraged to learn the early signs and symptoms, as many individuals may notice subtle changes without realizing they could be linked to Parkinson's. Increased education and awareness are critical for earlier diagnosis and treatment.

The condition most commonly develops around age 60, although some individuals may experience classic motor symptoms earlier, such as tremors, muscle stiffness, slowed movement and balance difficulties. These symptoms typically develop gradually and worsen over time, making them easy to overlook in the early stages.

In many cases, individuals experience non-motor symptoms years before movement-related symptoms become noticeable. These early warning signs can include a reduced sense of smell, depression, anxiety, constipation, sleep disturbances or vivid dreams. Some individuals may also experience cognitive changes or hallucinations.

Anyone noticing persistent symptoms or unusual health concerns is encouraged to consult their primary care provider. A physician can evaluate these concerns, rule out other conditions and provide a referral to a neurologist if needed. Early evaluation allows individuals to begin treatment sooner, which can help slow disease progression and improve quality of life.

Both men and women can develop Parkinson's disease, though men are about twice as likely to be diagnosed. Several factors have been linked to a higher risk of Parkinson's disease, including

increasing age and a history of traumatic brain injury. Researchers continue to study environmental and lifestyle factors that may also play a role.

While there is currently no cure for PD, many treatment options are available to help manage symptoms. Medications that increase or mimic dopamine in the brain are often used to help control tremors and movement difficulties. Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy can also support independence and improve daily functioning. In some cases, surgical procedures may be recommended for individuals with more advanced symptoms.

Although Parkinson's, itself is not typically considered fatal, related complications can impact overall health and quality of life. With early diagnosis, consistent medical care and an individualized treatment plan, many can live active and fulfilling lives.

MANAGING PARKINSON'S WITH A TEAM-BASED APPROACH



NAVEED AHMED, MD, FAAN
Neurologist



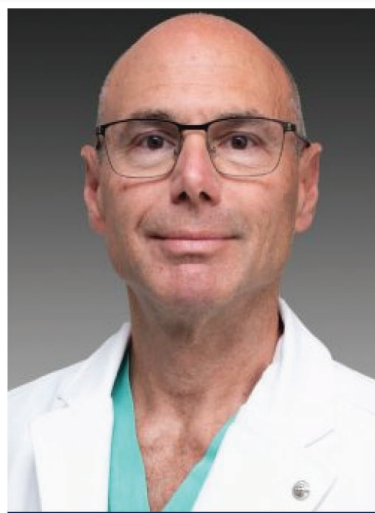
RYAN OWENS, MD
Neurologist



MOLLY BATES, MD
Neurologist



GEORGE GHOBRIAL, MD
Neurosurgeon



NORMAN MAYER, MD, FAANS
Neurosurgeon

Managing Parkinson's disease often requires care from multiple healthcare professionals working together to support patients through every stage of the condition. At PMC, patients benefit from a team-based approach that focuses on treating symptoms, maintaining independence and improving quality of life.

Neurologists oversee the medical management of PD, closely monitoring how symptoms change over time and adjusting medications as needed to control tremors, stiffness and slowed movement while minimizing side effects. Regular follow-up visits allow providers to evaluate treatment effectiveness and make timely adjustments.

Comprehensive care at PMC extends beyond medication alone, as PD affects movement, coordination and other bodily systems. Physicians collaborate with rehabilitation specialists and support staff to deliver individualized care tailored to each patient's needs.

Physical therapy plays a key role in helping patients maintain mobility, strength and balance. Through targeted exercises, therapists help

improve flexibility and coordination while reducing the risk of falls. They also encourage exercise programs designed specifically for individuals living with Parkinson's to support endurance and overall health.

Occupational therapy focuses on helping patients maintain independence in daily activities such as dressing, cooking and personal care. By improving motor skills, strength and coordination through personalized exercises, therapists help patients adapt to challenges. They may also recommend cognitive cues or adaptive tools to make everyday tasks safer and more manageable.

Speech therapy is beneficial for patients experiencing changes in their voice or difficulty swallowing. Speech-language pathologists can provide exercises and techniques that strengthen communication skills and help prevent complications related to swallowing difficulties.

Education and support are also essential components of Parkinson's care. Patients and their families benefit from understanding the condition, anticipating how symptoms may change over time and developing strategies to adapt.

Through this coordinated approach, the interdisciplinary team at PMC provides ongoing monitoring, treatment management and access to resources that help patients manage their condition and maintain the highest quality of life possible.

To learn more about the Eastern Kentucky Neuroscience Center, call 606-430-2208 or visit www.pmcky.org/stroke-center.



EXPERT NEUROSCIENCE CARE CLOSE TO HOME

The Eastern Kentucky Neuroscience Center at PMC is among the top treatment centers in Kentucky for neurological disorders such as stroke, chronic migraine and Parkinson's disease. Neurological disorders affect the brain, spinal cord and nerves throughout the body, often impacting movement, speech, memory and coordination. Since these conditions can significantly affect a patient's quality of life, timely diagnosis and specialized care are essential.

At the Eastern Kentucky Neuroscience Center, patients have access to a multi-disciplinary team of specialists who work together to diagnose and treat complex neurological conditions. This team includes neurologists, neurosurgeons, providers, nurses, rehabilitation specialists and imaging experts who collaborate to deliver personalized care.

Advanced diagnostic tools such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, computed tomography (CT) scans and electroencephalograms (EEGs) help physicians

identify neurological conditions. Imaging technology, neurological testing and comprehensive evaluations allow providers to develop treatment plans tailored to each patient's unique needs and conditions. These plans may include medication management, minimally invasive procedures, rehabilitation therapy.

For patients with PD, specialized care focuses on managing symptoms and maintaining independence. Providers work closely with patients to adjust medications, monitor disease progression and recommend therapies that improve mobility, balance and daily function.

Stroke care is another critical component of the neuroscience center. During emergency stroke events, PMC's neurological team works closely with emergency department staff to deliver rapid, coordinated care. Timely diagnosis and treatment are essential in preventing long-term disability and improving patient outcomes. With the use of advanced technology, providers can effectively identify certain types of strokes, enabling more

accurate diagnoses and timely treatment for patients across the region.

Access to specialized neurological care close to home can be challenging. By offering advanced neuroscience services locally, the PMC team helps patients across Appalachia receive high-quality care without traveling far.

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The Paintsville Herald Sports

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Girls' All Mountain Basketball Teams



Pikeville coach Denise Campbell

Paintsville's Kylie Kinner

Pikeville's Kylie Alvin

**By Randy White
 Regional Sports Editor**

The Girls' All Mountain Basketball team is comprised of athletes from the 15th Region, Hazard, Perry Central, Buckhorn, Knott Central, Letcher Central and Jenkins from the 14th Region and Mingo County, W.Va.

