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# The Advocate Messenger

WEEKEND EDITION, FEB. 14-15, 2026 | VOL. 148, NO. 13

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## Danville Board approves SPARK contract, roof project

By JOSELY LABARRERE  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — The Danville Board of Education approved a contract related to its SPARK program and took action on a roofing project during a special called meeting Monday evening.

The board met at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 9 and approved the meeting agenda as presented. The motion, listed as Order #13835, passed with a motion by Jennifer Pusateri and a second by Glenn Ball.

Among the items discussed was a nutrition report presented

by T. Lynn, followed by FRYSC School Continuation Program plans shared by district FRYSC directors. The board also heard an update on Career Connected Learning from S. Farmer and D. Yates, as well as a strategic plan update from S. Farmer, B. Gover and C. Jackson.

In action items, the board approved the DHS Roof BG-4 project under Order #13836. The motion passed with a motion by Pusateri and a second by Leigh Ranson.

Board members also approved the SPARK contract as presented. The action, listed as

Order #13837, passed with a motion by Steve Becker and a second by Ball.

The meeting concluded at 7:48 p.m. following a motion to adjourn by Ball and a second by Pusateri. The adjournment, Order #13838, was approved by the board.



CITY OF DANVILLE

Guests attend the Chamber's Ladies Luncheon for an afternoon of networking and fellowship.

## Leading Ladies luncheon draws regional crowd

By JOSELY LABARRERE  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — More than 100 women from Danville and surrounding communities gathered Feb. 10 at the Danville Country Club for the inaugural Leading Ladies Luncheon, hosted by the Danville-Boyle County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Danville, according to a press release.

The event brought together women of all backgrounds to build community, share ideas and encourage one another.

Organizers said the luncheon was open to all "Leading Ladies," whether they lead a business, a team, a family or a community organization. Attendees represented eight counties across the region.

Lunch was catered by The Fairways Restaurant, which is open to the public at the Danville Country Club. As part of the program, guests created Valentine's Day cards that will be distributed to local senior citizens through A Gathering Place.

"The incredible response

reflects the strength, leadership and collaboration of women across Boyle County and the surrounding region," said Sarah Pollom, director of the Danville-Boyle County Chamber of Commerce, in the release.

"Women representing eight counties came together, creating a powerful space for connection, encouragement and professional growth."

Pollom said fostering meaningful connections is central to the Chamber's

See LEADING, 2A



Beth Morgan

## Centre students explore Black History through scrapbooks

By JOSELY LABARRERE  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — On Jan. 13, a group of Centre College students braved frigid temperatures to visit the Danville-Boyle County African American Historical Society (DBCAAHS) History Center, where they examined scrapbooks as part of a Centre Term course focused on archival research.

Beth Morgan, archivist and head of Special Collections & Archives at Centre College and associate professor of library and information science, brought her class to the center to study scrapbooks as historical and cultural artifacts. The course explores scrapbooks not only as material objects, but also as narrative texts and curated memory practices that reflect identity, experience and social context.

"One goal of the class was to analyze scrapbooks as historical and cultural artifacts," Morgan said. "We also explored how the study of scrapbooks can contribute to broader cultural, political and social histories."

While students reviewed several scrapbooks housed in Centre College's archives, Morgan said most in the college's collection were created by white women. To provide a broader and more inclusive range of source material, she

incorporated field trips and guest speakers into the course, including the visit to DBCAAHS.

Morgan has previously partnered with the organization on Danville Black history projects and described the collaboration as a natural fit.

For students, the visit offered a deeper look into the Black history of Danville and Boyle County, particularly through materials connected to Bate

High School.

Nick Minton, a member of the Class of 2026, said the scrapbooks revealed the vibrancy of pre-urban renewal downtown Danville and documented the experiences of the Black community during segregation.

"Seeing how students navigated sports, coursework and life downtown enlightened my understanding surrounding the time of desegregation," Minton said.

