

Senator Mills Reappointed Co-Chair Of Kentucky Housing Task Force

Senate Majority Caucus Chair Robby Mills, R-Henderson, has been reappointed as co-chair of Kentucky’s Housing Task Force for the 2025 Interim. His continued leadership in this capacity follows a productive legislative session in which the General Assembly passed several housing-related measures, including Senate Bill 129 and House Bills 160 and 321, to expand

tools to address vacant and abandoned property and address zoning challenges. The reauthorized Housing Task Force will build on the progress made during the 2025 Regular Session and continue its work to identify long-term solutions to the state’s growing housing needs. The task force will explore issues ranging from zoning reform and infrastructure plan-

ning to public-private partnerships and housing affordability across urban, suburban, and rural communities. “Members of Senate leadership do not typically serve as chairs of committees, but in Robby’s case, he’s been so impactful on this issue that it makes sense for him to continue in an influential role on this task force,” Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manches-



Sen. Robby Mills

ter, said. “I’m happy to have him serve again as co-chair, and I know he and the group will keep doing good work to address Kentucky’s housing challenges.” “I’m honored to continue leading this vital work on behalf of Kentucky families,” said Mills. “Over the past year, the task force laid a strong foundation for bipartisan progress on housing, which was reflected in the passage

of Senate Bill 129 and House Bills 160 and 321. These laws provide communities with better tools to address vacant properties, streamline zoning, and encourage smart development. In 2025, we’ll build on that momentum by focusing on practical, long-term solutions that expand housing access and affordability throughout the commonwealth.” The 2025 Housing Task Force will study a range of policy areas, including the impact of housing costs on workforce development, the availability of infrastructure in underserved regions, and barriers to new construction. In addition to building on legislative achievements, the task force will engage with local governments, developers, advocates, and other stakeholders to inform its recommendations for future action. States nationwide grapple with rising housing costs, aging infrastructure, and population shifts. Kentucky’s Housing Task Force aims to keep the commonwealth ahead of the curve by developing strategies that fit its unique geographic, economic, and demographic landscape. “We’ve heard the concerns from communities all across Kentucky, from fast-growing counties to smaller towns struggling to attract development,” Mills added. “This task force will continue to listen, collaborate, and propose practical solutions that ensure Kentuckians have access to safe, affordable, and attainable housing.” The Housing Task Force will meet monthly during the 2025 Interim.

I Majored In “Matheny”

By Tommy Druen

Twenty-five years ago, I sat in a chair on Centre College’s campus, clad in cap and gown, prepared—but hardly ready—to graduate. For the first time in my life, I was adrift. I had a plan, but no conviction. I was unsure whether the path ahead was mine or simply the one I had chosen because I didn’t know what else to choose.

Centre, like most colleges, typically invited a prominent figure to deliver the commencement address. That year, however, the graduating class selected one of our own—Dr. Larry Matheny. It was a decision that surprised no one, especially his students.

Dr. Matheny was more than a professor; he was an institution. Nearly four decades teaching government, a dry wit as sharp as his intellect, a fondness for gin, and a rumored familiarity with every book in the college library made him a figure of lore. I took eight of his classes during my time at Centre. Technically, I majored in government, but if I’m honest, I majored in Matheny.

As I had done so many times before, I listened to him closely. There was the expected humor, of course, but then he said something that landed with such clarity it has stayed with me ever since: “When you graduate from Centre College, you don’t know how to do anything... except learn. But if you know how to learn, you can do most anything in life.”

That statement has echoed in my mind each May as a new crop of graduates turns their tassels. It came back especially strong recently during an online exchange I had about the purpose of education. A friend insisted that the goal of education is job preparation. I pushed back—because while preparing people for the workforce is valuable, it is not the same thing as educating them. Nor do I think that should be the sole goal.

Somewhere along the way, we started conflating education with vocational training. We now expect students to emerge from college ready to plug directly into their chosen profession. Any class not deemed “practical” is dismissed as wasteful. Entire disciplines—literature, phi-

losophy, art history—are cast aside as indulgent because they don’t come with a clear paycheck.

Even a former Kentucky Lieutenant Governor once took a swipe at history majors a few years back. As someone who has spent a good portion of his adult life studying history, I took that a bit personally.

Then there are the critics who declare that college is a waste of time altogether. And truly, college is not for everyone. “You could make more money in a skilled trade,” they argue. And they’re not wrong—many trades are both stable and lucrative. Eight weeks of training can land you in the cab of a semi-truck, with the average salary hovering near \$90,000. That’s real, respectable work.

Is a French literature major likely to make that kind of money reading Rimbaud in the original language? Probably not. Do dentists need to study metaphysics to fill a cavity? Of course not. That’s not the point. The question we should be asking isn’t, “What job will this get me?” It’s, “What understanding will this give me?” Because the essence of education isn’t the memorization of facts—it’s the cultivation of understanding. It’s one thing to know the definition of an atom; it’s another to grasp how atoms behave. It’s one thing to summarize a novel; it’s another to understand what the author intended to convey. Knowing the dates of a war is easy. Understanding the forces that led to it—and the ones it unleashed—is much harder.