Appalachian Newspapers' sports writers, Randy White, Steve LeMaster, Paul Adkins and Adam Mahan voted on the All Mountain Team.

All Mountain Player of the Year nominees:

- Kylie Alvin — Pikeville
- Caleigh McCoy — Phelps
- Maddi Frohnapfel — Hazard
- Kylie Kinner — Paintsville
- Karlea Stanley — Johnson Central

All Mountain Co-Players of the Year:

Kylie Alvin — Pikeville — Alvin was a one person press breaker with her great passing and dribbling abilities. The senior led the Lady Panthers to the 15th Region Tournament championship. She had an outstanding season. She had several triple doubles and was just a true competitor for Pikeville.

Kylie Kinner — Paintsville — Kinner was a scoring machine for the Lady Tigers as she averaged 26.6 points per game during her junior campaign.

All Mountain Coach of the Year nominees:

- Dawn Kinner — Paintsville
- Todd Howard — Hazard
- Jim Hicks — Johnson Central
- Denise Campbell — Pikeville
- Bobby Spears — Pike Central
- Kory Thacker — Betsy Layne

All Mountain Coach of the Year:

Denise Campbell — Pikeville — Campbell led the Lady Panthers to the 15th Region All "A" Classic title, the 59th District title and the 15th Region title this season. This was the first time in her career that she won the region title and only the second time winning the 15th Region All "A" title.

All Mountain First Team

- Caleigh McCoy — Phelps
- Karlea Stanley — Johnson Central
- Maddi Frohnapfel — Hazard
- Allie Slone — Johnson Central
- Maddy Engle — Floyd Central
- Brooklyn Marcum — Lawrence County
- Catharine Walters — Pikeville
- Bailee Hall — Tug Valley
- Jada Patton — Lawrence County
- Lexi Mapes — Belfry
- Maci Maynard — Martin County
- Kourtlee Keene — East Ridge
- Olivia Stanley — East Ridge

All Mountain Second Team

- Haven Deskins — Tug Valley
- Larah Stanley — Pike Central
- Jade Fitzpatrick — Prestonsburg
- Allison Howard — Prestonsburg
- Greenlee Deaton — Buckhorn
- Emma McKenzie — Johnson Central
- Reagan Laferty — Floyd Central
- Dani McAlarnis — Knott Central
- Lindsey Baldwin — Shelby Valley
- Nicole Lin — Pikeville
- Katie Hall — Tug Valley
- Brooklyn Cornett — Perry Central

All Mountain Third Team

- Abby Barnett — Magoffin County
- Cydney Snodgrass — Pike Central
- Chloe May — Martin County
- Kinleigh Martin — Betsy Layne
- Emma Dixon — Belfry
- Kaylyn Slone — Phelps
- Kamryn Duncan — Johnson Central
- Alli Bailey — Letcher Central
- Sadie Johnson — Letcher Central
- Jaden Pente — Betsy Layne
- Jadyn Looney — Pike Central
- Kylie DeBoard — Tug Valley
- Haylee-Drew Blank — Buckhorn
- Ava Cornett — Perry Central

All Mountain Honorable Mention

- Tug Valley**
- Katelynn Richardson
- Gracie Hynd

Mingo Central

- Madison Estep
- Kerissa Bradford

Pikeville

- Sophie Woods
- Daegan Oliver
- Ava Rogers

Belfry

- Kaylor Thornsbury
- Kami Dillon

Phelps

- Kadie Yates
- Makylee Sipple

Shelby Valley

- Kaylie Bowersock
- Elin Bartley
- Alyssa Smith

Pike Central

- Gracie Ratliff
- Zoe Billiter
- Kamryn Akers

Hazard

- Braylynn Eddington
- Carlee Davidson
- Emily Higgins

Perry Central

- Emily Noble
- Havyn Hoskins
- Ariana Johnson

Buckhorn

- Lyla Wooten
- Ashlynn Adams

Martin County

- Makenna Marcum
- Annaleigh Davis
- Sophie Harless

Jenkins

- Ella Sutherland
- Raelyn Newsom
- Emily Whitaker
- Keanu Shepherd
- Alexis Hammonds

Letcher Central

- Molly Caudill
- Kaylee Baker
- Marah Dixon
- Scarlett Stamper

Knott Central

- Samara Bailey
- Rylee Craft
- Addison Conley

Betsy Layne

- Shyla Kidd
- Jayden Jarrell
- Amari Anderson
- Kennedi Allen

Floyd Central

- Jaylin Blanton
- Chloe Crase
- Aubree Moore
- Brooklyn Sammons
- Mahayla Garcia

Prestonsburg

- Lakien Stephens
- Shay Music
- Candace Allen
- Addison Wright
- Sierra Slone
- Amelia Newsome

Johnson Central

- Martina Conley
- Emma Ferguson

Paintsville

- McKinley Ramey
- Brooklyn Skaggs
- Addison Helton
- Annabelle Blankenship
- Kate Lauffer

Magoffin County

- Macy Williams
- Bella Trusty
- Kelsey Slone
- Jaylee Reed
- Karli Sites

Lawrence County

- Maddison Artrip
- Emalynn Kitts
- Caroline See
- Gracie Woods

Lady Tigers outlast Betsy Layne in 15th Region All 'A' Classic

BY STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

STANVILLE — Paintsville outlasted host Betsy Layne 16-12 in eight innings during the opening round of the 15th Region All "A" Classic on Monday, April 6.

The Lady Tigers overcame a slow start to defeat Betsy Layne for the second time in less than two weeks. With the win, Paintsville advanced in the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

Paintsville and Betsy Layne swapped leads during the tournament game. How-

ever, Paintsville managed to hold on for the win in the extra inning.

Kira Ratliff pitched for Paintsville and earned the win in the circle. Ratliff recorded 18 strikeouts.

The Lady Tigers excelled offensively. Each Paintsville bat-

ter made an impact at the plate.

Paintsville scored 15 runs on 23 hits, benefitting from a balanced offensive attack which featured Ratliff (four hits, two RBIs), Brooke Howard (three hits, five RBIs), Kassydy May (three hits, three RBIs), Maggie

Music (three hits, two RBIs), Piper O'Bryan (three hits, two RBIs), Kendall Short (three hits), Bentley Smith (two hits, one RBI), Kelsey Woods (one hit), Taylor Spriggs (one hit) and Mallory May (one RBI). Helping her pitching cause at the plate, Ratliff

homed. Providing another extra-base hit for Paintsville, Short doubled.

Paintsville is scheduled to meet host Prestonsburg in the quarterfinals of the 15th Region All "A" Classic at StoneCrest at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8.



Paintsville baserunner Piper O'Bryan slides in safely at third base during a game versus Betsy Layne in the opening round of the 15th Region All "A" Classic on Monday, April 6.



