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Vol. 137 No. 13

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TIMES-VOICE Spring is officially here!





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Wednesday, March 26, 2025

The Voice of our Times

75 Cents

Beshear signs bill that lets 15-year-olds get driver's permit

Kentucky has officially changed the age requirement for obtaining a driver's permit. Governor Andy Beshear signed House Bill 15 into law, following its approval by the state legislature, with the Senate granting final approval on March 11.

This new law lowers the age for obtaining a driver's permit from 16 to 15 years old, and it takes effect immediately. The bill states:

"Whereas there is a need to expand economic and cultural opportunities for the youth of the Commonwealth through increased transportation options, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming law."

Bobcats gets cheerful send off to Rupp Arena



The Breathitt County Bobcats are embarking on a thrilling journey to Rupp Arena for the Sweet Sixteen Tournament.

Before setting off, they paraded through town, greeted by a sea of enthusiastic supporters cheering them on.

Jackson City School even encouraged its students to step outside and rally behind the team, embodying the spirit of community and pride that makes this moment truly special. The Bobcats play North Laurel Thursday, 11 a.m. at Rupp Arena.

Jackson police investigate abduction report

A concerned mother reported an incident she believed may have been an abduction attempt on March 20.

The Jackson Police Department received a report from a woman at a local gas station about a strange interaction with her minor child. She reported that the man talked to her daughter. The mother managed to get the license place of the vehicle driven by the man, and police determined it belonged to a Perry County man.

The Breathitt County Sheriff's Office located the man and the vehicle at the Valero Station near Highway 15 and Washington Avenue. Police questioned the man, and they traveled to the police station for further questioning at about 4:41 on Thursday afternoon.

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(Above)The staff at KRMC showed their support for the Bobcats as they are headed to Rupp. (left) Breathitt County Clerk Becky Curtis and her team were also there, cheering on the Bobcats on their journey to Rupp.

See 'POLICE PG.5

The search for Lee Southwood continues



The Breathitt County

Sheriff's Office walked the

banks of the Middle Fork

of the Kentucky River last

week looking for any clues

to the disappearance of Lee

area near the Highway 30

Officials searched the

Douglas Southwood.

Lee Southwood

Bridge near the mouth of Old Buck Creek for any clues.

Officials would only confirm that it was a missing person investigation and did not indicate any evidence of foul play at this time in connection to the disappearance.

Southwood was reported missing in mid-February after he had not been seen in nearly three weeks. Officials estimate that he was last seen in the area near their search close

See 'SOUTHWOOD



Round Two: FEMA buyouts open again



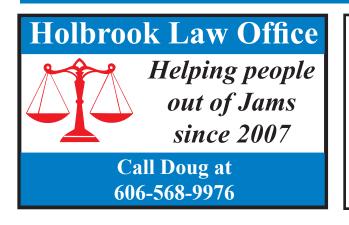
Property buyouts started as Breathtit County and the surrounding areas.

Another round of Federal Emergency Management Agency property buyouts started as Breathtit County and the surrounding areas recovered from the most recent round of flooding in February. The federally sponsored floodplain purchase program is now open for any landowner interested in selling their property following the recent flood to enter the system. FEMA also announced that any land owner in the federally designated floodplain can sell their interest regardless of damage to their homes.

Officials announced this week that anyone interested in the program should visit the Disaster Recovery Center beside the Breathitt County Library at 1026 College Avenue for more information. Interested landowners

See 'BUYOUTS' PG.5

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