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Boyle Fiscal Court advances judicial center, approves spending

By JOSELY LABARRERE
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — The Boyle County Fiscal Court approved budget actions, authorized a major equipment purchase and took formal steps toward a new judicial center during its regular meeting Tuesday morning.

The court convened Jan. 13 with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boyle County High School

seniors Aleah Stigall and Cacee Karsner. Magistrates unanimously approved minutes from a Dec. 22 special-called meeting, with the understanding that a previously discussed county policy issue will be addressed later this month .

Fiscal Court members approved \$7,826.80 in budget transfers and several cash transfers, including \$75,000 from the general fund to the road fund, \$200,000 to the jail,

\$125,000 to Boyle County EMS and \$16,606.60 from the opioid fund to EMS to help cover a social worker salary. The court also approved payment of county bills totaling \$747,492.62.

County Clerk Casey McCoy presented his office’s proposed 2026 budget, which includes \$796,000 in salary expenses for deputies, assistants and other staff. Magistrates approved both the budget and the maximum salary cap for the office, noting

the total represents a decrease from the previous year.

Several reappointments were approved, including Harold McKinney to the Parksville Water District board through January 2030 and Agnes Bartleson to the Boyle County Board of Health through December 2027.

Public Works Supervisor Roger Johnson received approval to purchase a Dodge Ram 5500 dump truck from

Bachman Auto Group at a total cost of \$87,134, including the dump bed. Officials said the purchase is included in the current budget and will support winter and road maintenance operations .

The court also heard updates from county staff on operational efficiency and planning. Fleet Director Tommy Robertson and EMS Director Mike Rogers

See **BOYLE**, 2A

Owens receives two statewide fair honors

By JOSELY LABARRERE
Advocate Messenger

Longtime fair advocate Ryan Owens was recognized with two major awards during the 2026 Kentucky Association of Fairs and Horse Shows convention, honoring both his leadership within the fair system and his broader commitment to community service.

The convention was held at the Galt House in Louisville and brought together fair officials from across the state.

Owens received the L. Doc Cassidy Award, which is presented to individuals who demonstrate outstanding service and dedication to the Kentucky Association of Fairs and Horse Shows. The award is selected by past presidents of the association and recognizes leadership shown while serving in an official role.

Owens was honored for his work as association president in 2024, a year marked by significant organizational changes. During his tenure, Owens led a restructuring of the association’s fee system and helped launch a new Ms./Mrs. pageant initiative. According to Owens, those efforts played a key role in stabilizing the association financially after a period of economic difficulty.

He also received the William F. Taylor Award for Community Service, which recognizes volunteer service performed



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ryan Owens, left, receives the William F. Taylor Lifetime Community Service Award during the Kentucky Association of Fairs and Horse Shows convention at the Galt House in Louisville. Owens was recognized for decades of volunteer service to the fair system and his broader community involvement.

Receiving both honors at the same convention was meaningful, Owens said, but he emphasized that awards are not the motivation behind his volunteer work.

“I don’t volunteer my time for the awards,” Owens said. “It’s about helping our community and seeing the smiles on kids’ and seniors’ faces.”

Owens has been involved with his local fair board for 26 years and said the impact of the fair never fades.

“It never gets old seeing a kid try a deep-fried Oreo for the first time or watching a grandfather and grandson stand together at a tractor pull,” he said.

Owens also reflected on the influence of William F. Taylor, for whom one of the awards is named, describing him as diplomatic and respectful in all situations.

Owens currently serves as a zone director within the fair system and said planning for each fair season begins almost immediately after the previous year concludes.

“It’s a 13-month-a-year job,” Owens said. “As soon as you close on Saturday night of the fair, you’re already planning for next year.”

Danville rally protests ICE actions, U.S. foreign policy

By JOSELY LABARRERE
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — About 300 people gathered Saturday afternoon at the Boyle County Courthouse to protest recent U.S. immigration enforcement actions and the Trump administration’s foreign policy moves involving Venezuela and other countries, according to event organizers.

The peaceful rally, held Jan. 10 in downtown Danville, was organized by Indivisible Danville and drew residents from Boyle County and surrounding areas. Participants said the demonstration had two main goals: calling for an immediate halt to what organizers described as “aggressive and deadly” Immigration and Customs Enforcement actions in American cities, and opposing U.S. actions and rhetoric toward Venezuela, Mexico, Cuba and Greenland.

Organizers said the event was part of a broader national response to recent developments in U.S. foreign policy, particularly comments and actions by President Donald

See **PROTEST**, 2A

Danville commission approves winter housing aid, honors community leaders

By JOSELY LABARRERE
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — The Danville City Commission addressed public safety, community recognition and homelessness during its regular meeting Monday Jan. 12, including approving funding to support emergency housing assistance during the winter months.

City officials opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Danville High School students. City Manager

Earl Coffey then acknowledged a police officer-involved fatality that occurred over the weekend, confirming that the Kentucky State Police are conducting an investigation. Coffey said the Danville Police Department had issued a press release and that no further

statements would be made by the city while the investigation is ongoing.

Commissioners approved a proclamation honoring the Boyle County High School Rebels football team for winning the 2025 Kentucky High School Athletic Association Class 4A state

championship. The team finished the season 14-1 and captured its 13th state title. Coaches and players were recognized for their on-field success and for serving as role models within the community.

The commission also recognized David Farmer and Paula Meckes as the

2025 Arts Citizens of the Year. Farmer, a visual artist and artist-in-residence at the Art Center of the Bluegrass, was honored for decades of artistic work and community involvement. Meckes was recognized for her 35-year

See **DANVILLE**, 2A

BOYLE

Continued from A1

reported significant cost savings from in-house vehicle maintenance, estimating more than \$330,000 saved since Robertson was hired. Officials discussed long-term strategies for replacing high-cost vehicles, particularly ambulances, before maintenance costs outweigh resale value.

Information Technology Director Bill Nichols announced an upcoming cybersecurity assessment to be conducted with assistance from the Kentucky National Guard's Cyber Resiliency Team. The review will evaluate county network infrastructure and provide recommendations to address potential vulnerabilities amid growing concerns about cyber threats and artificial intelligence misuse.

A major highlight of the meeting was approval of a memorandum of understanding with the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts related to a proposed new Boyle County Judicial Center. The project, estimated at approximately \$50 million, has been included as a priority request in the state judicial budget. Officials said the agreement is required before the General Assembly can authorize funding for the project, which could take several years to complete.