Kira Ratliff pitches for Paintsville during a game versus Betsy Layne in the opening round of the 15th Region All "A" Classic on Monday, April 6.



Paintsville baserunner Kelsey Woods heads to third base during a game versus Betsy Layne in the 15th Region All "A" Classic on Monday, April 6.



Paintsville third baseman Maggie Music awaits a possible throw during a game versus Betsy Layne in the 15th Region All "A" Classic on Monday, April 6.



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Paintsville batter Bentley Smith connects on a pitch during a game versus Betsy Layne in the opening round of the 15th Region All "A" Classic on Monday, April 6.

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New process for distributing cards among 13 changes in high school soccer rules

STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — Several rules updates were approved in high school soccer for next school year, including new guidance on carding, penalty kick encroachment, a longer time limit for goalkeepers to release the ball, and additional clarifications on equipment and electronic devices.

These changes were among 13 rules proposals recommended by the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee at its February 9-11 meeting in Indianapolis and subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

"This year's updates represent another exciting step in our ongoing effort to modernize the NFHS Soccer Rules Book," said Julie Cochran, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Soccer Rules Committee. "With major rewrites to Rules 13 and 14, we've made significant progress in creating a resource that is clearer, more intuitive, and easier for coaches, players and officials to use. These aren't just rule changes; they're part of a broader commitment to building a rules book that truly serves the high school game. We look forward to continuing this work in the years ahead."

Changes to Rule 5-3-1 fj concern a new process for distributing yellow cards and red cards. Amended language states that officials shall hold a yellow or red card and indicate the substitute, coach or bench personnel being cautioned. If there's an ejection, and the reason was receiving a second caution in the same game, the referee shall show a yellow card indicating the subsequent caution followed immediately by showing a red card. The referee must then direct any player shown a yellow or red card to leave the field of play.

Additionally, the official must "notify both coaches, the scorer, and other official(s) of the nature of the misconduct after showing a yellow or red card to a player, coach or bench personnel."

Language was added to Rule 8-1-2 clarifying that all players, except the player taking the kickoff, must be on their half of the field or the kickoff shall be retaken. In addition, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opponent if the offensive player who took the kickoff touches the ball after the kick before it is played or touched by another player on either team.

Language in Rule 12-1-2c regarding conditional free kick fouls, was revised to state that "A player shall not charge into, or challenge, an opposing goalkeeper who is controlling the ball with their hands as in 12-3-2a. Outside the penalty area, the goalkeeper has no more privileges than any other player."

The change aligns the rule with consistent officiating practice, removes redundancies and improves clarity without materially altering when a charge is or is not permitted.

Goalkeeper restrictions were also updated,

which affects several rules. Starting next school year, goalkeepers will have eight seconds instead of six before releasing the ball. Under the new rules, a corner kick will be awarded if the goalkeeper holds the ball past eight seconds instead of an indirect free kick.

Under Rule 12-2-3, "biting" was incorporated into direct free kick fouls. The rule now states a player shall not spit at or bite anyone listed on a roster or a game official, or a direct free kick foul will be awarded.

In addition, Rules 12-3-6 and 12-3-7 were added to include verbal offenses. By including "other verbal offenses" as an indirect free kick foul, it gives officials more flexibility when disciplining verbal offenses: they are now considered fouls at a minimum and may rise to the level of misconduct depending on the circumstances.

Under changes to Rule 12-3-5 regarding indirect free kicks, clarifying language was added to considerations for dangerous play that include actions preventing a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.

Changes were also made to Rule 12-6-1 regarding ejections. The revisions clarify and simplify language surrounding Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity (DOGSO) ejections by removing redundant wording, eliminating references to "attempted" DOGSO — since intent is not part of the decision — and aligning with previous wording within Rule 12. The updated structure provides clear situations for which denying a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity is penalized with an ejection.

Revisions to Rule 13-1 through 13-3 clarify procedures for restarts on free kicks by breaking the rule into distinct categories, outlining when and where free kicks are awarded, and detailing how they are to be taken. It also specifies the correct restart locations and provides guidance for officials on managing these situations. The update incorporates restart procedures for scenarios involving outside agents, offenses occurring off the field, thrown objects, individuals entering the field illegally, players leaving the field without permission, and offenses that occur outside the field of play.

Rule 14 regarding penalty kicks will have changes to ensure that encroachment is penalized only if the offense has a clear impact on the penalty kick.

Goalkeepers will now receive a warning for a first offense rather than an immediate caution, acknowledging that such infractions often stem from mis-anticipation.

Regarding the kicker on a penalty kick, the revisions continue to allow deceptive movements and stutter-stepping during the run-up; however, the change strictly prohibits feinting once the approach to the ball is completed.

Finally, in rare instances where both the

kicker and goalkeeper offend simultaneously during a penalty kick, the kicker is penalized, as the kicker's illegal feinting is typically the catalyst for the goalkeeper's infraction. The penalty chart is also updated and reformatted for clarity.

"These revisions to the penalty kick rule better reflect the spirit of the game," said Gibby Reynolds, NFHS Soccer Rules Committee chair. "As arbiters of the game, officials now can apply judgment and only penalize offen-

es, like encroachment, when there is an impact."

Clarifications for uniform and equipment rules were also a part of the changes.

In Rule 4-1-4c, the word "dark" was added to clarify that the home team must wear socks that contrast with the away team's solid white socks. In Rule 4-2-7, subsections 'd' and 'e' were added to clarify that mouth protectors, if worn by players, should not serve any function other than to protect the teeth or mouth.

Additions were also made to Rule 4-2-11 a-c, stating that no athlete participating in a match is permitted to wear any type of audio or video device to record, transmit or livestream, aligning with other NFHS rules books. State associations may further restrict electronic devices.

A complete listing of the soccer rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on "Activities & Sports" at the top of the home page and select

"Soccer." The print version of the 2026-27 Soccer Rules Book will be available for purchase in late May at www.NFHS.com, and the digital version will be available via NFHS Digital at www.NFHS.org.

According to the most recent NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, soccer is the fourth-most popular sport for boys with 484,908 participants in 12,969 schools nationwide. For girls, it ranks third with 393,048 participants at 12,516 schools.



