

BIG SANDY Briefs

REGIONAL — Kentucky health officials announced the first pediatric influenza death of the 2024-2025 respiratory virus season. Influenza (flu) is on the rise, and there have been widespread reports of flu and respiratory virus outbreaks across the Commonwealth.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent severe illness and death from the flu and COVID-19. It is important for people who have not been vaccinated this season to get their updated vaccinations. To find vaccines near you visit Vaccines.gov.

To prevent the spread of illness, Kentucky Department for Public Health also recommends to stay home if you are sick, wash hands often, cover coughs and sneezes and to consider wearing a mask if you are high-risk for serious illness. For more information about respiratory virus activity in Kentucky visit CoverYourCough.ky.gov.

REGIONAL — As a show of Kentucky Blood Center's heartfelt appreciation for its local life-savers during Valentine's Day week, KBC is offering Texas Roadhouse gift cards at its donor center locations through Saturday, Feb. 15. Donors who show love for Kentuckians will receive a \$15 Texas Roadhouse gift card as well as a coupon for a free appetizer. The promotion is only at KBC's donor centers.

KBC continues to dig out of major winter-weather disruptions from January and remains in urgent need of blood. Currently, KBC is in critical need of O- blood - meaning there is less than a day's supply of the type to provide more than 70 hospitals in Kentucky - and in low supply of A-. KBC lost an estimated 1,000-plus units of blood during a three-week period in January due to winter-weather cancellations. Transfusions have also been on the rise in 2025.

Donors can schedule an appointment at the links below, at kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522. Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcomed.

KBC is the exclusive blood provider for UK HealthCare, Baptist Health, CHI Saint Joseph, Appalachian Regional Healthcare and more.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements.

LAWRENCE COUNTY — Strawberry, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, elderberries, gooseberries and asparagus plants are being sold at the Lawrence County Extension office. Orders are due by Feb. 14. Check their Facebook page for order form or stop by the office, 249 Industrial Park Rd., Louisa. Make checks payable to: LC Extension office. For information, call 606-673-9495.

LAWRENCE COUNTY — The Lawrence County bands: LCHS, Louisa Middle, Blaine and Fallsburg students are talking order for their annual Strawberry Sale. Orders are due by Wednesday, Feb. 19. \$25 for a 8-pint flat.

MARTIN COUNTY — The Martin County High School "Band of Pride" has their annual Strawberries and Chocolate fundraiser going on now. Check with any band member or band director, Dexter Kidd to place an order.

LAWRENCE COUNTY — The Lawrence County Public Library Board of Trustees is accepting trustee applications. Trustees are volunteer public officials with powers delegated to them as a public trust. Duties include fulfilling legal responsibilities established by Kentucky statute, as well as approving policies, budgets, and strategic plans.

Trustees must be legal residents of Lawrence County and available to attend board meetings on the second Monday of the month at noon. Trustees should be willing to advocate for the

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EDITORIAL.....

By ROBERTA CANTRELL
BSN Editor

Valentines Day... remember the class parties when we were in elementary school.

There were no pizza parties, it was strictly homemade cupcakes, chips, cookies, pop and candy treats.

I can remember the boxes of Valentines at the store were pretty much the same, no characters from Disney, superheroes etc. But they were so cute and simple.

The day before the party the teacher would have all the student names on the chalkboard for us to copy and take home to fill out our cards.

Art class that week was usually focused on designing our bags for our Valentines.

There were also times we were responsible for decorating our bag or box at home so mom would get three boxes of Kleenex and empty them and we'd use construction paper to make them festive. It was such a big deal...

Mom worked evenings so

she always sent us with bags of candy or chips to contribute to the party.

The next day we would form a circle and drop our Valentines in the bags or boxes and then afterwards during our party, we would get to open them.

Back then they had little envelopes instead of just folding them in half.

There was always a special Valentine in the box for the teacher so needless to say she got about 20 Valentines that were identical.

