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thrive - also includes local newspapers.

Newspapers are among the longest-standing small businesses in rural areas across Kentucky, including here in Hart County. In fact, the Hart County News-Herald was founded in 1886. That's 139 years of bringing important news and updates to our readers.

What our newspaper also provides is an opportunity for transparency and accountability from local governments and elected officials. This is done through (1) public notices; (2) open records; and (3) open meetings. This allows members of our community to stay informed of when government meetings are held, what ordinances are being passed by elected officials, and how our tax dollars are being spent.

House Bill 368 would remove such transparency and accountability. HB 368 seeks to remove legal ads from newspapers and instead have them solely placed on city and county government websites - the same government websites that I have found are not being updated as expected. This includes local school districts as well.

Furthermore, when a legal ad is printed in a newspaper, it is dated, published, and permanent. It cannot be "logged into" and

edited or changed after the fact like it could on a website. As shared from an article written by Jane Ashley Pace, newspaper publisher of the Oldham Era and Henry County Local, after a legal ad is printed in a newspaper, it is also already "...placed on a website managed by the Kentucky Press Association where all legal notices in Kentucky can be found easily - kypublicnotices.com."

It's also evident from recent elections that a majority of constituents from across the nation, from across our great state, and from across rural communities like our own, are demanding transparency, accountability, and honesty from all levels of government. HB 368 would take this away, leaving legal requirements in the hands of government entities and their websites. All power would be left to those already wielding the most power. We all are well aware of the problems this causes. Do we really want or need that?

Just to be frank: any politician or government entity looking to create barriers that would take away transparency and accountability from citizens and communities - especially through HB 368 - is a red flag.

Additionally, although legal ads are not the sole revenue for

newspapers, HB 368 would certainly be a hard hit for small communities like ours. Remember, newspapers are small businesses that employ countless men and women locally and across the state striving to support their families. HB 368 would chip away at the revenue of newspapers, which in turn would also chip away at the livelihood of local families.

Some officials may argue that removing legal ads from newspapers would save taxpayer dollars. However, the fact remains that paid legal notices are a very, very small part of county and city budgets. In fact, only 0.16% of local government budgets are spent on paid legal notices to be published in newspapers (per information provided by Jane Ashley Pace). If HB 368 passes, more money would be spent on officials creating a statewide website for all notices - which would include not only the website creation cost but also paying an individual to keep the website up-to-date. Why implement such a thing when newspapers and the Kentucky Press Association are already handling this?

It should also be noted that expecting everyone to find legal ads and notices solely on a government website is absurd. Although it is often said that we are living

in times where "news and information are at our fingertips", this isn't the case for everyone. There are many elderly individuals in Hart and surrounding counties who don't have access to internet at their homes because they cannot afford it. These are the same individuals who also do not own smart phones because they cannot afford it. They rely on information relayed in newspapers, to which many are subscribers. I would also like to mention the large population of Amish that we have in the county who also rely on information from local newspapers. HB 368 would discriminate against these important members of our community.

As not only a newspaper editor - but more importantly as a citizen who wants transparency and accountability across the board - I urge you to reach out to your local state representatives and senators and urge them to NOT support House Bill 368.

Information for Hart Countians:
State Representative Ryan Bivens
502-564-8100
Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov

Senator David Givens
502-564-8100
David.Givens@kylegislature.gov

AG Coleman Grateful to Kentucky House for Domestic Violence Bill

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Attorney General Russell Coleman applauded the Kentucky House of Representatives on its unanimous passage of enhanced protections for victims of domestic and interpersonal violence. Chairman James Tipton (R-Taylorsville) introduced HB 38, which makes repeated violations of protective orders a felony offense.

"Domestic violence is one of the most serious threats facing our Commonwealth. It impacts children, parents, families, and entire communities, and it presents one of the greatest dangers for law enforcement. I'm grateful to Chairman Tipton and the Kentucky House for staring into the face of this darkness with this legislation,"

said Attorney General Coleman. "By increasing penalties for offenders and better protecting victims, we can give new tools to prosecutors, victims' advocates, and law enforcement. I look forward to working closely with Senators to pass meaningful legislation to deter this criminal conduct and keep Kentucky families safe."

If you have been a victim of a crime,

contact the Attorney General's Victim Resource and Referral Line at (800) 372-2551.

In August of last year, Erica Riley and her mother, Janet, were killed in Elizabethtown just moments before they were set to appear in court for an emergency protective order.

Attorney General Coleman has collaborated with

partners to shine a

VIOLENCE,
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LEGAL NOTICE
The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky's noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) Nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Marestail (*Conyza canadensis*), Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera mackii*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) Japanese knotweed, (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) and Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*).

Persons who own property adjacent to state right of way and who are involved in eradication efforts on their property can submit a written application to the highway district office in their area. Contact information can be found at transportation.ky.gov/DistrictPages

2025-2026 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

HART COUNTY PRESCHOOL

Hart County Preschool would like to invite you to register for the 2025-2026 school year.

Kentucky's preschool education programs are available to all three-year-old and four-year-old children in the district that meet eligibility criteria.

If your child is 3 or 4 years old and you suspect them of having a disability OR your child is 4 and your believe you meet income eligibility, you may call and sign up to be screened. (**You must have an appointment to be screened.**)

Every child will need to complete a registration form by calling Kathy Bradley or Kristin Froedge at 270-524-4588.

