

# 18-Year-Old Bracken High School Grad Publishes Book of Poetry

Submitted by Nila Harris, Falmouth Outlook

Mason Yelton, Butler, has been interested in and writing poetry since the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. “I really got into in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade and wanted to share what I’ve done,” said Yelton. He calls the collection of poems a “portfolio of work about relationships with Jesus, family, friends, and girlfriend.”

When thinking about how to share his poems with others, Yelton sought out ideas from ChatGPT - an online AI assistant that “helps you get answers, find inspiration, and be more productive,” according to openai.com. This forum gave Yelton ideas on how to publish his portfolio, and marketing strategies. Yelton’s book, *Writer Boy*, which he published last month, contains poems and three non-fiction pieces. Ryan Boatman, a colleague of Yelton at



Mason Yelton

Kroger’s, contributed the illustrations for the book’s cover. *Writer Boy* will be available for purchase on Amazon at the end of this month.

Yelton is not only an author, but a musician as well. He enjoys creating original Christian Rap and Hip-Hop music. The 2025 Bracken County

High School graduate was in the Youth Scholar’s Program at his school and will continue his schooling in Interdisciplinary Studies at NKU. He is also working towards an audio production minor and obtaining a focus in marketing, business, and creative writing.

# Miller Competes at Track & Field State Championship

Submitted by Timothy Litteral

The KHSAA Class “A” Track & Field State Championship was held on May 29 at the University of Kentucky. Grayson Miller was the lone competitor for Augusta. Miller received automatic bids in both the 1600M run as the region champion and the 3200M run as the region runner-up. Miller chose to compete only in the 3200M run to have fresh legs for the 2-mile event.

Twenty-two athletes competed in the event. Miller finished 9<sup>th</sup>, running 10:20.83, a season-best time. He was just .04 seconds behind the 8<sup>th</sup> place runner and the last

medalist spot.

Miller ends his athletic career as one of the most successful runners in school history. He owns multiple school records including the cross country 5K record, the 800, 1600, 3000, & 3200 in indoor track, and the 1600 and 3200 in outdoor track. He’s a cross country individual region champion and a top-5 state XC championship finisher, a two-time indoor track state championship medalist, a three-time outdoor track individual region champion, a member of two cross country region championship teams and a region runner-up team, and had numerous top

five finishes over his running career.

“He’s embraced the reality as much as any runner has that to be a high-level distance runner, you have to train on your own, on the weekends, and in the off-season to be really good,” Augusta Coach Tim Litteral said. “That work ethic has gotten him to where he is.”

While Miller’s high school career has come to an end, his academic and running career has not. Miller will attend Centre College this fall, where he has signed to be a member of the cross country and track & field teams.

# Gov. Beshear Announces Extension of Summer Food Program for Children

Healthy meals will continue to be provided to Kentucky children while school is out this summer. Each eligible student will receive a one-time benefit of \$120 to purchase nutritious food throughout the summer. Support comes through the federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program, which began in 2024.

The program will automatically enroll students 6 to 18 years old who are current recipients of SNAP, KTAP or

Kinship Care benefits, as well as children attending schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. For families with students not automatically enrolled, applications are available until August 15 at kysebt.ky.gov. Assistance is also available by calling the Department of Community Based Services at 855-306-8959 or by visiting a local office.

“Every child deserves access to nutritious meals year-round,”

said Gov. Beshear. “Building on last year’s success, our continued effort with this program is a crucial investment in our children’s health and well-being. I’m proud to see this growing initiative provide support to families when they need it most.”

Last year, Summer EBT provided food benefits for nearly 400,000 kids in Kentucky. Providing families with grocery money to make up for the loss of school meals is a proven approach to address the spike in child hunger that occurs during the summer break.

For additional details on the Summer EBT Program and other food assistance options, please visit the CHFS website at chfs.ky.gov.

## Bracken Board of Education

May 12, 2025

Present: Board Members: Josh Jones, Angie Crawford, Melissa Takata, TJ Burton, and Tracy Florer; Superintendent: Clayton King; Treasurer: Brittany Mullikin; Staff and guest: Jessica Steinhauer, Chris Yelton, Kevin Courtney, Megan Litzinger, Billy Riley, Nick Meyer, Allison Meyer, Mary Hamilton, Robbie Lonaker, Cameron Lonaker, Donna Lonaker, Gracey Lonaker, Levi Lonaker, Lindsey Bertram, Kasen Bertram, Ehmet Hayes, Dr. Bob Tarvin, Chloe Burris, Logan Mullikin, Timmy Meyer, and Kayleigh Hamilton.

The May 12, 2025 Bracken County Board of Education Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joshua Jones.

