

OBITUARIES

William 'Billy' Howard Kirby Jr., 88

LA GRANGE — Ret. GySgt William "Billy" Howard Kirby Jr., age 88, of La Grange, Ky. passed away on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at home with his family by his side.

He was born on Feb. 1, 1937, in Westport, Ky. to the late William Howard Sr. and Alice Wheeler Kirby.

Billy was a proud U.S. Marine, retiring from active duty in 1974. Upon moving back home to Kentucky he worked for Bunton Company.

He was a lifetime member of Marine Corp League, loved fishing and a good meal at Our Best in Smithfield. Billy also



enjoyed a trip to Belterra. Above all, he loved being around his family and going to Westport to sit by the river.

He is preceded in death by his granddaughter, Brandy Kirby and sisters, Dottie Brown and Ruth Ann Miller.

Left to cherish the memory of Billy are his wife of 64 years, Pat

Kirby; children, Rick Kirby (Thersa), Timothy Kirby and Stephanie Cooper (James); two grandchildren, Derek Kirby and McKenzie Cooper; great-grandson, Brandon Kirby; Marine Corp Family, extended family, and many friends.

A celebration of Billy's life was held at Heady-Radcliffe Funeral Home, 706 W Jefferson St. in La Grange on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 11 a.m. Full military honors followed in Valley of Rest Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Billy's name to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Heady-Radcliffe
Funeral Home & Cremation Services

G. Keith Hall, 90

LA GRANGE — G. Keith Hall, age 90, of La Grange, Ky. passed away on Monday, April 14, 2025, in his home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on September 25, 1934, in Lincoln County, Ky. to the late John and Nancy Hall.

He received his Bachelor's degree from Georgetown College, where he met the love of his life, Ida Carroll Rogers. Keith started his teaching/coaching career in Carrollton, Ky. before retiring from Jefferson County Public Schools as a Teacher and Basketball Coach at Kammerer Middle School. Keith was



an ordained Deacon in the Baptist Church, most recently a member at DeHaven Baptist Church.

Keith enjoyed restoring automobiles and was a longtime member and officer in the Kyana Antique Car Club.

He is preceded in death by his sisters, June McNeely, Ernestine Roberts and Mary

Catherine Blair. Left to cherish the memory of Keith are his wife of 65 years, Ida Carroll Hall; daughter, Barbara Belson; honorary daughter, Jayma Hawkins; sister, Edna Hall; nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends.

A celebration of Keith's life will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Heady-Radcliffe Funeral Home in La Grange with a time of remembrance to follow. A private burial will take place at Louisville Memorial Gardens East in Louisville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Keith's name

Heady-Radcliffe
Funeral Home & Cremation Services

Man who bypassed work zone, hitting truck arrested for DUI

BY KODEE BRINEGAR
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

A Crestwood man is under arrest after police say he bypassed work zone signage and hit a Kentucky Transportation Cabinet truck.

Kentucky State Police received a call April 15 that a brown Ford F-150 had collided with a highway department truck in an active work zone at the 101 westbound mile marker on the Western Kentucky Parkway and then continued to drive without stopping.

Police say the truck, driven by Danny Scott Cleaver, 60, exited the parkway with damage to the passenger side mirror matching what the caller described.

According to an arrest report, a traffic stop was performed while the vehicle was at the Love's truck stop on Ring Road near the parkway exit in Elizabethtown.

Police approached Cleaver in his car and noticed he had an open alcoholic beverage container in the car.

When asked about what happened to his passenger mirror, Cleaver told police that he swapped mirrors with a

highway department truck on the parkway, an arrest citation reported.

The citation said Cleaver had a strong odor of alcohol coming from him.

During a sobriety test, Cleaver reportedly had trouble following the deputy's instructions.

The operator of the highway department truck told police they noticed Cleaver had driven over the white fog line and was coming toward them.

According to the operator, they attempted to wave the truck over to avoid the collision but was ignored.

Cleaver was arrested on charges of first offense operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicants; prohibited possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in motor vehicle; leaving scene of accident, failure to render aid or assistance; and failure to yield in road work zone.

He has since been released on his own recognizance from the Hardin County Detention Center.

Kodee Brinegar can be reached at 270-505-1413 or kbrinegar@thenewsenterprise.com.



Danny Scott Cleaver

SOHS senior arrested for indecent exposure during water-gun game

BY STAFF REPORT

South Oldham High School senior Richard Downs, 18, was arrested after allegedly running through yards in only his underwear at around 9:20 p.m. on April 15, police say.

The citation for the arrest details that an off-duty officer first notified dispatch of a suspicious vehicle parked in front of a house on Foxtail Court in Crestwood that someone had gotten out of, ran into an adjacent yard and jumped the fence to enter the backyard.

When officers arrived, they eventually made contact with Downs in the vehicle, who was wearing only underwear and had been leaning back in his seat so as to not be seen.

When asked what he was doing, police said Downs explained he was playing the "Senior Assassin" water gun game and that he was trying to get a fellow participant who lived on

Foxtail Court out of the game by shooting her with his water gun.

He also mentioned that, as per the rules of the game, wearing only underwear makes participants safe from being eliminated from the game. He then denied having jumped any fence and "continually tried to act like he had done nothing wrong," the citation reads.

Police then spoke to nearby residents, who said they saw Downs enter their backyard and confronted him and, despite telling him they were calling the police, stayed in the area. The residents also said that they saw Downs running through yards in only his underwear, holding a dark firearm.

Officers did see said firearm in the passenger seat of the vehicle, and eventually deemed it to be a dark-colored water gun equipped with a silencer, drum magazine and actuating slide.

