

# Weather Report for Ashland

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## FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASHLAND

TODAY

78°

A morning shower; variable clouds

RealFeel: 83°

TONIGHT

61°

Mostly cloudy with late-night rain

RealFeel: 59°

FRIDAY

67° / 56°

Cooler with rain and a thunderstorm

RealFeel: 68° / 52°

SATURDAY

70° / 49°

Breezy in the morning; sunshine

RealFeel: 73° / 49°

SUNDAY

74° / 51°

Nice with a blend of sun and clouds

RealFeel: 78° / 51°

MONDAY

76° / 53°

Pleasant with plenty of sunshine

RealFeel: 85° / 52°

The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature®** is an exclusive index that combines the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body — everything that affects how warm or cold a person feels. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.

ALMANAC

Huntington, WV ending 4 p.m. Wednesday

Temperature

High/low 74° / 60°  
Normal high/low 79° / 57°  
Record high 95° (1941)  
Record low 37° (1994)

Precipitation

24-hour total 0.55"  
Month to date 4.21"  
Normal month to date 4.10"  
Year to date 21.82"  
Last year to date 21.01"  
Normal year to date 18.64"

UV INDEX TODAY

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index™** number, the greater the need for skin and eye protection.

10 a.m. 4 (Moderate)  
Noon 8 (Very High)  
2 p.m. 8 (Very High)  
4 p.m. 4 (Moderate)

KENTUCKY WEATHER

Regional Forecast: A shower in places during the morning; otherwise, variable cloudiness today. Periods of rain late tonight. Cooler tomorrow with periods of rain and a thunderstorm. Saturday: mostly sunny.

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 6:10 a.m.  
Sunset tonight 8:47 p.m.  
Moonrise today 8:16 a.m.  
Moonset today none

First Full Last New

Jun 2 Jun 11 Jun 18 Jun 25

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today		Fri.	
	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W
Bowling Gr., KY	80/64	t	70/58	t
Bristol, TN	79/60	t	70/52	r
Charlotte, NC	84/66	t	76/56	t
Charleston, WV	77/59	c	68/55	r

City	Today		Fri.	
	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W
Chattanooga	80/65	t	73/59	t
Cincinnati, OH	74/57	c	66/55	t
Columbus, OH	76/57	pc	68/55	r
Dayton, OH	74/57	c	68/57	sh

City	Today		Fri.	
	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W
Frankfort	78/60	c	68/57	t
Gatlinburg, TN	79/61	t	69/54	t
Huntington, WV	80/61	c	67/56	r
Jackson	74/61	c	63/54	r

City	Today		Fri.	
	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W
Knoxville	77/63	t	70/55	t
Lexington	77/61	c	65/57	t
London	76/60	c	67/54	t
Louisville	82/61	c	70/58	t

City	Today		Fri.	
	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W
Myrtle Beach, SC	82/71	t	80/64	t
Nashville, TN	83/65	t	71/57	sh
Owensboro	78/59	sh	72/58	t
Paducah	80/59	t	76/58	s

NATIONAL FORECAST TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Shows: F-Shows, S-Storms, R-Rain, Fl-Flurries, S-Snow, I-Ice

C-Cold, W-Warm, S-Stationary

NATIONAL SUMMARY

Severe thunderstorms with humid air are expected to cover much of the South today. Spotty showers are forecast for much of the Midwest and the mid-Atlantic, but steadier rain and drizzle are in store for portions of New England and upstate New York. The Plains and West will be mainly dry as heat builds west of the Rockies.

Yesterday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)  
High 101° in Needles, CA Low 30° in Leadville, CO

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# Ky. clinic treats child abuse (and tries to prevent it)

BY SARAH LADD  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story discusses child abuse. Report child abuse to Kentucky's Statewide Child Abuse Hotline at 1-877-597-2333.

