

Food

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“Take any assistance they are qualified for. That is what those programs are there for. Especially if they are working, going to college and raising a family. We all need help from time to time,” Tackett remarked.

MCTC students who would like more information can make an appointment with Joy Baker through OnceHub at go.oncehub.com/

Library

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Class will be held at MCPL for adults.

“Join the U.K. Extension Office and Mason County Public Library to learn the basic of electrical work. You will learn how to replace plugs, light switches and other basic electrical items,” MCPL expressed.

A Craft Your Dreams: Vision Board Party event will be held at MCPL on Tuesday, April 22, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for tweens, teens and adults.

“Join us for an inspiring and creative event where participants come together to design their personal vision

boards. This program encourages self-reflection and goal setting in a fun, supportive environment,” MCPL said.

The same event will also take place on Friday, April 25, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

On Monday, April 28, from noon to 1:30 p.m. MCPL will be hosting an Edible Plant Class and Walk.

“Join us for a unique and enriching experience at the Edible Plant Class and Hike through the Library at Cummins Nature Preserve,” MCPL stated.

The month of April will finish off with an Open Studio Art and Crafts-Self Guided event from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for youth, children and tweens.

Attorney General Coleman Protects Veterans' G.I. Bill Benefits

Submitted by the Office of Attorney General Russell Coleman

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 2, 2025) – Attorney General Russell Coleman is urging a federal court to restore two veterans' education benefits they earned despite the objection of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. General Coleman and every other attorney general in the country filed a brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in support of U.S. Army veteran Lieutenant Colonel Paul Yoon and U.S. Air Force veteran Colonel Toby Doran.

Since 1944, Congress has passed several laws, commonly known as “G.I. Bills,” to provide for educational and other benefits for those who served in uniform. Kentucky is home to nearly 300,000 veterans.

In their brief, the attorneys general argue that the VA has adopted an overly restrictive interpretation of the G.I. Bills that contradicts the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in *Rudisill v. McDonough*. That decision confirmed that veterans who qualify are entitled to a full 48 months of education benefits. Despite this clear precedent, the VA continues to unlawfully limit benefits, depriving veterans and their families of critical educational opportunities.

“The courageous men and women who wore our country's uniform deserve our respect, gratitude and the benefits they've earned. Along with attorneys general from all 50 states, I'm proud to stand up for those who sacrificed to keep our families safe and free,” said Attorney General Coleman. “These veterans lived up to their end of the bargain, it's time for the VA to do the same.”

Gov. Beshear Declares State of Emergency Ahead of 4-Day Severe Weather Event With Possible Tornadoes

Submitted by the Office of Governor Andy Beshear

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 2, 2025) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear declared a state of emergency ahead of the first round of severe storms that are expected to last for four days. The storm is especially concerning for far Western Kentucky, which is going to see potentially historic amounts of rain, and strong winds with the possibility of tornadoes are in the forecast for much of Kentucky.

In a video message, the Governor said far Western Kentucky is facing a severe weather risk at a Level 5, which means there could be widespread severe storms that are intense and long-lived. Across the state there are concerns about tornadoes, hail, flooding and strong winds. The Governor is urging all Kentuckians to find a safe place to stay tonight.

“Tornadoes are expected, and I know that's tough to hear. And we are most concerned about the area of Western Kentucky that has gotten hit far too much, as well as a wider area of Western Kentucky,” Gov. Bes-

hear said. “Remember, these can be strong tornadoes, EF-2 and greater. We're really concerned about people's safety, especially in the overnight, because when storms or tornadoes hit while people are asleep, that's sadly when we've lost the most people. So, everybody out there, be really careful.”

The Governor is taking action by activating the Kentucky Emergency Operations Center and units of the Kentucky National Guard to stand ready to respond. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials and crews are also on alert, and local emergency management leaders are working to keep Kentuckians everywhere informed.

Gov. Beshear also implemented the state's price gouging laws to protect Kentuckians from overpriced goods and services as they clean up and recover from the storm. Consumers should report price gouging to the Office of the Attorney General.

Drivers are urged to check traffic conditions before traveling at GoKy.ky.gov.

For additional preparedness tips, visit kyem.ky.gov.

Surprise guest shows up as U.S. House Dems slam education cuts: the Education secretary

Shauneen Miranda
Kentucky Lantern

WASHINGTON — A press conference by a dozen U.S. House Democrats outside the U.S. Department of Education took an unusual turn on Wednesday when the subject of their criticism — Education Secretary Linda McMahon — unexpectedly joined them.

