

Spending

From Front

Mayor Michael Gaffney and members of the city commission during the meeting. Howard began by introducing himself and noting his long ties to the community, saying he had lived in Lancaster his entire life and had operated several businesses in the city, including real estate and rental properties.

Howard described past incidents involving tenants at properties he owned, including apartments located above a building where he previously operated a real estate office. He said he had

occasionally allowed tenants to remain in apartments without rent during difficult circumstances. However, he recounted one situation in which neighbors reported late-night parties and disturbances. According to Howard, he confronted the occupants and asked them to leave. He said a police officer later arrived at the scene and, in Howard's account, appeared prepared to arrest him despite his assertion that he owned the building.

Howard also detailed two eviction situations involving rental homes on Herring Heights and Cowden Court. He said he obtained eviction notices through the court system and attempted

to enforce them after the required waiting period. In one instance, Howard said he asked tenants to collect their belongings and leave while he changed the locks.

In another case, he alleged that neighbors had reported drug activity at a property. Howard said he contacted local police before attempting to remove the tenants. According to his account, officers responded to the scene but disagreed with his interpretation of the eviction paperwork. Howard expressed frustration with the officers' handling of the situation and criticized specific members of the police department.

Howard also addressed rumors he said he had heard about the possibility of Garrard County Sheriff Willie Skeens assuming responsibilities currently handled by the city's police department. He told the commission that if such a change could result in significant financial savings for the city, it should be considered.

"If you could save thousands of dollars in a business, you would deal with it," Howard said during his remarks, encouraging council members to examine potential cost reductions.

Councilman Brandon McGlone responded following Howard's comments. McGlone defended the police department and East Jessamine, followed by early matchups with Wayne County, Paris, and Rockcastle County. The Golden Lions will also participate in the 2A Section 5 Tournament and the Green County Wooden Bat Tournament, providing opportunities to test themselves against varied competition.

District contests against Boyle County, Danville, and Lincoln County later in the season are expected to be critical in determining postseason positioning. Consistency remains a key

focus for Garrard County. In 2025, the team struggled in close games and against stronger regional opponents, as reflected in multiple one- and two-run losses. Converting competitive outings into victories will be essential for improving their standing in Region 12. The returning pitching core, combined with signs of offensive growth in preseason play, could address those shortcomings.

As the 2026 season approaches, Garrard County will provide initial benchmarks for the team's development, while district games later in the schedule are likely to determine postseason positioning. Given last year's success in district play, Garrard County will aim to remain a contender within the 45th District despite roster changes.

As the 2026 season begins, the Lady Lions face the dual challenge of replacing key pro-

duction and integrating younger players into significant roles. While early results reflect adjustment, the presence of experienced returners and a full schedule of competitive games offer opportunities for growth. The team's trajectory will likely depend on the development of its pitching staff and its ability to generate consistent offense against a demanding regional field.

complaints. He also referenced past discussions about officers commuting from outside the city.

The exchange concluded with Howard telling the commission he planned to continue attending meetings and raising the issue if he believed the situation had not improved.

City officials did not take immediate action during the meeting regarding the concerns raised. Public comment sessions at Lancaster city commission meetings allow residents to address elected officials on matters involving city government.

Howard replied that he believed other residents shared his concerns and said he could bring individuals forward who had similar

focus for Garrard County. In 2025, the team struggled in close games and against stronger regional opponents, as reflected in multiple one- and two-run losses. Converting competitive outings into victories will be essential for improving their standing in Region 12. The returning pitching core, combined with signs of offensive growth in preseason play, could address those shortcomings.

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Baseball

From Front

ERA across 54.1 innings, highlighting a core of pitching talent that remains largely intact entering 2026.

Graduation has resulted in the loss of key seniors, but much of the statistical production from last season returns. Players such as Logan Anderson, Kaden Ellis, Korbin Folger, and Brady Resor are expected to take on larger

leadership roles, while underclassmen including Ryan Noe and Samuel Routt add depth to both the lineup and pitching rotation based on the 2026 roster provided.

Early preseason results suggest measurable progress. Garrard County opened exhibition play with a 13-4 extra-inning victory over Harlan, scoring in multiple middle innings and capitalizing on offensive surges in the fifth and sixth frames. The team followed with a domi-

nant 15-0 win over Bourbon County, highlighted by a six-run first inning and consistent run production late in the game. Across the two games, the Golden Lions demonstrated improved plate discipline, drawing walks and generating timely hits, while also showcasing a deeper pitching staff capable of limiting opposing offenses.

The 2026 schedule presents a balanced but demanding slate. The season opens March 19 at home against

in 2025 with an 11.63 ERA, and early 2026 results indicate continued growing pains. In preseason play, Garrard County dropped two contests, including a 9-3 loss to Wayne County and a 20-6 defeat against Rockcastle County. Across those two games, the Lady Lions allowed 29 runs, highlighting the need for improved command and defensive consistency as the season progresses.

