Today in **Living**

EDITION READERS GET MORE

Subscribers have access to this additional bonus content online at **kentucky.com/edition**



'Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl' review: Aardman hits a gnome run.

In today's paper

SPORTS: SEC men's basketball preview: How does Kentucky stack up? **1**B

VOLUME 43, No. 227 STAY CONNECTED KENTUCKY.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/KENTUCKYCOM TWITTER.COM/HERALDLEADER

FRIDAY **JANUARY 3** 2025

\$3.00



PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER 1924-2024 A STATESMAN RENERATES MAN



The 39th president of the United States and beloved humanitarian, Jimmy Carter set the standard for the modern post-presidency

Search warrant in police shooting was for different address

BY CHRISTOPHER LEACH cleach@herald-leader.com

A fatal police shooting in Laurel County last week happened at a different address than where police obtained a search warrant, according to records obtained through an open records request.

The shooting happened at 511 Vanzant Road, but according to police dispatch audio and a call log showing police activity that night, officers intended to go to a different house about 250 feet away.

London police were trying to serve the search warrant late at night Monday, Dec. 23, according to Kentucky State Police. Douglas Harless, 63, lived at the home, according to public records, and police said they shot and killed him when he pointed a gun at officers.

But dispatch audio indicates the warrant was for 489 Vanzant Road, a home behind Harless.'

London police have released little information while Kentucky State Police investigate the shooting, sparking outrage among many community members and leading to a "Justice for Doug" rally in London scheduled this weekend. WKYT obtained security footage from a neighbor that showed police announcing themselves while banging on the door of 511 Vanzant Road, then surrounding it and, eventually, firing about five shots. But several key details of the shooting remain unknown, including why officers were attempting to search the house, whose name was on the warrant and why police chose such a late time to execute the warrant. Police have not confirmed if they went to the wrong



1978 Camp David Accord handshake with President Carter, center, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.



1992 Rosalynn, left, and Jimmy Carter work on a house at a Habitat for Humanity site in Americus, Ga. Jane Fonda works in the background.



2015 Former President Jimmy Carter teaches Sunday school at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Ga.

SEE SHOOTING, 4A

State lawmakers to try again on tobacco, vape licenses

BY JOHN CHEVES *jcheves@herald-leader.com*

Kentucky lawmakers say they will try again this winter to require all stores that carry tobacco and vape products to be licensed by the state, giving regulators their locations and something to take away from them if they get busted for illegally selling smoking products to minors.

State Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, told the Herald-Leader he'll file a tobacco and vape retail licensing bill once the Kentucky legislature begins its 2025 session on Jan. 7.

Higdon said he's heard similar plans from state Rep. Jason Nemes, R-Middletown. Penalties should be tougher for the stores that put smoking products in the hands of youths, Higdon said..

"We have some bad actors in Kentucky. The minors are buying this stuff somewhere."

Unlike about three dozen other states and a number of cities around the country, including Louisville, Kentucky doesn't make tobacco and vape retailers buy a license from the state agency that monitors them by sending in undercover teen agents to attempt to buy smoking products.

That watchdog agency is the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, or the ABC.

Lack of state licensing is one reason why Kentucky suffers

from weak enforcement of the federal and state laws against selling smoking products to people under age 21, health advocates say.

And the ABC agrees. It has urged lawmakers for several years to pass a retail licensing law.

"Lack of a state tobacco retail licensing laws has been the most significant and persistent challenge," the ABC said in its most recent annual report on its efforts to keep smoking products away from minors.

The Herald-Leader reported in 2023 that over a recent twoyear period, inspectors with the ABC cited at least 114 Kentucky retailers multiple times for selling tobacco and vape products to minors. They usually only



BUD KRAFT LRC Public Information

State Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, plans to file a bill this winter that would require tobacco and vape retailers in Kentucky to buy a license from the state.

issued warning letters or, in some cases, small fines that were a tiny fraction of the scofflaws' annual revenue.

The ABC doesn't even know the location of every store that sells smoking products in Kentucky, making it impossible for inspectors to check on all of them.

Kentucky alcohol retailers must buy a liquor license, putting their name and address on inspectors' radar. If they are caught selling alcohol to minors, the ABC can suspend or revoke the license. Losing a liquor license slashes revenue at a convenience store and effectively closes a bar or liquor store.

No equivalent penalty looms over tobacco and vape retailers. But it should, health advocates say.

"As we understand more and more about the dangers of vaping and exposure to nicotine generally, I think it makes sense to people that we put teeth in the law and let retailers know that we're serious about enforcing it," said Kelly Taulbee,

SEE LICENSES, 2A



We're dedicated to delivering the journalism you rely on. Discover the stories that matter to you inside. Subscribers, explore more stories and features like puzzles and games at kentucky.com/edition.

CUSTOMER SERVICE 800-999-8881 kentucky.com/customer-service



