

MUD

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experience, she creates a mix of functional and decorative pieces, with each composition offering a glimpse into her decades of experience, love of experimentation and inspiration from the natural world.

Although her first touch with pottery occurred during a summer class in elementary school, Shaw didn't immediately recognize the artform as the passion it would become. Instead, it would take another decade — when she opted to sign up for an elective art class in college — before the addiction set in.

This fondness persevered through her 30 years of service in the navy, and the times she was prohibited from bringing her kiln with her on active duty. Over time, she was able to develop her own style, embracing the unpredictable nature of clay, the creative latitude it offered and the excuse to “play in the mud” as an adult.

“There are no restrictions with pottery; it's not staying between the lines like painting or something of that nature,” she said. “I love the freedom that I have with creating, and I'll swing from one genre of pots to the next — nothing looks the same.”

What started with just one kiln in the mid-1990s has evolved into a well-equipped operation built over years of dedication and experimentation. Shaw now works with two potter's wheels, four kilns, and a wide range of glazes — some purchased, and others crafted by hand. Having the right tools has allowed her to expand her techniques and try new approaches, giving her the freedom to follow wherever inspiration leads.

As someone who also enjoys scuba diving, the underwater world plays a powerful role in Shaw's creative process. She's especially drawn to the textures she encounters: layered, uneven and full of movement. The nat-



Submitted photo

Pottery created using the raku firing method is pictured.

ural world beneath the surface offers endless inspiration and from carved surfaces to glaze applications, there's a quiet echo of the ocean's texture in many of her creations.

An important characteristic of pottery that every potter must understand is the

Still, inspiration is only part of the process. Pottery demands patience, and a willingness to let go. Clay can be delicate and unpredictable and, despite an artist's best efforts, pieces can crack, warp or even explode in the kiln. Shaw says being a potter means learning to be flexible, to embrace imperfections and to understand that not everything will go as planned.

In her home studio, Shaw works across a wide range of forms, regularly switching between functional pieces of mugs and bowls to decorative works bursting with textures and creativity. Some pieces are more simple and practical; others are more experimental, giving her space to test combinations, designs and firing techniques.

“I am not a production potter,” she said, referring to artists who make items in large quantities and focus on consistency. “If you ask me to make a dinner wear set, yeah, I could do that, but they're not going to be 100% perfect because that's not what I do.”

One of her favorite methods is raku firing, a technique that allows her to embrace the unexpected nature of clay. The raku approach calls for

pottery to be removed from the kiln while it is still hot and then placed into a vessel of combustible materials, such as newspaper or pine needles or a wine cork. This technique creates one-of-a-kind artwork that feature a myriad of colors.

“You cannot duplicate it because of the uniqueness of the firing — where did it sit in the kiln? How long was it in the combustion chamber? Did you have the exact same mixture of combustible materials?” she said. “You physically cannot make the same piece twice ... and that's what makes it so much fun.”

Shaw doesn't just create for herself — she shares her passion with others by offering classes from her home studio. Students of all experience levels come to learn the basics or explore new techniques in a relaxed, welcoming environment. For Shaw, teaching is another way to stay inspired and connected to the creative process. She also regularly fills custom orders, with pieces on display across the country,

As Artist of the Month, an exhibit featuring artwork by Clay & Cabernet Pottery will be on display throughout the month of July at the LaRue County Public Library, located at 215 Lincoln Dr., Hodgenville. For more information about the business, visit ClayandCabernet on Instagram or email clayandcabernet22@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENTS

Homecoming

Mt. Salem Separate Baptist Church, located at 3452 Die Shibley Road, Magnolia, will host a Homecoming at 10:30 a.m. EDT on Sunday, July 13. Munfordville Separate Baptist Church will worship with the church. Their pastor, Bro. Brett Young, will be preaching and singing. A meal will be provided after the service. Pastor Eudell Stilts and members invite everyone to attend. FMI call 270-324-3340.

