

OBITUARIES,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A-2

tery. Pallbearers were Ben David, Anthony Siler, Silas Showalter, Joe Norris, Devin Gould, and Nick Belfield.

BRENDA CAROL TAYLOR

Brenda Carol Taylor, age 76, of Glasgow, died Saturday, February 22, 2025, at the T. J. Samson Community Hospital. Born July 15, 1948 in Louisville, she was a daughter of the late Joe Frank and Mary Lucille Glass Nichols, and the wife of the late Douglas Earl Taylor.

She worked at KY Pants in Glasgow until she attended school to be a License Practical Nurse. She worked at T. J. Samson Community Hospital in Pediatrics for over 20 years .

Survivors include two daughters, Rochelle Wood (Shad) and Cynthia Corbin, all of Glasgow; her son, Michael Taylor (Brittany), Glasgow; her grandchildren – Jesse Frank Shirley (Kayla), Tompkinsville, John Taylor Shirley (Lauren), Summer Shade, Trevor Wood, Shadda Wood and Jameson Corbin, all of Glasgow; and one great-grandchild, McKinley Shirley.

Funeral services were held at 12 noon on Wednesday, February 26, at the McMurtrey Funeral Home in Summer Shade. Burial was at Summer Shade Cemetery.

LINDA ANN (COLLINS) MURPHY



Linda Ann (Collins) Murphy, age 79, of Tompkinsville, died Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at NHC in Barren County.

Linda was born on May 18, 1945, a daughter of the late Tommy and Ina (Coe) Collins.

Linda graduated from Tompkinsville High School. She worked at Clay Sportswear for 15 years. Linda was of the church of Christ Faith.

On October 1, 1965, she married Freddie

Max “Pete” Murphy, who preceded her in death.

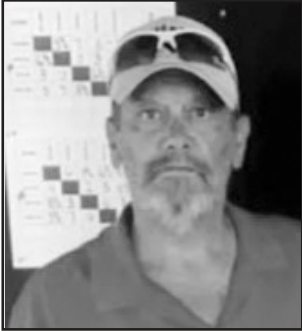
Linda is survived by two sons, David Murphy (Lesa) and Cam Murphy (Beverly), all of Tompkinsville; three grandchildren, Melinda Davis (Chad), Trent Murphy and Logan Murphy (Hannah); two great grandchildren, Carrison and Riggs Davis; her beloved dog, Phoenix; and a sister, Jesse Romaine (Mel), Columbus, Ohio.

One grandson, Petelyn Murphy, and an infant brother, Clifton Earl Collins, also preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Monday, February 24, at the Yokley Tribble Funeral Home in Tompkinsville, with Kevin Dyer officiating. Burial was at Monroe County Memorial Lawn.

Serving as pallbearers were Logan Murphy; Trent Murphy; Chad Davis; Thomas May; Jason Spears and Clifton Long. Honorary pallbearers were Mickie Smith; Kerry Lyons; Jay Reagan; Michael Walker; and Ricky Davis.

GERALD EDWARD “JAKE” RYAN



Gerald Edward "Jake" Ryan, Jr., age 68, of Tompkinsville, died Thursday, February 20, 2025, at Norton’s Hospital in Louisville.

Born January 30, 1957 in Dover, New Jersey, he was a son of Norma Gertrude Chiappa and the late Gerald Edward Ryan, Sr., and the husband of Loretta Watson. They were married in 2010.

Jake worked as a D.J./Karaoke. He grew up in Middletown, Ohio and moved to Tompkinsville later in life.

In addition to his mother and wife, survivors include a son, Jake Ryan of Tompkinsville, a daughter, Jennifer M Ward, Centerville, Ohio; two sons, Gerald E. Ryan III (Katie), of Indiana and Jacob Matthew Tyler Ryan (Yossey), Tompkinsville; four step sons

– Steven Botts (Amy); Eric Cain (Brittany); Scott Botts (Brandi); and Bradley Botts (Mary), all of Tompkinsville; 24 grandchildren; one great grandchild; his two dogs Petey and Zeke; two sisters, Sherry Jandle and Norma Jean Ryan-Green (Elise), all of Virginia; and two brothers, Walter Grosse, and Michael Grosse, both of Ohio.