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April 8-14, 2026 • Page 4B • The Paintsville Herald

To Our Readers	To Our Readers	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS
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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD
Please read your ad the first day it appears in the newspaper. Report any errors immediately and we will gladly correct any errors published. Credit will be issued for one (1) day only. After the first day the ad can be corrected for the remaining number of runs, but credit will not be issued for days ad ran incorrectly.

securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE BY WARNING ORDER ATTORNEY
Notice is hereby given that Attorney Toyray Adams has been appointed Warning Order Attorney in a certain civil action filed in the Circuit Court of Johnson County, Kentucky, Anthony

Wayne Click vs. The Unknown Heirs, Devises, Legatees and Beneficiaries of Elax Carte McCarty and Their Heirs to notify Sandra Baldwin, Elizabeth Fairchild, Dedra Hill, Jesse McCarty, Janet McCarty, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Elizabeth Fairchild, Unknown Heirs of Phillip Fairchild and Spouses, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Jessica Spiller, Unknown Heirs of Judith Fairchild and Spouses, Jessica Spiller, Unknown Heirs of Dora McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Heirs of Jeffery McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Heirs of Jimmy McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Alex Jordan Bass, Unknown Spouse, if any, of David Ethan Bass, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Michael Dustin Bass, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Amanda Allen, Unknown Spouse, if any, of

Chess Price, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Chester Griffith, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Barry McCarty, Unknown Heirs of Cami McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Heirs of Frankie Griffith and Spouses, Unknown Heirs of Joan McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Heirs of Manford McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Wayne Craft, Unknown Heirs of Joyce Ann Craft and Spouses, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Sandra Baldwin, Unknown Heirs of Lousie McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Jesse McCarty, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Samuel Griffith, Unknown Heirs of Charles McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Heirs of Elax McCarty and Spouses, Unknown

Heirs of Anna McCarty and Spouses, Unknown Heirs of Charles G. McCarty, Unknown Spouse, if any, of Charles G. McCarty and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Dedra Hill that he/she has been named as a Defendant Party in this referenced legal action. Please note that you only have a certain period of time to respond to the Complaint filed in this legal action in order to avoid potential adverse action being taken against you or your interests by the Plaintiff. If you choose to ignore this lawsuit or act untimely, judgment may be entered against you by this Court. This could result in negative consequences against you or your interest. Therefore, I would strongly urge you to seek the advice of an attorney and respond to this lawsuit immediately if you have any interest or think that you may

have any interest that would be represented in this legal action. Please note that I do not represent you in this lawsuit but have only been appointed to warn you of this lawsuit. If you wish to have legal representation, you must retain the services of an attorney. Although I am an attorney I have not been retained by anyone to represent you in this lawsuit. If you have any questions concerning this legal action, you may feel free to contact Toyray Adams, Warning Order Attorney, at P.O. Box 308, Paintsville, KY 41240 or by telephone at 606-789-7001. You may obtain copies of the Complaint in this legal action at my office or at the Johnson Circuit Court Clerks Office located in the Johnson County Judicial Center, Paintsville, Kentucky.

INVITATION TO BID

The Johnson County Board of Education will be accepting "Quotes" on Concrete for the 2026-2027 School year.

Quotes will be accepted until April 16, 2026 1:00 P.M. at the Johnson County Board of Education Administration building. Specifications may be obtained by contacting Johnson County Schools, 253 North Mayo Trail, Paintsville, Kentucky 41240, telephone (606) 789-2530.

The Johnson County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all Quotes.

Thom Cochran, Superintendent Johnson County Schools

LEGAL NOTICE PROBATE CASE NO. 25-P-189 FINAL SETTLEMENT

You are hereby notified that Regina McClure, fiduciary, for the estate of Gary Lee McClure, deceased, this 6th day of April, 2026, has tendered final settlement to the Johnson District Court, Probate Division for exceptions. Approval of settlement has been schedule in the Johnson District Court, Probate Division of the 7th day of May, 2026.

LEGAL NOTICE PROBATE CASE NO. 24-P-00055 FINAL SETTLEMENT

You are hereby notified that Gwen Daniel, fiduciary, for the estate of Viola Rose Stapleton Castle, deceased, this 31st day of March, 2026, has tendered final settlement to the Johnson District Court, Probate Division for exceptions. Approval of settlement has been schedule in the Johnson District Court, Probate Division of the 7th day of May, 2026.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY SOUTHERN DIVISION AT LONDON

HBKY, LLC,
Plaintiff,
Civ. No. 6:21-cv-00101-GFVT-HAI
v.
KINGDOM ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC, ET AL.,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE & APPOINTMENT OF APPRAISERS

Comes the undersigned, Court appointed Special Master, and gives notice that pursuant to the Order of Sale [Doc# 1137] entered in the above-captioned case on February 25, 2026 he will on **MAY 1, 2026 at 11:00 A.M.** at the door of the Bell County Courthouse facing the United States Post Office on Walnut St., in Pineville, Kentucky, offer for sale at public auction and outcry to the highest and best bidder the hereinafter described real property in Bell and Knox Counties, Kentucky, more particularly described in the Order of Sale (the "Realty"):

FORMER LEFT FORK MINING PROPERTY, KENTUCKY HIGHWAY 66, LEFT FORK OF STRAIGHT CREEK, BELL COUNTY PVA MAP # 099-00-00-001.00

AND:

FORMER LEFT FORK MINING PROPERTY, ROARING FORK OF STINKING CREEK, KNOX COUNTY PVA MAP #192-00-00-001.00

The Realty is being sold to pay the principal judgment of \$45,260,810.90, plus interest, costs, and fees and in accordance with the Order of Sale and terms therein, and subject to [Doc #335], including those terms related to credit bidding. **GENERAL SALE TERMS:** (1) A minimum bid which is greater than or equal to 67% of the appraised value of the Realty will be required in order to bid (the "Minimum"), with the Minimum to be paid to the undersigned by certified check or cashier's check by a bidder before any bid will be accepted (i.e., a bidder must pay the Minimum in order to bid at the sale), which shall be held by the undersigned until the sale has concluded and refunded to any unsuccessful bidder within 10 days of the sale; (2) the balance of any bid in excess of the Minimum shall be paid to the undersigned within 20 days after the sale, by a certified or cashier's check payable to the "United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky"; and (3) if the successful bidder fails to timely pay the balance due, the certified or cashier's check for the Minimum shall be forfeited and shall be applied to cover the expenses of the sale, including any commissions due, with any amount remaining remitted to the Plaintiff and applied to reduce the Plaintiff's aforesaid judgment, and the Realty shall then be offered again for sale.