The Democrats had met with the Trump administration appointee a few minutes earlier to press her about the sweeping shifts at the U.S. Department of Education, where she and President Donald Trump are seeking to dismantle the agency.

The lawmakers told reporters that at the scheduled meeting, they questioned McMahon on how the department could carry out its primary responsibilities when the agency continues to see dramatic changes. That includes mass layoffs that hit core units and an executive order from Trump calling on the secretary to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure” of the department to the maximum extent she legally can.

Only Congress, which established the 45-year-old department, has the power to abolish it.

The Democrats said they were grateful that McMahon met with them but dissatisfied with and even alarmed by the secretary's responses, especially on a timeline for closing the agency.

“It's very apparent that the secretary is treating this as a corporate restructuring, and we want to be clear that the education of our children is not a corporate enterprise — it is how we move this country forward,” Rep. Melanie Stansbury of New Mexico said.

“It's very clear that the (reduction in force), the firing of probationary staff, the so-called restructuring that's happening — when we asked for a plan multiple times in this meeting, we were told there is not a plan yet,” she added.

The secretary arrives, and leaves

As the Democrats spoke, McMahon emerged from the building, accompanied by aides, and joined them at their lectern emblazoned with a U.S. House of Representatives logo.

She reiterated that “funding from the United States government will continue through the programs that have already been established” and said she looked forward to continuing to work with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

After her remarks, Rep. Mark Takano pressed McMahon on when she would close the department.

“Well, we've had our discussions already, so thank you all very, very much for coming,” McMahon replied, proceeding to walk back into the building.

“You see, she's not answering the question when she's going to shut down the department,” Takano, of California, said as the secretary walked away.

Barred from building

Wednesday's meeting came after Takano and other Democratic lawmakers were blocked from entering the building in February while trying to meet with Denise Carter, acting Education secretary at the time, over Trump's plans to dismantle the agency.

The California Democrat had led dozens of others in writing a letter to Carter and requesting a meeting over those efforts.

A day after Trump signed the executive order surrounding the department, he announced that special education services would be transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services and that the Small Business Administration would be handling the student loan portfolio.

The department has not taken any steps to move either — both of which would require acts of Congress and raise a slew of logistical questions.

Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland said “the idea of dismembering the department and then parceling it out to other agencies and departments does not give us a lot of confidence or hope in what's happening.”

The lawmakers said McMahon repeatedly stressed during the meeting that she plans to abide by federal law and would look carefully at what she's legally allowed to do before moving any functions of the department.

Yet Rep. Greg Casar of Texas said he and the group “became more and more alarmed as the meeting went on,” noting that “current law won by so many Americans in this democracy, is that all kids deserve a decent education, that the money goes to your kid if they're in need, the money goes to your kid no matter their race or their background or their neighborhood, and they want to change that.”

The lawmakers who met with McMahon included: U.S. Reps. Terri Sewell of Alabama; Takano; Frederica Wilson of Florida; Raskin and Sarah Elfreth of Maryland; Maggie Goodlander of New Hampshire; Stansbury; Casar, Julie Johnson and Veronica Escobar of Texas; Don Beyer of Virginia; and Gwen Moore of Wisconsin.

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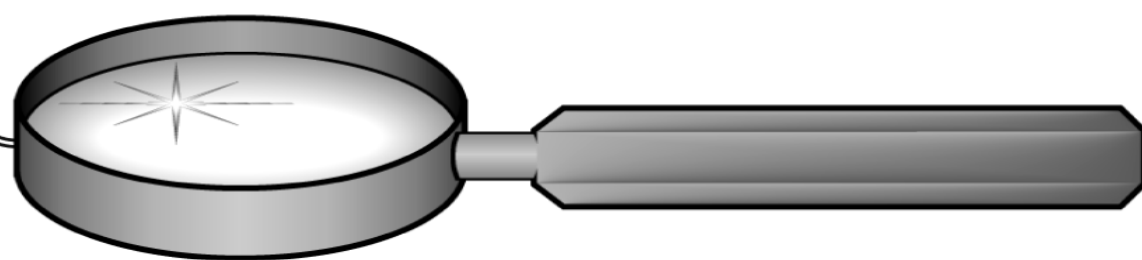
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