

WHITAKER

Continued from Page 5A

have more time to develop safe driving habits. It extends the validity of a driver's instruction permit from three to four years, requires individuals to be 16 and have held a permit for 180 days before obtaining an intermediate license and mandates that they hold an intermediate license for 180 days before applying for an operator's license at 17.

• **Regulatory Reform:** HB 6 limits the power of unelected bureaucrats by placing necessary restrictions on the authority to create administrative regulations. This measure increases transparency and accountability in government decision-making.

• **K-12 Education:** HB 193 simplifies statutory language regarding dual credit programs, ensuring clearer distinctions between career and technical education and general education courses. It also ensures that the legislature receives direct data reporting on the Work Ready Scholarship Program. Another measure, HB 240 requires that kindergarten and first-grade students be assessed using a universal reading proficiency screener at the end of the school year. It also requires that students who meet certain criteria and do not meet grade level benchmarks repeat the grade, emphasizing early intervention to set students up for long-term success. Additionally, HB 241 grants school districts the option to shift to a variable 1,062-hour schedule instead of the traditional 170-day calendar. This provides flexibility in making up instructional time and allows the com-

missioner to approve up to five calamity days under certain circumstances.

• **Postsecondary Education:** HB 251 transfers the responsibility for evaluating teacher education programs from the Council on Postsecondary Education to the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), ensuring that teacher preparation programs are regularly reviewed and held to high standards. Another measure, HB 298 mandates the Kentucky Department of Education to conduct annual reviews to determine schools' Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) status. While federal law requires CSI identification every three years, this change allows for yearly identification and support for struggling schools. Additionally, HB 424 ensures greater oversight in postsecondary education by requiring state universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to implement performance evaluations for presidents and faculty members. In addition to the other measures, HB 4 prohibits wasteful and discriminatory diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) practices on the campuses of Kentucky's public universities.

• **Response for Sexual Assault Survivors:** HB 219 mandates that hospitals offering emergency services develop and provide training for emergency department staff on sexual assault response protocols, ensuring survivors receive appropriate care and resources. We also passed House Concurrent Resolution 20, which calls for a legislative study into how we can improve access to sexual assault

nurse examiners in emergency care settings.

• **Domestic Violence Protections:** HB 38 makes violating a protective order three times within five years a Class D felony, reinforcing the state's commitment to protecting victims of domestic violence.

• **Accountability in Criminal Justice Institutions:** HB 136 enhances reporting requirements for the Department of Corrections. Their annual report to the legislature must now include data on individuals released from correctional institutions, including time served, gang affiliation, drug test results, educational attainment and recidivism rates.

These are just a few examples of the progress we made during this session. Every bill we passed was designed with one goal: making Kentucky a safer, stronger, and more prosperous place to live, work and raise a family.

In the meantime, I remain committed to keeping you informed and advocating for policies that reflect our values and priorities. While the next session will take place in a temporary chamber, our work remains as important as ever. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the future.

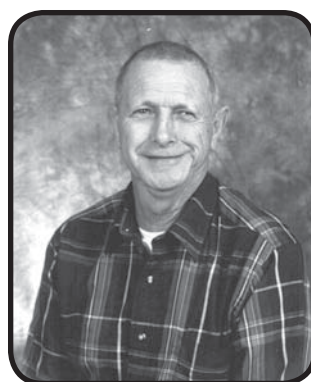
As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at (800) 372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Mitchum.Whitaker@kylegislature.gov, and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 6A

horn City.

The guestbook may be signed at www.baileyfuneralhomeinc.com.



"Bill" Slone

William "Bill" Slone (Buddy) (Cole), 85, died Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Pikeville Medical Center.

He was born on Oct. 20, 1939 to his mother, Mary Cole Slone.

He was the husband of the late Cinda Kendrick Slone, a parking lot attendant at Community Trust Bank and a member of the Greasy Creek Freewill Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife and mother, he was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Mitchell Slone and Randal Jr. Bailey.

He is survived by two daughters, Donna Slone and Jettie Holloway; two sons, William Jr. Slone and Gregory Allen Slone; seven grandchildren, Robert Slone, Crystal Slone, Tasha Holloway, Austine Bailey, Lauren Jackson, Nicholas Slone and Justin Slone; three great-grandchildren, Steven Lynch, Alex Holloway and Joseph Lynch; and a host of loving family and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at the Lucas & Son Funeral Home with Jimmy Jack Adkins and others officiating. Burial will follow at the Annie E. Young Cemetery.

Visitation will be held

Friday, April 4, at the funeral home, with church services beginning at 7 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Lucas & Son Funeral Home of Pikeville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.lucasandsonfh.com.

This is a paid obituary.



James Smith

James Randall Smith, 68, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at his residence in Pikeville.

He was born in Pike County, Thursday, July 12, 1956, a son of the late James Paul Smith and Faye Kinder.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Terrie (Gibson) Smith; one son, Randy and his wife, Sara, all of Pikeville; four brothers, Harvey Smith, of Millard, Dean Smith, of Pikeville, Freddie Smith, of Feds Creek, and Mark Smith, of Pikeville; four sisters, Pricilla Adams, of Paintsville, Barbara Adams (Bartley), of Pikeville, Loretta Smith, of Pikeville,

and Martha Thompson, of Millard; and two grandchildren, Jordyn Smith and Jaxon Smith.

He also leaves behind many other family and friends to mourn his passing.

James Randall Smith will be sadly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held at the Community Funeral Home on Friday, April 4, from noon until 10 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Community Funeral Home of Zebulon.

The guestbook may be signed at www.communityfuneralky.com.

This is a paid obituary.

