



13 Students Earn GEDs

Thirteen students participated in a GED graduation ceremony on June 17th.

The Adult Education Program from the Western Kentucky Education Co-op held a GED Graduation ceremony on June 17th at the Webster County Public Library in Dixon for 13 students from Union, Webster, Crittenden, and Lyon Counties. The following students received recognition for completing their GED: From Crittenden County- Marion Miller and Mya Haire. From Lyon County- Sandra Taylor-Burrus. From Union County- Aubrey Bryant, Ian Collins, Krystal Haller (not pictured), Zachary James, Willard Miller, Diamond Oldham, Elizabeth Powers, and Hunter Tilley. And from Webster County-Jonathan Forker,

and Angela Langston.

Additionally, community partners who support the Adult Education program were recognized: From Crittenden County - Chapel Hill Head Start - Malory Gray; and from the Crittenden County Fiscal Court - Perry Newcomb. From Lyon County - Lyon County Housing Authority. From Union County - Sturgis City Council. And from Webster County - Teen Challenge - Tim Densmore and Drew Barricklow, Webster County Detention Center, Webster County Public Schools, and Providence Housing Authority - Frank Skinner.

Many friends and family members attended the event to congratulate the students and support them on this journey to complete their GED.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY • COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

BY

ANNETTE BUCKMAN

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT FOR 4-H

Union County 4-hers were busy last week at the Union County Fair. Activities began on Saturday, June 21, with the livestock show, the rabbit and chicken show and continued through the week with many members entering displays, food and crops for judging.

The 4-H fair events culminated Saturday morning with the annual 4-H Country Ham Breakfast where 4-Her’s plated food and served breakfast to dozens of guests.

One of the highlights of the event was learning who won awards in the annual 4-H country ham project.

4H members spent several months curing their hams with the help of Rodman Meacham at Meacham’s Ham House. Their final product was judged on leanness, shape, appearance and aroma.

Winner of the project include

- 2015 Smoked Ham

Third place-Nora Meadors

Second place- Sutton White

First place-Garrett Wells
- 2014 Smoked Ham

First place- Trigg Wilson
- 2013 Smoked Ham

Third Place-Dallas Reynolds

Second Place-Charley Nall

First Place-Millie Leonard
- 2012 Smoked Ham

Third Place-Allie Thomas

Second Place-Trayce French

First Place-Will Wells
- 2009 Smoked Ham

First Place-Ryan Thomas

Garrett Well presented the Champion Overall Junior ham, and Ryan Thomas presented the Champion Senior ham.

Participants in the 2025 ham project also gave three to five-minute speeches on country hams with winners advancing to the state competition that will be held at the Kentucky State Fair in August.

Speech winners include

2015 participants

Second place-Nora Meadors

First place-tie-Sutton White and Joseph Leonard

2013 participants

Second place-Charley Nall

First place-tie-Millie Leonard and Dallas Reynolds

2012 participants

Third place-Trayce French

Second place-Bryce Nalley

First place-Allie Thomas

2009 participants

First place-Ryan Thomas

The overall Junior speech champion was Allie Thomas and the overall Senior speech champion was Ryan Thomas.

The 2025 Grand Champion Ham project awards went to

Junior Reserve Champion Millie Leonard; Junior Grand Champion Allie Thomas and Senior Grand Champion Ryan Thomas.

I Wish I Had Met Him

By Tommy Druen

I never had the chance to meet my great-grandfather, William Elbert Druen. He passed away several years before I was born. From all accounts though, he was a kind and decent man, the sort of person who made others feel comfortable simply by being near him. He was a farmer and lived a life marked by hard work and conviction.

He and my great-grandmother raised four children—three daughters, followed by their youngest, my grandfather. The girls were born in 1913, 1915, and 1920. Remarkably, each one graduated from Hart Memorial High School. That may not sound extraordinary today, but it was rare for girls—especially rural girls during the Great Depression—to finish high school. Each would’ve walked those hallways during the darkest economic downturn in American history.

At a time when families were scraping by and children were pulled from school to work, my great-grandfather kept his daughters in the classroom. That simple choice, made in hardship, speaks volumes.

Like most families, mine felt the weight of the Depression. I’ve heard stories of my great-grandfather laboring all day cutting tobacco for just twenty-five cents—and being grateful for the work. Still, he went to the bank seeking a loan to send his daughters to college. The banker declined—partly due to the economy, but also because he didn’t see the point in educating girls past high school.

That notion is foreign to me. I didn’t grow up wondering if girls were as intellectually capable as boys—I grew up knowing they were. I came of age in the time of Margaret Thatcher and Sandra Day O’Connor. My mother was the valedictorian of her class, and in my own high school honors courses, the girls outnumbered the boys three to one. The idea that girls should be discouraged from achievement felt as outdated as a horse and buggy.