No additional formal actions were taken, though magistrates discussed upcoming legislative issues expected to impact counties during the current General Assembly session.



Aleah Stigall and Cacee Karsner of Boyle County High School are recognized after leading the Boyle County Fiscal Court in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROTEST

Continued from A1

Trump regarding Venezuela. At a local planning meeting ahead of the rally, participants agreed that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is a corrupt and despotic leader, but argued that this does not justify U.S. military intervention or efforts to seize control of the country's natural resources, including oil reserves.

"We stand against the threat of a new era of American imperialism and demand a return to diplomacy and respect for international sovereignty," Indivisible Danville said in a statement shared on social media following the rally.

Throughout the

afternoon, speakers addressed the crowd while attendees held signs and chanted slogans criticizing immigration enforcement practices and calling for congressional oversight of military action. Several signs referenced the phrase "No Blood for Oil," a slogan that originated during protests against the 2003 Iraq War and has since been used to criticize U.S. military interventions tied to energy resources.

Indivisible Danville emphasized that the rally was nonviolent and that the group supports only peaceful protest. Organizers said they do not condone violence and oppose the unilateral use of military force without approval from Congress. They also said the group does not

support Maduro or his government, but rejects the idea that U.S. intervention is an appropriate solution.

The local demonstration followed an earlier Indivisible Danville event in October, known as the "No Kings" protest, which organizers said drew approximately 1,200 participants. While Saturday's rally was not part of a single, large-scale national action, organizers said similar demonstrations have taken place and are planned in communities across the country and internationally.

No arrests or disturbances were reported during the event. Organizers thanked participants and local officials for helping ensure the gathering remained peaceful.

DANVILLE

Continued from A1

career at the Kentucky School for the Deaf and her role in developing arts and dance programs in Danville. Both honorees selected local organizations to receive donations in their honor.

A major portion of the meeting focused on homelessness and harm reduction efforts. Brice Gibson, representing the local homeless coalition, reported that a \$166,000 state grant allowed the creation of a Recovery Community Center known as "The Bridge" on

South Fourth Street. The facility will serve as a resource hub offering case management and support services.

Gibson also outlined the need for continued funding for weather-activated hotel vouchers used to shelter individuals and families during freezing temperatures. Commissioners approved a \$10,000 budget amendment to help cover winter hotel voucher costs for 2026, citing the urgency of addressing immediate needs during cold weather.

In other business, commissioners approved amendments to

the municipal utilities on-call policy to clarify employee response expectations for after-hours emergencies. The commission also authorized the surplus of outdated city-owned iPhones and approved a resolution initiating the formal process to consider renaming South Street, which opens a public nomination period.

City officials emphasized collaboration and adaptability as Danville continues to address public safety, workforce planning and community needs.

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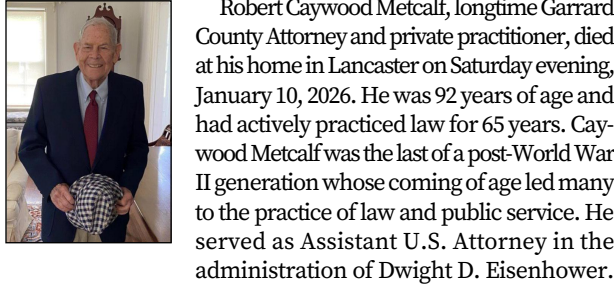
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Robert Caywood Metcalf, 92



Robert Caywood Metcalf, longtime Garrard County Attorney and private practitioner, died at his home in Lancaster on Saturday evening, January 10, 2026. He was 92 years of age and had actively practiced law for 65 years. Caywood Metcalf was the last of a post-World War II generation whose coming of age led many to the practice of law and public service. He served as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Firsthand, he saw the need for federal law enforcement that removed criminals from rural communities and gave the law-abiding secure neighborhoods to start businesses, build homes, and raise families. This broad experience led him to run for County Attorney, winning seven consecutive elections from 1961 to 1989, and earning him not only the confidence of the public, but his own enduring gratitude for the people of Garrard who granted him significant responsibility and the ability to give back. In turn, he guided a series of fiscal courts to address urgent county needs with rural fire departments, improved public roads, a robust public library, and a county health department that served Garrard families regardless of their means. His prosecution policies balanced firmness with kindness and encouraged offenders to go straight. Many listened and later recalled a stern talk or a quiet word of correction that pointed to a better path. Robert Caywood Metcalf was born September 12, 1933, the youngest of seven children born to Willie Palmer Metcalf, and Alta Hammonds Metcalf. Known from childhood by his middle name "Caywood," he was reared in the Paint Lick area, worked his family's farm, attended Old West Point School through the fifth grade, and graduated from Paint Lick High School. Life in rural Kentucky in the late 1930's was anything but carefree. The Great Depression fell hard on Garrard farm families and the Metcalfs were no exception. His parents struggled to make their tobacco farm pay. They survived—along with their farm—but barely. Hard work and better times prevailed, but the searing experiences of the Depression left an indelible mark that never faded and it spurred a farm boy to look beyond the farm to make a living. From high school graduation in 1951, across the next six years, he finished a bachelor's degree at Eastern Kentucky State College (now Eastern Kentucky University), received his law degree from the University of Kentucky, passed his bar exam, and got to work. Law and politics shaped him, but his family meant all. He married Donna Jean Castle in 1957, and together they raised five children. He believed in education, insisting that his children pursue rigorous study. After 5 p.m. each weekday, he was "Dad" and spent hours practicing baseball and football with three eager sons, Mark, Barry, and Jim, and routinely attended their games. His son, Shea, and daughter Sara's competitive swimming won them medals in the Central Kentucky Swim Conference and he could always be found cheering them on. To his wife, Donna, he gave the greatest credit for their children's sound upbringing. A follower of Christ, son of the Covenant, a church deacon and elder, he supported the First Presbyterian Church, and other ministries. He was a praying man who made certain his children attended Sunday School and received instruction that would direct their lives. No single retelling can capture a life that was so long, productive, and useful. A man who loved and was loved in return, he was a forceful and precise advocate of cause and client and was prized by judges for his courtesy and collegiality. He was a veteran who wore the cloth of his country and whose example inspired two sons to do the same, as well as a wise counselor whose advice gave clarity and calm to weary clients. He practiced gentle wit and humor that could prompt laughter, disarm anger, and win over a jury. He was a lifelong companion to childhood friends with whom he enjoyed long afternoons of fishing. Words from the Book of Matthew, 25:23, speak to his reward and destination: "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter now into thy Master's joy." Robert Caywood Metcalf is survived by the mother of his children, Donna Castle Metcalf, and four children: Mark Hammonds Metcalf (his wife, Julie), Barry Clark Metcalf, James Carlton Metcalf, and Sara Leigh Metcalf. His son, Timothy Shea Metcalf, preceded him in death. He is survived also by two granddaughters, Sarah Chambers Metcalf-Garcia and Merritt Cailes Metcalf-Garcia, and by in-laws, nephews, nieces, and cousins. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, Kentucky. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are preferred to Heritage Hospice. www.spurlinfuneralhomelancaster.com

