

Officers involved in 2 fatal shooting cases; KSP investigating

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Kentucky State Police (KSP) are investigating two separate officer-involved fatal shooting cases; one in Christian County, the other in Lyon County, both of which took place during the past two days. In the first case, the KSP

Post in Madisonville says it was requested by the Christian County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) to investigate an officer-involved shooting that occurred at approximately 12:30 a.m., Central Time, on Sunday. The preliminary investigation indicates the CCSO deputies responded to a physical domestic violence com-

plaint on Clark Store Sinking Fork Road in Crofton. Upon law enforcement's arrival, the suspect ,Patrick J. Martinez, 39, of Crofton Ky began shooting at law enforcement. Deputies returned fire striking the suspect. Martinez was pronounced dead at the scene. In the second case, the KSP Critical Incident Re-

sponse Team (CIRT) was requested by the Lyon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) to investigate an officer-involved shooting that occurred on Monday around 12:30 a.m. Their preliminary investigation indicates the Mayfield KSP Post dispatch received information from the Marshall County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) regard-

ing a shooting incident that had occurred in Marshall County from which a suspect fled toward Livingston and Lyon counties. KSP Post 1 dispatch provided the attempt to locate information to the LCSO. An LCSO deputy observed the suspect vehicle pulling into the Huck's Travel Center on US-62 in Kuttawa. Upon con-

tact with the suspect, an altercation took place, and the deputy fired their agency-issued firearm, striking the individual. The suspect, identified as Jedidiah S. Skinner, of Smithland was pronounced deceased at the scene. There were no other injuries reported in either of the two incidents.

Madisonville Community College receives national award

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

VERSAILLES, Ky. (KT) – From a field of 30 national finalists with 88 entries overall, Madisonville Community College (MCC), one of the schools within the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), won a national award for tackling a pressing workforce need to bridge the skills gap and drive economic growth.

The college won the 2025 Bellwether Award competition in the workforce category, sponsored by the Bellwether College Consortium. The Bellwether Awards are among community colleges' most competitive and prestigious national honors, recognizing in-

novative and impactful programs that drive student success and economic growth.

Along with community partners, MCC converted an administrative building at the former Dotiki Mine Portal in Webster County into the Lisman Workforce Complex, a training center for in-demand technical careers.

Facing a regional shortage of local utility line workers and those with commercial driver's license certification (CDL), the college increased the cohort size for both programs and targeted displaced coal workers when classes began at the complex in 2022. A new sought-after diesel technology program followed soon after.



Students at the utility line technician program from Madisonville Community College, one of several high-demand career opportunities offered at MCC's Lisman Workforce Complex. The college captured national honors for their workforce programs.

Partners include the Webster County Fiscal Court, Webster County Judge Executive Steve

Henry and the Green River Area Development District. KCTCS President

Ryan Quarles commended the partners for responding to the area's workforce shortages. "Congratulations to Madisonville Community College President Cindy Kelley, her exceptional team and the dedicated community partners, for pooling resources to help more local workers become career-ready and move quickly into the workforce to fill critical shortages."

MCC officials say their efforts are paying off, as enrollment continues to grow at the site, including a 68 percent increase in the utility line technician program since 2019. Graduates from the Lisman Workforce Complex achieve over a 93 percent placement rate in their professions within

six months of completion.

Bellwether also recognized a second MCC project aimed at bridging gaps in skilled trades as a finalist in the instructional programs & services category.

Rose Martinez, Ph.D., director for the Bellwether College Consortium, said, "These highly impactful programs were successful in providing workforce readiness and economic mobility to underserved and distressed economic regions. They serve as beacons for students seeking a path to financial success and stability."

For more information about the college's workforce programs, visit the website.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-O-01-23
PUBLICATION SUMMARY

NARRATIVE:
An ordinance pertaining to cost recovery for response to hazardous material releases in Livingston County and its cities.
A complete copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the Livingston County Judge/Executive's Office (321 Court Street; Smithland, KY 42081) during regular business hours.

CERTIFICATION:
I, Livingston County Attorney Allen O. Wilson, certify that I prepared this publication summary pursuant to KRS 67.077(2).

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More than 100 Kentucky Baptist churches get behind 3:16 on 3/16 initiative

By MARK MAYNARD
Kentucky Today

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) – More than 100 Kentucky Baptist pastors have committed to sharing from John 3:16 on Sunday during the 3:16 on 3/16 initiative of the North American Mission Board.

John 3:16 is one of the most well-known Bible verses and encapsulates the very essence of the gospel: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Abram Crozier, the pastor of Trinity Southern Baptist Church in

Falmouth, said his congregation will be putting John 3:16 in action with a Serve Sunday, an annual event for them. Church members will gather at 11 a.m. Sunday and after a short devotional on the famous passage, go out into the community collecting trash and knocking on doors to invite neighbors to church with the hope of sharing the gospel.

Crozier said there will be about 300 churchgoers participating. "We provide the trash-grabbers and gloves and divide and conquer," he said. "Usually, the whole church shows up. We're hoping the rain clears out in the morning and

we will have a good day."

For those unable to go out with them, he said they will stay at the church and pack candy in plastic eggs in preparation for Easter events.

They plan on knocking on doors and inviting people to church, praying with the community and sharing the gospel while also doing some cleanup work on the streets and yards.

"We need to keep John 3:16 in front of our congregation and encourage people to go out and evangelize," Crozier said.

After the community event is over they plan on having hamburgers and hot dogs at the

church, the pastor said.

The church has steadily grown in the six years Crozier has been the senior pastor. They have baptized 240 during that time, including 55 last year. The youth group has been exploding as well with 75 coming weekly. It has been mainly middle schoolers, the pastor said.

"They're experiencing their own revival on Fridays," he said. "It has been great to see."

As of Friday afternoon, 104 Kentucky Baptist churches have committed to speaking on John 3:16 in services Sunday.

The 3:16 on 3/16 campaign gives pastors an opportunity to unify around evangelism, but it also affords churches the chance to put evangelism before their people during a time when there seems to be an increasing openness to the gospel.

A 2019 study conducted by Lifeway found that 55 percent of churchgoers had not shared the gospel with anyone in the previous six months. In 2024, though, Lifeway Research noted the share of those who claim no religious affiliation appears to have dropped after decades of a steady increase, which potentially represents a changing tide that churches need to be ready to address.

Greater interest in spiritual things among Generation Z may be one cause behind the drop in religious nones, though it is too early to tell for certain.

"Today, I wonder if we're seeing the beginning of a revival among Gen Z, particularly those in college," Trevin Wax, NAMB's vice president of resources and marketing, wrote last year. "As I survey the landscape, I see signs of hope and renewal that strike me as unexpected and remarkable."

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