Yet history tells another story. Even when women were allowed to work, their paths were narrowly drawn—teacher, nurse, secretary. Professions like law and medicine were largely out of reach. And even now, some public offices are seen

as more “acceptable” for women. In Kentucky, roughly 70% of circuit and county clerks are women, but only seven counties have female judge-executives. Women make up less than 8% of county magistrates and commissioners.

That’s why I’ve never taken issue with efforts to encourage girls to explore male-dominated fields. Organizations like Girls Who Code, Step Up, and Girls Develop It have sparked interest and confidence in STEM over the past decade. And it’s working. Since 2016, the share of American women in the STEM workforce has risen by 8%, now standing at 29%.

The progress isn’t limited to STEM. In 1976, women made up 47% of college students. Today, they account for 58%. Their numbers have more than doubled—from 5 million to 11 million. That’s a story worth celebrating.

But what about the boys?

In the same period, male college enrollment rose only from 6 million to 8 million. Let me be clear—this isn’t about resenting the success of young women. I’m thrilled to see it and want it to continue. But I do wonder if, in our push to lift up girls, we’ve inadvertently overlooked the struggles of our young men.

Recent data shows that of Kentucky’s 2017 high school seniors, 35% of the girls earned an associate’s or bachelor’s degree within seven years. That may sound underwhelming—until you

learn that only 23% of the boys did the same.

And it goes beyond degrees. Boys are underperforming in school, enrolling in college at lower rates, and entering the workforce more slowly. They’re more likely to still be living at home a decade later. Rates of clinical depression and suicide among young men are climbing at alarming rates.

Despite all this, the national conversation remains quiet. There’s little discussion and even less action.

Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, once said, “The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light.” That spirit still exists. But somewhere along the line, many boys are losing their way—and we’re not doing enough to help them find it again.

I know my great-grandfather would be proud of the opportunities my daughter has today—the very ones he once dreamed of for his girls. But I suspect he’d also want to ensure those same doors remain open for his great-grandsons.

Empowering girls and supporting boys aren’t mutually exclusive. We can—and must—do both. The next chapter of American progress shouldn’t be exclusive to one gender; it should be co-authored.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on June 26, 2025, scheduling public comment meetings to be held on July 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College, 164 Opportunity Way, Lexington, KY 40511 and on July 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight time, at Jefferson Community & Technical College: Southwest Campus Auditorium, 1000 Community College Dr, Louisville, KY 40272 for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company Case No. 2025-00045, which is the Application for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Site Compatibility Certificates.

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the City of Sturgis, Union County, Kentucky, Case No. 24-04-3552P. The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) solicits technical information or comments on proposed flood hazard determinations for the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. The FIRM and, if applicable, the FIS report have been revised to reflect these flood hazard determinations through issuance of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), in accordance with Title 44, Part 65 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information on the proposed flood hazard determinations and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit FEMA’s website at <https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE.Status/bfe..main.asp> , or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS ASPHALT RESURFACING

The City of Morganfield is accepting sealed bids for asphalt resurfacing projects. List of streets to be included in the bid can be obtained from City Hall, 130 E. Main Street, Morganfield, KY. Sealed bids must be received by July 16, 2025, 2:00 P.M., at which time all bids will be opened and read aloud. The City of Morganfield reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

7/2c

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY UNION CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00107

BG48, LLC
vs
THOMAS HENRY WALKER, II; UNKNOWN SPOUSE
OF THOMAS HENRY WALKER, II; CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KY;
and COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF UNION

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Union Circuit Court on September 17, 2024, I will on **THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025**, at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Union County, Kentucky, to-wit:

Property Address: 722 Waller Street, Uniontown, Kentucky 42461
PVA No. / Map No.: U2-34-03
The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 12th day of June, 2025.

Stephen M. Arnett, Master Commissioner

7/9c

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY UNION CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-CI-00057

INDEPENDENT CAPITAL HOLDINGS, LLC,
vs.
LEDAAH GAY WATTS; COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,
COUNTY OF UNION; CITY OF MORGANFIELD, KENTUCKY;
GREEN RIVER HOUSING CORPORATION;
UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF LEDAAH GAY WATTS

PLAINTIFF

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Union Circuit Court on June 10, 2025 I will on **THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025**, at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Union County, Kentucky, to-wit:

Property Address: 413 West Johnson Street, Morganfield, Kentucky 42437
PVA No. / Map No.: M3-01-18
The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

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Stephen M. Arnett, Master Commissioner

7/9c