LaRue County Farmers Market

The LaRue County Farmers Market will be open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday through July 31 in the LaRue County High School back parking lot, 925 S. Lincoln Blvd. in Hodgenville.

Upton Farmers Market

The Upton Farmers Market will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. every Friday at 1070 S. Walnut St., Upton. For more information or to sign up as a vendor, contact Al Rider at 502-377-0066.

PUBLIC LIBRARY — 270-358-3851

Thursday, July 10

Circle of Love — 10 a.m. For babies 0-36 months.

Storytime — 1:30 p.m. For children under 5.

Watercolor Canvasses — 3 p.m. For middle school and high schoolers.

Master Gardener Class — 5 p.m. For everyone.

Friday, July 11

Magic the Gathering — 2 p.m. for ages 7-13, 3 p.m. for ages 14-18.

Fairy Wands and Pavers — 3 p.m. For teens and adults.

Saturday, July 12

Water balloons — 11 a.m.

Tuesday, July 15

BINGOCize — 10 a.m. For adults.

Tai Chi — 11 a.m. For adults.

Storytime — 11 a.m. For children under 5.

Black & White Painting — 3 p.m. For teens and adults.

Sourdough Starts — 3 p.m. For middle and high schoolers, pre-registration required.

Thursday, July 17

Storytime — 1:30 p.m. For children under 5.

Book Club — 3:30 p.m. For adults.

Board meeting — 4:30 p.m.

Reptiles and Amphibians of

Kentucky with Damon Barnes — 5 p.m. For everyone.

MEETINGS

Hodgenville City Council

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hodgenville City Council will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 14.

LaRue County Board of Education

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LaRue County Board of Education will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 21.

LaRue County Fiscal Court

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LaRue County Fiscal Court is Tuesday, July 22 at 9 a.m.

Celebrate Recovery

Held every Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m. at Ovesen Heights Baptist Church located at 1604 Bardstown Road in Hodgenville. FMI call 270-735-5005.

Lions Club

The Hodgenville Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. at El Acapulco, 195 Lee Oak Drive, Hodgenville. Come out and learn more about the Lions Club or call Linda Henry at 502-888-9256 or email lionlindahenry@yahoo.com for more information.

RECYCLING-

Glass Recycling

Drop off location is the LaRue County Road Department (across from the LC High School). Accepting clear, green, brown, blue, broken china and ceramics; no window glass is accepted. The next date is July 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FMI call Jill Gray at 270-234-6619.

Recycling trailers are in the following locations for the community's use. In Hodgenville — LaRue County Courthouse lower parking lot, 209 West High Street Hodgenville; in Buffalo — Buffalo Fire Department — 2619 Greensburg Rd.; and in Magnolia — Old School Market — 9050 New Jackson Hwy. Contact Jill Gray at 270-234-6619 with any questions.

If you have an event you would like to share, bring it to our office located at 40 Shawnee Drive in Hodgenville, leave it in our outside drop box, or email editor@laruecountyherald.com

NOTICE TO LARUE COUNTY TAXPAYERS

Rhonda Metcalf, LaRue County Clerk pursuant to KRS 424.130, announces that the 2024 Delinquent Real Property Tax Bills (Certificates of Delinquency) will be published in the LaRue County Herald News on July 16th, 2025. The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday at the County Clerk's office located at 209 W. High Street, Suite 3, Hodgenville, KY 42748. This list may also be inspected on the LaRue County Clerk's website. The Uniform Resources Locator (URL) of the website is **www.larue.countyclerk.us**. The tax sale will be held on August 19, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m. All interested participants must register with the County Clerk's office by the close of business day on August 8th, 2025. Please contact the County Clerk's office if you need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee or the deposit amounts that will be needed. Taxpayers can continue to pay their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk's office anytime prior to the tax sale. **Please Note: All payments must be received in the County Clerk's office prior to the tax sale has been conducted will be returned without exception.** Some delinquencies although they have been advertised will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance with the provisions of KRS 134.504(10)(b). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk's office at 270-358 -3544.