Herbert Brogli, 97



Herbert Brogli, 97, of Lancaster, passed away Friday, January 9, 2026 at Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center. Herbert was born on September 7, 1928 in Garrard County to the late Martin and Minnie Jackson Brogli. He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Anne. Herbert and Anne shared 67 years of marriage together. Herbert proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War in Korea and Japan. He was also a member of the American Legion. He was a lifelong farmer, and a school bus driver for the Garrard County School System for many years. Herbert was a faithful member of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church for over 52 years. Surviving are three sons, Herbert Brogli Jr. (Kathy) of Somerset, Martin Brogli (Rebekah), and Todd Brogli (Tina) of Lancaster. Herbert is also survived by nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two step-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation will be 11:00 am - 1:00 pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at Spurlin Funeral Home. Funeral services were Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at Spurlin Funeral Home with Bro. Aaron Meece and Bro. Stephen Brogli officiating. Burial followed the funeral service at Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville, Kentucky. www.spurlinfuneralhomelancaster.com

Ephraim McDowell Fort Logan Hospital Birthing Spa nurses recognized

NEWS RELEASE

Danville, Kentucky – Nurses at Ephraim McDowell Fort Logan Hospital's Birthing Spa were recently honored with The DAISY Team Award for Extraordinary Nurses. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the super-human efforts nurses perform every day.

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses has been adopted by health-care facilities around the world to celebrate nurses for their extraordinary care and compassion. The DAISY Team Award is for nurse-led teams of two or more who come together to solve a specific situation by going above and beyond. Nursing teams may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues, and they are chosen by a committee of nurses at Ephraim McDowell Health to receive The DAISY Team Award. The DAISY Team Award is presented once each year at a surprise



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured (left to right) are: front row - Chastity Sharp, Mollee Johnson, McKenzie McElroy and Abe Walton; second row - Tonya Goodin (chief nursing officer), EJ Spoonamore, Kelly Denney (director), Hazel Morgan and Kelli Lange; third row - Cindy Carlson, Dakota Martin and Emily Bishop; back row - McKenzie Edwards, Amber Doan,

presentation. Each member of the Nursing Team receives a certificate commending them for being an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference your teamwork makes in the lives of so many people." The Team also receives a specially engraved plaque with the name of the Team.

The Birthing Spa nurses were nominated

by doctors and several patients for the extraordinary care that they provide. One of the patients said, "I would like to acknowledge Fort Logan's Birthing Spa. I had several different nurses during my five-day stay. Every single one of them went above and beyond with their dedication, compassion and professionalism to my care. One of my nurses braided my hair while I labored in the tub. My night shift nurses even

came in early for my delivery. The nurses made my experience so special. I can't wait to come back in few years for my next baby!"

Nomination forms for the DAISY Award are available at various locations throughout Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center, Ephraim McDowell Fort Logan Hospital, Ephraim McDowell James B. Haggin Hospital and other Ephraim McDowell facilities.

Start the year with creative fun at the Art Center in January

Submitted

Art Center of the Bluegrass kicks off the new year with a wide range of classes, workshops, exhibits and community programs throughout January, offering creative opportunities for all ages. Youth programming begins with Cookies & Canvas from 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, a hands-on acrylic painting class for children ages 6-12 held in the Art Lab Classroom. Homeschool Art Club also returns Wednesdays beginning Jan. 21, offering weekly art exploration for ages 5-12 led by a certified arts education instructor.

Adults can explore creativity and wellness during Lunch with the Arts from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6,

featuring licensed art therapist Danielle Creamer. Creamer will also lead an Art Therapy Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 24, combining Reiki and art-making for seasonal reflection and renewal.

Clay offerings are plentiful, including Creating Pottery for the Anagama Kiln on Thursdays, Jan. 8-29, as preparations continue for the historic April 2026 firing of the restored Anagama kiln. Additional pottery options include Beginn-ing/Intermediate Pottery on Mondays, and Handbuilding with Clay on Wednesdays begin-

ning Jan. 21.

The Main Street Gallery will feature Dragon Fire: Contemporary Wood-Fired Pottery from Jan. 7 through Feb. 16, with a free opening reception from 4:30-6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. The exhibit showcases work by nationally known and local potters.

Community events this month include a Silent Reading Party at Murrini Café on Friday, Jan. 9; Traditional Tea at Murrini Café on Monday, Jan. 12; and the Boyle County Memory Café on Tuesday, Jan. 13, a free monthly gathering for individuals with memory

loss and their care partners.

Additional creative opportunities include the Mosaic Snowman Workshop for families on Jan. 15, Watercolor Club sessions throughout the month, a Bob Ross Painting Class on Jan. 17, and Starry Night Studio on Sunday, Jan. 25.

The Tiny Art Show returns with a call for miniature artworks due Jan. 19. The exhibit will be on view Jan. 19 through Feb. 21, with the Tiny Art Show Sale held Saturday, Feb. 21.

Register for all programs at artcenterky.org.

DEATH NOTICES

Bernita Rochelle Murphy, 87, of Liberty, died Jan. 11, 2026.

Tasha Brown, 36, of Stanford, died Jan. 11, 2026.

Howard Bolt, 85, of Liberty, died Jan. 11, 2026.

Brian A. Doyle, 62, of Ferguson, died Jan. 12, 2026.

James L. Ellis Sr., 85, of Fayette, died Jan. 13, 2026.

Geneva Carman, 98, of Liberty, died Jan. 13, 2026.

Melissa Carroll Votaw, 51, of Harrodsburg, died Jan. 14, 2026.

Jerry McQuerry, 72, of Lancaster, died Jan. 13, 2026.

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OPINION

60 years of progress and innovation

Next month, Kentucky will welcome an international crowd for the 60th anniversary of the National Farm Machinery Show; the largest indoor farm show in the world. Over the last six decades, millions of attendees have explored the ever-growing acreage at the Kentucky Exposition Center, to experience the latest farming technology, new-to-market equipment, and groundbreaking ideas in climate-controlled comfort. We look forward to welcoming back long-time friends and meeting new ones February 11-14 as we celebrate this hallmark year together.

