

Obituaries

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Deadline for print publication:

Tuesday publication deadlines Monday, 10 am EST
Saturday publication deadlines Thursday, 12 pm EST

DEATH NOTICES

Lynda Hodge, 73, of Parksville, KY, died Dec. 27, 2024.
Onita Thurman, 80, of Harrodsburg, died Dec. 29, 2024.
Christian Inden, 86, of Harrodsburg, died Dec. 28, 2024.
Darrel Cravens, 82, of Liberty, died Dec. 31, 2024.
Steven Tully, 77, of Danville, died Jan. 2, 2025.
Ellen Deets Ross, 58, of Junction City, died Dec. 29, 2024.
Patricia Darlene Lawson, 80, of Harrodsburg, died Jan. 1, 2025.

FUNERALS

Carolyn Begley Bratton, 81

Carolyn Begley Bratton, 81, of Lancaster, passed away Monday, December 23, 2024 at Baptist Health in Lexington. She was born on May 4, 1943 in Madison County, KY to the late William and Georgia Portwood Begley. Carolyn was a member of Grace Community Baptist Fellowship. Surviving is her loving husband, Harlan Dale Bratton of Lancaster; two daughters, Nancy Reynolds and Angela Dye (Dwayne) both of Lancaster; a brother, Michael Begley of Richmond; a half brother, Sonny Cole; a sister in law, Carolyn Hobbs; grandchildren, William Land, Wanda Land, Roland Land, David Dye, Chris Dye; great grandchildren, Kaleb Dye, Landon Dye, Aidan Dye, Kinley Dye, Kari Dye, Addi Dye, Kayley Amich, Hank Land, Loretta Land, Lindsey Land, Breanna Land. Along with her parents, she was predeceased by multiple brothers and sisters. Funeral service was 1:00 PM Monday, December 30, 2024 at Spurlin Funeral Home Chapel with Anthony Roy officiating. Visitation was 4:00 PM- 6:00 PM Sunday, December 29, 2024 at the funeral home. Burial will follow the funeral at Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville, KY. Pallbearers are David Dye, Chris Dye, Aidan Dye, Landon Dye, Seth Smith, and Nathaniel Woolery.

Lieutenant General William Thurman, 93

Lieutenant General William Thurman, a celebrated military leader, 1952 Olympian, and pioneer in aviation development, passed away at his home in Pinehurst, North Carolina on December 26, at the age of 93.



Lt. General William Thurman

Born in Hodgenville, Kentucky - birthplace of Abraham Lincoln - General Thurman exhibited a deep sense of duty, humility and determination throughout his extraordinary life. A 1954 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, his commitment to excellence was evident early on. In 1952, while still a midshipman, he earned a

seat on the national and Olympic champion Navy rowing team. The lessons in perseverance and teamwork from crew would define his future career.

General Thurman's military service was marked by distinction and innovation. A Top Gun at the USAF Fighter Weapons School, he became a highly decorated combat command pilot and member of the River Rats, an elite fraternity of fighter pilots who completed scores of missions over the heavily defended Red River Valley in Viet Nam. General Thurman's numerous combat citations included, among others, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart.

His contributions to the future of military aviation extended far beyond the battlefield. As director of the lightweight fighter program, General Thurman oversaw the development of the F-16 Fighting Falcon, arguably the most impactful single-engine fighter in history, and the YF-17, which evolved into the F/A-18 Hornet, a mainstay of the U.S. Navy. He subsequently led the B-1B Lancer program (at the time, the largest U.S. Air Force order in history), and played a key role in advancing other critical air systems, including short takeoff and landing programs (V-22 Osprey) and military transport (C-17 Globemaster).

His expertise and leadership earned him numerous non-combat awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal (the nation's second highest non-combat award), and the Legion of Merit. He was assigned command of the Defense Systems Management College at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, to help develop the next generation of military leaders. His final military post was Commander of the Aeronautical Systems Division of Air Force Systems Command, responsible for over 10,000 military and civilian personnel in the development and production of aeronautical systems essential to the U.S. Air Force and allied nations worldwide.