The following items will be required for enrollment:

- Birth certificate
- Current Physical
- Vision & Hearing Screening
- Proof of Income (4 Year olds)
- Eye Exam
- Social Security Card

ENROLL NOW!
270-524-4588

To register and inquire, contact the following:
kathy.bradley@hart.kyschools.us

CORPORATE CONTACTS:
JOBE PUBLISHING, INC.
JEFF JOBE, GROUP PUBLISHER
jjobe@jobeinc.com
270-590-6625 cell

Advertising / Printing
270-786-2676
print@jpinews.com

Michelle Rowe, President
Jobe Publishing
270-786-2676 Office
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Anissa Meredith, VP Operations
270-786-2676 Office
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Lesia Logsdon, VP Reader Services
270-786-2686 Office
lesialogsdon@jpinews.com

Pam Wright, VP Finances
270-786-2676 Office
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Becky Jones, VP Visual Communications
270-786-2676 Office
beckyjones@jpinews.com

Jessie Crabtree, VP Sales
270-590-8633
jcrabtree@jpinews.com

James Courtney Douglas
VP Production

THE CITIZEN-TIMES
611 East Main St., Scottsville, KY 42164
270-237-3441
ctimes@nctc.com
Acting General Manager

BARREN COUNTY PROGRESS
GLASGOW OFFICE
101 N. Public Square, Glasgow, KY 42141
270-659-2146 Office
progress@jpinews.com
Allyson Dix, Managing Editor

HART COUNTY NEWS-HERALD
HORSE CAVE OFFICE
570 South Dixie St., Horse Cave, KY 42749
270-786-2676 Office
print@jpinews.com
Mary Beth Sallee, Managing Editor
marybeth@jpinews.com
Selena Gower - Sales, 270-786-2676

EDMONSON COUNTY NEWS
BROWNSVILLE OFFICE
109 E. Main Cross, Brownsville, KY 42210
270-597-3115 Office
ednews@windstream.net
Lynn Bledsoe, Reporter
Beverly Bonilla - Sales, 270-526-4151
sales@jpinews.com

EDMONTON HERALD NEWS
EDMONTON OFFICE
116 South Main St., Edmonton, KY 42129
270-432-3291
heraldnews@jpinews.com
P. J. Martin, Editor / Sales
Allyson Dix, Reporter

CUMBERLAND COUNTY NEWS
412 Courthouse Square, Burkesville, KY 42717
270-864-3891 Office
ccn@burkesville.com
Greg Wells, Editor
Billy Guffey, Layout/Graphics
J. R. Jessie, Sales

RUSSELL COUNTY TIMES JOURNAL
RUSSELL SPRINGS OFFICE
270-866-3191 Office; 270-866-3198 Fax
editor@russellcountynewspapers.com
Wade Daffron, Editor
Melissa Stephens - Office Manager
Renee Daffron, Design

BUTLER COUNTY BANNER/
GREEN RIVER REPUBLICAN
MORGANTOWN OFFICE
109 East Ohio St., Morgantown, KY 42261
270-526-4151 Office
banner@jpinews.com
Beverly Bonilla - Office Manager
sales@jpinews.com



Advertising package delivered to all homes offering our company a total market penetration.

Community CALENDAR

Horse Cave Christian Church Clothes Closet

The Horse Cave Christian Church, 105 Guthrie Street, behind German American Bank, will have a food and clothes pantry on Friday, February 28, 9:00 am to 10:30 am. Adult Bible Study 10:00 am and Sunday services begin at 11:00 am.

Animal Resuce Kare (ARK)

will be having a Spay-Neuter-Rabies Voucher Event on March 15 from 10:00 am till Noon. This event will be at the First United Methodist Church, 421 Hardyville Road, Munfordville.

A limited number of vouchers will be offered for Riverside Animal Clinic, Leitchfield Vet Clinic and Country Critters at Rural King in Elizabethtown.

Cat vouchers are \$35 and dog vouchers are \$50. We also offer unlimited BRAWA cat vouchers for \$25. Hart County residents only.

Round up your critters and get them fixed before you have unwanted litters.

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this award, which is nominated and voted on by all athletic directors within the 5th Region.

"(It's) a true unreal feeling to be named 5th Region AD of the Year! However, I wouldn't be where I'm at today without the dedication, leadership, passion, and drive for Raider sports then a man did for over 50 years of his career, Mr. Jerry Taylor," Craddock said. "Thank you, Mr. Taylor, for always believing in me and instilling in me what you did for the students and athletes of Hart County. I also have to say my girls, Lindsay and Cheslee, have always been there from the beginning. They grew up in a gym or on a field, and although Lindsay bowed out

early, (she loved participating in band), Cheslee hung in there and still does from time to time. As long as there was a concession stand, she was there. And of course my Mom, always there with the fullest support. Excited to represent the best region in the state!"

In addition to serving as Assistant Athletic Director for Hart County Schools, Craddock also serves as HCHS Financial Officer and HCHS Volleyball Head Coach.

She is also the as current President of the 5th Region Athletic Director Association and Commissioner of the Central Kentucky Middle School Athletic Conference.