From its start in 1966, when the

show featured 86 exhibitors and displays such as a self-propelled forage harvester, the National Farm Machinery Show has continued to evolve alongside the industry it serves. Today, the show's maxed out trade show floor and extensive waiting list are a testament to the quality and prestige of this annual tradition. Within the sold-out exhibit halls, exhibitors will showcase today's innovations, including agricultural drones and advances in artificial intelligence. Companies such as AGCO, Case IH, John Deere, New Holland, and more will be on display throughout the free trade show, along with a series of edu-

cational seminars offering practical insight to help farmers prepare for the year ahead.

Freshly upgraded with new seating and more modern amenities, Freedom Hall continues to evolve while honoring its legacy as the home of the 57th Championship Tractor Pull sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America. This year, nearly 200 of the sport's best drivers will descend on Louisville for five unforgettable sessions of competition, each one pushing horsepower and precision to the limit. Tickets are on-sale for each nightly 7 p.m. session and a Saturday noon pull, and we continue to broadcast each night's perfor-

mance through champpull.org for our international and local fans alike.

Beyond the excitement inside our exhibit halls, guests will notice the largest expansion and renovation in the Kentucky Exposition Center's history taking shape on the northwest side of the property. By this time next year, our National Farm Machinery Show attendees will be among the first to experience the expanded show footprint in the new building. This strategic investment by the Kentucky General Assembly to grow the Kentucky Exposition Center into the nation's fifth largest facility of its kind underscores our shared

commitment to keep these shows thriving for generations to come.

As we approach this unforgettable event, we extend our sincere thanks to the farmers who work tirelessly to feed our nation and good part of the world and provide the economic foundation for our economy. Our history and heritage with you and your families continue to shape us, and our mission remains unchanged from its earliest days to be the place where the best in the field come together.

We look forward to seeing you February 11-14, 2026.

When the sun reminds me of 'The Son'

Last week, as I drove my four-year-old granddaughter to daycare, she climbed into the vehicle and said, "Grandma, we shouldn't be going to school right now?" "It's still dark outside. We should be sleeping." I smiled and replied, "Sweetheart, God will send us the sun."

Without missing a beat, she said, "Well, he needs to send it." Her words made me chuckle, but they also stirred something deep in my heart. I thought to myself, He already did over

2000 years ago. I told her, "Sweetheart, God's going to give us a beautiful sunrise. God will turn this darkness into light." Then I explained, "The sun produces light across the world, just like God is the light of the world." She asked, "I don't see the sun. Where is it at?" I reassured her, "It's going to rise very shortly". And as those words left my mouth, they echoed in my soul: God did send His Son.

I began to share with her that God really did send His only



TIFFANY JOHNSON
"STILL WATERS"

morning, Jesus broke through the darkness of sin and death.

Son, and His name was Jesus. Every sunrise is a reminder of that truth! Just as the sun breaks through the darkness each

John 3:16 tells us: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".

Before the drive was over, the sun burst through the clouds in all its brilliance. I tried to look directly at it, but the brightness was overwhelming. I said, "Look, Gracie—the Sun is coming!" My soul lifted, and her smile radiated through my heart. It was a moment filled with warmth and love.

I pray you remember this:

every sunrise is a personal gift from our Heavenly Father. This week, I challenge you to let his light shine through you. Share that light with someone who may need a little sunshine in their life.

Warm Blessings, Tiffany
Tiffany Johnson is the Executive Director of a Pregnancy Resource Center across four counties in central Kentucky. She teaches a ladies life-group at her church. She is a wife, mother, and grandmother.

The generation that raised itself, and now can't find its glasses

It seems that it doesn't take much these days to get me thinking about those glory days gone by. Much like a bad flashback scene from an episode of Happy Days, I drift back in time to relive some memory. It's not that my life isn't great today. Lord knows I live better than I ever thought I would. It's just that I see a lot of kids today with their participation trophies and their "oh, I'm offended" attitude, and I start to drift back into a time when kids were made of something different.

You see, I come from a generation that was disciplined not by time-outs or a talk to discuss my feelings. No, we were controlled by a look. You know that look. One eyebrow raised, and suddenly I was confessing sins that I hadn't committed yet. With a slew of kids in the house, it

seemed my mother was always busy in the kitchen, chopping and peeling. Therefore, when she came into the room and gave that look, she was usually holding a butcher knife. While it wasn't intentional on her part, I, as a child, just saw that look with that knife in her hand and knew that it was time to end the nonsense. At least as far as she could see. I would just have to kick my siblings under the table.

I know that parents today are all about their kids wearing bike helmets, pads, and seat belts. Maybe, just maybe, that's why those kids grow up to be a little soft around the edges. No, my generation survived life without the luxury of bike helmets or seatbelts. Not only did I survive my bicycle wrecks, but a lot of the time, I wrecked on purpose while doing Evel Knievel jumps. Hmm,

maybe that would explain why my hips pop when I walk.

A lot of kids today think they know everything because Google says it's true. Well, when I was a kid, if I wanted to know something, I had to march down to the library and look it up. 30 minutes later, after going through the card catalogue and wandering around the library trying to locate my book, I didn't care anymore.

One feeling that I enjoyed growing up is one that most kids today will never know. That feeling is freedom. During the summer when school was out, I'd



JACK GODBEY

jump on my bike that morning after I finished eating my Fruity Pebbles, and I wouldn't come back inside until supper time. Granted, I grew up in the country, and the worst thing that could happen to me is if I stepped in a cow pile. My mother kept a watchful eye on me, monitoring my every move from afar. She knew the smell of freshly baked biscuits would draw me back in at mealtime. My mother taught me one thing I couldn't learn in school: common sense. While school taught me how to dissect a frog and that x divided by y is... Well, I never could figure that out. Still, the lessons I learned at home were ones that I would continue to use. As a result, I've never travelled without hearing my mother's voice, telling me to put a blanket in the car or a peanut butter sandwich in my

bag, just in case. You see, my generation is survivors. Now those crazy kids from the 80's are grandparents, and suddenly everyone wants me to download apps for everything. I have more apps on my phone than I had channels on the TV as a kid.

I was told as a kid that TV was bad for me and would rot my brain. Now, I'm supposed to sit through Zoom meetings where no one knows how to unmute themselves.