Morgan said scrapbooks have historically been undervalued by academics because they often lack cited sources, clear author intent or biographical context. However, she emphasized their importance as unique archival forms that bridge the personal and historical.

"Scrapbooks can be excellent sources for personal documents, photographs, ephemera

See CENTRE, 2A

## Hustonville man arrested on meth trafficking charge

By JOSELY LABARRERE  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — A Hustonville man was arrested Monday after deputies with the Boyle County Sheriff's Office seized nearly three ounces of suspected

methamphetamine during a traffic stop in Danville.

According to Sheriff Taylor Bottom, deputies initiated a traffic stop Feb. 9 in Danville for minor traffic violations. During the course of the stop, deputies developed probable cause to

further investigate the vehicle and its occupant.

The investigation resulted in the seizure of approximately 2.9 ounces of suspected methamphetamine, along with drug paraphernalia. Authorities did not release additional details

about the paraphernalia recovered or the specific traffic violations that led to the initial stop.

As a result of the investigation, Kevin Lay, of Hustonville, was arrested and charged with first-degree trafficking in a

controlled substance, methamphetamine, first offense; possession of drug paraphernalia; and several traffic violations.

Lay was lodged in the Boyle

See HUSTONVILLE, 2A

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55° | 34°

Cloudy

### OBITS

ALBERTINA MCCAFFREY, 104

WILMA BUNCH, 64

DONNIE RAY COYLE, 77

### Danville, Kentucky

\$1.50 Newsstand

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# Boyle County deeds

Submitted

**Property transfers recently recorded in the Boyle County Clerk's office include:**

• Bruce Ashford to Nathan and Sara Smith, property in Williamsburg Village, \$725,000.

• Lemuel and Dorcas Reardon to Tanner Good, property on Earl Street, \$10,000.

• Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Lee Williams, property on Smith Street, \$45,010.

• Monticello Banking Co. and B.J. Price, through Kevin Nesbitt as master commissioner, to Richard Reed and Chad Reed, property in Boyle County, \$37,000.

• Larry Nunes to Robert

and Brenda Riddle, three tracks on Perryville-Mitchellsburg Turnpike, \$243,500.

• Sparrow Homes LLC to BB Legacy LLC, property on Smith Avenue, property transfer; value not listed.

• Joedy Sharpe Construction Co. to Scotty and Dana Southerland, lot in the Hunt Farm subdivision, \$43,000.

• Samantha Key to Hidden Springs Farms LLC, 22.73 acres in Boyle County, \$125,070. | Melissa Givhan to Hope Creek Properties LLC, property on Ky. 34, \$125,000.

• Sue Webb to Carolyn Parsons, property in Cottage Manor, \$599,000.

• Brooke-Tate

Properties LLC to Sue Webb, unit on Saddle Ridge Circle, \$409,002.

• Jennifer Strickland to Haas & Haas Properties LLC, property on Henson Avenue, \$120,000.

• Daniel Mann to Michael Dawson, 7.25 acres in Boyle County, \$150,000.

• Joshua Hurst to Warren and Johanna King, property on Hustonville Road near CCC Lane, \$228,000.

• Mitchell and Vicky Clark to Team Leader LLC, two tracks in Boyle County, \$260,000. Kinetic Resources LLC and Dawn Taylor, through Kevin Nesbitt as master commissioner, to Richard Reed and Stuart and Janice Martt, property on

Henson Avenue, \$82,000.

• Venture Real Estate Group LLC to Terrance and Tristen Bolin, 9.25 acres on Godbey Lane, \$149,900.

• Kay Pender and Lynn and Tom Tye to Jann Sutton, property in Streamland subdivision, \$240,000.

• Willie and Brandon Ellis and Brandon and Carlene Byrd to Ventura's Quality Remodeling & More LLC, property on Perryville Road, \$57,500.

• Gail Jackson, as executor of the Joann Fischer estate, to Shawn and Samantha Flynn, property in Stone Hill Estates subdivision, \$755,499.

## DEATH NOTICES

Albertina McCaffrey, 104, of Danville, died Feb. 8, 2026.

