

# Great Race will include Ashland stop

BY LEE WARD  
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

**ASHLAND** The city will expect special visitors this year, as the Hemmings Great Race, presented by Coker Tire, gets on its way today.

The nine-day classic car rally was scheduled to leave St. Paul, Minnesota, today, to cover more than 2,300 miles and making tops in 17 cities. Drivers will arrive in downtown Ashland on Thursday, with a lunch starting at 12:30 p.m.

The annual event features a different route each year, offering a rare opportunity

for residents of Ashland and surrounding communities to see the spectacular cars and meet the drivers from all over the world.

Each stop on the Great Race is free to the public and spectators will be able to visit with the participants and to look at the 120 cars for several hours. It is common for racers to allow children to climb in the cars for a first-hand look.

“When the Great Race pulls into a city, it becomes an instant festival,” Great Race Director Jeff Stumb said. “Last year, we had several overnight stops with more

than 10,000 spectators on our way to having 250,000 people see the Great Race during the event. There are more than 500 people just in our entourage.”

Teams and cars from Japan, England, Australia, Canada and every corner of the United States participate in the annual event, which is often considered a “bucket list” item for car enthusiasts. Cars, trucks and motorcycles built in 1974 and earlier are eligible to compete, and the scoring system features an age factor to keep the earlier cars competitive.

In the 2024 Great Race, a 1916 Hudson Hillclimber won the event from Owensboro, Kentucky, to Gardiner, Maine. A 1913 Chevrolet, a 1916 Hudson and a 1918 American LaFrance are the oldest cars scheduled to be in the 2025 Great Race.

Started in 1983 by Tom McRae, the Great Race is now the world’s premier old car rally. The traveling time/speed/distance rally has a strict set of rules to keep competition tight. The vehicles, each with a driver and navigator, are given precise instructions each day detail-

ing every move down to the second. They are scored at secret checkpoints along the route and are penalized for arriving at the checkpoints early or late. As in golf, the lowest score wins. There is a total purse of \$160,000 split among five classes, with the overall winner taking home \$50,000.

The drive will finish on June 29 in Irmo, South Carolina, near Lake Murray.

For more information, visit [greatrace.com](http://greatrace.com) or [facebook.com/greatracerrally](https://www.facebook.com/greatracerrally).

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## Elks Lodge hands out scholarships

STAFF REPORT

**ASHLAND** The Ashland Elks Lodge 350 hosted its annual scholarship awards banquet on Tuesday, May 20, during which it celebrated 37 graduating seniors from high schools across Boyd, Carter and Greenup Counties.

The Elks recognized the students for outstanding academic achievements, involvement in extracurricular activities and commitment to community service, according to a press release.

More than 120 guests came together for a pasta dinner prepared by The Elks Lodge’s kitchen staff and food committee.

Mark Renfroe, a retired teacher, delivered the keynote address.

Each graduate was individually recognized and presented with a scholarship to support future educational endeavors.

Recognized students were as follows: Amason Little (Ashland), Miriam Howard (Ashland), Dirk Hay II (Ashland), Caylee Tackett (Ashland), Emily York (Ashland), Kennedy Bradley (Ashland), Alexis Boyd (Boyd), Hunter Hedrick (Boyd), Sophia Stevens (Boyd), Eaton Hannah (White House), Anna Bocook (Ashland), Garrison Stephens (Greenup), Rileigh Cobern (Boyd), Skylar Eidson (Boyd), Averi Mays (Boyd), Alissa Nolen (Boyd), Sydney Ramey (Boyd), Jonah Beck (East Carter), Anna Oney (East Carter), Aubrey Watson (East Carter),

Kailyn Adkins (Fairview), Addison Dalton (Fairview), Izaac Johnson (Fairview), Tanner Reihs (Fairview), Kaden Sparks (Fairview), Bobby Stephens (Fairview), Emily Stewart (Fairview), Payton McFarlin (Fairview), Angelrae Bates (Greenup), Ava Dupuy (Greenup), Laikyn Virgin (Greenup), Allyson Waugh (Greenup), Reese Martin (Greenup), Brooklynn Braden (Raceland), Davanna Grubb (Raceland), Avery Newell (Rose Hill) and Cheyenne Hamilton (West Carter).

For more information regarding the scholarship program or upcoming events, contact John Leistner (Scholarships Committee Chairman) at [jalmba56@gmail.com](mailto:jalmba56@gmail.com) or (606) 324-5720.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Workforce expo planned Monday

##### ASHLAND

A Workforce Solutions Expo will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at ACTC Roberts Drive Campus.

The event, Northeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, aims to

help job seekers and employers with training programs and support services.

### MEETINGS

**Monday**  
6 p.m. — Russell Independent School District Finance Corporation with the regular board of education, special meeting, Russell Independent Schools central office.

Staff reports

## New book of Stuart poetry to be released

I am pleased to announce the publication of “Kentucky Is My Home: A Journey into the Life of Jesse Hilton Stuart,” a collection of never before published Stuart poetry compiled, edited, and introduced by Lexington author John W. McCauley.

A member of the JSF Board of Directors, McCauley spent a year wading through boxes of dusty, hand-written manuscripts searching for unpublished Stuart poems. His research included exhaustive efforts to identify poems that had never appeared in any print form.

McCauley writes, “The former Kentucky Poet Laureate was a pure and unfiltered artist of the written word, and while I love

all genres of Stuart’s work, his Appalachian inspired poetry has always been my favorite.”

I enthusiastically recommend this book. A true poet like Jesse Stuart sees into the conditions of mankind, so he was also a visionary

and a teacher. Although Stuart excelled in many genres, he loved being a poet. His first two books were collections of poetry, and he would eventually publish eight more poetry collections among the more than 60 books he authored during his lifetime.

When I assumed the leadership of the Jesse Stuart Foundation in 1985, the first book I published was “Songs of a Mountain Plowman.” Forty years have passed, and it seems appropriate to share another collection of Stuart’s unpublished poetry. This new book will continue to give life to Stuart’s poetry and to his legend as a



**JIM GIFFORD**

world-famous author, a far-sighted conservationist, and a respected spokesman for the people of Appalachia.

Edwina Pendarvis, one of Appalachia’s finest poets and authors, offers her following endorsement for this new book.

This new poetry collection, “Kentucky Is My Home: A Journey into the Life of Jesse Hilton Stuart,” compiled and edited by John W. McCauley, is the first publication composed almost exclusively of previously unpublished poems by Jesse Stuart in almost half a century. It is not only important for the artfulness and impact of the poetry and as a record of thoughts and feelings of tone of the nation’s most prolific storytellers, but as a part of literary history.

#### McCauley signing, talk

Mr. McCauley will be here on Tuesday, June 24, at 1 p.m. for a book signing at the JSF offices, 4440 13th Street in Ashland. Following a coffee break, McCauley will deliver a 45-minute author talk that will begin at 2:30 p.m. Both activities are free and open to the public.

If you wish to purchase a signed copy of this new book and you are unable to attend the book signing, call (606)326-1667 and ask for Jim or Judith. We will get your book signed, per your directions, and either ship it to you or hold it for you to pick up.

“Kentucky Is My Home” is available in the Jesse Stuart Foundation Bookstore at 4440 13th Street in Ashland. For more information or to place an order call (606) 326-1667, email [jwf@jsfbooks.com](mailto:jwf@jsfbooks.com), or visit our website at [jsfbooks.com](http://jsfbooks.com).

**JAMES M. GIFFORD**, Ph. D., is CEO & Senior Editor of the Jesse Stuart Foundation.

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