So, here we are. The 1980s were our heyday, and now I'm a little tired, slightly sore and technologically confused. Still cool, but with just a little pain in my feet. We are Generation X. We don't need your approval. However, a little ibuprofen would be nice.

There is no substitute for perseverance

When it comes to finding our place in this world, let's consider two categories. The first one, let's call "floating down the river." Imagine someone napping in a small boat, without a compass or a paddle, and not caring where they are going. Having a spectator mentality, they have yet to understand the importance of intentional direction and instead settle for hoping for the best. They are comfortable with what they do not know and believe that everything will somehow be alright. Our second way of thinking involves listening and developing an awareness of our personal accountability to ourselves, those around us, and, of course, God, the one who made us. Until we embrace the reality that He has a specific meaning and purpose for our lives, we will not fulfill our potential.

As a substitute teacher, I have the honor to help children learn, and while in this position, I observe different types of personalities and attitudes. I notice that those who are eager to absorb knowledge and excel are enthusiastic about all subjects. I believe when kids are encouraged at home, and education is a priority, this transfers over to the student as it opens their eyes to encouraging possibilities and opportunities.

On the other hand, when children are looking out the window and doodling on their papers instead of answering the questions, it seems they are not only bored and avoiding the subject matter, but have made a mental decision to refuse to learn. Do some have a resistance to change because they are afraid of failing?

Being a minister, I also volunteer at our local detention center a couple of times a month, where I speak to the inmates about God and the Christian life. For those who ask God to intervene, and agree to let go of their ways, our team will baptize and serve them communion, and try to help them all we can. I've heard some heartbreaking stories from these individuals, and often they testify about having a hard life at home when they were kids. They lost interest in school, started running with a bad crowd, and it's been a downhill slide ever since. Some admit they are on the bottom, with terrible personal problems, and have burned every bridge, but of course, it's never too late to ask for God's help.

God's love encourages and motivates us, but another aspect of success is to realize there are certain conditions and responsibilities on our part for His plan to be fully

activated. It will require surrendering our will to him. You see, with God being the Potter and us being the clay, it's critical to accept that we do not simply add God to the plans we already have; rather, we must allow Him



BILLY HOLLAND

to transform us into His brand-new creation. One of the basic attitudes I see all the time is "I don't care." So what makes people rise from the ashes of apathy, rebellion, and discouragement? Well, personal change is not easy, and anyone who advertises how wonderful it is to sacrifice, suffer, and step into a lifestyle completely opposite to their comfort zone is not being honest. There's nothing wrong with reading books about how others have conquered their demons, but even if someone understands what it will take, that doesn't automatically mean they will do it.

Sadly, many are only trying to survive today, without a desire to plan for tomorrow. If you've ever tried to help someone find their

direction, you understand when I say we cannot force anyone to do anything, especially those who are not willing to help themselves. In every area of life, those who desire a healthy state of being must understand their own responsibilities and be willing to act. Beyond the motivational seminars, the Bible studies, and achievement formulas, it will take a personal revelation, an enlightenment of the mind and soul, to have faith in ourselves the way God has hope in us. Whether we are young or old, being an overcomer requires seeking, praying, and working, and living in denial and blaming everyone for our problems only makes it worse. I have compassion for those whose parents failed them and know those who still struggle from neglect. Life has always seemed like a huge mountain that was impossible to climb. There is no substitute for perseverance, as it's true: "We cannot lower the mountain, therefore we must elevate ourselves."

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com.

SPORTS SLEUTH

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

CUSQONLJHFDVCAY
ERAWREVLISHIWGT
ANERAAIKCEVCTRS
FANERANIACSTUAY
ETENNIISTQPNOLNA
SKIHFUPECBCRZDD
TYWVMOUSRDDQIPS5
INMELBOURNEAMLI
VLVIDJMALSYPPAH
AICIOHHFTRUOCME
LYDERAUQSNE DRAG

Wednesday's unlisted clue: NEVER

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: — LAVER ARENA

15 days
Cain Arena
Festival
Garden Square

Grand slam
Happy slam
Hard court
Heat policy

Kia Arena
Live music
M. Court
Melbourne

Silverware
Tennis
Victoria

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WORD SLEUTH

HIGH PROTEIN FOODS

NIFCYZWTHNKF C
ZWURPOMJHEECZXU
SQNSKLGJGPENCZX
VTRLAPYUBMNOLJH
CHICKENBREASTEC
AMYRKOPWOTVIGTR
PNORMLFKCKOBIGG
EPULCBEZCXWFUSE
RTANUTEPOIOMULJ
ISGETUBILAHDBAY
XWUTSAONI UQCQPO

Thursday's unlisted clue: ROD

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: GREEK —

Beef
Bison
Broccoli
Chicken breast

Chickpeas
Eggs
Halibut
Milk

Pork
Quinoa
Salmon
Tempeh

Tofu
Tuna
Turkey

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Influence
5 Remove
9 Wheel con-nectors
11 Little hooter
13 Was bright
14 Sleeper's sound
15 Road rescue
16 Speculate
18 Built
20 Hightailed it
21 Had a go at
22 Court worker: Abbr.
23 Lynx or lion
24 Uncle, in Acapulco
25 Casual shirt
27 Like stuffed animals
29 Outback bird
30 Witty fellow
32 Move down
34 — de France
35 Church fixture
36 Small brooks

38 Vichys-soise veggies
39 Portion out
40 Grove growth
41 House creations

DOWN

1 Dispatch
2 Urge strongly
3 Catkin, e.g.
4 Toe count
5 Gave medicine to
6 Possesses
7 Wheat version of a Mexican flatbread
8 Math-ematician Pierre
10 Big singing group
12 Minute
17 Warn-ing color
19 Italian fare-well
22 Haughti-ness
24 Frozen expanse
25 Piano part
26 Brunch dish
27 Merri-ment
28 Cowardly
30 In itself
31 Kicks back
33 Bakery buy
37 Suffering

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

1-16

SUDOKU

6 9 3 2 4

2 8 6 3

3 5 9 7 8

4 5 3

Level: Advanced

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

1-16

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“I lost one of my jacks around here, Daddy. If you step on it will you let me know?”

BIL KEANE

Zits

I'VE NEVER ASKED PIERCE WHAT HIS DAD'S JOB IS.

I THINK HE DOES SOMETHING WITH COMPUTERS.

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Blondie

HONEY, THAT DRIVEWAY ISN'T GOING TO SHOVEL ITSELF, YOU KNOW

ARE YOU SURE? I MEAN, EVENTUALLY...IT'S GONNA MELT

THAT DRIVEWAY ISN'T GOING TO SHOVEL ITSELF, HONEY

I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME

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Phantom

WE'VE GOT LIGHTS BACK! GOOD NEWS!