Wilma Bunch, 64, of Kings Mountain, died Feb. 6, 2026.

Donnie Ray Coyle, 77, of Danville, died Feb. 7, 2026.

Norma Jean Hatter, 93, of Liberty, died Feb. 9, 2026.

Selma Conatser Barnett, 96, of Waynesburg, died Feb. 8, 2026.

Wendy LaTrista Frith Whitehouse, 40, of Lincoln County, died Feb. 10, 2026.

Mary Pahl, 74, of Danville, died Feb. 11, 2026.



## DEA suspends Glasgow distributor

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

respect to inventory control, proper record keeping, and suspicious customer orders."

LOUISVILLE — The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued an Immediate Suspension Order (ISO) on Tuesday to Richie Pharmacal, a pharmaceutical distributor located in Glasgow, Kentucky.

According to the DEA, an ISO is an emergency administrative action that immediately suspends a DEA registrant's authority to handle controlled substances, due to imminent danger to public health or safety.

The heightened measure comes after DEA diversion investigators exposed several compliance discrepancies and violations of the Controlled Substances Act at the business' Glasgow distribution facility in recent years.

"Richie Pharmacal's actions in this case contributed to the diversion of medications often linked with abuse, threatened the safety of our community, and endangered American lives," said Jim Scott, special agent in charge of DEA's Louisville Field Division.

"All DEA registrants, especially distributors like Richie Pharmacal, have an obligation to follow all the requirements laid out in the Controlled Substances Act, especially with

The DEA says their mission is to ensure the safety and health of American communities by combating criminal drug networks bringing harm, violence, overdoses, and poisonings to the United States.

To accomplish this mission, the DEA employs approximately 10,000 personnel throughout the world — Special Agents, Diversion Investigators, Intelligence Analysts, Chemists, and professional staff — across 241 domestic offices in 23 Divisions and 93 foreign offices across the globe.

**ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
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## Fly redbird fly

back soon?  
Maybe toward Hwy 39, or sitting quietly in the whispering pine.

Maybe perched in an oak tree, high or low, or down that long, precious country road.

Oh, you will appear to my surprise ....and instantly tears overwhelm my eyes.

Tears of joy and sadness too.

I miss my dad through and through.

From the depths of my heart, I bow in awe.

My God is good and makes them all.

Fly, redbird, fly.

East or west, north or south — just keep them coming to my house.

The peace is surreal, and times are hard, but God will always be our Guard.

Thank You, as I pray thank You, God, for another day.

And remember to send



**TIFFANY JOHNSON**

them to my siblings too.

We all need them through and through.

Redbird, redbird, please appear.

Keep sending them far and near.

How can it be that the color red brings beautiful memories to our heads?

The memories are alive and tucked tightly away

until we meet again what a marvelous day.

I will keep dreaming and watching for another redbird to appear,

because I know our time is near

Fly, redbird, fly because our love is crystal clear.

Until we meet again, my daddy, my friend,

I'll keep praying strong to the very end.

I told you I would follow — those were our final words.

God will keep carrying me, because heaven

knows I meant every word.

Redbirds, redbirds, keep flying along, because the days can be hard and long.

Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Dear Heavenly Father,

I pray for those whose hearts are so heavier from losing a loved one. God, please pull them in closely and tenderly into Your loving care. You are the Lord, the Creator of peace and comfort! Thank You, God, for being our Great Comforter and for sending redbirds in our direction.

In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

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.

## Drug fight funding renewed

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

RANKFORT, Ky. (KT) — Attorney General Russell Coleman announced that the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC) has approved funding to continue Kentucky's first-ever statewide youth drug prevention effort, "Better Without It" (BWI).

Coleman delivered remarks to the KYAAC regarding phase two of Better Without It. He outlined efforts to expand youth-led engagements and in-person programming in schools and community organizations across the

state. The \$5,800,000 request was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Launched last year, phase one of BWI has made high-profile partnerships with student athletes like U of L guard, J'Vonne Hadley, UK guard, Trent Noah and even the Wildcats Men's Basketball Coach, Mark Pope. To date, there have been more than seven million views of "Better Without It" content on Instagram, Disney Plus, Hulu, and ESPN streaming.