The Realty will be appraised by Kevin Bisceglia and Jonathan Evans, two disinterested, intelligent housekeepers actively engaged in or having at least one year of experience in the field of real estate. Their appraisals will be filed in the record once received by the undersigned and may be obtained from the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/C. BISHOP JOHNSON
C. BISHOP JOHNSON
C. BISHOP JOHNSON, PLLC
PO Box 128
Pineville, KY 40977
Phone: (606) 337-6500
Fax: (606) 337-6100
Email: cbishopjohnson@bellsouth.net

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

For the Project Titled:
Rock City Plaza – Sanitary Sewer Relocation

Paintsville Utilities for and on behalf of the City of Paintsville, will receive sealed bids for the "Rock City Plaza – Sanitary Sewer Relocation," until 2:00 p.m., Local Time, April 24, 2026, at the office of Paintsville Utilities, 137 Main Street, Paintsville, KY 41240.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of installing approximately 315 linear feet of 8-inch SDR 35 PVC sewer pipe by open-cut methods. The work also includes abandoning approximately 270 linear feet of existing 8-inch VCT sewer pipe with flowable fill, abandoning one (1) existing manhole, replacing two (2) existing manholes, and installing two (2) new manholes.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on April 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. local time, at the office of Paintsville Utilities at 137 Main Street, Paintsville KY 41240.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond of not less than 5% of the total bid. A 100% Performance Bond and Payment Bond shall be required of the successful Bidder. All bonding and insurance requirements are contained in the Instructions to Bidders and/or the General and Supplementary Conditions of the Contract.

Bids must be submitted, in duplicate originals, on the Bid Form included in the Project Manual. Mailed Bids shall be addressed to Paintsville Utilities, 137 Main Street, Paintsville, KY 41240. If submitting a bid by mail, the Bid Form must be in an interior sealed envelope with the Project Name and Contractor name marked clearly on the outside of the envelope.

Submission of a bid shall be construed as confirmation that the bidder has visited the site and is satisfied to the extent of work required. No changes to the contract will be considered based on misunderstandings of the scope of the work if such misunderstandings could have been addressed by a site visit.

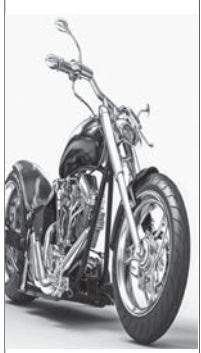
Any bid received later than the time specified for receipt of bids or any bid which is not submitted in the proper form, shall not be considered.

Prospective bidders may purchase "Plan sets and bid documents" at the office of Bocook Engineering, Inc., 312 10th Street, Paintsville, KY 41240, for a non-refundable fee of \$100.00.

Paintsville Utilities reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any formalities in the bidding. Bids received after the scheduled closing time of the receipt of bids will be returned unopened to the bidders. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of 30 days after the opening of bids without consent of Paintsville Utilities.

All contractors and subcontractors must comply with 41 CFR 60-4, in regard to affirmative action. This is to ensure equal opportunity to females and minorities, and apply the time tables and goals set forth in 41 CFR 60-4.

Paintsville Utilities is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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DAILY ASTROGRAPH

Confusion will set in if you don't ask questions, verify facts and insist on explanations. Refuse to let anger and frustration bring you down. Direct your energy into taking the high road and turning a wrong into a right. Be the master of your destiny, and refuse to let outside influences rule your world.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Stop, look, listen, resolve and hit the reset button. Acting on instinct can hinder or help you, depending on how you choose to use your energy. Caution and courage together will get you where you want to go.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Acknowledge truth, look at your options and do what's right. Don't take a risk that can lead to insult, injury or illness, but do make your point heard loud and clear.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Don't mistake what's true for what isn't. Emotions and money won't mix. Take time to digest what someone offers you before you take a leap of faith and buy into someone else's future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Extend a helping hand, not cash. It's what you do that makes a difference. If you feel passionate about a cause, volunteer your time. Say no to bullies and align yourself with those willing to do the leg-work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Embrace what's feasible, and distance yourself from what isn't. Learn all you can, and discuss your plans with those who support and help you achieve your goal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Commu-

nication is the road to victory. A passionate approach to life and love will lead to the happiness you desire. You cannot buy love, but you can earn it through actions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Be careful what you wish for. Something appears to be off. Communication will lead to positive change, greater self-image and a closer relationship with those who truly matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Bounce your ideas off someone you trust, and an unexpected opportunity will reveal itself. Travel, educational pursuits and delving into something that excites you are apparent.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Proceed with caution. It will be easy to make a mistake if you don't question what's happening around you or what someone tells you. Exaggeration is apparent, and so is overspending.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Denial will work against you. Put your energy into finding out the truth, what's possible and what to avoid, and protect your investments, home and possessions from pressure tactics and scammers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Protect your health and well-being. Steer clear of events that can lead to illness or injury. It's up to you to enhance your life by bringing about positive change.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Communication will spare you wasting time. A change of environment, location or scenery will help you come to terms with what you require to feel fulfilled, happy and at peace with yourself.