Madonna Wallen

Madonna Gayle Wallen, 83, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

She was the daughter of the late Rev. Ferrell and Dovie Mills Williams.

Before her retirement, she was a legal secretary and was a member of the Betsy Layne Freewill Baptist Church.

She is survived by her caretaker, Trissla Scott.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Lucas & Son Funeral Home of Pikeville.

The guestbook may be signed at www.lucasandsonfh.com.

This is a paid obituary.

VANDERBECK

Continued from Page 5A

manufacturing that the American public has become accustomed to and the higher prices will remain in effect. Trump says this will make America wealthy. It will only make big corporations that evade taxes wealthy.

The price of eggs skyrocketed. The blame is on the bird flu pandemic. The prices almost tripled in some cases and the supply didn't decrease. The egg manufacturers, not the chickens, but the farmers, have gotten used to getting higher prices, so when

the flu goes away, do you think the prices will go down? No, we all just got used to paying higher prices for eggs. It will happen with everything else.

You may say, "Jeff, you idiot, since the flu is gone, there will be an excess of eggs, and the supply will increase, so the price will go down." Well, the egg people who have been getting massive increases will all band together and keep the prices high and destroy what's not sold. It's cheaper for the manufacturers to produce fewer products to be sold at excessively higher rates and destroy the

excess than it would be to sell more at a lower cost.

The difference in eggs and aluminum is that chicken labor is free except for feed. All other fixed costs are amortized into the cost of manufacturing. Union labor is much more costly than getting chickens.

Tariffs will do several things. It will increase costs on everything in the short and long term. It will bring very high-cost manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. that will keep the cost of everything higher while allowing the large corporations to get record profits

as they continue to legally avoid paying taxes. Tariffs will hack off our supplies from other countries that were our allies. Just a few changes we can count on in the near future.

Again, I'm not an economist, but I have yet to be convinced tariffs are a "great" idea. I have been wrong before, and I hope I'm wrong about this process. But, as I said about Obama when he dismantled the American economy and killed jobs by the thousands, Trump is my president.

Thanks for reading the News-Express.

RUTH

Continued from Page 5A

paying individuals \$100 each to sign petitions and three people \$1,000,000 each for a Republican vote. Unfortunately for Elon, fortunately for actual American Wisconsiners, Trump's candi-

date lost.

As of this writing, there is rumbling that the Donald is seeing that maybe Elon wasn't the best choice to sell himself to. Not that he would admit it. There is an upside to keeping a guy around with a lower opinion rat-

ing than you.

The real silver lining to this dark cloud for Trump is that while Elon Musk was spending \$21,000,000 to lose an election in Wisconsin, a different foreigner was spending \$2,000,000 to win that election. Win-

ning on one-tenth of the investment? That is the gold standard of efficiency.

Clearly, if Trump wants a truly successful Department of Government Efficiency, he needs to give George Soros a call.

EVENT

Continued from Page 1A

Thompson said the local schools' competition will be held again this year in conjunction with the event.

"We are doing the local schools competition this year and will be awarding the winning school a \$250 Walmart gift card," Thompson said. "The winning school will have the most participation and they have to be at the event, and we will have sign-in sheets for

each school."

According to Thompson, the dunking booth is always popular.

"The dunking booth is popular because people can dunk a first responder," Thompson said.

Vendors set up on Main Street in addition to the food trucks, she said.

"This is a fun, community event," Thompson said. "It's a time the community can get together for fun and fellowship.

"The Cuffs and Hos-

es Block Party and 5K - 10K run is a cooperative event," Thompson continued. "The Pikeville Police and Fire Departments and Pikeville 911/Public Safety all work to put on this event and we're look-

ing forward to Aug. 9."

For more information, check out the Pikeville Police Facebook page or call Thompson at, (606) 437-5111.

KET WHERE LEARNING COMES TO LIFE
KET.org

ANSWERS

SUDOKU #1

5	3	7	6	8	2	9	4	1
1	9	2	5	4	3	6	8	7
8	4	6	1	7	9	3	2	5
7	6	1	3	2	4	5	9	8
3	2	8	9	1	5	4	7	6
4	5	9	7	6	8	1	3	2
6	8	5	4	3	7	2	1	9
9	7	4	2	5	1	8	6	3
2	1	3	8	9	6	7	5	4

SUDOKU #2

6	5	3	9	7	2	8	4	1
2	4	7	6	1	8	5	3	9
8	9	1	5	3	4	2	6	7
7	3	6	1	8	5	9	2	4
4	8	2	3	9	6	1	7	5
9	1	5	2	4	7	3	8	6
1	7	9	8	6	3	4	5	2
5	6	8	4	2	1	7	9	3
3	2	4	7	5	9	6	1	8

CROSSWORD

T	H	A	W	S	B	A	N	G	M	E	W
A	E	S	O	P	A	L	I	A	U	T	A
P	R	I	O	R	T	U	N	E	R	U	D
S	E	A	L	E	D	M	E	L	O	D	I
			L	E	A	F	S	I	T	E	
F	R	A	Y	Z	E	D	C	I	R	C	L
L	E	T		E	R	O	S	C	E	L	I
A	M	O	S	D	A	T	E	R	A	N	T
P	I	N	T	O	L	E	V	I	R	E	T
S	T	E	E	D	S	D	E	C	D	O	D
			A	D	A	M	N	E	M	O	
F	O	O	L	S	C	A	P	D	E	M	O
A	N	A	T	H	U	L	A	T	I	A	R
R	U	S	H	E	V	E	R	E	N	T	E
S	T	Y	T	E	A	K	R	O	S	E	S