"We've seen the BWI initiative work. Now we're activating a full court press to get this lifesaving message to more places our kids are being influenced," said

Coleman. "Prevention programs like 'Better Without It' just don't reduce statistics; they save lives, families, and futures."

"I believe in the Better Without It program and have been impressed by the progress we've made so far," said Commissioner Darren "Foot" Allen, a retired Kentucky State Police Master Trooper who now serves as Manager of Court Security for Kentucky's Administrative Office of the Courts. "The heart of this project remains reaching youth directly through social media, but there's more to be done. I am grateful to my fellow commissioners for their support of this life saving work."

In 2022, the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission was established by the General Assembly to distribute the Commonwealth's share of more than \$1 billion of settlement funds from lawsuits against certain manufacturers and distributors of opioids.

The Commission is made up of 11 members, nine voting and two non-voting. The Commission has adopted nationally recognized principles for allocating funds, including using evidence to guide spending. So far, the Commission has allocated over \$85.3 million to 130 organizations fighting the opioid crisis.

## The Advocate-Messenger

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# OPINION

4A

Weekend edition Feb. 14-15, 2026

AMNEWS.COM

## We need to fix Washington's stablecoin gap

Today, 148 community banks operate across the Commonwealth, serving farmers, small-business owners, and families. I've spent my career in community banking. We know our customers, and we put their interests first. The success of these banks is no coincidence. It stems from a simple model: deposits flow in, and loans are issued out to support local growth.

However, this model is now at risk due to a loophole in federal law. The GENIUS Act, signed into law by President Trump, aimed to encourage innovation while setting safeguards for the growing crypto industry. Most importantly, it prohibited stablecoin issuers from paying interest to holders. Stablecoins were created as a modern payment tool, not to

replace deposits in community banks or money market funds.

Unfortunately, almost immediately after the law was passed, companies began finding ways around it. While stablecoin issuers are barred from paying interest, affiliates and exchanges started offering "rewards" and yield programs to stablecoin holders. These programs are essentially the same as the interest payments Congress aimed to ban.

In other words, what Congress clearly prohibited directly is now being done indirectly.

If this loophole remains open, the consequences could be profound. The Treasury Department has warned that up to \$6.6 trillion in deposits nationwide could shift into stablecoins if unregulated

interest-like programs continue to grow. That is not a theoretical concern — that is a direct threat to the deposits that make community lending possible.

Research from the Federal Reserve

Bank of Kansas City shows that every \$1 shift from banks to stablecoins reduces bank lending by about 50 cents. For Kentucky, where community banks fund everything from agricultural loans to small-town startups, such a reduction would be devastating.

And the damage would not be felt equally. It would hit

underserved and rural communities the hardest. Kentucky's community banks are often the only financial institutions serving these areas. If their deposits decline, interest rates will rise, loan availability will decrease, and families and small businesses will suffer the most. Stablecoin issuers, unlike banks, do not have Community Reinvestment Act obligations. They are not required to lend locally. Deposits that leave Kentucky communities for unregulated digital platforms are unlikely to ever return.

Congress must close this loophole before real damage is done. That involves clarifying that interest-like "rewards" offered through affiliates or exchanges break the intent of federal law. Lawmakers must also ensure that any entity

performing bank-like functions is subject to similar oversight and that it protects the deposits on which community banks depend. Innovation is encouraged — but regulatory arbitrage is not.

Kentucky's community banks have supported our state for generations, not because they follow trends, but because they invest in people. They deserve a level playing field.

Congress must close the stablecoin loophole — before real harm impacts the people and places that keep Kentucky strong.