NOT SO GOOD AT THE MAIN GATE, SIR! ATTACK IN PROGRESS!

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Hi & Lois

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM, DAD?

TRYING TO REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE 15.

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Dustin

REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE IN COLLEGE AND WE BOTH HAD ROOMMATES...

...SO WE USED TO FOOL AROUND IN THE CAR?

HOW COULD I FORGET?

TO BE THAT YOUNG.

NOW I CAN'T EVEN TAKE MY COAT OFF IN THE CAR.

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Beetle Bailey

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

I'M TRYING TO MEDITATE

HOW DOES THAT WORK?

IT STARTS WITH YOU NOT ASKING ANY MORE QUESTIONS

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Pardon My Planet

I'VE LOOKED AT A LOT OF WOMEN, MIA. BUT I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER MADE EYE CONTACT.

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ANSWER BOX

6 8 9 4 3 7 5 2 1

7 5 1 6 9 2 3 8 4

2 3 4 1 8 5 9 6 7

4 6 7 5 2 3 8 1 9

3 9 2 7 1 8 6 4 5

5 1 8 9 6 4 7 3 2

8 7 5 3 4 1 2 9 6

9 4 3 2 5 6 1 7 8

1 2 6 8 7 9 4 5 3

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

HIGH PROTEIN FOODS

ERAWREVLISHIGT
ANERAAIKCE
FANERANIAC
ETENNIIST
SQUUPCRDD
TMOUDDISS5
VIMELBOURNEAL1
VLVIDJMALSYPPAH
AICIOHHFTRUOCME
LYDERAUQSNE DRAG

CHICKENBREAST
AMYRKOPWOTVIGTR
PNORMLFKCKOBIGG
EPULCBEZCXWFUSE
RTANUTEPOIOMULJ
ISGETUBILAHDBAY
XWUTSAONI UQCQPO

HOROSCOPES

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For Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026

With January's new moon just one day away, today is best for rest and leisure. We're encouraged to take time out to check in with ourselves and nourish our bodies with care. Today is also a great day to check in with others since the current cosmic weather puts a focus on friendship and community. We can benefit the most from taking part in activities that encourage togetherness or group participation. Since romance also looks promising for today, the timing is ideal for a couple's date night and singles who are seeking a long-term connection.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
If you're a part of a group- or community-related project today, finding a healthy balance between leading and cooperating will get you the best results.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
You may be craving new experiences or opportunities. Your personal magnetism will help you attract the right ones.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Invest in something that will help you broaden your horizons, like a course or a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
If you ask for whatever it is that you want, there's a strong chance that you'll receive it.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
Partnering with others to complete items on your to-do list could help make your life easier. Too, if you feel moved to help someone today, do it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Making time for fun, creativity and leisure is a form of self-care, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Make today a playdate with someone you love dearly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
It's a great time for spending a lazy day at home catching up on reading, TV, or the latest news.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Perhaps it's time to seek out some helpful financial advice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Self-confidence will enable you to get what you want. Go for the gold!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Set aside time to relax and enjoy your own company.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
You have a gift for attuning to what others feel and being able to empathize with them as well. This gift may prove very useful today.

FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
With the kind of brainpower you possess, you are often unstoppable. When you're with others, people find you easy to talk to. You may enjoy both casual and in-depth conversations. You also enjoy being around others who are as smart as you. You need to be in relationships with people who challenge you to think and improve. However, expect this year to be more self-focused. You may find yourself on a mission to rediscover your passions and values, as well as yourself.

Birthdate of: Jim Carrey, actor/comedian; Steve Harvey, comedian/TV personality; Jake Paul, professional boxer/social media personality.

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1/17

1115

1-17

Level: Advanced

"I used too much bubble bath, Mommy. Could you vacuum some off the top?"

SURPRISE, IT'S YOU!

HOW'D WE DO?

PRETTY GOOD... HE JUST NEEDS A SANDWICH IN HIS HAND!

Billings

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A crossword puzzle grid with black squares and white squares containing letters. The grid is 10 squares wide and 10 squares high. The letters are arranged as follows:

N	O	M	A	M	A	B	A	L	A
R	E	T	Y	A	S	R	J	U	S
P	E	E	F	T	O	R	I	O	A
F	T	A	S	R	J	U	O	A	B
J	U	S	T	I	C	E	L	B	E
N	O	N	V	I	O	L	E	N	C
L	N	C	D	Y	D	I	O	A	B
C	E	R	Q	U	M	B	E	L	A
H	S	D	E	A	T	T	E	R	O
S	I	M	P	L	O	M	B	E	L

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229-262-0385

Ky. moves toward ban on cell phone use while driving

By MCKENNA HORSLEY
Kentucky Lantern

FRANKFORT — Kentuckians who hold their phones while driving could face \$100 fines under a bill that cleared a Senate committee Wednesday with bipartisan support.

“It’s probably one of the least restrictive hands-free bills in the country, but it’s a step in the right direction,” Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jimmy Higdon told his colleagues. “It adds Kentucky to the list of states, approximately 30 states across the country, that do not allow you to have a handheld device in your hand and communicate with it (while driving).”

Higdon, a Lebanon Republican, presented the legislation, Senate Bill 28, to the committee Wednesday morning. Higdon is retiring from the legislature at the end of this year, and the bill is one of his priorities.

SB 28, or the “the Phone-Down Kentucky Act,” says drivers cannot hold a cell phone while driving to send electronic messages, like texts and emails, or watch moving images, like videos and games. Fines accessed under



Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon.

the legislation will be divided among a traumatic brain injury trust fund, the Kentucky trauma care system fund and a veterans’ program fund.

While presenting his bill, Higdon spoke of meeting Alyssa Burns, whose daughter Camberleigh died in a 2022 crash after a distracted driver hit their car days before her second birthday. Burns previously spoke in support of Higdon’s bill during the legislative interim.

In a statement last week, Burns said

“justice for Camberleigh is represented through this bill and through any legislation that ensures no one has the power to take a life without facing consequences.”

“I know this bill won’t bring Camberleigh back, but in a way, it keeps her name and memory alive,” Burns said. “She is not just a statistic on a piece of paper—she was a little girl with her whole life ahead of her.”

Several committee members expressed support for the legis-

lation.