I couldn't wait to get home from school because that's when you could dump out all your Valentines and take your time going back through them.

Mom always had each of us a heart-shaped box of candy.

My brother would always try to con us out of our caramels while my favorite was the chocolate covered strawberry or was it the coconut, wait.. maybe it was the or-



ange cream flavored.. I can't really remember having a favorite in fact, I loved them all!

Things are different these days, Valentines boxes are bought from the store to take to school, no treats can be homemade, Valentines don't come with little envelopes but instead, come with gadgets, slime, stickers, etc., heart-shaped boxes of candy have more plastic in them then candy.

Oh well, simple was fun while it lasted. As always, it was fun remembering when...

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you!!!!

ANOTHER ROUND OF INDICTMENTS
HANDED DOWN IN MARTIN COUNTY

By ROBERTA CANTRELL
BSN Editor

The Martin County Grand Jury handed down six additional true bills when they met in regular session for February.

Among those indicted were Joe Allen Evans, 51, of Inez.

Evans was charged with assault in the second degree (domestic violence) when on Nov. 25, 2024, he unlawfully committed the offense of causing physical injury to Vicky Venturino by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.

Evans was also charged with persistent felony offender.

Ernest Jarvis, 51, of Inez, was charged with burglary in the second degree, criminal mischief in the second degree, resisting arrest and menacing.

The indictment states that on Dec. 26, 2024, he unlawfully committed the offense of entering the dwelling of Rachale Fletcher with the intent to commit the crime of theft. He also committed the offense of damaging, destroying

or defacing property owned by Fletcher with damages not exceeding \$500.

Jarvis also attempted to prevent Martin County Deputy Chris Kidd from effecting an arrest and also committed the offense of placing others in reasonable apprehension of imminent physical injury.

Brian D. Lowe, 55, of Pilgrim, was charged with fleeing/evading police second degree, wanton endangerment first degree (police officer), disregarding stop sign, careless driving and failure to own /maintain required insurance.

The indictment states that on Dec. 12, 2024, Lowe committed the offense of unlawfully disregarding Constable Brad Preece's signs and signals to stop.

Preece also engaged in conduct which created substantial danger or death to another person namely Brad Preece. He committed the violation of disregarding a stop sign while also operating a motor vehicle in a careless manner with no regard for the safety of others

and failed to have insurance on the vehicle he was operating.

Brittany Gilmore, 35, of Inez, was charged with first degree bail jumping when on Dec. 5, 2024, she unlawfully committed the offense of failing to appear at the specified time and place as ordered by the court for her change of plea hearing.

Harlan Jude, 53, of Pilgrim, was charged with bail jumping first degree when on Dec. 5, 2024, he unlawfully committed the offense of failing to appear at the specified time and place as ordered by the court for his change of plea hearing.

Timothy Stacy, 53, of Kermit, was charged with bail jumping first degree when on Jan. 16, he unlawfully committed the offense of failing to appear at the specified time and place as ordered by the court for an arraignment hearing.

(Editor's note: An indictment is not an indication of guilt but a determination by a grand jury that criminal charges warrant further judicial review.)

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family in their prayers. "We are saddened by the discovery but can only hope it brings closure for the family," Kidd stated. Kidd was the coordinator in the search for Blevins.

Blevins was the son of David Blevins, Sr., and the late Tri Ann Baldrige Blevins Hicks. He was

a yard foreman with Adkins Landscaping. Survivors also include a daughter, Tamisha Burkett of Richmond; two brothers, Clinton Baldrige and David Watson and a grandson, James

Graveside services were Sunday, Feb. 9, at Blevins Family Cemetery, Staffordsville.



A SINGLE VEHICLE landed upside down in an early morning accident on Tuesday, Feb. 11, on Highway 201, South of Blaine. No injuries were reported. Submitted photo

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Send letters to:

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Every submission must be signed and must include the writer's address and telephone number.

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