Offensively, the team has shown flashes of potential despite the losses. In the Rockcastle County game, Garrard County recorded seven hits, with multiple players contributing, including Zoe Jordon, Jenna Saylor, and Jazlyn Shelton. Against Wayne County, the team produced four hits and drew several walks, suggesting the ability to generate baserunners even against strong opposition.

The 2026 schedule presents a demanding slate of opponents, particularly within Region 12. Matchups against programs such as Pulaski County, West Jessamine, Boyle County, and Mercer County will test the Lady Lions throughout the regular season. Tournament appearances, including the Ark Childcare Classic and the First Southern National Bank Classic, add further opportunities for competitive play.

Early-season contests against Estill County and Casey County

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Softball

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the new campaign seeking to build on last year's postseason success while addressing early-season challenges.

The Lady Lions concluded the 2025 season with a 12-13 overall record, including a strong run through district play that culminated in a 45th District championship. The team defeated Lincoln County and Boyle County in the postseason before falling to West Jessamine in the 12th Region tournament. Despite finishing below .500 overall, Garrard County demon-

strated competitiveness within its district, posting a 4-1 mark in those contests.

However, the transition to 2026 includes significant roster turnover. Key offensive contributors from last season, including Emily Hounshell (.468 batting average, 7 home runs) and Riley Murphy (.358 average), are no longer part of the roster, leaving a void in both power hitting and pitching production. Hounshell, in particular, anchored the pitching staff with 123 innings and a 3.59 ERA, accounting for the majority of the team's workload in the circle.

In their absence, returning players are expected to assume

expanded roles. Jazlyn Shelton, who hit .413 last season with 31 hits and 17 RBIs, is among the most experienced offensive threats now leading the lineup. Zoe Jordon (.306 average, 17 RBIs in 2025) also returns as a key contributor, while Destiny Logan and Ashlyn Scott provide additional experience across the field. The current roster reflects a mix of upperclassmen and underclassmen, including seniors Abigail Bailey and Zoe Jordon, alongside a sizable group of sophomores and freshmen expected to gain early experience.

The pitching staff enters the season as an area of uncertainty. Shelton logged limited innings

in 2025 with an 11.63 ERA, and early 2026 results indicate continued growing pains. In preseason play, Garrard County dropped two contests, including a 9-3 loss to Wayne County and a 20-6 defeat against Rockcastle County. Across those two games, the Lady Lions allowed 29 runs, highlighting the need for improved command and defensive consistency as the season progresses.

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Garrard County Archery Results

2026 KY NASP® State Bullseye Tournament 10/15 Meter
March 13 and 14th
KY State Fair & Exposition Center, Louisville

The Garrard County High School ranked 100th out of 148 high school teams with a team score of 3142.

Top 5 team individual scorers were: Samuel Fielder, 288; Abigail Fathergill, 280; Austin Osborn - 279; Ashton Mobley - 278; Kylee Kobernick - 273.

The Garrard Middle School ranked 7th out of 130 middle school teams with a team score of 3243.

Top 5 team individual scorers were: CJ Walker - 289; Elijah Lamb - 284; Kaitlyn Wells - 280; Liam Husband - 275; Gunner Roller - 274.

CJ Walker ranked 4th out of 1585 middle school boys.

Camp Dick Robinson Elementary School ranked 1st out of 105 elementary school teams with a team score of 3080.

Top 5 team individual scorers were: Charleigh Poe, 289; Josie Kilbourn - 268; Justin Sloan - 263; Luci Jones - 262; Mila Clarkson - 257.

Charleigh Poe ranked 1st out of 997 elementary school girls.

Paint Lick Elementary School ranked 53rd out of 105 elementary school teams with a team score of 2696.

Top 5 team individual scorers were: Jack Lamb - 263; Willa Black - 257; Aria Morin - 242; Lilly Stiles - 237; Zane Weddington - 234.

2026 KY NASP® State 3D Tournament
March 13 and 14th
KY State Fair & Exposition Center, Louisville

The Garrard County High School ranked 21st out of 74 high school teams with a team score of 1620.

Top 5 team individual scorers were: Samuel Fielder, 281; Austin Osborn - 280; Kylee Kobernick - 274; Abigail Fathergill,

270; Lori Burkhead - 268.

The Garrard Middle School ranked 4th out of 65 middle school teams with a team score of 1638.

Top 5 team individual scorers were: CJ Walker - 284; Elijah Lamb - 284; Liam Husband - 277; Kaitlyn Wells - 270; Avery Burger - 266.

CJ Walker ranked 3rd and Elijah Lamb ranked 4th out of 664 middle school boys.

Camp Dick Robinson Elementary School ranked 5th out of 29 elementary school teams with a team score of 1512.

