

Editorial

THE LARUE COUNTY HERALD NEWS

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

LARUE COUNTY AND SURROUNDING TOWNS

EZ PAY	
One Year	\$39.21
Six Months	\$24.37
Three months	\$13.77

REGULAR PAY

One Year	\$44.51
Six Months	\$26.49
Three months	\$15.89

ELSEWHERE IN KENTUCKY

EZ PAY	
One Year	\$55.11
Six Months	\$32.85
Three Months	\$19.07

REGULAR PAY

One Year	\$60.41
Six Months	\$34.97
Three Months	\$21.19

OUT OF STATE

EZ PAY	
One Year	\$64.99
Six Months	\$37.99
Three Months	\$22.99

REGULAR PAY

One Year	\$69.99
Six Months	\$39.99
Three Months	\$24.99

ONLINE ACCESS ONLY

EZ PAY	
One Year	\$39.21
Six Months	\$24.37
Three Months	\$13.77

REGULAR PAY

One Year	\$44.51
Six Months	\$26.49
Three Months	\$15.89

— Effective January 1, 2023

Supporting local newspapers puts community first

Every county in Kentucky has one local business that has been there longer than any other, most more than a century — while some are even closing in on two centuries. In many of these counties, that business is their local newspaper.

I manage two of those local newspapers. The Oldham Era has been in operation for 149 years and is looking forward to celebrating our 150th next year. The Henry County Local has been publishing 168 proud years and counting. I also assist regionally with 13 other area newspapers with similar tenures.

Newspapers are the heartbeat of every community in Kentucky. We exist to inform, to raise awareness, to build community, to be the voice of those that can't always speak for themselves, to cover local government and hold local officials accountable, to help local businesses grow, to enact change, to celebrate achievements and to archive our community's history.

Our founding fathers felt so strongly about the importance of newspapers and the role we play in communities that we are the only profession explicitly named in the Constitution of the United States of America.

There are three ways

in which newspapers have effectively carried out some of our most important roles — covering local government, keeping officials accountable, keeping citizens informed and helping transparency exist: public notices, open meetings and open records.

Without these three in place, knowing how your tax dollars are being spent, what bids are available and being rewarded, what decisions your elected officials are making for you, when meetings are being held and what new ordinances are being considered would not be as easily accessible.

There is currently a bill, HB368, that seeks to remove legal notices from newspapers and place them on government websites. Websites that are run by the government themselves. What could go possibly go wrong with that?

When a legal ad is placed in a newspaper, it is placed in the local newspaper, dated and cannot be changed after the fact. In addition, it is placed on a website managed by the Kentucky Press Association where all legal notices in Kentucky can be found easily — kypublicnotices.com.

HB368 seeks to have entities including county and city governments

place public notices on their own websites, yet many have only one employee, if any, and can't even keep their current websites updated. I found one city website in my area that hadn't been updated with meetings or ordinances since 2020. Two others had very little information, none of the council members were current and the monthly meeting time listed was listed wrong.

Officials have said they would create their own statewide website for all notices. I would argue that they are going to spend a lot more money creating a website we have already created and maintained successfully. Right now, paid legal notices are currently a very small part of county and city budgets — only 0.16%.

So why change? Is this what is really best for the community?

In counties of 80,000 or more a bill was passed in Kentucky to change the rules of public notices due to the cost of the larger newspapers. Yet, many of those counties, including Boone, Campbell, Fayette, Kenton, Madison and Warren, have decided that newspapers are still the best way to get their notices out and have continued to place them in newspapers despite the change.

Regardless of the county size, public notices should be posted by a third party, and with a newspaper in

almost every county (and statewide website already in place) it just makes good, common sense.

Besides the concerns I've already addressed, while legal notices are not the only revenue that keep newspapers going — it is a part of it, and some smaller, rural counties will probably lose their local newspaper if this bill is passed. A community without a local newspaper is a community without a heartbeat, and countless studies have shown in news desserts across this country that there will be negative, long-term effects for the community.