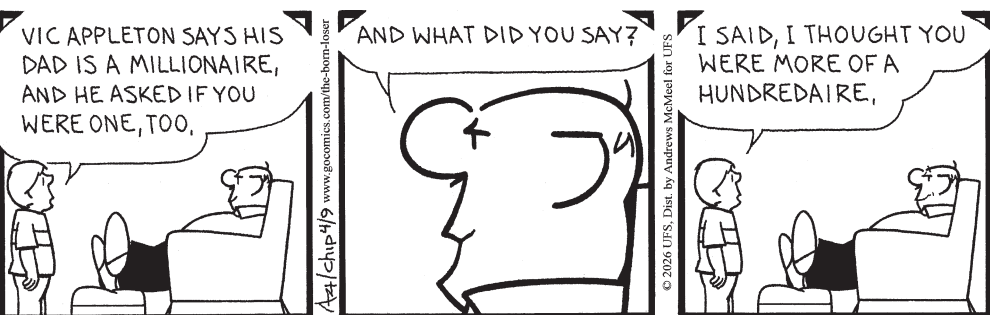
ARLO & JANIS



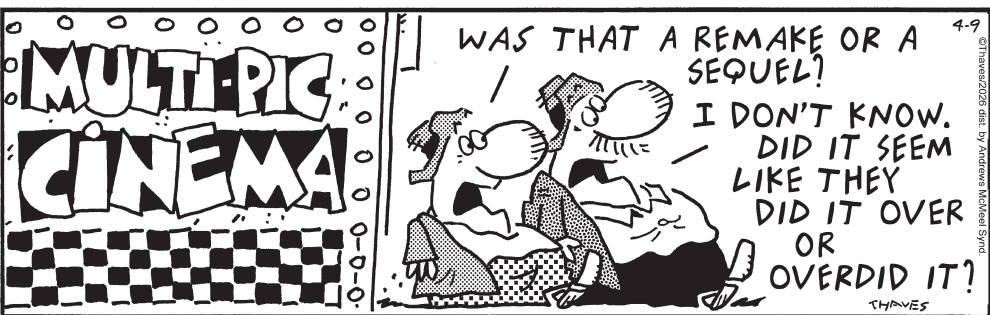
BIG NATE



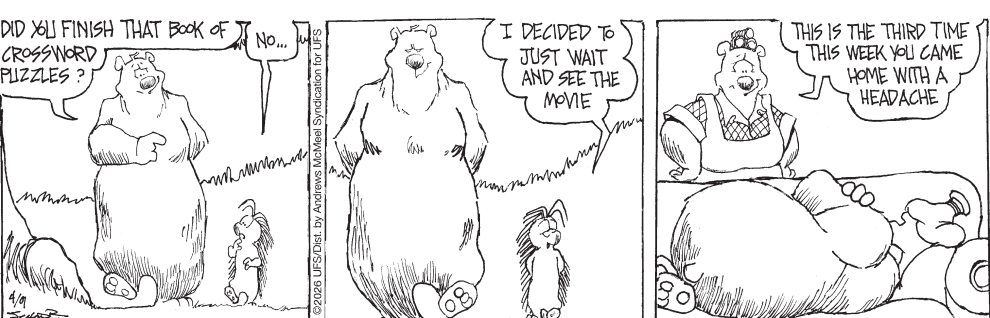
BORN LOSER



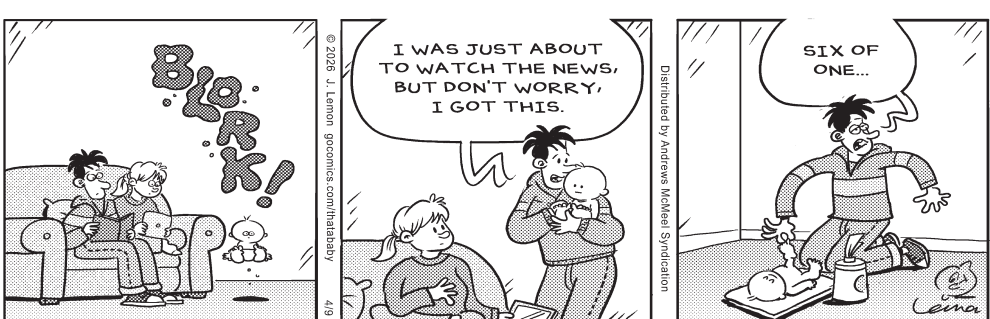
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GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY



SUDOKU

1						7	9	6
			8			3		
2	4							1
		2			7			
					5	4		9
5			6					3
		3		8				
	7				2	9	8	
4					1			2

HOW TO PLAY:

- Each column has to have numbers 1 to 9
- Each row has to have numbers 1 to 9
- Each 3x3 Box has to have numbers 1 to 9

TODAY'S CROSSWORD Answers are in today's edition

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12						13	14				15			
16						17					18			
19				20					21	22				
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32								33				34		
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42			43								44			
			45						46	47				
48	49	50						51				52	53	54
55								56	57			58		
59								60				61		
62								63				64		

ACROSS

- Laze around
- eagle
- Deer
- "See no -- ..."
- Close but no --
- Singer -- McEntire
- Hawaii's state bird
- Awaken
- Garden pest
- Aorta, for one
- Volcano on Sicily
- Timetable abbr.
- Instance
- Money substitute
- Bridge support
- Bother
- Owed
- Enamel
- Singer -- Midler
- Slippery --
- Dead language
- Magician's prop
- Unaccompanied
- Auto type
- "Love -- -- Many-Splendored Thing"
- Ridicule

DOWN

- Clean up a photo
- Malice
- Beer in a mug
- Dir. letters
- Get softer
- Smelled
- Romeo
- Assembly place in old Athens
- Discharge
- Cad
- Stair post
- Bator
- Discern
- Formerly, formerly
- "-- in Space"
- Actress -- Dunham
- Finished
- "-- She Sweet"
- Swindle
- Life story, for short
- Chills and fever
- Endures
- Soak
- Grads-to-be (Abbr.)
- Able to read minds
- Touch on

ACROSS

- Pop's Lady --
- Fine glassware
- File
- Bedouin
- Walter -- Disney
- Wrath
- Fabric for tutus
- Sorry
- Stage direction
- Hidden supply
- Plant bristle
- Numb
- Helps along (with "over")
- Inborn
- Bite
- Do a publishing job
- Stem joint
- Gas component
- Practical
- Avid
- of the earth
- Wild plum
- Bowls over
- Code word for K
- Periods
- Impression
- Part of NATO (Abbr.)
- Soak flax



Johnson Central has busy Spring Break

BY ADAM MAHAN
SPORTS WRITER

Last week, Johnson Central Golden Eagles competed in one of the Cal Ripken Experiences where the Golden Eagles went 2-3 against teams from across the country.

In the first game on Sunday, March 29 the Golden Eagles took on the Padua Franciscan Bruins out of Parma, Ohio.

Johnson Central was unable to get the bats going in the game as the Golden Eagles were only able to muster two hits in the game. Johnson Central fell to the Bruins by a score of 4-0.

Johnson Central gave up three runs to Padua Franciscan in the top of the third inning, and gave up one run in the top of the sixth inning. Also the Golden Eagles committed one error in the game.

Kaleb Callaham led Johnson Central at the plate going one of three with a double. Next was Kyler Callaham was also one of three at the plate.

The Golden Eagles' Levi Pennington took turns on the mound going three innings giving up three runs (three earned) on one hit, while walking two batters. Dalton Boner went three innings as well giving up one run on four hits, while striking out three batters.

In the second game on Monday, March 30, Johnson Central faced the Oakton High School Cougars out of Vienna, Virginia.

The Golden Eagles got the bats going in the game that saw Johnson Central build a 5-2 lead after four innings of play, but late game mistakes

and two home runs by Oakton in the bottom of the sixth inning, doomed the Golden Eagles as Oakton was able to pull out a 10-5 win.

The Cougars scored two runs in the bottom of the second inning to take the early 2-0 lead after two innings of play.

Johnson Central was able to break the ice and get on the board with one run in the top of the third inning. The Golden Eagles held Oakton scoreless in the bottom of the third inning as they still trailed 2-1 after three innings of play.

Then Golden Eagles got the bats going in the top of the fourth inning, rallying for four runs to take a 5-2 lead after four innings of play.

Oakton was able to tie the game at 5-5 after five innings of play by scoring three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

With the bats of the Golden Eagles starting to cool down, the Cougars stayed hot in the bottom of the sixth inning scoring five runs to retake the lead at 10-5 after six innings of play.

As the Golden Eagles were looking for a rally in the top of the seventh inning, Kaleb Callaham led off with a single to give a spark for a rally.

The rally took a hit on the next at-bat when the Golden Eagles next batter flew out, but there was still a chance for the Golden Eagles.

On the next at-bat, that spark got blown out when the next batter grounded into a double play to end the game as Johnson Central fell to Oakton 10-5.

Chase Preece took

the loss on the mound for the Golden Eagles as he went five innings giving up five runs (three earned) on six hits, while walking three batters and striking out two batters.

