



Seven-time author Jamie Vaught is pictured at the 2015 NCAA Final Four.

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Vaught releases seventh book on UK basketball

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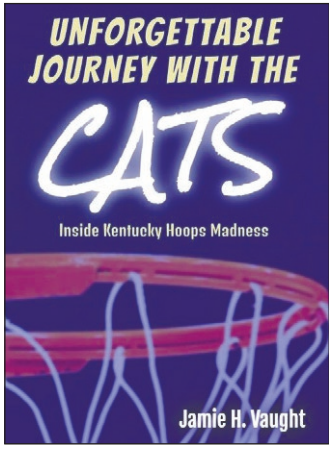
CUMBERLAND Jamie H. Vaught, a longtime professor at Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College, has penned another book about University of Kentucky basketball.

Vaught, who also moonlights as a longtime Kentucky sportswriter, now has written seven books about UK hoops. His latest book, “Unforgettable Journey with the Cats,” includes new interviews with basketball coaches Mark Pope and Kenny Brooks.

“It could be the best book that I have done, but I will let the readers decide,” Vaught said. “After separate interviews with Mark Pope and his wife, I really enjoyed writing the chapters on Coach Pope and Lee Anne Pope. Coach Brooks

was good, too. The new book is probably my favorite among the seven volumes that I have written.”

In addition to the Popes and Brooks, the 320-page book, which has more than 60 photos, includes featured profiles of Paul Andrews, Reed Sheppard, football star Tim Couch, Georgia Amooore, Trent Noah, and the former Wildcats who played in the now-defunct American Basketball Association, including the popular Louisville-based Kentucky Colonels. Jeff Sheppard, Camer-



The cover of “Unforgettable Journey with the Cats” is pictured.

“UK Basketball is the connecting thread for the state and Big Blue Nation members around the world, and Jamie Vaught understands that as well as anyone. That background gives him a keen insight into the Wildcats, and the players and coaches that have given the BBN so many memorable

on Mills and sports journalists also share memorable stories.

Said Tom Leach, the Voice of the Wildcats on UK Radio Network:

moments and you’ll enjoy reliving those moments in his newest book. You’ll enjoy every minute you spend reading it.”

The new book, which will be published as a paperback before the hardcover and eBook editions become available, is expected to be on sale on Amazon.com by the end of October, and other outlets, including Lexington’s Joseph-Beth Booksellers, by mid-November. Several book signings have been scheduled for London, Harlan, Middlesboro, Lexington and Somerset, beginning in mid-November. Former Cats Paul Andrews and Jeff Sheppard are also scheduled to sign at the London event.

More details about the signings will be announced later.

A current member of the U.S. Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) who once wrote for The Cats’ Pause magazine for 13 years, Vaught retired from full-time teaching at SKCTC in 2024 after 33 years. He still teaches two online accounting courses. He is a two-time UK graduate with degrees in accounting and MBA.

HOW TO REACH US

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Daily Independent ISSN 0744-6837 Copyright © 2020 by CNHI, LLC 1544 Winchester Avenue, Suite 600 Ashland, Ky. 41101 is published Daily except for Tuesday and Sunday and Christmas Day or 259 issues per year by CNHI, LLC. Business, Editorial, Accounting and Circulations offices: Daily Independent, 1544 Winchester Avenue, Suite 600 Ashland, Ky. 41101. Call 606-326-2674 to subscribe. Periodicals Postage Paid at Ashland, Kentucky.
POSTMASTER: Send address change to Daily Independent, P.O. Box 311, Ashland, KY 41105-0311.

Business hours:

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
weekdays

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Fundraiser for agency upcoming

STAFF REPORT

ASHLAND The Salvation Army of Ashland will have a fundraiser at 6 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Ashland Elks Lodge at 900 Carter Ave.

Called “An Evening of Hope and Inspiration,” the event will include dinner and fellowship. Special guest Kentucky Basketball legend Kenny “Sky” Walker will speak and vocalist Holly Forbes of Catlettsburg will perform.

Funds raised will go to the Salvation Army Northeast Kentucky Emergency Shelter’s SOS (Save Our Shelter) Campaign.

“All proceeds from

this event go directly to help us Save Our Shelter and continue providing vital support and hope for neighbors in need,” Cindy Blanton, lifetime member of The Salvation Army of Northeast Kentucky Advisory Board, said. “We’re asking our community to come out, have a great time, and help us protect the only emergency shelter serving this region. Your presence truly makes a difference.”

Tickets are available for purchase online at give.salvationarmykentuckyandtennessee.org/event/an-evening-of-hope-and-inspiration-neky/e731745 or by calling Blanton at (606) 922-8162.

Tricks, treats, staying safe: Your Halloween safety guide

LEXINGTON

Halloween is all about candy buckets, creative costumes and spooky fun, but it’s also a night where safety matters just as much as the

KELLY GRAYSON

sugar rush. From carving pumpkins to crossing the street, here are some quick tips to keep the night fun.

Avoid pumpkin perils

Carving pumpkins is a tradition, but it’s also one of the biggest culprits for Halloween hand injuries. Here’s how to keep it festive, not frightening:

- Let the adults handle the carving. Have kids help scoop, paint or draw the design.
- Use carving kits instead of kitchen knives. They’re less likely to slip or get stuck.
- Always carve in a clean, well-lit space and use small, controlled strokes away from your body.
- Skip the real flame, Battery-powered tea lights or glow sticks give your jack-o’-lantern the same spooky glow without the fire hazard. If you do use a real candle, make sure only adults handle it.

Costume smarts

The right costume makes Halloween night, but comfort and safety keep it fun:

- Make sure masks, wigs or hats don’t block vision.
- Pick costumes that fit well — long hems or oversized shoes can turn into tripping hazards.
- Choose flame-resistant fabrics and non-toxic makeup/hairspray.
- Always wash off makeup, glitter and face paint before bed to avoid irritation.

Little monsters on the move

Excited kids and dark

streets can cause chaos. Help your trick-or-treaters stay safe by:

- Going in groups with an adult or older sibling — no solo candy quests.
- Planning a route ahead of time so no one wanders off.
- Adding some glow: reflective tape, glow sticks or flashlights make kids (and adults) easier to spot.
- Remind trick-or-treaters to put the phone down and look both ways before crossing the street.

Drivers, beware

Kids aren’t the only ones out on Halloween. If you’re driving through an areas with lots of trick-or-treaters, help keep them safe by:

- Drive below the speed limit in busy neighborhoods.
- Stay off your phone. Stay alert while making your way through your candy-collecting route.
- Expect the unexpected: kids don’t always look before darting across the road.

Candy check

The best part of the night? Dumping out that candy collection. But before the sugar rush begins:

- Wait until you are home to dig in so you can check everything under good lighting.
- Toss anything with broken seals, strange wrapping or signs of tampering.
- Keep choking hazards (like gum or hard candy) away from toddlers.
- Double-check labels if anyone in the family has allergies.
- Pro tip: eat dinner first, it’ll make it easier to wait before sampling the loot.

Halloween is meant to be spooky, silly and sweet — not stressful. A little prep goes a long way in keeping kids, adults and even drivers safe.

KELLY GRAYSON is the coordinator for Safe Kids Fayette County.

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*Kentucky State Study 2023; conducted by Coda Ventures