Top 5 team individual scorers were: Mila Clarkson - 268; Cora Gilbert - 255; Luci Jones - 253; Lynlee Forsyth - 252; Charleigh Poe - 249.

Mila Clarkson ranked 2nd out of 207 elementary school girls.

Lancaster Elementary School placed 18th out of 29 elementary school teams with a team score of 1323.

Top 5 team individual scorers were: Augustine Farrell - 238; Lucas Adams - 227; Matthew Dodson - 227; Travis Ballard - 219; Kylie Cobb - 210.

WHITAKER BANK UNIQELY KENTUCKY SPORTS SCHEDULE

Week Of March 19th - 27th, 2026

| GIRLS SOFTBALL | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| March 19 | Estill County | A | 6:15 p.m. |
| March 21 | Casey County | H | 12:00 p.m. |
| March 24 | Pulaski County | H | 6:00 p.m. |
| March 26 | West Jessamine | H | 6:00 p.m. |
| March 28 | Bullitt Central | A | 12 & 2 p.m. |
| BOYS BASEBALL | | | |
| March 19 | East Jessamine | H | 6:00 p.m. |
| March 21 | Wayne County | A | 12:00 p.m. |
| March 23 | TBA | H | 6:00 p.m. |
| 2A Section 5 Tournament | | | |
| March 25 | Paris | H | 6:00 p.m. |
| March 26 | Rockcastle County | H | 6:00 p.m. |
| March 27 | Model @ Model Laboratory | A | 6:00 p.m. |
| March 28 | Bardstown | H | 12:00 p.m. |
| TENNIS | | | |
| March 19 | Somerset | A | |
| March 23 | McCreary Central | H | |
| March 24 | Pulaski County | H | |
| March 26 | Casey County | H | |
| March 27 | Wayne County | A | |
| March 31 | Boyle County | H | |
| TRACK | | | |
| March 19 | Casey County All Comers | | |
| March 24 | East Jessamine All Comers | | |
| ARCHERY | | | |
| March 21 | KHSAA Region 9 Boys/Coed Tournament | | Boyle County High School |
| March 21 | KHSAA Region 9 Girls Tournament | | Boyle County High School |

WHITAKER BANK
UNIQELY KENTUCKY

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MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026 AT 10 A.M.

GARRARD COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER

54 STANFORD STREET

In order to comply with judgments and orders of the Garrard Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Garrard Circuit Court will sell the properties identified below in the Garrard County Justice Center, District Courtroom, 54 Stanford Street, Lancaster, Kentucky. The properties will be sold to raise funds to satisfy the amounts of judgments set forth below plus interest and other costs. The sale of said properties are subject to the following terms and conditions:

The winning bidder must pay a minimum of ten (10%) percent of the purchase price by check drawn on a recognizable bank (preferably local) at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price is due in 30 days. **If the purchaser elects to pay less than the full purchase price, then the purchaser will be required to post bond and furnish acceptable surety thereon.** Said bond shall be for the unpaid balance of the purchase price and bear interest at the rate set forth in the judgment from the date of sale until paid.

The purchaser is responsible for all taxes levied against said property for the current tax year and all subsequent years. The sale of the real estate is subject to all zoning and building regulations, restrictions, ordinances, easements, covenants, and rights-of-way, of record, or otherwise. All properties are sold "as is", and possession shall pass to the purchaser upon delivery of deed. Risk of loss passes to the purchaser upon execution of bond of sale or payment of the purchase price whichever should occur first.

A right of redemption may exist in favor of any party. Possession of the real property will be given to the purchaser upon confirmation of the report of sale by the Garrard Circuit Court, delivery of a Commissioner's Deed to the purchaser and full payment of the purchase price plus interest as herein before described.

IF WINNING BIDDER IS NOT ABLE TO DELIVER DEPOSIT AND SIGN BOND WITH SURETY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SALE, PROPERTY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RE-SOLD.

PROPERTIES ARE IDENTIFIED HEREIN BY PARCEL/MAP ID AND ADDRESS ONLY. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS ARE FOUND IN THE COURT FILE. IF THE MAP/ID ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT IN ANY WAY FROM THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION, THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION CONTROLS.

Johnny O. Bolton, Master Commissioner
Garrard Circuit Court
(859) 792-8844

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:

SALE NO. 1:
Case No: **25-CI-00114: FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION vs LYDIA COATES, ET AL.**; Judgment Date: **February 6, 2026**; Judgment Amount: **\$343,637.84**; Property Address/Description: **287 Rolling Meadows**; Parcel ID: **10B-073**

SALE NO. 2:
Case No: **25-CI-00148: CONDOR PROPERTIES, LLC vs MELISSA MIRACLE, ET AL.**; Judgment Date: **February 18, 2026**; Judgment Amount: **\$2,965.04**; Property Address/Description: **103 Debbie Avenue**; Parcel ID: **L4-17-023**