Johnson Central was led at the plate by Brayden Shepherd. He was two of three with one RBI, one run scored and walked one time. Kaleb Callaham was two of four at the plate with one RBI, and struck out one time. Alex Marcum was one of one at the plate with one RBI, one run scored and stole two bases.

Johnson Central was able to get the bats going, and scored 11 runs in the final two innings to bounce back on Wednesday morning in the third game and pull away for the 16-5 win over the North Royalton High School Bears from North Royalton, Ohio.

Johnson Central was able to get on the board first by scoring five runs in the top of the second inning.

The Golden Eagles held a 5-0 lead after two innings of play as the Bears were unable to score in the bottom of the second inning.

With Johnson Central unable to get going in the top of the third inning, North Royalton broke the ice finally in the bottom of the third inning by scoring two runs to help the Bears cut Johnson Central's lead to 5-2 after three innings of play.

No runs were scored until the bottom of the fifth inning when the Bears got the bats going again, scoring three runs to tie the game at 5-5 after five innings of play.

The Golden Eagles were looking to get things going once

again in the top of the sixth inning to retake the lead, and Johnson was able to find that spark exploding for six runs to take the lead at 11-5 after six innings of play.

Johnson Central bats stayed hot in the top of the seventh inning by scoring five runs to 16-5 lead after the top of the seventh, and with the Golden Eagles shutting down the Bears in the bottom of the seventh inning letting Johnson Central pull away for the 16-5 win over North Royalton.

Boner led Johnson Central at the plate going four of five with two RBIs, one run scored, and struck out one time; Boner also got the win on the mound going three innings giving up no runs on no hits while walking one batter, and struck out one batter. Next was Kayler Callaham going three for five at the plate with two runs scored, and struck out one time. Shepherd was two of four with a triple, two RBIs, and two runs scored. Braxton Perry was two of five with a double, two RBIs, and one run scored. Kaleb Callaham was one of four at the plate with a triple, three RBIs, two runs scored, but struck out one time.

In the fourth game on Wednesday afternoon Johnson Central pitcher Kyle Rose did not have his best stuff only going one 2/3 innings giving up nine runs (three earned) on five hits while walking three batters as the Golden Eagles fell behind 9-0 after the top of the second, but Rose's Golden Eagles teammates had is back and tried to rally, but the rally came up short as Johnson Central fell to the Pickerington North High School Panthers out of Pickerington, Ohio 10-8.

The game was scoreless until the top of the second inning when the Panthers got the bats going scoring nine runs in the top of the second inning, but the Golden Eagles were able to bounce back with three runs in the bottom of the second inning. Johnson Central cutting North Pickerington's lead to 9-3 after two innings of play. As no one was able to score until the sixth inning, Johnson Central did see some opportunities through

the third, fourth, and fifth inning, but was unable to take advantage of that, North Pickerington was able to get one the board again with one run in the top of the sixth inning increasing their lead to 10-3.

Johnson Central got a rally going by loading the bases in the bottom of the sixth inning with no outs helping Johnson score five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, but he really was stopped there as the Panthers was able to strike out a Golden Eagles' batter to end the rally but Johnson Central cut North Pickerington's lead to 10-8 after six innings of play.

With the Golden Eagles shutting down the Panthers in the top of the seventh inning, Johnson Central was looking to get the bats going again in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Johnson Central found a spark when a Golden eagles batter got on on a one out single to light that spark even more.

However Johnson Central was unable to take advantage of the spark as the next Golden Eagles next two batters got out ending the Golden Eagles chances, and fell 10-8 to North Pickerington.

Kyler Callaham led Johnson Central at the plate going two of two with a two run home run, three RBIs, one run scored, and walked one time. Mason McKenzie was two of four at the plate with two doubles, and struck out one time. Preece was two of four at the plate with two RBIs, one run scored, and struck out one time. Braxton Perry was two of three at the plate with one RBI, and walked one time.

In the fifth and final game on Thursday Johnson Central was able to bounce back and pull out a hard fought 2-1 win over the Hilton High School Cadets out of Hilton, New York.

Both teams' pitching, and defense was solid to open this game as both teams did see some opportunities throughout the first five and 1/2 innings.

Johnson Central found a chance to break the ice in the bottom of the sixth inning when the Golden Eagles loaded the bases on a Preece walk.

Then on the next at-bat, Boner drove in a run on a fielder's choice to give Johnson Central the 1-0 with two outs in the bottom of the sixth.

On the next at bat the Golden Eagles were able to score again when Braxton Perry was able to steal home, increasing Johnson Central's lead to 2-0 with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

The Golden Eagles' rally stopped there as the next Johnson Central batter hit into a fielder's choice to end the six inning with Johnson central now leading 2-0.

The Cadets were looking to rally in the top of the seventh inning to extend the game, and had a chance when Hilton loaded the bases with one out and on the next at-bat was able to finally get on the board on an RBI ground out to cut Johnson Central's lead to 2-1 with two outs in the top of the seventh inning.

Johnson Central was able to stop the Cadets' rally in its tracks when the Golden Eagles struck out the next Cadets' batter to end the game and let Johnson Central walk away with the slim 2-1 win over Hilton, NY.

Shepherd led the Golden Eagles' at the plate going two of three with one run scored, and stole one base. Preece went one of two with a walk. Perry was one of three with one run scored, and struck out one time.

Johnson Central's was solid with Levi Pennington going four innings giving up no runs (0 ER) on one hits while, walking three batters, and struck out five batters, but Kyler Callaham picked up the win though going two innings giving up no runs on no hits, while walking one batter and struck out two batters, and Kaleb Callaham go the save going one inning giving up one run (0 ER) on one hit while walking two batters, and struck out one batter.

With the 2-3 record in the five games in five days Johnson Central has fallen to 7-4 overall on the season. Next game up for the Golden Eagles will be this week in the Kentucky 2A Section 8 Championship at StoneCrest.



Bluegrass in the Highlands presents
Bluegrass for Braylon
a Fundraiser for the Dewire Family

FEATURING:
Chris Davis Band • Blue Debut
David Carroll • Tommy Webb Band

Saturday, April 11
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Doors Open @ 4pm • Music Begins @ 5:30pm
\$10 Admission

**THERE WILL BE RAFFLES,
A SILENT AUCTION & A DESSERT AUCTION**

Paintsville falls to Prestonsburg in 10 innings

BY ADAM MAHAN
SPORTS WRITER

It took extra innings for Paintsville and Prestonsburg to settle things Monday night in the opening round of the All "A" Classic at StoneCrest.

After building a 2-0 lead after the top of the fourth inning, the Tigers were looking to move on, but the Blackcats dug deep and was able to battle back send the game to extra innings tied a 2-2.