His academic achievements were equally impressive. In addition to his degree from Annapolis, he earned master's degrees in engineering and management from Stanford, Ohio State, George Washington University, the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF).

General Thurman's command was characterized by civic responsibility and personal connection. He was affectionately known as "the bike riding General", a nod to his lifelong passion for fitness and outdoor activity. He was awarded the Air Force Equal Employment Opportunity Award, along with recognition by the NAACP, for his efforts to advance minority participation in government programs.

Following his retirement from active duty in 1988, General Thurman joined Boeing, where he continued to advance the development of next-generation air systems until retiring to Pinehurst, North Carolina to pursue his life-long goal of consistently breaking 80.

Reflecting on his storied career, General Thurman once described his military service as "the ultimate social service" - a philosophy that guided his every endeavor. Above all else, he was devoted to his family, his country, and his home state of Kentucky, where he was inducted into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame and awarded the honorary commission as Kentucky Colonel.

He is survived by Joan, his wife of 66 years; two sons; his grandchildren; and extended family. He will be interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

His legacy will live on in the aircraft he helped bring to life, the leaders he mentored, and the lives he touched along the way.

On line condolences can be made to www.bolesfuneralhome.com

Services entrusted to Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst.

Bertha Knapp Mingey, 86

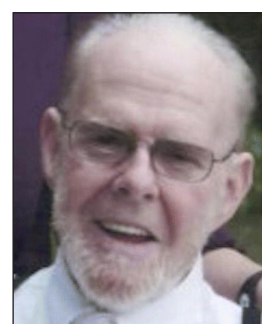
Bertha Knapp Mingey, 86, of Danville, passed away Tuesday, December 24, 2024, at Danville Center for Health and Rehab. She was born on July 3, 1938, in Middletown, New York to the late Theodore and Grace Tuthill Knapp. Her loving husband, William Ward Mingey, also preceded her in death. Bertha is survived by three sons, Gary Mingey of Somerset, Todd Mingey (Missy) of Corbin, and Burt Mingey of Paris; two brothers, Theodore Knapp and Arthur Knapp; two sisters, Jane Hall and Joan Ramey; eleven grandchildren; Toshia Mingey, Anthony Mingey, Tanner Mingey, Ashley Doolin, Sara Mingey, Burt Mingey, Jr., Christy Mingey, Seth Mingey, Michael Mingey, Nicole Mingey, and Deanne Mingey and, fourteen great-grandchildren. A graveside service was held at 2:30 PM on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville, Kentucky. Pallbearers were Gary Mingey, Todd Mingey, Anthony Mingey and Tanner Mingey. Preston Pruitt Spurlin Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements. www.preston-pruitt.com



Bertha Mingey

Millard D. Yoder, 74

Millard D. Yoder was born on July 8, 1950 to Denver and Emma Yoder in Norfolk, VA. He passed on to his reward on December 29, 2024 at the age of 74 years, 5 months, 21 days. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary (Kurtz) Yoder. They enjoyed 53 years and 10 months of Holy Matrimony. 5 sons and 3 daughters, 42 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren: Geneva and Paul Peachey of Paint Lick, KY. 2 sons and 4 daughters; Marcus and Dorcas of Soldotna, AK. 1 son and 4 daughters; Faith and Milt Kinsinger of Lexington, IN. 4 sons and 2 daughters; Nathan and MaryJo of Thompson Falls, MT. 2 sons and 3 daughters; Emanuel and Glenda of Sterling, AK. 4 sons and 3 daughters; Jonathan and Becky of Thompson Falls, MT. 2 sons and 4 daughters; Millard and Carolyn of Wytheville, VA. 3 sons and 2 daughters; Violet and Jerald Rhodes of Auburn, NE. 1 son and 1 daughter; Also surviving are his 4 brothers: Homer, Donald, Denver Jr., Calvin and 4 sisters: Sharon, Ellen, LaRetta and Hannah. He is preceded in death by his parents, Denver and Emma (Peachey) Yoder, one brother Clifton and one sister Judith Kropf. The family received family and friends at 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at Richmond Church of Christ in Richmond, KY. Services were held at 10:00 am on Friday, January 3, 2025 at Richmond Church of Christ, Richmond, KY. Burial followed at Gospel Light Mennonite Cemetery in Paint Lick, KY. Pallbearers were Marcus Yoder, Nathan Yoder, Emanuel Yoder, Jonathan Yoder, Millard Lewis Yoder and Josh Peachey. Spurlin Funeral Home entrusted with arrangements. www.spurlinfuneralhome.com



