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# OCTC Experience Nursing Day 2025 - May 2, 2025

Owensboro Community & Technical College will hold Experience Nursing Day on Friday, May 2, 2025, offering high school students a unique opportunity to explore the nursing field through hands-on learning. This event will provide aspiring healthcare professionals with an inside look at what it takes to become a nurse and make a difference in the world of patient care. Experience Nursing Day is an interactive program designed to give students a real-world perspective on nursing. Participants will practice essential nursing skills such as taking vital signs, performing physical assessments, and wound care. They will engage with experienced nursing faculty and staff to gain valuable insights and explore the daily life of an OCTC nursing student through immersive, hands-on activities.

This event will be at OCTCs Main Campus - Academic Building, located at 4800 New Hartford Rd., Owensboro, KY 42303. Session 1 will be held from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM, and Session 2 will take place from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Seating for this hands-on experience is limited, and participants are encouraged to sign up early. Students should register for only one session to allow others the opportunity to attend.

# Senate approves Carroll’s Bill to improve Vocational Rehabilitation Transparency and Accountability

The Senate has approved Senate Bill (SB) 103, sponsored by Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Paducah. The bill aims to improve transparency and accountability within the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to better serve individuals with disabilities. “Kentucky currently ranks 48th in the nation in employment disparity for individuals with disabilities, and that is entirely unacceptable,” said Carroll. “As a father of a daughter with special needs and the CEO of Easterseals West Kentucky, I have long advocated for greater opportunities and support for those with disabilities. I believe this bill will ensure OVR is more transparent, accountable, and effective in achieving its mission of helping Kentuckians with disabilities gain independence and meaningful employment.”

SB 103 requires the OVR executive director to establish a preference for in-state services, so long as the preference does not effectively deny an individual a necessary service that may be available outside of Kentucky. This provision will ensure Kentucky-based service providers are prioritized before seeking out-of-state contracts to support local businesses and keep vital services within the state.

Additionally, the bill requires clear service fee regulations to ensure consistency and fairness, and help prevent arbitrary cost structures that could hinder access to necessary services. The proposal establishes an annual reporting requirement for OVR to enhance oversight and compel the agency to submit a comprehensive review of its operations and finances to the governor. This measure will provide greater accountability and guide future improvements in the state’s vocational rehabilitation services. “By strengthening oversight and ensuring in-state providers are prioritized, SB 103 reinforces Kentucky’s commitment to increasing job opportunities and independence for individuals with disabilities,” Carroll added. “With the Senate’s approval, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to see this important legislation enacted. I appreciate all my colleagues’ support.”

SB 103 now heads to the Kentucky House of Representatives for consideration.



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Counties. He serves as chair of the Senate Families and Children Committee. Sen. Carroll is also a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Health Services Committee, and the Senate Education Committee. Additionally, he is a Legislative Oversight and Investigations Statutory Committee member and serves as an ex officio (non-voting) Juvenile Justice Oversight Council member.

# Kenlake State Resort Park Campground undergoing \$9.3 Million renovation

HARDIN, Ky. – Building on the New Kentucky Home initiative, Kenlake State Resort Park’s campground is undergoing \$9.3 million in renovations to upgrade camping experiences. Gov. Andy Beshear signed legislation that allocated \$40 million for campground improvements, which was approved by the General Assembly during the 2023 legislative session. “Kenlake State Resort Park is full of rich historical heritage and has provided Kentuckians and visitors unforgettable experiences for ages,” said Gov. Beshear. “This is the largest campground renovation in our state parks, and I look forward to the new memories families will create there visiting our New Kentucky Home.”

The renovation project includes 63 full-service campsites, six camper cabins with lake views, a new 2,000-square-foot bathhouse, pull-through sites, sewer connections, new electrical and water lines, more handicap-accessible sites and two additional restroom facilities near the lake. This project demonstrates Team Kentucky’s strong commitment to improving facilities across Kentucky State Parks campgrounds, providing visitors with modern amenities to fit today’s needs. The campground will be closed for the 2025 season, and work is estimated to be completed by spring 2026.

“We are excited for Kenlake State Resort Park’s campground to undergo these important upgrades,” said Kentucky State Parks Commissioner Russ Meyer. “We take great pride in our Kentucky State Parks and look forward to positioning them for top-notch guest experiences. We appreciate Gov. Beshear and the General Assembly for providing the much-needed funding to make this renovation possible and thank our guests for making future plans to visit us.”

Located at 542 Kenlake Road in Hardin, Kentucky, Kenlake State Resort Park is a vacation and business retreat in the heart of one of the nation’s finest outdoor recreation areas. The resort is only minutes away from Land Between the Lakes, a 170,000-acre National Recreation Area. Kenlake is located on the mid-western shore of Kentucky Lake and is a perfect spot to enjoy the great outdoors. Additionally, the park offers a variety of activities and amenities, including lodging, a restaurant, hiking, fishing, a marina, a swimming pool, a playground, seasonal events and more.

Kentucky is home to breathtaking views of mountain ranges, waterfalls, wildlife, scenic hiking trails, caves to explore, fishing, boating, kayaking, nationally recognized golf courses, camping, lodges, historic sites, museums and more, offering opportunities for exploration, entertainment and education to Kentuckians and visitors from across the world. Along with their natural, historic and economic significance, Gov. Beshear has used Kentucky State Parks and their dedicated teams to respond to tornadoes, flooding and other natural disasters by opening their doors to Kentuckians during difficult times.

During the 2024 legislative session, Gov. Beshear signed House Joint Resolution 56, releasing \$71 million for capital construction projects, including building systems upgrades, accommodation improvements and recreational amenity enhancements.

Gov. Beshear also signed House Bill 6, allocating over \$66 million for state park upgrades for various parks. Gov. Beshear announced that \$720,000 in new grant funding is available for Kentucky Trail Towns to repair, enhance and promote recreational projects. To capitalize on Kentucky’s historic economic momentum and record-breaking tourism success, Gov. Beshear recently announced New Kentucky Home, a strategic initiative to further drive economic investment, attract and retain talent and increase tourism across the commonwealth.

In 2024, the Governor announced that 2023 was the best year on record for tourism, with \$13.8 billion in economic impact and 95,222 jobs. This followed a record-breaking 2022 when he announced that tourism had generated more than \$12.9 billion in economic impact and secured 91,668 jobs in Kentucky that year.

Kentucky’s impressive economic success over the last five years is a direct reflection of the Beshear administration’s continued investments in the tourism industry. In December 2024, Gov. Beshear announced that the commonwealth achieved another historic milestone, marking a new record with 10 new tourism development projects set to generate an estimated \$256 million in economic investment. These projects also are expected to create 1,696 jobs once operational.

**Public Notice**

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