Sen. Donald Douglas, R-Nicholasville, who is the vice chairman of the committee and a physician, said that he has “spent a lot of nights in the operating room, helping put people back together who were distracted and who ended up in the operating room” after car accidents.

“I want you to know I really got tired of seeing our sons and daughters in the emergency room, in the operating room, because of the distractions,” Douglas

said. “So I appreciate it for that account.”

Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville, said that she has been among lawmakers, including Higdon and a few other committee members, who have been practicing getting in the habit of hands-free driving after hearing that the bill would be debated this session.

“Once you get in the habit of docking your phone when you get in the car, and then you do not touch it again until you get out of the car, it gets easier and easier. It really does,”

Berg said while voting in favor of the bill.

Sen. Greg Elkins, R-Winchester, said that he was supportive of the bill, but in some areas, “I think it doesn’t go far enough.” He added that he would like to see the bill explicitly bar drivers from using cell phones while at a stoplight.

“I know probably everybody in this room has sat behind someone at a red light or a stoplight, looking at their phone, and everybody goes on in the other lanes, and you’re sitting there, stuck behind that person. I think that’s a safety issue as well,” Elkins said. “I would hope that maybe we could entertain an amendment or address it at some point in the future.”

Sen. Gex Williams, R-Verona, said while voting in favor of the current bill, he had opposed previous versions because of it barring the use of phones while at a stoplight. He argued that drivers can signal to other stopped cars that the light is green by sounding their car horn.

“I support it precisely because you can stop and make a call at a green light, unlike last year’s,” Williams said.

The bill now awaits a floor vote in the Senate.

Return to local control a priority for KY Senate GOP

By SARAH LADD AND MCKENNA HORSLEY
Kentucky Lantern

FRANKFORT — Local officials such as sheriffs and county clerks could renew driver’s licenses in counties without regional offices under legislation that was filed Tuesday and is a priority in the Kentucky Senate.

The bill comes in response to reports of delays in getting appointments at regional offices, extended wait times and long drives to offices for rural Kentuckians.

Kentucky has 34 regional offices that issue and renew driver’s licenses. Drivers would still have to go to a regional office for a new license under this legislation.

Senate Bill 7, sponsored by Shelbyville Republican Sen. Aaron Reed, would allow counties without a regional office to choose one local official to offer license renewal services. Counties with regional offices are “taken care of for now” and would keep all services at those offices, Reed said.

Reed said the legislation would restore “local control” to “local elected officials.” SB7 has 28 cosponsors and has been labeled a priority bill by the Senate Republican caucus. Republicans hold a supermajority in both chambers.

“It’s the answer to the

outcry of Kentuckians from across the state ... people who are sick and tired of long drives, long lines and a broken system,” Reed said.

In 2020 a law shifted driver’s licensing from circuit court clerks to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, which led to the regional office system. The move helped Kentucky comply with federal requirements to offer Real ID driver’s licenses. The Beshear administration said it would provide “greater security of personal identification.”

Years later, “you have two basic problems,” said cosponsor and Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon. “In the urban areas, it’s hard to get an appointment. In the rural areas, you have to travel, sometimes, a great distance. Those are the issues that Sen. Reed’s bill addresses and takes care of.”

Reed said he is not making a budget request on the bill because it is not a mandatory move for counties. Higdon said there will be a budget request for equipment.

“There’s a \$25 convenience fee that goes along with getting your driver’s license done in the county,” Reed said. “So if you don’t want to pay that fee, you can still go to the regional offices, which will still be open.” The fees collected will stay in the office conducting the

renewals, he said, to offset any expenses.

Gov. Andy Beshear announced last week that he appointed Jeremy Slinker to work as deputy secretary for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, primarily focused on “improving processes at Driver Licensing Regional Offices.”

Beshear said Slinker’s past experience with the Kentucky State Police, emergency management, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and more gives him “the background to root out any wrongdoing.”

“There’s been significant progress made in driver licensing and developing new processes and being innovative,” Slinker said during Beshear’s weekly press conference. “But we can always be better. Every day we can be better than yesterday and that’s what we’re going to strive to do.”

Reed said he hadn’t seen the news of Slinker’s appointment, but “the results of what’s gone on in the past kind of speaks for itself. The people of Kentucky have demanded for us to fix this issue.”

He said he had not spoken with the Beshear administration “directly” but “I can assure you that they all agree that there is an issue and this bill will be a great opportunity for them to fix it.”

Naitore Djigbenou, a public affairs official in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, said in an email that the cabinet had lowered wait times at regional licensing centers to an average of 11 minutes in December, down from 49 minutes in April.

“We remain committed to enhancing services and ensuring consistency and compliance across the 35 regional offices we operate,” Djigbenou’s email stated.

Meanwhile in the House, Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge filed House Bill 162, which would again give local

circuit clerks the duties to issue driver’s licenses. Her bill had more than a dozen Republican co-sponsors as of Tuesday.

After introducing the legislation last week, Maddox wrote on social media that the “current regional office model has proven to be a significant failure, creating unnecessary burdens for our citizens and undermining the efficiency of a once-effective system.”

“For nearly a century, our circuit clerks successfully managed the issuance and renewal of driver’s licenses, providing a local, accessible, and

reliable service to Kentuckians,” Maddox said. “However, the shift to a regional model has led to long wait times, travel hardships, and a lack of accountability. Citizens from across the commonwealth — rural, urban, and suburban alike — are demanding change, and it’s our duty to listen.”

Reed said he had not read her bill. His legislation is scheduled for a hearing in Wednesday morning’s transportation committee.

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Baby Storytime Mondays • 10 AM (COMMUNITY ROOM; 0-18 MOS W/ CAREGIVER)	Storytime Tue. & Fri. • 11 AM (YOUTH DEPT.; 1-5)
YA Super Creative Club: Resin Crafts Tue. 1/20 • 3:30-5 PM (COMMUNITY ROOM; 11-17)	FAFSA Assistance Wed. 1/21 • 3-5:30 PM (TECH AREA LOUNGE; 16+)
YA Super Gaming Guild: Kirby Chaos Thu. 1/22 • 3:30-5 PM (COMMUNITY ROOM; 11-17)	Kids Craft: 3D Sponge Keychains Thu. 1/22 • 3:30-5 PM (YOUTH DEPT.; 6-10)
Old-Time Folk Music Jam Thu. 1/22 • 5:30 PM (GRAYSON'S TAVERN; ALL AGES)	Saturday Storytime Sat. 1/24 • 11 AM (YOUTH DEPT.; 1-5)
Exploring Boyle Co. Maps Tue. 1/27 • 4 PM (READING ROOM; 18+)	Gallery Exhibit: The Gathering Artists "New Year, New Art" January 7-31 (GALLERY)

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DCA boys bounce back, look ahead after All 'A' loss

By MIKE MARSEE
Contributing Writer

No, the Danville Christian boys won't be going to the All "A" Classic, but they still plan on going places this season.

