

# Ashland resident, piano player turns 99

BY RICK SKEENS  
FOR THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

**ASHLAND** A significant crowd gathered in the game room at King’s Daughters and Sons Assisted Living Facility on Sunday afternoon. The crowd was composed of facility residents along with family and friends of Verna Lee Menshouse. The group was assembled to celebrate Verna Lee’s 99th birthday.

Verna Lee Menshouse was born on June 1, 1926. She was raised in West Russell and attended the old West Russell Elementary School on Wheeler Hill.

She graduated from Russell High School in 1943. Verna Lee met the love of her life, Walter “Bud” Menshouse, in church and married him in 1948. They became staples of the Westwood community as they raised their three daughters: Jennifer, Deena and Waletta.

Verna Lee and Walter were married 58 years when he passed in 2006. Since that time, Mrs. Menshouse has been enjoying time with her daughters, grandchildren and six great-grandchildren — McKinley, Grayson, Grey, Liam, Nolan and Gideon. Verna Lee began playing

the piano when she was 14 years old. She started playing for Westwood Enterprise Baptist Church when she was only 16.

News of her impeccable playing style spread rapidly around the area. She soon started traveling to other churches to play for special events, such as revivals and weddings. She gave piano lessons at her house in Westwood for many years.

“Granny has always been strongheaded,” said Menshouse’s granddaughter, Jessica. The family reports that she took cake-decorating classes and started a side business

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
**Verna Lee Menshouse is pictured. She turned 99 years old recently.**

selling wedding cakes. “Granny Menshouse has passed on her passion and persistence to multiple generations,” Jessica said. As the afternoon ended, a few family members stayed behind to enjoy time with Verna Lee in her room. She spent the remainder of the afternoon doing what she loves, spending time with her family — most especially her great-grandchildren. “What a wonderful way to close out a 99th birthday,” Menshouse said.



## Boyd Sheriff’s Department announces safety checkpoints

STAFF REPORT

The Boyd County Sheriff’s Department will conduct traffic safety checkpoints during the months of June, July and August, according to a news release.

During the checkpoints, officers will enforce laws related to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, licensing of motor vehicles and operators, registration and insurance violations, seat belt and child restraint violations, and motor vehicle equipment violations, according to the release.

Traffic safety checkpoints are a valuable tool used to promote the safety and well-being of the public as well as providing deputies with visibility and interaction with the community. Checkpoints are utilized throughout the Commonwealth to help promote highway safety, stated the release.

Visit [boydcountky.gov](http://boydcountky.gov) for a complete list of the authorized checkpoint locations. It can also be obtained in person at the Catlettsburg office.

## Goodyear Blimp celebrates 100 years with flight over Ohio

**MOGADORE, Ohio** (AP) The iconic Goodyear airships are taking a victory lap over the skies of an Ohio city this week.

The Akron-based tire company is celebrating the 100th anniversary of “Pilgrim,” its first blimp to take flight just outside of the city on June 3, 1925. The airships took to the skies on Tuesday, and will again on Wednesday and Thursday, flying over land that once housed the company’s original hangar.

Jim Crone, who manages airship maintenance, explained why the company chose this swath

of land in 1917. “It was secluded. It was away from most of other parts of the city, and it allowed them to build airships here. It’s a lot of property.”

Goodyear had started experimenting with vessels that would be lighter than aircraft in the early 1900s, and the dirigibles have since become a lasting and iconic symbol of the corporate brand. For some, it evokes nostalgia, while for others it offers a glimpse into a larger-than-life part of advertisement history.

Locally and around the country, Crone said the brand has a

“cult following.” “People love the airships,” he said. In the Akron area specifically, “they identify with Goodyear and identify with the airships. They’ve become part of this community.”

One of those fans, Madison Hayberg, brought her 2-year-old son Levi with her to see the airships on Tuesday.

“I think it’s just a cool thing that a lot of us locally probably take for granted because we see it all the time,” she said. “I wanted

SEE **BLIMP** | A3

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### GCBH will meet this week

**GREENUP**  
The Greenup County Board of Health will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thurs-

day at the Greenup County Health Department in the Willis C. Potter Health Education Center.

Topics will include the FY25 budget update, the FY26 taxing district budget proposal, the FY26 operational budget proposal, a review of the 2025 Community Needs Assessment and the setting of the public health tax rate.

For more information, call the health department at (606) 473-9838.

#### SBI pastor meet and greet set

**ASHLAND**  
Southland Bible Institute will offer a pastor’s informational meet and greet brunch June 28, followed by a program of song and speaking. To attend, RSVP by

June 16 to the college by calling (606) 928-5127. The college is at 5673 Southland Drive.

#### Advisory council to meet

**ASHLAND**  
The FIVCO Long Term Care Ombudsman Advisory Council will meet at 10 a.m. June 12 via Zoom or in person at the Ashland Office. The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program provides assistance and education to those residing in nursing homes and personal and family care homes.

For more information, call Amanda Hamilton at (606) 780-2258.

#### AARF supply drive Saturday

**ASHLAND**  
The Ashland Animal Rescue Fund will have a supply drive from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Walmart on River Hill Drive.

Items sought include Purina dog and puppy chow; Pedigree canned adult and puppy food; SLIDE multi cat litter; Greenies and grain-free treats; leashes/harness/collars; Kongs and Nylabones; tennis balls/toys; Purina cat and kitten chow; Friskies canned pâté; laundry detergent; bleach (kills 99.9% bacteria); Dawn dish soap, paper towels; 13-gallon trash bags and 44-55 gallon trash bags. Gift cards and monetary donations also will be accepted.

#### Trade Days set for Saturday

**GREENUP**  
The fifth annual Trade Days will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in downtown Greenup.

Participants, vendors and food trucks will set up at 7 a.m. on Main Street, including Lions Club hamburgers. Live music will be presented

by Freedom Worship Group.

There is no fee to sellers; donations to the Greenup Beautification Committee will be accepted.

For more information, call (606) 922-2876 or 836-2421.

#### Senior rummage sale this week

**GRAYSON**  
The ladies from the Carter County Senior Center will have a rummage sale from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday in the center’s lounge.

All proceeds will go to the senior’s Activity Fund, which assists them with coffee, bingo prizes, snacks, outings and other items.

#### Midway Dean’s List released

**MIDWAY**  
Midway University announced students who have been named to its Dean’s List for the 2025 spring semester. To be named to the list, a student must be classified full-time and obtain a 3.60 grade point average for the semester.

There were 448 students who made the Dean’s List this fall, including the following from northeastern Kentucky: Breannon Boggs (Olive Hill), Nathan Garred (Ashland), Haley Johnson (Morehead), Cole Sexton (Catlettsburg) and Kelsey White (Morehead).

Midway University is a private, co-educational institution located in Woodford County and part of the greater Lexington area. It was founded in 1847.

#### MEETING

**Monday, 1 p.m.** — Cannonsburg Elementary School site-based, decision-making council, Heritage Building Room 209.

Staff report

### HOW TO REACH US

## Daily Independent

224 17th St.  
Ashland, KY 41101-7606

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\*Kentucky State Study 2023; conducted by Coda Ventures