No, it is not the job of the legislature to keep newspapers running but why are they so against doing something that maintains transparency and at the same time, would hurt some of the oldest local businesses in this state?

I'm not blind to the criticism of the media and think that cable news networks have hurt our industry as a whole. I was trained that a journalist is to cover the facts and to try and keep any biases out. I think your local newspapers do a pretty darn good job at still doing that. We have opinion/editorial pages that are open for opinions to be shared and topics to be discussed but they are clearly labeled and kept separate from the news content.

Your local newspaper

employees are not pushing an agenda. We are actively involved and serving in our communities.

We live, work, play and volunteer right alongside our community members. We take our role very seriously, and that includes publishing your public notices.

Any bill that seeks to change how public notices are handled, or diminishes public meetings or public records, is going to be harmful to the community, and your local newspaper, in the long run. I urge you to stand up with your local newspaper and help us keep these three in place.

Jane Ashley Pace is the publisher of the Oldham Era and Henry County Local, regional advertising manager for Paxton Media and the 2024 president of the Kentucky Press Association.

PUBLISHERS NOTE: As the publisher of the longest continuously running business in LaRue County, The LaRue County Herald News, I fully agree with Jane Ashley Pace's comments and ask for our legislators to Vote NO on HB368. Since May 6, 1885 The LaRue County Herald News has documented history and published these type of notices that cannot be changed. Transparency is key to this issue. We need your support to continue to keep local and state officials accountable. Stand with us and know the facts. — Allison Shepherd

House passes key pieces of legislation

As the state recovers from flooding and snowstorms, lawmakers have been hard at work in Frankfort talking with constituents, attending committee meetings, and casting their votes on important legislative measures that will shape the future of the Commonwealth.

As the 2025 Regular Session progresses, several pieces of legislation are moving through committees and being considered on the House Floor. Here is a summary of some of the bills that the House of Representatives passed during the week of February 17, which will now head to the Senate for further consideration:

Protecting Kentuckians from surveillance and tracking: HB 20 would implement privacy protections surrounding automated license plate readers (ALPRs), identification devices, and tracking devices. The bill prohibits an entity, defined as any law enforcement agency, unit of local government, or homeowners' association that deploys and maintains ALPRs, from retaining license plate data captured by an ALPR for more than 60 days, unless the data is being used as evidence in a criminal or insurance claim investigation, has become subject to a subpoena duces tecum or preservation of evidence notification, or is being used for toll collection activities on highways and bridges.

Addressing workforce shortages: HB 54 would require the Department of Housing, Buildings, and Construction to recognize and allow dual credit students receiving

directly related on-the-job training equivalencies of internship and cooperative placement hours to count toward those hours needed to obtain licensure in a profession regulated by the department, including but not limited to electrician, plumbing, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning licenses.

Honoring our most vulnerable: HB 164, known as Braylon's Law, would allow families to continue an adoption process in the event of a child's death during their adoption process.

Improving response to sexual assaults: HB 219 would require hospitals that offer emergency services to develop and provide training for emergency department staff on sexual assault emergency response requirements, protocols, and resources.

Ensuring student instructional time: HB 241 would allow school districts to add time to school days to make up for days lost due to health or safety concerns; grant the Commissioner of Education the authority to provide a district with up to five disaster relief student attendance days to provide instruction without being in the classroom; and allow the commissioner to waive five required days if they would still be in school after June 4, 2026 even after adding time to instructional days.

Eliminating unnecessary barriers for skilled volunteers: HB 261 would allow retired certified public accountant (CPAs) to offer certain uncompensated services to the public, including preparing taxes, participating in a govern-

ment-sponsored business-mentoring program, serving on the board of director for a nonprofit or governmental organization, or serving on a government-appointed advisory board, and require retired CPAs who wish to offer limited services to complete a continuing professional education waiver based on retirement before practicing.