A brother, Richard Grosse, also preceded him in death.

Jake’s wishes were to be cremated and a family service will be held later.

Yokley Tribble Funeral Home in Tompkinsville was in charge of the arrangements..

BARRY TURNER BARTLEY



Barry Turner Bartley, age 58, of Tompkinsville, died Thursday, February 20, 2025, in Tompkinsville.

Born June 14, 1966, in Glasgow, he was the son of Mary (Biggerstaff) Bartley, who survives, and the late Donald Bartley.

Barry was a graduate of the Tompkinsville High School Class of 1985.

After high school, he graduated from Lindsey Wilson College, where he obtained a bachelor’s degree.

He worked at Bluegrass Ingredients in Glasgow.

On August 21, 1992, Barry married Kimberly Bartley in Clinton County.

In addition to his mother and wife, survivors include four daughters – Hannah Kichelle McHenry (Tyler), Moss, Tenn.; Camille Victoria Rutheford (Ryan), Scottsville; and Mariel Grace Bartley and Abby Claire Bartley, both of Tompkinsville; three grandchildren – Conner Stephen McHenry, Ava Blake Rutheford and Cade Daniel Rutheford.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, at Yokley Tribble Funeral Home in Tompkinsville.

YOUR OPINION

Transparency of our government should be at the forefront of every single elected official’s business. When any elected official seeks to hinder easy access to its business, it is a red flag, and those red flags are waving here in Metcalfe County.

State Representative Amy Neighbors voted in favor of House Bill 368 on February 20 in the House Local Government Committee, a committee she serves on as Vice Chair. While I’ve yet to hear a response from Neighbors after contacting her with my concerns as both a constituent and an employee of a newspaper, her support of this bill has helped advance it to a full House vote as early as February 26.

Neighbors said in an email to Jobe Publishing, Inc. that her support of such a bill would keep her districts and other local government entities from being “forced”to pay for legal advertising in her community’s newspapers, some of our oldest businesses in the state, despite it being your tax dollars that pay for that information.

HB 368 is designed to strip away a state mandate that requires local governments to publish advertising in local newspapers in areas with less than a population of 80,000, allowing them to post things such as public notices, surplus actions, filed ordinances, and other business items onto their government-run websites. This population reference is law because large cities have low cost internet providers and easily-attained, free WiFi.

In Metcalfe County and other Jobe Publishing counties, many of our readers lack access to the internet, especially our older generations, nor do they have the time it takes to search every website ran by school districts, councils, commissions, boards, committees, etc.

Local newspapers strive to keep readers informed in their communities. It is a place they have come to rely on to find community happenings and government transparency, which can sometimes come in the form of legal advertisements.

Supporters of this bill are out of touch with their small community constituents.

Does Amy Neighbors believe in these small communities she is elected to serve that all people are able to access the internet, especially given that Metcalfe County has over 24% of its population who live at or under the poverty level?

Do these people not matter? It’s much cheaper for a subscription or a 75-cent pick up at the local Five Star than a monthly internet service of over \$60 per month.

Does Amy Neighbors believe her older constituents are able to navigate the internet like the younger generations can? According to a Coda Ventures study, 70% of ages 18-24 read their local news to stay informed. In contrast, those numbers reach 80% and above for ages 40 through 75 and older.

Many of our older populations are very competent folks but have no desire to learn how to navigate the internet or no service to do so at all.

This bill also creates unreasonable barriers for your local newspapers’ abilities to help keep our government accountable and transparent, and creates a barrier for the constitutionally-protected right of Freedom of the Press; I would be hard-pressed to find someone who can dedicate the hours and hours of trying to keep up on a daily basis as would other small community newspapers.

In a time where mistrust of government is at record levels, the passage of this bill would further deepen that mistrust between elected officials, newspapers, and constituents in the communities they live.

It’s YOUR tax dollars that are paying for newspapers to print legal advertisements from local government, and while legal ads are not a significant amount of revenue for Jobe Publishing, it is certainly a source of valuable income for small, independent publishers.

Newspaper publishers were not invited to the table from the misguided represen-

tatives regarding this legislation, and they may not even know how this mandate could affect many communities. That’s why it’s critical to contact your state representative without delay.