If education were merely about job training, we could all stop learning once we punched the clock. And sadly, many do. But I believe education is about more than utility. It’s about becoming a fuller, better version of ourselves.

Plato wrote, “If a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life.” I take that to heart. I don’t want to learn just to work. I want to learn to grow. To better understand the world around me—and the one within me. To take knowledge and turn it into comprehension, and hopefully, over time, into wisdom. I may never learn everything. But I fully intend to die trying.

County Students Named To MCC President’s, Dean’s List

Madisonville Community College is proud to announce the Spring 2025 President’s List and Dean’s List, recognizing students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement.

Dr. Cindy Kelley, president of Madisonville Community College, shared her congratulations. “We are proud of our students who have earned this recognition. Their hard work, focus, and determination continue to inspire us.”

President’s List honorees earned a 4.0 GPA, and Dean’s List students earned at least a 3.5 GPA in recognition of their strong academic performance. To be eligible for either list, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours in 100-level courses or higher.

Dr. Mary Werner, dean of academic affairs, added, “It’s a privilege to celebrate our students’ academic success. These honors reflect the time and effort they’ve invested in their education.”

Congratulations to all MCC students who earned a place on the Spring 2025 President’s and Dean’s Lists. Your commitment to academic excellence does not go unnoticed.

The students from Webster County who were named to the President’s List are:

Brittany Baker
Katrina Blake
Matthew Boyd
Brooke Burton
Reagan Corbett
Chloe Daniel

Ralynn Fambrough
Kelsey Hanor
Gina Hardin
Holly Minton
Naw Rose Moe
Aiden Morris
Erika Noffsinger
Keats Pruden
Paige Rakestraw
Denny Rivas Pocasangre

Jalen Rowley
Hali Sheets
Kennedy Warren
Alex Whitehead
Brylee Whitledge
Mylee Whitledge
Webster County students on the Dean’s List

Kaitlyn Adams
Kailey Albright
Alaina Barron
Tori Blanford
James Corbett
Evan Davis
Brandy Gray
Addisyn Lam
Jeremy Lopez Moreno

Ella Lowry
Braxton Majors
Alysa Moore
Kyla Plowman
Steven Pryor
Brooke Shepherd
Laykin Smith
Zachary Stewart



God Knows You

By Dr. Bob Hardison

Give God The Worship He Deserves
By Joyously Singing

Q: I’ve had a notorious reputation in church of being a bad singer. Once I was standing by my brother when he turned to me and said, “Shh, don’t sing so loud, you are embarrassing me!” I know I don’t sing very pretty, but I like to sing praises unto God. Should I sing more softly or not sing at all in church?

A: We often think singing is only for good singers. Singing in church is not a talent show for Christians. If we or others are consumed with how we sound and what others think of the quality of our singing, we are focused on the wrong thing. That’s putting

the focus on us.

Christian’s have a lot to sing about. David, the psalmist testified, “He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God” (40:2, 3). Like David, we were trapped in a pit we dug ourselves by sin until God reached down and pulled us out. He saved us by sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sin-debt. Our sins are atoned for by God’s grace and we receive that atonement through faith.

Salvation isn’t achieved; it’s received. The obedience to God

that marks our lives is not for our salvation. It is from our salvation. God deserves our worship and we should joyously sing His praise. In worship services, open your mouth wide and sing to an audience of One.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Sebree Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing for a **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT** for Mr. Juan Apolinar. Mr. Apolinar is requesting permission to build a duplex on his property located on Roger Powell Road. (Listed with the PVA as lot only at this time). The property is zoned R1-Town Residential. In compliance with the City of Sebree zoning ordinance, a conditional use permit is required for duplexes in the R1 classification.. The hearing is scheduled for **Monday, June 23, 2025, 5:00 P.M.** at the Sebree Municipal Building.

6/11c

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Doug McClure at 168 Charles Buchanan Ln. has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to raise ground level and place home. The property is located 168 Charles Buchanan Ln. Sebree Ky. 42455, approximately 1 mile from Hwy 370, and 2 miles from the city of ONTON.

Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CLOSEOUT PUBLIC HEARING ADVERTISEMENT

This notice is intended to inform the residents of Webster County, Kentucky that Webster County Fiscal Court is in the process of closing out the Western Kentucky Training Center Project 20-038. The project was funded in part by the Kentucky Community Development Block Grant Program. A public hearing will be held at the Webster County Courthouse on June 23, 2025 at 9:00 AM, local time. The purpose of this hearing is to review past use of funds and program performance. If there are any questions or comments about the project, please direct them to the following:

Steve Henry, Judge/Executive

25 US 41-A South, PO Box 155

Dixon, KY 42409-0155

(270) 639-5042

1-800-648-6057

The Webster County Fiscal Court does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, or disability, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services, to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities. Any persons requiring special needs assistance should contact Tonia Duncan at (270) 639-5042 at least five days prior to the meeting. The TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-648-6057.

Written comments will be received until June 23, 2025.