Streamlining higher education transfers: HB 427 would establish college credit transfer pathways for high-demand degree pathways between KCTCS and 4-year institutions ensuring that college credits earned are applied to a student's degree.

Improving access to healthcare: HB 423 would streamline requirements that healthcare providers obtain approval before prescribing a specific medication, treatment or medical service. The measure proposes the establishment of an exemption program, allowing healthcare providers who meet specific criteria to bypass prior authorization requirements for certain services.

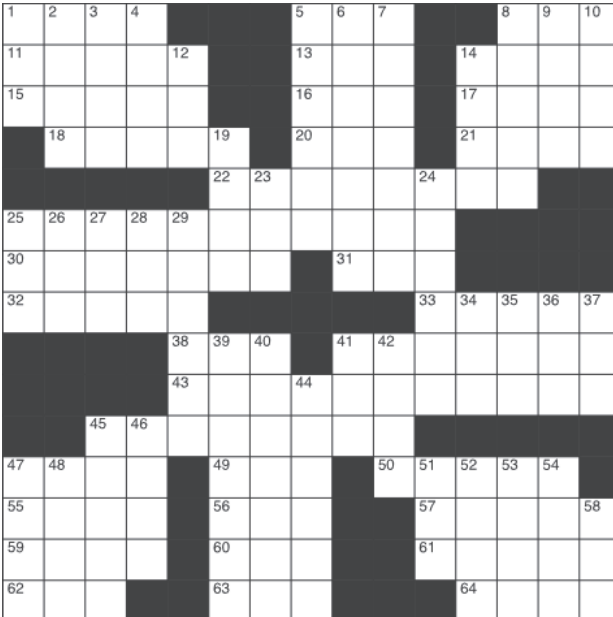
Restoring Ten Commandments Monument: HJR 15 would return the Ten Commandments monument given to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1971 by the Fraternal Order of Eagles for permanent display on New State Capitol ground

Addressing shortage in sexual assault nurse examiners: HCR 20 would direct the Legislative Research Commission to study access to sexual assault nurse examiners and would require the report to be submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Health Services and the Interim Joint Committee on

Judiciary by December 1, 2025.

As the 2025 Regular Session continues, I urge you to follow along with the legislative process. Each committee meeting is live streamed on YouTube, @ KYLRCCCommitteeMeetings. Floor proceedings are also live streamed at KET.org.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at ryan.bivens@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.



CLUES ACROSS

- Greek mythological figure
- Small amount
- Play a role
- River in Georgia and Alabama
- Water in the solid state
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- Fleece
- Writer/actress Dunham
- Behave in a way that belittles
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Conceits
- Slowed down
- Nourishment
- Midway between east and southeast
- Fights
- Comedienne Tyler
- Standing operating procedure
- Locks
- Old
- Song sung to one's lover
- Whale ship captain
- Moved quickly on foot
- Volcanic craters
- Large musical instrument
- Liquefied natural gas
- Ethiopian town
- Not closed
- A team's best pitcher
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Disfigure
- Prefix denoting "in a"
- Sleep

CLUES DOWN

- S. American plant

- Soul and calypso song
- Fruit of the service tree
- Continent
- Albania's capital
- Poisonous plant
- Argues
- Assists
- Town in Galilee
- Russian leader
- Promotional materials
- Wings
- Not odd
- Expression of creativity
- Conceptualize
- A digital tape recording of sound
- Peyton's little brother
- Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- Difference in potential
- Owner
- 1 (German)
- Chinese conception of poetry
- The world of the dead
- Sign language
- Coincide
- Religious observance
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Polite interruption sound
- Texas ballplayer
- Type of sword
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Basic unit of a chemical element
- Native American people in California
- Swiss river
- Hebrew calendar month
- Easily swindled person
- One point south of southwest
- Small island (British)