

Operation Wellness health fair focuses on veterans' needs

BY MESSENGER STAFF

Healthcare and resource access for active military, veterans, and caregivers are the main focus of “Operation Wellness.” This health and community resource fair will take place weekly at various local Cooperative Extension Offices over a three-week period.

At these events, resources will be available to address the unique concerns active military and veterans

face which may include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), substance use disorders, depression, anxiety, along with physical health concerns related to exposure to hazardous materials during service, such as cancers, hearing loss and musculoskeletal injuries. Caregivers play an important role in a service member's health and wellness, making their self-care essential for

preventing future health concerns, including depression and anxiety.

The Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH) has provided grant funds to support local health fairs. Attendees can look forward to door prizes, swag bags, vendors, health screenings, and information about veterans' services and community programs. These health fairs will take place from noon to 4 p.m. at the locations listed below:

- MARCH 20**
Cooperative Extension Office
93 Extension Way
Murray, KY
- MARCH 27**
Cooperative Extension Office
1200 US Highway 45 S
Mayfield, KY
- APRIL 3**
Cooperative Extension Office
2025 New Holt Road
Paducah, KY

Contest set for new spay and neuter license plate design

BY TOM LATEK | KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT — Kentucky's Spay and Neuter specialty license plate is ready for a new look after more than 20 years, and Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell is inviting the public to submit their artwork during a contest he's conducting for the new design.

“Practicing responsible pet ownerships and the need to reduce the stray and homeless pet population are the messages surrounding this plate design,” Shell said. “With 411 animal shelters and animal welfare organizations in Kentucky, it's obvious we, as a society, need to do more to control the population. Since February is Spay and Neuter Awareness Month, this is the perfect time to refresh our design and send a call out to local artists.”

The current Spay and Neuter license plate, which depicts a kitten and a puppy nuzzled together, was adopted to raise awareness of the need to reduce the population of stray and homeless animals in Kentucky. During its lifetime, sales have resulted in more than \$600,000 in grants being awarded to organizations, resulting in more than 17,200 cats and dogs



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This design has been active for more than 20 years. A contest for a new design is open to the public.

being spayed or neutered.

Proceeds from the sales of the license plates go to the Animal Control and Care Fund, which is administered by the Animal Control Advisory Board. The Board was established in 1998 by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly. The duties of the Board include making recommendations to the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture relating to animal control issues and evaluating applications for spay and neuter grants to Kentucky counties and municipalities.

Artists are asked to consider the following in their designs:

- Why Spay and Neuter?
- Helps cut down on Kentucky's pet overpopulation problem.
 - The more pets that are spayed/neutered, the more pets can be adopted.
 - Spaying/Neutering can reduce bad behavior such as roaming, spraying, and fighting.
 - Reduces risk of disease.
- The guidelines for designing a specialty license plate can be found at www.kyagr.com.
- The contest deadline is April 20, 2025. Entries can be submitted to Michael Grant at Michael.Grant@ky.gov.

OBITUARIES

Kemlee Wright Byrn

Kemlee Wright Byrn, 67, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died Feb 19, 2025, at Va Beach General Hospital after a brief illness. Kem was a beloved teacher & step team coach at First Colonial High in Virginia Beach, after several successful careers as a managed healthcare executive, social worker, personal trainer, air marshal & real estate agent, to name a few. Kem lived life to the fullest and touched people every step along the way.

Kemlee was a proud graduate of Mayfield High & Murray State University, as well as an avid, vocal Virginia Tech Hokie. She is survived by her mother, Mavis Wright; her husband of 36 years, Spencer Byrn; three brag-worthy children, Sarah Miller (Chris), Corvin Buck (Lyndsy) & Willie Byrn, all of Virginia



Beach; two brothers, Scott Wright (Tammy) & Kurt Wright, of Mechanicsville, Virginia; two beloved grandsons, Hays Miller & Jackson Miller of Virginia Beach; four nieces and four nephews. She is preceded in death by her father, Rev. E. Thomas Wright; step-mother, Patricia Wright, of Russellville, Kentucky; and in-laws, C.A. Byrn, Jr & Emily Byrn, of Mayfield, Kentucky.

Rest in peace Mom, Gigi, Kem, Ms. Byrn, sweet Kemlee Jane... you earned it.

Harold Phillips

Harold Eugene “Buck” Phillips, 71, of Mayfield, died Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at his home.

He was a member of Victory Baptist Church in Wickliffe and a retired employee of Center Point Recovery for Men.

Mr. Phillips is survived by one son, Brian Phillips of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; one stepson, Eric Wilkerson of Mayfield; two stepdaughters, Rhonda Ford of Calvert City, and Jackie (Roger) Harris of Paducah, Kentucky; two brothers, Wayne (Sharon) Phillips of Unity, Illinois and Mike Phillips of Lone Oak, one sister, Ruth Ann Phillips

of Missouri; two grandchildren; and five step grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Debbie Phillips; one son, Courtney Phillips; and his parents, Gene and Jeanette Benefield Phillips.

Funeral services will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, at Victory Baptist Church, 2456 Mayfield Rd., Wickliffe. Rev. Daniel Fraser will officiate. Interment will follow at Arlington Cemetery.

Visitation will be 9:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, at the church.

Byrn Funeral Home in Mayfield, is in charge of arrangements.

KSP participates in national safe driving initiative

BY TOM LATEK | KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement division will take part this week in Operation SafeDRIVE (short for Distracted Reckless Impaired Visibility Enforcement), a national effort from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The purpose of the enforcement effort is to save lives by reducing unsafe driving behaviors frequently contributing to passenger and commercial vehicle crashes. KSP's CVE division will join this initiative from Tuesday, Feb. 25, to Thursday, Feb. 27.

Operation SafeDRIVE highlights hazardous interstate highway driving behaviors such as speeding, tailgating, failing to wear seat belts and driving under the influence.



As part of the campaign, KSP commercial vehicle inspectors will conduct inspections at scale facilities to ensure compliance with safety standards. These checks include reviewing hours of service, commercial driver's licenses, medical certifications and vehicle credentials.

Officer Steven Douglas, East Commercial Vehicle Enforcement spokesperson, emphasized the importance of the initiative in improving roadway safety. “We are proud to participate in Oper-

ation SafeDRIVE to ensure safer travel for everyone using Kentucky's highways. By addressing risky driving behaviors, we aim to educate all motorists, whether behind the wheel of a passenger vehicle or a commercial motor vehicle, about the importance of responsibly sharing the road.”

KSP encourages all drivers to follow these tips for safer roadways:

- Avoid blind spots. Large trucks and buses have significant blind spots on all

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sides. Be mindful of these areas when driving near them.

- Pass carefully. Always ensure you can see the truck driver in their side mirror before passing. Use turn signals and make

sure you can see the commercial vehicle in your rearview mirror before merging back into the lane.

- Do not cut off large vehicles. Large trucks require a longer stopping distance.

Cutting them off can lead to dangerous situations.

- Maintain a safe following distance. Avoid tailgating commercial vehicles, as this puts you in their blind spot and limits your reaction time.

This initiative aligns with the FMCSA's national “Our Roads, Our Safety” campaign, which educates all drivers on safe practices for sharing the road with large vehicles.

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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*), Marehail (*Conyza canadensis*), Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), 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