

@ Pineville Sun

oinevillesun.com · Volume 116 / No. 10 · 12 Pages MARCH 26,





Raymond Edward Woods (June 10, 1925 – March 23, 2025)

Kentucky, celebrates his nearly 100 wonderful years on earth. Raymond peacefully departed this world on March 23, 2025, at his home surrounded by the loving presence of his family. Raymond was a man of faith, service, and family. He was a long-standing and devoted member of the First United Method-

The family of Raymond Woods of Pineville,

ist Church of Pineville where he found great joy attending and teaching Sunday School. He served on numerous boards including the Pineville City School Board for two terms where he advocated and secured

funding for the school's first bus. He played a key role in organizing Pineville's first Little League program and dedicated his time to coaching both junior high AAU and Little League basketball. He was a member of the Pineville Water Board, Pineville Cemetery Board, and the Red Bird School and Hospital Board. He was also involved in Boy Scouts, a member of the Pineville Rotary Club, a Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival Director, and a member of the American

Most of all, Raymond was a loving and supportive husband, father, and Papaw and put his family at the forefront of everything he did. He shared a special bond with his grandchildren who closely cherished and looked up to him. When Raymond wasn't in his garden, he could often be found doing something to help someone else. He was kind, empathet-See WOODS

ic, and always Page 8 brought great joy

Kentucky advances to Sweet 16

By ukathletics.com

The Kentucky defense admittedly had its share of struggles this season. The Cats gave up at least 90 points on six occasions this season.

But on Sunday night in the second round of the 2025 NCAA Tournament against Illinois, it was the UK defense that carried

the load early in the game as the Cats topped the Illini 84-75 to advance to the Sweet 16.

Kentucky forced Illinois

into 14 turnovers in the game and the Cats were able to turn those miscues into 26 points. UK had 14 steals in the game, tied for the fifth-most by a Kentucky team in an NCAA Tournament game and tied for the most in any game during the 2024-25 season (UK had 14 steals against Brown on Dec. 31). Sunday's game was the ninth time this season that the Cats have recorded double-digit steals.

UK head coach Mark Pope

knows he has standout defenders in Lamont Butler and Amari Williams, but he credits another player with making the Kentucky defense better.

"The easy answer for me is it's Koby Brea," Pope said. "He all of a sudden started saying I'm taking this personal. I'm going to take every single defensive possession personal. When things didn't go

"We have Lamont Butler as the head of defense," Brea said. "So, I feel like for any team, when you see him pick you up, it has to put something in your stomach, some nerves or something. He makes you a little nervous be. He's the head of the snake for us. And we see how hard he goes, and it makes us want to go just as hard. He sets the tone for us."

right defensively, he was going to take it incredibly personal. And he's an example of one of the guys on our team — we have a player-led team. We have unbelievable leadership on our team, and it comes from a wide variety of guys, different slices of it. And when you have players that are leading the charge, things get better."

For his part, Brea knows that the UK defensive effort starts with Butler.

Illinois head coach Brad Underwood has also been impressed with Butler. When asked how far Kentucky could go in the tournament, Underwood immediately cited Butler.

"I think as far as Lamont wants to take them, I think," Underwood said. "I think they're really good. They're old, they're experienced. I think Lamont gives them leadership.

Ι think he's very

Jim Woodring.....A5

See KENTUCKY Page 10

Kentucky BasketballA10,11



Congratulations to Pineville senior

Shelby Patterson!

Not only is her OM team coming home with the state championship this year, but she was awarded the OM scholarship!

Her team has placed first at state for FOUR consecutive years!



The youth group from Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio, recently stayed in the Appalachian Immersion mission wing at First Baptist Church of Middlesboro. One of their many local activities included a downtown walking tour of Middlesboro's historical buildings hosted by The Bell County Historical Society. The group is pictured inside the tourism office at the Arthur Alexander building.



