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### DEED TRANSFERS

- Paulie E. and Barbara J. Brown to Donald Joseph and Ashley Elizabeth Boehman; 6.296 acres; \$18,000
- One Fourteen LLC to Michael and Valinda Murphy; Lot 2, Edgewater Subdivision; \$2,000
- Aaron and Kathryn Murphy to Michael and Valinda Murphy; Lots 3-5, 8-13, 26-41, 45-50, Edgewater Subdivision; \$78,000
- Joseph M. Sr. and Nancy A. Satterly to Michelle Vittitow; property near Madrid; \$60,000
- Estate of Evelyn Ann

Riley to Karl Gohl; 7.000 acre tract; \$240,000

- Steve Redmon Construction, Inc. to Gary Lynn Toole, Jr. and Brenda Carol Wright; Lot 15B, Cloverdale Estates; \$197,500
- Dale E. and Peggy L. Lynn to Dwayne M. and Tina Metten-Miles; Lot 68-G, Rayne Shores Development; \$35,000
- Michael W. and Mary Ann Gibson to Michael Scott and Hannah Lee Mitchell; Lot 13, Hinton Brothers' Long Lick Division; \$170,000
- Timothy James

Henderson to Kimberly A. and Mark S. Blankenship; property in Cloverport; \$30,000

- Thomas A. and Melanie L. Douglas to Christina M. Schaffner and Michael J. Moore; 2.000 acre tract; \$6,732
- Joseph G. Barr to Amanda Lee Glass Smith; Tract 31, Kentucky Easter Seal Society, Inc. Development Plat; \$535,000
- Rebecca Clark and George W. Carwile to Dwayne Anthony and Tammy Bernice Burnette; property near Roff; \$87,538.08

### BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT — DIVISION 1

Breckinridge Circuit Court, Division 1, met on Wednesday, May 7 with Judge Bruce Butler presiding.

- Kristopher Quiggins, 39, pleaded not guilty to flagrant non-support. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for July 9.
- Peggy L. Vergason, 62, pleaded not guilty to first degree possession of a controlled substance (meth), second offense. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for July 9.
- James David Martin, 54, pleaded guilty to theft by deception/cold checks valued between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Sentencing was scheduled for June 18.
- Leonardo S. Marrero, 31, pleaded not guilty to engaging in organized crime/criminal syndicate and theft by unlawful taking of property valued between \$1,000 and \$10,000. A pre-trial conference was

scheduled for July 9.

- Joe A. Phillips, 34, pleaded guilty to first degree possession of a controlled substance (meth), first offense. In another case, he pleaded guilty to two counts of third degree burglary; receiving stolen property valued between \$500 and \$1,000; possession of burglary tools; resisting arrest; two counts of third degree criminal mischief; and being a first degree persistent felony offender. Sentencing was scheduled for June 18.
- Eric Smith, 53, and Stevin Smith, 24, each pleaded guilty to two counts of second degree burglary; receiving stolen property valued between \$500 and \$1,000; possession of burglary tools; and third degree criminal mischief. In another case, they pleaded guilty to first degree possession of a controlled substance (meth), first offense.

Sentencing was scheduled for June 18.

- James C. Armes, 31, was sentenced to five years in prison for attempted kidnapping/adult and first degree wanton endangerment. The sentences were probated for five years.
- Curtis W. Lanham, 61, was sentenced to three years in prison for first degree possession of a controlled substance (meth), first offense, and 45 days for possession of marijuana. The sentences will run concurrently and probated for three years.
- Brandon G. Wilson, 38, was sentenced to five years in prison for first degree possession of a controlled substance (meth), first offense/enhanced; and two years for first degree promoting contraband and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. The sentences will run consecutively for a total of nine years and probated for five years.

### BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT — DIVISION 2

Breckinridge Circuit Court, Division 2, met on Wednesday, May 7 with Judge Kenneth H. Goff II presiding.

- Estil L. Decker, 61, pleaded not guilty to receiving stolen property valued over \$10,000. A pre-trial conference was scheduled for August 6.
- Sheila M. Tanner, 61, was sentenced to one year in prison, diverted for three years for first degree possession of cocaine, first offense, and 10 days, probated for two years and a \$350 fine for operating a motor vehicle under the influence, first offense.
- Joseph R. Dunn, 23, pleaded guilty to three

counts of first degree wanton endangerment; first degree possession of a controlled substance (meth), first offense; and first degree promoting contraband. Sentencing was scheduled for June 18.

- Mason Metcalfe, 21, was sentenced to three years in prison, diverted for five years, for receiving stolen property/firearm.
- Ricky B. Harper, 42, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, diverted for three years, for first degree possession of a controlled substance (meth), first offense; 90 days, conditionally discharged for two years,

for driving DUI on a suspended license, first offense; and fined \$500 for failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance, first offense.

- Michael T. Cornett, 47, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, diverted for three years, for first degree possession of an unspecified drug, first offense; and 10 days for possession of marijuana and having a controlled substance prescription not in original container.
- Probation was revoked for Riley T. Lawson, 25, and James R. Kelly, 36.

## WKU recognizes Class of 2025 during Commencement

Western Kentucky University celebrated the Class of 2025 Thursday evening starting with Topper Walk and ending with a fireworks display at Big Red Bash.