**Items Approved by the Board at its May 12, 2025 Meeting were:** •Minutes of April 14, 2025 regular board meeting and April 30, 2025 special called board meeting; •April 2025 Treasurer’s Report; •April 2025 Monthly Financial Report; •Payment of all Bills and Claims; •Superintendent Travel; •May 1 Updated Allocations; •Acknowledge Bracken County BOE Scholarship for

\$750 – each board member donates 1 per diem for a total of \$750; •Dishonesty Bond and Treasurer’s Bond Renewal; •BCHS to Cincinnati Zoo on 5/6/25 (Mr. King approved); •Senior Class to Scene 75 on 5/19/25 and Kings Island on 5/20/25; •FBLA to Garden Grove, CA for NLC 6/29-7/1; •FCCLA to Orlando, FL for NLC 7/5-7/10; •Baseball to St. Pete, FL on 3/30/26-4/3/26; •2024-2025 amended school calendar; •2025-2026 School bids; •Salary Schedules with all staff getting a 2% raise; •PT Contract with A Step Ahead; •OT Contract with Robertson County Schools; •Tentative Budget; •First National Bank as Bond of Depository/Pledge of Collateral for board funds.

**Items Reviewed by the Board at its May 12, 2025 Meeting with No Action Taken were:** •Students of the Month – Chloe Burris, Logan Mullikin, Kasen Bertram, Clayton Bauer, Paityn Bess, and Gracey Lonaker; •Related Arts Students of the Month – Timmy Meyer, Kayleigh Hamilton, and Jamemine Roseberry; •Preston Burton was recognized as the KY Skills USA State Champion; •SBDM Report – Mrs. Megan Litzinger presented for the High School; •Attendance Report – Mr.

King presented. District attendance stands at 93.25%; •Mr. Ehmet Hayes (Board Architect), Dr. Bob Tarvin (RSA), and Mr. Billy Riley were in attendance to discuss the renovations needed at Taylor Elementary as well as the funding options; •Superintendent Capstone – Standard 7.

**Personnel: The following individuals were hired pending meeting all board requirements: Hired** – Brevin Jones (JV Boys Basketball Coach), Tori Highfield (Freshman Volleyball Coach), Hayde Faris (HS History for 25/26 School Year); **Resignation/Separations/Retirements** – Daniel Fisher (Retirement 5/31/25), Vicki Fisher (Retirement 5/31/25), Sarah Thompson (Retirement 6/30/25), Lesli Rudd (6th, 7th, 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach), Troy Archibald (Varsity Girls Basketball Coach); Other – N/A.

The Board opened the floor for public comment – No comment.

The Board went into and out of executive session to discuss Potential Litigation KRS 61.810(1)(c) and Superintendent Evaluation KRS 156.557(6)(c).

The Superintendent evaluation was approved as presented.

The meeting was adjourned.

## Enjoy the Best Deal of the Year

Step aside, Black Friday. You just can’t top the 100% discount on fishing licenses being offered during the first weekend of June. Take your family to the water June 7-8 and enjoy fishing for free both days. But be careful – you just might enjoy it so much that you’ll want to go again and again.

The weekend pass doesn’t entitle you to hop your neighbor’s fence and access their pond. You always need permission to fish private waters. It’s also not an excuse to ignore daily limits, size limits or other regulations. It does mean that anyone fishing in Kentucky doesn’t need a license or permit. It doesn’t matter whether you hail from Louisville or Louisiana – everybody fishes for free.

**Bracken County families have several nearby areas for fishing: the Ohio River and local streams, the ponds at the Bracken County Recreation Park, located at 119 West Gillespie Lane, and the recreation area at the Mehldahl Dam along KY 8.** Communities all across Kentucky participate in the fun with special events for



anglers, especially the youngsters in the crowd. Click on the Free Fishing Weekend webpage or go online to fw.ky.gov to search for a list of events.

Plenty of resources are available on the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ website at fw.ky.gov to help get you started:

•Get the basics: Search “Learn to Fish” for instructional videos covering knot tying and how to fillet fish.

•Get equipped: Look up “loaner poles” for locations of free loaner fishing pole locations.

•Learn the rules: See the annual “Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide.”

•Where to go: Visit the Fishing in Neighborhoods (“FINs”) page for

lists of easily accessible, specially stocked lakes.

•Get inside information: Peruse the “fishing forecast” for intel on fish around the state.

•Find the fish: Search “fish attractors” for habitat maps at various lakes – you can even download GPX files from there.

For those on the go, there’s an app anglers can use to find directions to local lakes, read fishing reports, learn about regulations, find stocking schedules, locate the nearest boat ramp and more. To download the app to your phone, search for “Fish Boat KY” in your preferred app store.

The water is calling. Pack up your family on the first weekend of June and enjoy fishing in Kentucky – for free. *submitted*



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