LEXINGTON Before Kosair for Kids Center for Safe and Healthy Families was founded in 2024, Kentucky children with bruised faces or sexual trauma waited for medical care alongside those with the flu. This was "not trauma-informed care," said Barry Dunn, the president and CEO of Kosair for Kids, which then put up \$2 million to do something about the problem. Kosair for Kids is a Louisville-based organization that advocates for children's well-being. "Do we want a child who has just experienced the worst moment of their life — who has just been sexually assaulted — being seen ... beside a kid who's there because the child is running a fever?" Dunn said. "Not to minimize the fever, but as you're talking through what happened to you being sexually or physically abused, do we really want that to happen in an ER setting?" The obvious answer to Dunn and others was no, children facing the worst moments of their lives need personalized and private care. It also helps if there is a therapy dog whose entire job is to comfort traumatized children. Dr. Christina Howard, a forensic pediatrician and Kentucky's leading expert on child abuse, said the sterile ER is just "not an ideal" place for sensitive conversations about abuse. "As a parent, if you see a kid whose face is just bruised, it's hard to look away," she said. "It's hard to not pay attention to that and want to do something." It also was not a comfortable setup for much-needed mental health services, Howard said. The Kosair for Kids Center

for Safe and Healthy Families at the University of Kentucky Hospital was built with this need for privacy and trauma-informed care for the smallest patients in mind. Now a year old, the clinic is a model for treating abuse — and trying to prevent it. Anyone, including parents, can bring a child to the clinic for treatment. A "large majority" of patients are referrals from the UK Hospital, which has consulting protocols when children come in with certain injuries, Howard said. The Department for Community Based Services, in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, may refer children to the clinic, as well as concerned caregivers, police and other hospitals throughout the state. The clinic has three exam rooms, including one with a shower — which sexual abuse survivors can use after a rape kit, for example — and therapy rooms. One is a "play therapy" room for younger children. Another therapy room is where non-offending caregivers can get mental health treatment, a much-needed component because a lot of child neglect and abuse instances aren't straightforward cases of cruelty, Howard said. Many other factors play a role, she said — addiction and other mental health issues are key culprits, as well as child care challenges. "We're in a world where it's really, really hard to be a parent, especially to be a single parent," Howard said. Child care is expensive, she said, which sometimes forces parents to leave children in suboptimal situations so they can earn a paycheck to support the family. "It's one of those (decisions): cheap child care that might not be the safest, or work." Howard said parents in such situations need support, including more affordable child care.

"It's pretty much on a daily basis, where I will see a single parent asking how other parents are surviving? 'How are they putting food on the table and getting child care?'" she said. Plentiful data backs this struggle up. A 2024 survey of 1,357 parents from 88 Kentucky counties showed that some parents had already chosen to exit the workforce because of inaccessible child care. Many families put off having more children, delayed big purchases and sacrificed health care needs because of child care complications, the Lantern previously reported. Child care centers closing during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in "fewer eyeballs on kids," Dunn with Kosair explained. It's also difficult to get people to work in child care facilities, he said, due to the industry's low wages. An increase in wages helps with retaining good workers — but parents bear the cost. "For some it's just unsustainable," Dunn said. "It's not possible to pay those rates." That difficult choice between work and child care puts children in jeopardy, Dunn said. A lot of abuse cases happen when a working parent has to leave their child with a boyfriend or girlfriend, he said, and the child is then harmed. "There is a misconception out there that child abuse is perpetrated by random strangers that one has never met, and they just show up out of the blue in (an) ice cream truck or van going down the road and somebody steals the child," he said. But "the majority of child abuse is perpetrated by someone who knows the child. It's family, it's a friend. It's someone that you thought was safe, but it turns out they were not." Meanwhile, more than 85% of the clinic's patient population is enrolled in Medicaid, a program currently under federal threat of deep cuts.

Howard cannot bill parents — even if they are the perpetrators of child abuse — but she can bill Medicaid and said providers like her need an intact Medicaid reimbursement.