Joined by faculty from each academic college, the 2025 graduates waved red towels and greeted family and friends as they made their way down the Hill into Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium for WKU's 197th Commencement.

WKU conferred 3,420 degrees and certificates to spring and summer 2025 graduates — 97 associate, 2,108 bachelor's, 598 master's, 50 doctoral, 15 specialist degrees, 442 undergraduate certificates and 110 graduate certificates.

President Timothy C. Caboni addressed the Class of 2025, asking them to assess areas of personal growth and leaving them with a challenge for the future.

“Graduates, as you conclude your careers as students and reflect on your time on the Hill, I hope that you can see your personal growth — socially, intellectually and emotionally — and recognize that you have transformed, you are a different person today than when you began with us. And you leave WKU with our shared institutional values,” he said.

“And I challenge you with this: be a light in a sometimes-dark world. Choose good over evil, right over wrong, integrity over expediency, selflessness over selfishness. And make sure that you're not just focused on making a good living, but that you make a good life for yourself, for your families, for your communities and for our world,” Caboni said.

In his remarks to graduates, Student Government Association President Sam Kurtz, a graduating senior from Bowling Green, offered advice to graduates.

“There is currently a lot of crazy things going on in the world. But there is one thing that is in your direct control, and that is your character,” Kurtz said.

“I'm here today to give you some of my pillars that I live by that made me the person I am today,” Kurtz continued. “The first and most important thing I have learned is that whatever you do, do it to help others.”

#### MINTON AWARD

Uthman A. Rasaaq, of Saki, Oyo State, Nigeria, was recognized as the John D.

Minton Award recipient. He earned his master of science in Mathematics with a concentration in Computational Mathematics in December. WKU Graduate Studies' top award is named for Dr. John D. Minton, who was a history professor and WKU's first graduate dean and served as vice president for Administrative Affairs and as WKU's fifth president. The award was presented by John D. Minton Jr., retired Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court. (Read more about the Minton Award recipient at <https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=12548>.)

#### OGDEN FOUNDATION SCHOLAR

Brett Phelps, of Bardstown, was recognized as the Ogden Foundation Scholar. Phelps earned dual degrees, a bachelor of arts with a major in Visual Journalism & Photography and a bachelor of science with a major in Marketing with a concentration on Strategic Marketing. He also earned a minor in Computer Information Systems and a certificate in Applied Data Analytics. The Ogden Foundation Award, WKU's top undergraduate graduation honor, is presented to one graduating baccalaureate degree senior who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and outstanding university and civic engagement. The award was presented by Daryl Greattinger, a member of the Ogden Foundation Board of Trustees. (Read more about the Ogden Foundation Scholar at <https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=12521>.)

#### ROTC COMMISSIONING

The Hilltopper Army ROTC Program commissioned 14 graduates as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army to serve in the active Army, National Guard or Army Reserve.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Struzik, Professor of Military Science, administered the oath of office to the following cadets (name, hometown, first duty assignment):

Cadet Evan Alexander, from Hendersonville, Tenn., assigned to Fort Gregg-Adams, Va.; Cadet Caleb Dixon, from Lebanon, Tenn., assigned to Fort Novosel, Ala.; Cadet Knik Durman, from Lex-

ington, Ky., assigned to Fort Gregg-Adams, Va.; Cadet Derek Hall, from Owensboro, Ky., assigned to Fort Moore, Ga.; Cadet Gabriel Hamilton-Canabal, from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, assigned to Fort Moore, Ga.; Cadet Tiffany Jessop, from Vine Grove, Ky., assigned to Fort Moore, Ga.; Cadet Isaiah Kindle, from Spring Lake, N.C., assigned to Fort Jackson, S.C.; Cadet Jase Phillips, from Bardstown, Ky., assigned to Fort Jackson, S.C.; Cadet Mason Satterley, from Frankfort, Ky., assigned to Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Cadet Christian Silvano, from Bowling Green, Ky., assigned to Fort Sill, Okla.; Cadet William Stanley from Fresno, Calif., assigned to Fort Eisenhower, Ga.; Cadet Jacob Sutherland from Louisville, Ky., assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Tex.; Cadet Thurnapuf Valle from Union City, Calif., assigned to Fort Eisenhower, Ga.; and Cadet Ethan Yaste from Alvaton, Ky., assigned to Fort Gregg-Adams, Va.

WKU recognized graduates and those in attendance who are serving in the U.S. military or are military veterans.

#### COMMENCEMENT NOTES

- Commencement activities began with Topper Walk along the Avenue of Champions and concluded with the Big Red Bash on the South Lawn.

- Dr. Julia Link Roberts, the Executive Director of The Center for Gifted Studies and The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science, carried the Mace to lead the procession of platform guests. The honor of carrying the mace is given to the faculty member in attendance who has served the longest tenure. Dr. Roberts, the Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies, has taught at WKU for over 40 years.

- WKU junior Donari Merritt, a Music major from Hopkinsville, led the National Anthem with sign language provided by graduating senior Rowan Finley, a Chinese major from Thompsons Station, Tennessee.

- Sedrik Newbern, President of the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors, welcomed graduates to the WKU Alumni family.

- The spring/summer 2025 graduates included 60 student-athletes with an average GPA of 3.36.

— Submitted

## Congratulations to all 2025 Graduates!

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