Downs was then

taken to the Oldham County Detention Center, where he stayed the night before being released on a surety of his \$500 bond, set the same day of the incident.

An arraignment is scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 12, 2025, where Downs will either plead guilty or not guilty to his charges of second-degree indecent exposure and third-degree criminal trespassing.

Regarding the "Senior Assassin" game, Oldham County Schools Director of Communications Lori Webb said that "These senior 'wars' are not sanctioned nor encouraged by the schools or the district and we do not allow these activities to take place on school property.

"It is crucial for students to reflect on the potential consequences of their actions. We encourage our seniors to remember that reckless behavior can lead to serious repercussions, including arrest or injury."



Richard Downs

State auditor deems county clerk's 2023 4th-quarter report 'not accurate'

BY STAFF REPORT

A recent audit of the Oldham County Clerk's fee account found an understatement of receipts and disbursements for calendar year 2023 due to \$893,958 in delinquent tax sale refunds incorrectly reported as a negative receipt.

Despite the error, State Auditor Allison Ball said that "the clerk's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting meth-

odology" and that "delinquent tax sale refunds totaling \$893,958 were properly reported on the clerk's ledgers."

County Clerk Amy Alvey responded that "Historically, this revenue has been reported as a negative but moving forward all future quarterly reports, including 4th quarter 2024, will reflect delinquent tax sale deposits as revenue and refunds as disbursements"

The full auditor report can be found at auditor.ky.gov.

COURT

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complaint, among others, "have no validity," the Attorney General's office deemed otherwise, saying that the statute used "does not authorize closed discussions of a proposal from a business entity, on the grounds that open discussions would jeopardize the siting of the business, when the location of the project is known to the public."

The decision mentions the original response to Mattheu's complaint, where the court denied having violated the Open Meetings Act "because the Fiscal Court has the ability to offer a reduction in the

insurance premium tax as an incentive to [a] business which considered locating in Oldham County."

As previously reported, Voegele confirmed that Oldham County Chamber and Economic Development President David Bizianes, Economic Development Vice President Sandy Hamilton, Chief Financial Officer Stan Clark and Planning and Development Director Ryan Fischer all joined the second executive session.

The decision continues, however, to say that "the [Attorney General's] Office has consistently interpreted KRS 61.810(1) (g) as applicable 'only if open discussion would jeopardize the business entity's undisclosed interest in siting, retention, expan-

sion, and/or upgrading of the business' in a certain location ...

"Thus, discussions may not be held in closed session under KRS 61.810(1) (g) when 'the public knows the project's location.'"

The court does have the opportunity to appeal the Office of the Attorney General's decision via the Oldham County Circuit Court, though it has not been confirmed whether or not such action will be taken.

County Attorney D. Berry Baxter told the Era that he is not in the position to make a statement at this time, but expects for a statement to be made by himself or Voegele once he receives further opinion and clarification from the Attorney General.

LAUREATE

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"It's not surprising to me that I became a poet once I started thinking about that because first came the image — pulling the photograph out of the box — and then came the story. And that's kind of how I've always worked. I've always sort of zeroed in on an image that kind of caught my imagination and then put the story with it."

After graduating from Oldham County High School in 1977, Driskell briefly went to Murray State University before returning to Oldham County, "mainly because I wanted to write ... I didn't really find myself at Murray and I was invited to leave — that's how I say it," Driskell said.

"Then I came back and I worked for a while in restaurants and stuff. I was a bartender in Louisville for

a while, but I lived in La Grange in a little apartment smack in the middle of La Grange ...

"When I was a teenager, I drove all over. I had a best friend who lived in Prospect ... so I would drive my VW Bug to her house and pick her up and we'd drive through Sleepy Hollow [Road] ... I think that my love of nature really comes from growing up in Oldham County and just being able to roam ..."

Like her love for nature, Driskell said that growing up in Oldham County has helped shape her voice as a writer and poet in more ways than one.

"When I was in high school, there was a terrible accident in front of the high school ... [where] two girls were hit and killed ... and it was terrible to see that as a young person ... and that [influenced] one of my most meaningful poems called 'Why I Mother You the Way I Do.'"

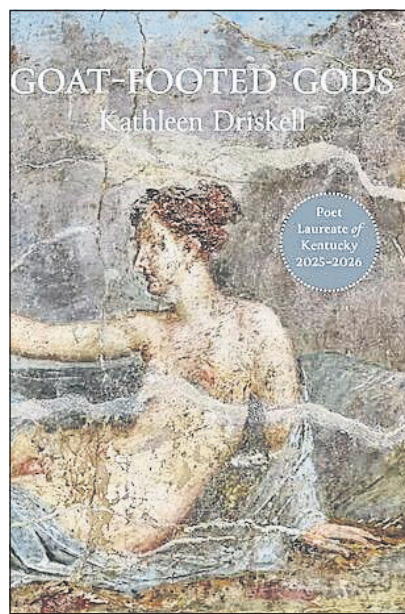


Image courtesy of Kathlene Driskell
Kathleen Driskell's latest book, "Goat-Footed Gods," seeks to rehabilitate the reputation of the infamous goat-man of Pope Lick, a legendary creature rumored to roam the woods near Driskell's home.

JURY

FROM PAGE A1

younger than 16, second-degree sodomy and procuring or promoting use of a minor by electronic means — dated on or about Nov. 17, 2024.

Jaimes is currently being held at the Oldham County Detention Center on a \$10,000 full cash, no surety bond, as set on April 11.

Jaimes has an arraignment scheduled for 11 a.m. on April 24, 2025.

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