The Blackcats were able to find a run in the bottom of the 10th inning to send Paintsville to the heart breaking 3-2 defeat in 10 innings in the first round of the 15th Region Boys' All "A" Classic at StoneCrest Sports Complex.

Both teams came with good defense and pitching to open this game, but did see some opportunities to score. Both teams locked it in over the first three innings of play allowing nothing which had the game at 0-0 after three innings of play.

Paintsville got a golden opportunity in the top of the fourth inning when the Tigers had two runners on base when Dixon Kincheloe laid down a bunt which resulted with

him reaching on a Blackcats' error. Then on same play, another error by the Blackcats allowed Anderson Lauffer to score. Paintsville broke the ice and took a 1-0 lead with no outs in the top of the fourth inning.

The on the next at-bat, the Tigers were able to score again when Colton Short took home to increase the Tigers lead to 2-0 with no outs in the top of the fourth inning.

After those fireworks by the Tigers, the Blackcats were able to settle down and get the next three Tigers batters out to get out of the top half of the fourth inning trailing 2-0 to Paintsville.

Prestonsburg was looking to finally get on the board in the bottom of the fourth inning after the Blackcats a couple of base runners on via a single and a Tigers' error which led to the Blackcats finally getting on the board a couple of batters later when the Blackcats' Crayson Lafferty was able to score on a wild pitch by Paintsville to cut the Tigers' lead to 2-1 with one out in the bottom of the fourth inning.

That's the only run the Blackcats mustered as the Tigers' locked back down to get the next to Blackcats' batters out on a field-

er's choice, and a strikeout to end the fourth inning with Paintsville now leading 2-1.

As neither team was able to gain an inch on the other over the next one and 1/2 innings with great baseball being played. Paintsville was still able to protect that 2-1 lead through five 1/2 innings of play.

Prestonsburg found them a great opportunity to make some more noise in the bottom of the sixth inning when the Blackcats loaded the bases loaded.

Then on the next at-bat, the Blackcats were given an opportunity when Paintsville committed an error allowing Samuel Hayden to score to tie the game at 2-2 with no outs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

However the Tigers settled back down, and end the Blackcats' opportunity by the Tigers' Lauffer striking out the next three Prestonsburg batters to end the sixth inning with the game tied now at 2-2.

Paintsville saw a chance in the top of the seventh inning to retake the lead and look for the win when the Tigers got bases loaded with one out in the inning, but Paintsville was unable to convert

on the opportunity after the Blackcats got the next two Tigers' batters out on a fielder's choice, and a strikeout to end the top of the seventh inning tied a 2-2.

In the Bottom of the seventh inning, Prestonsburg got a runner on on a two out single to create a spark for a chance to win, but Tigers shut it down by getting the next Blackcats' batter to line out leaving the game after seven innings and needing extra to settle this battle.

Paintsville saw a chance in the top of the eighth inning when the Tigers' got a runner on a one out double by Kincheloe, but the Tigers were unable to convert again as the Blackcats was able to strikeout the next two Tigers' batters to end the top of the eighth inning with the game still tied at 2-2.

Both teams locked it down again over the next one and 1/2 innings allowing nothing sending us now to the top of the tenth inning with the game still tied at 2-2.

In the top of the tenth, Paintsville took some early blows, but the Tigers got base runners for another opportunity on back-to-back two outs singles by Kincheloe and Kruz Howell. The opportunity

was sunk on the next at-bat when the next Tigers' batter popped out to end the Tigers' threat and the top of the 10th inning with the game still tied at 2-2.

The Blackcats were also looking for a chance again, and found one when the Blackcats got runners on the corners after back-to-back one out singles by Hayden and Lafferty.

Then on the next at-bat, the Blackcats were able to break through once again when Brody Napier hit a walk-off one out RBI single to give Prestonsburg the 3-2 win in 10 innings in the first round of the 15th Region All A Baseball Tournament, and a spot in the quarterfinal round on Tuesday, April 7 against Pikeville at the W.C. Hambley Athletic Complex.

Stewart led Paintsville at the plate going three for four. Kincheloe who was two for four at the plate with a double, and a stolen base. Kenneth Tackett was two for three at the plate, and walked one time. Colton Short was two of five at the plate with one run scored.

Kincheloe took the loss on the mound going four 1/3 innings giving up one run (one earned) on four hits, while striking out eight batters in relief.

Lauffer went five innings giving up one run (one earned) on three hits, while walking three batters and striking out five batters.

With the loss, Paintsville fell to 6-5 overall on the season and marked the third loss in a row for the Tigers. The next game up for Paintsville will be Monday, April 13 on the road at Floyd Central set to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Napier was huge for the Blackcats going two of four at the plate with one RBI and struck out one time. Napier drove in the winning run, got the win on the mound as well, going all 10 innings giving up two runs on 10 hits, while walking one batter and struck out four batters. Lafferty who was two of four at the plate with one run scored, walked one time, and struck out one time. Hayden was one of four at the plate with two runs scored, and walked one time.

The win improved the Blackcats' record to 2-10 overall on the season and ended a four game losing streak for Prestonsburg. Next up for the Blackcats will be the 15th Region All "A" Classic Tuesday, April 7 through Friday April, 10.



Paintsville's Kenneth Tackett



Paintsville's Anderson Lauffer



Paintsville's Colton Short



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APRIL IS NATIONAL **CHILD ABUSE** PREVENTION MONTH

Potential signs of child abuse or neglect

Child abuse and neglect can occur in any neighborhood at any time. Individuals are urged to remain diligent and recognize signs of potential abuse against children so kids can get the help they deserve. The following are some potential signs of abuse or neglect.

- Bruising or welts that cannot be explained, particularly bruises on several parts of the body simultaneously.
- Injuries to parts of the body where children do not typically get hurt, such as on the torso, buttocks, thighs, and neck.
- Fear, anxiety or clinging tendencies are noticed.
- Child still has urinary accidents at an age when that should no longer be an issue, or has frequent nightmares and disrupted sleeping patterns.
- Social withdrawal from peers or activities.
- Chronic school absenteeism occurs.
- Difficulty walking or sitting, or complaints about vague symptoms.
- Child shows poor hygiene or is dressed inappropriately for weather.
- Child seems malnourished or always hungry.
- Lack of communication is noticed when caregivers or parents are contacted.
- Presence of burns or bite marks on the body.
- Traumatic hair loss is noticed.
- The child complains of angry or forceful parents at home.



If you feel you are in danger of harming your child, help is available. Reach out to church or family support resources in your community. For free information about coping with stress, controlling your temper and communicating effectively with your child, call Johnson County DCBS at 606-788-7100.

If you see or suspect child abuse or neglect, call local law enforcement or the National Child Abuse Hotline at:

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