If this law goes away like the Kentucky League of Cities is fighting to do, sooner or later, an unethical official will realize the public is not watching and corruption will once again become more prevalent. Jobe Publishing newspapers have uncovered many corrupt practices from elected officials, and some of those have come from the current state mandate for local governments to print legal advertisements.

What they fail to make known is that newspaper industries with paid subscribers are the only media with a quantifiable audited reach. They also fail to explain the mandate to be a paid newspaper with the USPS is to have a local office.

If this law goes away, there is no reason for 50 to 60 small community newspapers to keep an open office in small town Kentucky.

While the federal government and other states are working on incentives for these newspapers that are over 100 years old, our representatives are turning their backs on the legacy left from their predecessors, tax payers, and our oldest, ongoing businesses.

It is our hope that Amy Neighbors and neighboring representatives Rebecca Raymer and Michael Meredith will reconsider and honor the legacy of transparency left to them by the senators and representatives before them.

You can contact Representative Amy Neighbors at amy.neighbors@kylegislature.gov or by calling the hotline 502-564-8100 to leave a message for Neighbors, or any other state representative.

You can also access contact information for your representatives at <https://legislature.ky.gov/Pages/contactus.aspx>.

Allyson Dix  
Editor at Barren  
County Progress  
Reporter for Metcalfe  
County's The Herald

CIRCUIT COURT,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A-1

The Commonwealth of Kentucky and the two 2014 Black Ford Tauruses, the 2021 Black Charger, the 2006 white Heil Enclosed Trailer and all miscellaneous items to the Fountain Run Police Department. He was ordered to obtain gainful employment or in the alternative shall complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service per week until gainful employment is obtained. Final sentencing in this matter was scheduled for March 20.

Larry Norris pled guilty to a charge of possession of a controlled substance (first degree, first offense, methamphetamine) to receive a sentence of three years, probated for five years with supervision.

Additional charges of public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, criminal trespass in the third degree and possession of marijuana. He was ordered to obtain gainful employment or in the alternative shall complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service per week until gainful employment is obtained. Final sentencing in this matter was scheduled for March 20.

Steven Chavis pled guilty to a charge of vehicular homicide to receive a sentence of 11 years and also pled guilty to a charge of driving under the influence first offense (aggravating circumstances) to receive a sentence of 14 days in jail. Additional

charge of possession of marijuana, criminal mischief in the first degree and reckless driving were dismissed. Final sentencing in this matter was scheduled for March 20

Lisa Carol Chapman pled guilty to an amended charge of possession of a controlled substance (first offense, methamphetamine, amended from second offense) to receive a sentence of two years, probated for four years with supervision. She was ordered to enter and complete the Monroe County Drug Court Program and obtain gainful employment or in the alternative shall complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service per week until gainful employ-

ment is obtained. Final sentencing in this matter was scheduled for March 20

Larry Butrum pled guilty to a charge of possession of a controlled substance (first degree, first offense, methamphetamine) to receive a sentence of one year with supervision. He was ordered to obtain gainful employment or in the alternative shall complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service per week until gainful employment is obtained. Additional charges of speeding, failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security and possession of marijuana were dismissed.

PLED NOT GUILTY

The following defendants appeared and were interviewed by the pretrial release officers and determined to be eligible for the services of a public defender. They then entered not guilty pleas with March 20 set for pretrial conferences unless otherwise noted:

— Dianna Baldwin on charges of trafficking in a controlled substance (first degree, first offense, methamphetamine), possession of a controlled substance (first degree, first offense, methamphetamine), possession of drug paraphernalia and public intoxication (controlled substances (excludes alcohol);

— Timothy Curtis (no charges listed);

—James Dockery on charge of criminal trespassing (third degree) and failure to comply with sex offender registration (second or greater offense);

OTHER

Amber E. Henderson was scheduled to be arraigned on charges of trafficking in a controlled substance (first degree, first offense, fentanyl), importing fentanyl, wanton endangerment (first degree), and endangering the welfare of a minor. The matter was continued for effectuation of service.

(Additional actions from the February Circuit Court will be published next week.)