Fentanyl and guns

In Howard's Lexington office, she keeps a clear plastic tub full of gun locks and gives them out for free to people who need them. Guns remain the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States. "We do, unfortunately, see a lot of pediatric firearm injuries as well unintentional ones. and so if we can prevent that, then that would be the best course," Howard said. "Storing bullets separate from the gun, for example, always treating a gun like it's loaded, are definitely tips to have when you have young children in the home." Kentucky's 2024 Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel report, released in February, showed the extent of this neglect. It found that most fatalities were "potentially preventable." In one case, a 1-year-old ingested fentanyl and died. In another, a 7-year-old fatally shot his 4-year-old brother while playing with a shotgun, which was loaded and kept beside the refrigerator. Dr. Christina Howard pets Darcy, a therapy dog, in her office in the Kentucky Children's Kosair For Kids Center for Safe and Healthy Children and Families, May 8, 2025 in Lexington. (Kentucky Lantern photo by Arden Barnes) "As a child abuse pediatrician: we don't want to see abuse. We want to prevent as much as we can," Howard said. "Unfortunately, we're just not able to prevent it." Still, she tries to educate guardians and parents about safe storage of guns and medicine, both culprits in hurting

CORRECTIONS

The 'Pillar in the community' story on Crisp's Dairy Treat in the May 24-25 weekend edition needs a couple of corrections. It was Arthur Crisp, not his son Raymond, who went on a trip to Beaumont, Texas, and was inspired to start a dairy bar upon returning home. Raymond and Duane Crisp are co-owners of Crisp's in Summit. These items have been corrected online at [dailyindependent.com](https://dailyindependent.com).

and killing Kentucky's children. In a state with extremely high rates of opioid use disorder (OUD) and addiction, children are too often exposed to medications that can kill them. "We're huge advocates for parents to get medically assisted therapy, but having that in the home still is dangerous, so we do recommend safe medication storage on those," Howard said. "We've provided medication lock boxes and bags and recommend that for any caregiver that has something like that in the home." All medications should be stored safely out of reach of children, she said; "even medicines like Tylenol can be dangerous to a child." UK also offers a variety of classes, including ones for new dads, Howard said. At this "daddy boot camp," new fathers are paired with established fathers and learn important parenting skills. This is another way of going far upstream to prevent neglect and abuse. "Families .... (have) a lower risk of child maltreatment if the father is involved and supportive," Howard said. For the full story, visit [kentuckylantern.com](https://kentuckylantern.com).

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Participants from a past Julie Ditty Qualls Foundation tennis clinic are pictured.

## TENNIS

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The Ashland Tennis Center is at 1300 Oakview Road. "We have taught over 500 children in the past four years," reads the flyer. Participants should bring their own water bottle, sunscreen and tennis racket (if they have one). People are encouraged to label their items. A limited number of rackets will be available. Pickleball paddles will be provided for use in the lessons. #PlayLikeJulie shirts will be available for purchase for \$20 at the clinics.

All proceeds go to the Julie Ditty Qualls Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization with a mission to continue Julie's positive impact by developing and supporting sports activities and helping children in the community. As of Wednesday, Ditty said they had 134 pre-registered players and 29 pre-registered instructors. Visit [juliedittyquallsfoundation.com](https://juliedittyquallsfoundation.com) for more information or to register. Contact [juliedittyquallsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:juliedittyquallsfoundation@gmail.com) or contact Dr. Jack Ditty at (606) 923-5225 with any questions.

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## AUDIT

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lead to improper decision-making," the report includes. The auditor recommended the fiscal court implement effective internal controls and oversight. In response to the audit report, included in the documents, Judge-Executive Bobby Hall said the budget amendment reporting was a mistake that has since been corrected. "We will not make this mistake again," Hall is quoted. "The best news, all money is accounted for!" Regarding findings involving the jail fund, the audit found \$98,518 worth of e-cigarettes

had been purchased from two separate vendors without going through the bid process first. Without going through that process, the report suggests "it cannot be determined if the jailer has procured these items at the best available price." In a breakdown of jail fund expenditures, the county's jail fund totaled \$3,296,871 from the general fund's disbursements for the 2024 fiscal year. Jail commissary transactions made up two of the three audit findings, as the final finding issued stated the jail did not have adequate segregation of duties over jail commissary transactions. According to the

audit, the jail's commissary bookkeeper is required to prepare deposits, daily checkout sheets, monthly collection and disbursement reports and then posts those to the receipts ledger. "Inadequate segregation of duties allows one person to have a significant role in processing and recording receipts and disbursements, which increases the risk that misappropriation of assets and inaccurate financial reporting will occur and be undetected," the report reads. According to the report, Hall said both "issues" at the jail had been corrected.

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