Millard Yoder

Kentucky Is the 8th best state in the US for 2024

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky has been named the eighth-best state in the nation following a recent survey of 1,000 Americans for the year 2024. This ranking features in the department's annual report, "2024 Review: The Best Cities and States in the U.S.," which judged states on metrics, shining a light on where Kentucky stands out, as well as identifying areas for improvement.

Known as the Bluegrass State, Kentucky's spot in the top 10 came thanks to the welcoming nature of its residents and the oft-ignored appeal of the area. The state secured the 17th spot of the friendliest residents of any state, a notable ranking compared to other states. Finally, Kentucky also fared fairly well in the category relating to "worst scenery," coming in at 40th, meaning a fair chunk of Americans still like the looks of the state.

While it placed only 25th in our ranking of the most desirable states to live in, Kentucky came in 26th for "most underrated," meaning there is huge potential to improve the way Americans view its liveability. The state placed in the middle pack of

performances for multiple categories: 26th for least desirable state, 23rd for craziest residents, 30th for rudest residents, 31st for most annoying residents, and 33rd for most pretentious residents.

North Carolina scored top marks as the best state overall for 2024, followed by Montana and South Carolina. Meanwhile, the top American city category winner, and the overall No. 4 city, was Nashville, Tennessee — with the friendliest residents anywhere.

The report describes the differences between states and cities around the country, emphasizing Kentucky's relative strengths while noting Chicago's opportunities ahead. As Americans seek out destinations that embrace hospitality, beauty, and livability, Kentucky remains a draw for both visitors and residents alike.

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East Kentucky Power granted approval for solar facilities

STAFF REPORT

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) recently approved East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) to begin construction on two solar power facilities. Coming to Marion and Fayette counties, respectively, the projects will be instrumental to renewable energy in the state.

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), the PSC granted EKPC CPCN for the projects' development. EKPC will build a facility that generates 96 megawatts called Northern Bobwhite Solar Project; this will be located to the north of Lebanon, Marion County, east of Highway 55. On the other hand, EKPC will construct another facility, Bluegrass Plains Solar Project, that will generate 40 megawatts. This facility will be located south of Interstate 64, Fayette County, approximately 3.2 miles from Clark County.

In October, the PSC held an evidentiary hearing following which public testimony was submitted based on which the commission assessed the projects. This public hearing was transparent, and the recorded hearing can be

accessed at the PSC YouTube channel.

The PSC reiterated that the projects meet the statutory requirements defined by the Kentucky General Assembly. These facilities are imperative to ensure that Kentucky's electricity rates and services are offered at reasonable prices and are reliable without redundancy. The commission also directed EKPC to incorporate preventative measures during the projects' construction and operation to avoid the projects' possible negative impact on surrounding properties.

An online summary with attachments, documents, and related cases placed in the PSC links available on the PSC website at psc.ky.gov/case/viewcasefilings/2024-00129.

The PSC is an independent agency that operates under the jurisdiction of the Energy and Environment Cabinet with oversight of more than 1,500 utilities across the state. Additionally, the commission has a staff of nearly 90 employees with the mandate to regulate gas, water, sewer, electric, and telecommunications in the best interest of Kentucky residents. Follow the PSC on X, Facebook, and YouTube.

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