



Congratulations to Lady Cardinal Victoria Joiner on her hit to left field against Crittenden County. She joins the team and the area geared up for All "A" State Tournament competition in Owensbors. Saturday the Lady Cardinals play Whitefield Academy at 8:30 a.m., Whitefield Academy at noon, and Trimble County at Cov. Holy Cross. The team needs to win two out of three to advance to Sunday play. This is the girls third consecutive trip to the tournament. Tickets for Saturday can be purchasedonline at: <https://gofan.co/event/3560181?schooldId=KY87384>. For All "A" updates, be sure that you're following their official website <http://www.allaclassic.org/>

Higdon joins in request to delay REAL ID enforcement

By TOM LATEK
KENTUCKY TODAY
Special to West Kentucky News

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, joined by 27 members of the Senate Majority Caucus, has sent a formal letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem requesting a delay of the federal REAL ID enforcement date, currently set for May 7.

The letter is a direct response to growing concerns from Kentuckians across the state who are still unable to access driver's licensing services due to limited appointment availability and long lines for walk-ins. "This simple

request is to protect Kentuckians from bureaucratic burdens,” Higdon said. “Rural residents, seniors, and families still have hurdles in front of them, and in a lot of cases, may not be aware of their options. Only about 40 percent of our residents have a REAL ID, but I would also like more time to help Kentuckians understand that they may not need a REAL ID. Kentucky has made a good faith effort, but we just aren’t there yet.”

He pointed out that standard driver's licenses will still be valid for daily use within the state, and alternatives like U.S. passports or passport cards also meet federal requirements for air travel and access to secure facilities, such

as military bases and some federal facilities. Higdon encouraged residents to review their options early and choose the form of identification that best fits their circumstances.

In their letter, the senators noted that the recently approved Senate Bill 43 allowing third party vendors to perform license renewals will not take effect until June 27, leaving a gap of more than a month after the current federal deadline, and that challenges continue to hinder Kentuckians' ability to obtain a REAL ID, even though regional licensing offices are now open one Saturday a month.

Kentucky became REAL ID compliant in 2019 through legislation passed by the General Assembly

in 2017. Because the state was the only one administering licensing through local circuit court clerks at the time, rather than a centralized Department of Motor Vehicles, it transitioned to a regional licensing model. The circuit court clerks' offices were also not technologically equipped to handle the federally mandated responsibility. While the change to a regional model modernized operations, it created new frustrations for Kentuckians.

Higdon added, “We want Kentuckians to know that their concerns are valid and that their elected officials are doing what we can to make this whole process easier.”

Grand Rivers Council discusses water rates, festival and ballpark

The Grand Rivers City Council's last meeting discussed several items, including the takeover of the ballpark.

Members present were Pat Garbett, Mark Sunderman, Wanda Evans, Bud Hunt, Mike O'Leary and Scott Parsons

Pat Garbett made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections from the March 17, 2025, meeting. Scott Parsons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Sunderman made a motion to approve the financials for the period ending March 31, 2025, Mike O'Leary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor advised that the Lighthouse Landing Lease Agreement, which included the ballpark which had not been initiated that Lighthouse Landing is now prepared to take over the ballpark and will be paying the City the sum of \$6,000.00 annually. City Attorney, Lee Wilson advised that Lighthouse Landing will need to submit a letter stating their intent to exercise the right to the ballpark as originally agreed to.

Mayor Tom Moodie and City Attorney Lee Wilson have researched some Business Incentive Program Possibilities, handouts on some incentives from other cities were given to the council to review. Pat Garbett announced the Chamber of Commerce's annual Quilt show will be held April 23 -26 and volunteers are needed. Tourism Director Brian McDonald advised the annual Bluegrass, BBQ and Brew Festival is April 26-27 .

Utilities Manager, Jeff Deweese informed the council that the bids for the painting of the water tank were opened April 1, and the low bid came in at \$192,500 from MW Cole. Mark Sunderman made a motion to accept. Scott Parsons, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The increase of a charge to customers for a minimum charge for water and sewer of 1,000 gallons be put in place Pat Garbett made a motion for the first reading of the ordinance. City Attorney Lee Wilson presented the first reading of Ordinance 01-2025 Water and Sewer Rates.

Jeff Dewese stated changes will be made to the Water Service Agreement but still needed to discuss verbiage with City Attorney, Lee Wilson. Lee Wilson advised the council that changes can be made and approved by the Mayor.

Mayor issues statement about solid waste initiative

SALEM, Ky. -Misinformation is reportedly at the root of confusion over the City of Salem's Solid Waste Franchise Initiative.

In that regard, Mayor Gary Damon recently issued a letter:

"It appears there is a lot of misinformation and confusion circulating regarding the Solid Waste Franchise initiative being considered by the Commission of the City of Salem. Due to this I would like to take a moment to provide you with the truth of where we are at this time.

- There has been no final decision made regarding this matter; and one will not be made for some time;
- Currently we are only in the process of taking bids and will not have those results until late May. As a reminder, any waste collection company, local or not, has the right to bid;
- After the bidding process has been completed, we will be sending a comprehensive survey to each household inside city limits. This survey will have information regarding pricing and the services offered with the franchise. It will also give each household a voice in the matter;
- Then, and only then, will the decision be made.”

Damon stressed comments made during the first public hearing Nov. 19, 2024 that “this is a long process that we must follow. Any final decision is still a long way off.”

Damon said in his statement that social media postings have been “not factual.”

SOURCE: *City of Salem Facebook*





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