

Unemployment rate on the rise in Pendleton, other KY counties

KY Ed & Labor Cabinet

FRANKFORT — Unemployment rates rose in 109 counties, fell in nine counties and stayed the same in Johnson and Knott counties between January 2024 and January 2025, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics, an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cab-

inet.

Unemployment in Pendleton County jumped from 5.2% in January 2024 to 6.6% in January 2025.

According to the Center for Statistics, there are 6,592 people employed in Pendleton, and 463 people unemployed.

January 2025 unemployment rates in counties surrounding

Pendleton were Kenton, 4.9%; Campbell, 5.1%; Bracken, 8.2%; Harrison, 4.7%; and Grant, 5.8%.

Only Bracken County, of the five counties bordering Pendleton, recorded a higher unemployment rate.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the commonwealth at 4%.

It was followed by Fayette and Shelby counties, 4.3% each; Oldham and Scott counties, 4.4% each; Bourbon, Jessamine and Nicholas counties, 4.6% each; and Harrison, Todd and Washington counties, 4.7% each.

Wolfe County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 13.8%.

It was followed by Lewis

County, 12.2%; Elliott County, 11.5%; Magoffin County, 11.2%; Martin County, 11%; Carter County, 10.7%; Menifee County, 10.6%; Lawrence County, 9.8%; Breathitt County, 9.3%; and Morgan County, 9.1%.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes.

Fiscal Court sells excess paver

By Jim Thaxton

FALMOUTH — A special meeting of the Pendleton County Fiscal Court was called last Tuesday to approve the sale of a paver that has not been needed or used in years.

The Court accepted a bid of \$4,500 and also granted Judge Executive David Fields permission to accept any future bids on a surplus fire truck.

The meeting adjourned and went directly into the caucus meeting, during which the court discussed:

- A contract to mow the Justice Center and address the grass growing among the pavers leading into the center;
 - Cedar Line ground maintenance;
 - Affiliation agreements for CERT and Search and Rescue;
 - Salary adjustments for Senior Center staff.
- Action on all these items will be taken up at the next meeting.
- In addition, the Court discussed:
- The cost and design of the new Pendleton County

Fire Department Building;

- Water Board appointments and agreed a resolution for term limits is needed;
 - Separate purchase orders that comply with budgeted items;
 - Blacktop needs.
- Because this was a caucus meeting no action was taken. Citizens who have an interest in any of these items are encouraged to attend the next scheduled fiscal court meeting on March 25, which is when the court will be able to take action.

CHURCH

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"We will have communion and treat bags for the children," Barnes said.

Barnes, along with four other members, are interested in reopening the church. She will place a questionnaire in the Easter bulletin asking attendees if they would be interested in reopening on a full or part-time basis, or at all.

In the meantime, Barnes has lined up Eastern Kentuckian Russel Nunn as a guest minister for Easter Sunday.

Nunn's wife, Karen, and his sister, Betty Meyer, sang special music at Christmas and will be coming back to join the Easter celebration. "The Nuns love coming down," Barnes said.

Several local people have fond memories of the church.

Jeana Vessing Dennis said that she and her siblings attended until she was 10 years old. Her brother, William Duncan, painted the baptismal there.

Duncan wrote on Gardnersville's Facebook page how the preacher made sure the 15-year-old had the acrylic paints he needed. The teen wouldn't accept any money for the job, so the preacher, also a manager at Shillito's "insisted that I at least have a day shopping for clothes."

Alisa Stamper Brannock, who played piano at the church for several

years, will be coming back from her home in Cynthiana to play for Easter.

"Forever and always the most beautiful church I have ever attended," she said.

"It will be my privilege to play for the service Easter Sunday morning."

Brannock's father, Paul Stamper, was a preacher at GCC for several years.

Some former members described how Mildred Linder and her husband would help them get to church. Linder drove a church van.

"You would see it before she got there. She honked the horn, yelling 'Come on kids. Let's go to church,' Barnes said.

Lora Johnson Whaley's parents, Keith and Jane Bowen Johnson, were married in the church, and her grandmother, Velma Bowen, played piano and organ.

Jane's sisters Jo and her husband, Arnold Ross, and Sue and her husband, Bill Bradford, were married there too and were active members at GCC.

Whaley recalled her mother telling stories of "church dinners always being outside on blankets and wagons, because it was a no-no to eat inside the church."

Natalie Wolfe, former member of GCC and her husband, Nick, have been taking care of the bills, insurance and upkeep of the church for years, even after the church closed.

Natalie said that it was difficult to close the doors in 2020, but "it was my family, one older lady and Kenny Allender as the minister. We (Nick and I) paid his salary and kept the church going, but it just got to be 'Why?' I couldn't bear to close it. I really struggled."

Allender, who spent eight years pastoring the church, agreed with Wolfe. "If there's just nothing there, there's just nothing there."

He admitted that "if God closed the door, I'm not sure if we should reopen it."

Allender also talked about some good things that happened there during his tenure. The church helped with the Feeding the Kids summer feeding program and gave out school supplies at Northern Elementary's back to school bash.

"It's where God led you, fed you, and helped you to grow," he said.

Allender said that his wife, Delores, taught Sunday School and helped touch the lives of young people. "Two (of the children) invited them (the Allenders) to their baptisms."

Barnes is seeking a minister who would be interested in coming to Gardnersville to minister to the people there.

"My dearest wish is to open the doors, find a minister, and serve the community. That's my biggest wish," she said.

SCHOOL

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"We believe we have a vision and a plan to attract younger families to this area, retain them and work alongside our community to continue revitalizing it for the future," Abram said. "We don't want to cause division or conflict, but we are asking council to view this as an investment in Falmouth's future."



follow state regulations regarding the sale of property.

Price suggested council move forward with Trinity's proposal in accordance with the law seek sealed bids, and require that any purchaser awarded provide a detailed plan and financial surety to complete the plan.

Abram thanked the

Council for their time. As he left the room there was a mass exodus following him leaving only a handful left in the audience.

Following a closed session to discuss possible litigation, council reconvened but did not take any action.

Code Enforcement requested citizens to help control excessive weed growth during April.

CONSIDERATION

Price thanked Abram and those in his congregation who were in the room, then asked council for their comments and questions. The discussion that followed was brief and favorable of Trinity's proposal.

City attorney Brandon Voelker advised council to

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