The Warriors bounced back from the loss that ended the defense of the championship they won last year in the statewide small-school tournament to win a difficult game against a fellow 12th Region contender.

And they're moving forward to focus not on repeating what they achieved a year ago, but on the things they have yet to accomplish, such as going farther into the Boys Sweet 16 than they did last season.

"We've won an All 'A' title. Not that we wouldn't have wanted to win two, but we've been there, done that," DCA coach Shaun Busick said. "But one thing we didn't do last season is we didn't advance in the state tournament. I think that's more important. That's a bigger goal for us."

Four days after falling to Somerset in the 12th Region All "A" Classic semifinals, DCA got back in the win column Monday with an 83-77 overtime victory over Southwestern at the Ernest Martin Warrior Complex.

The Warriors won in overtime only after letting an 18-point lead get away in regulation, but Busick said he was proud of the way they played against a team that he said is as good as any in the 12th Region.



Ben Mikels of Danville Christian looks to pass as he draws a crowd of Southwestern defenders during the third quarter Monday.

MIKE MARSEE

"We took Friday off and came back Saturday and had a real tough practice. I was on them a lot, and we broke down our defense a lot," Busick said. "And I know you can't tell tonight by that score, but we played more soundly defensively."

DCA (9-3) allowed only 25 points in the first half and led 49-31 in the third quarter before

Southwestern (10-5), which was averaging 70.1 points per game, came roaring back to tie the game at 66-all with 1:16 left in regulation.

Geu Leek Ateny, who had a triple-double for DCA with 22 points, 15 rebounds and 10 blocked shots, opened the overtime period with a three-point play, launching a 12-4 run

that ensured the Warriors would never trail again.

Ateny said the Somerset loss will drive the Warriors to practice and play hard as they prepare for the postseason.

"I think that's our motivation to keep working hard," Ateny said.

In the one practice between the Somerset and Southwestern

games, they worked only on defense.

"One thing and one thing only. Defensive rotations, defensive pressure, defensive help," Busick said.

Forward Ben Mikels said closeouts on 3-point shots – Somerset hit eight of 19 against

See **DCA**, 10A



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Moreno's miracle at the buzzer sends UK past LSU

By KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

It took a miracle for Kentucky to overcome LSU on Wednesday night. Malachi Moreno hit a jumper at the top of the key at the buzzer, sending the Wildcats to a 75-74 triumph over the Tigers. The buzzer-beater capped an 18-point comeback in Baton Rouge.

The Wildcats (11-6, 2-2 Southeastern Conference) overcame the 18-point deficit by outscoring the hosts 53-36 in the second half. Kentucky trailed 74-73 with 1.6 seconds left before Moreno snagged a half-

court heave at the top of the key from Collin Chandler. He went high for the catch, turned and swished the game-winner to give UK a much-needed victory.

"I made the shot, but that doesn't happen if we don't come out with the same intensity we had in the second half," Moreno said on the UK postgame radio show. "We stepped it up in the second half. We made plays for each other, making that one extra pass, and we started knocking out shots - that led off to that shot."

Moreno played the final eight minutes with four fouls and finished with 10

points and eight rebounds.

The final play was intended for Otega Oweh, but Moreno ended up being the best option with the game on the line and the freshman forward delivered at the buzzer. Kentucky coach Mark Pope was pleased with Moreno's poise under pressure down the stretch.

"My gosh, (he executed) with poise," the Kentucky coach said. "He didn't run away from the shot. He owned the shot like picture perfect. We're really fortunate when it ended up happy for him and happy for our guys."

Kentucky, which scored

22 points and shot 27 percent in the first half, made eight 3-pointers and shot a blistering 65 percent in the second half to spark the comeback.

Pope said the Wildcats lacked the energy it needed in the first half and added it was "an issue" against the Tigers but praised his team's ability to respond in the final 20 minutes.

"What has not been a challenge for us this season is our guys trying to respond to tests," Pope said. "They were great, like, they never like ... I said, there were 100 times they could have just said, 'This is not our night,' and

they refused to do it. It's a good sign for our team. It's the character these guys have, and I think we'll continue to grow in our confidence that way and it'll serve us well, especially as we play better and better,"

Oweh and Denzel Aberdeen combined for 38 points — 32 in the second frame — and five 3-pointers to pace the Kentucky offense. Aberdeen's 17 points all came in the second half. Oweh finished with 21 points.

The win came two days after Kentucky learned point guard Jaland Lowe would miss the rest of the

season and undergo shoulder surgery. The Wildcats were also without Jayden Quaintance, who is still nursing swelling in the knee.

Andrija Jelavic started in place of Mo Dioubate and finished with 11 points and five rebounds. Kam Williams was also inserted into the lineup and finished with five points before fouling out in the second half. Collin Chandler had nine points and three assists - including the big one at the end - off the bench.

LSU fell to 12-7 overall and has started SEC play 0-4 for the first time since the 2012-13 season.

DCA

Continued from A9

them - were also a point of emphasis.

"We were just working on our defense, on our lockdowns," Mikels said.

Mikels, a senior in his first season at DCA, scored a game-high 29 points against Southwestern, getting all but two of them after halftime and going 10 for 13 from the field and 9 for 10 at the free throw line.

Cole Dadisman had 12 points and Graham Domidion added 11, giving the Warriors four scorers in double figures.

DCA, which hosts Boyle County on Saturday in a critical 45th District game for both teams, is averaging 67.2 points per game, up from 54.7 last season.

"I think we've taken a step forward offensively this year, but we've taken two steps back defensively," Busick said.

There are still five weeks of the regular season remaining to turn that in the right direction as the Warriors try to win the 12th Region for the second straight year.

"We have bigger fish to fry than the All 'A,'" Busick said. "We want to win the district and we want to win the region, but I'm going to tell you - and you saw tonight - it's not going to be easy. It's going to be tougher now than it was a year ago."

Mikels said the disappointment of missing out on the All "A" will become a positive by the time the postseason rolls around.

"I think we'll look back at it and regret not winning that one, but it'll make us play better in the long run," he said.



Geu Leek Ateny (15) of Danville Christian blocks a shot by Southwestern's Cade Hudson during the first quarter Monday.

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