*State Rep. Michael Meredith (R-Oakland) serves as chair of the Kentucky House Banking & Insurance Committee — and is a longtime loan officer with a local community bank in South Central Kentucky.*



REP.  
MICHAEL  
MEREDITH

## Senate Bill 7 offers relief for driver's licensing services

Kentuckians, especially in rural areas, know what it feels like to take a day off work, spend money on gas and drive long distances just to renew a driver's license. That frustration is real. It affects people across the state. We hear it every day when we talk with folks in our communities.

That's why Senate Bill 7 was filed this session. As we said on the Senate floor, this bill is not a permanent fix. It's a practical first step the Senate has taken to give Kentuckians relief now while we work toward long-term improvements in how the state delivers driver licensing services.

SB 7 gives local communities the option to help their residents with basic renewal services. It allows one of four local offices—circuit court clerks, county clerks, sheriffs or judges/executives—to take on renewals and duplicate licenses if they choose. If none of those local officials opt in, the county can enter into an agreement with a neighboring county to better serve its constituents. SB 7 gives people more access without taking anything away.

Under SB 7, if your county doesn't offer local services, you can still renew online or by mail if eligible. Pop-up services may continue in many

communities. The Senate proposal gives counties another tool to bring basic services closer to home.

The Senate quickly passed the bill, reflecting the concerns we hear daily from Kentuckians. It had 29 co-sponsors in a chamber of just 38 members. That kind of early support does not happen often. It shows how serious this issue is and how ready Senators are to act. The Senate quickly passed the bill, to the overwhelming approval of Kentuckians.

Some have argued that the bill doesn't do enough, and we understand those frustrations. But we deal with the art of the possible, and Senate Bill 7 is more than possible. This year, the Senate put one forward in Senate Bill 7, a bill that carries significant momentum.

Some have called for all driver licensing services to return fully to Circuit Court Clerks. We understand that desire. However, that approach would require a heavy-handed mandate from Frankfort with no flexibility on implementation.

Facts matter, as do the realities of truly governing.

The issue came into focus in 2017, when Kentucky reluctantly moved to comply with the federal REAL ID Act. As implementation progressed, Circuit

Court Clerks made clear they could not meet the new federal security and technology requirements, and that equipping all 120 clerk offices would place an overwhelming cost on local governments and ultimately our taxpayers. In response,

clerks requested that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet become the sole provider of driver licensing services. That request led to

House Bill 453, which Governor Andy Beshear signed into law in 2020 after it passed the House 81-19 and narrowly cleared the Senate 21-17.

SB 7 respects constitutional boundaries and confronts political reality with a reasonable proposal. It offers a voluntary step toward something better than we have now.

We also want to be clear. We share the public's frustration with how long it has taken to fix Kentucky's driver licensing system.

Since 2020, the General Assembly has approved funding, opened more

regional offices and passed numerous reforms. We passed laws that allow mail-in and online renewals. We approved third-party renewals through organizations like AAA. To date, that change still has not been implemented.

SB 7 is only halfway through the process. The Senate moved quickly and passed the bill to respond to years of concern from our constituents. That action created momentum.

We strongly encourage our colleagues in the House to pick up the conversation the Senate started and move it forward. Kentuckians have long asked for change. Let's aim for better, as perfection is not possible.

We respect the legislative process and the House's role in it. We also believe now is the time to act.

Let's give SB 7 a fair hearing. Let's give Kentuckians the relief they need. Let's keep working together to find solutions that reflect what good public service looks like: listening, taking action and delivering results for the people we represent.

*Sen. Aaron Reed represents Kentucky's 7th Senate District. He is the primary sponsor of SB 7. Sen. Jimmy Higdon represents Kentucky's 14th Senate District. He serves as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.*

## We need easier ways to apply updates

**Gary Jump**

Itasca, IL

We've read about the rapid growth of data centers supporting artificial intelligence and requiring vast amounts of

electricity, which strain electrical grids and increase our bills. We need to add more supply to the grid, and to fight climate change those sources should be clean energy—primarily solar and wind power. Unfortunately, the permitting

process for such projects is slowed by cumbersome requirements, interagency coordination issues, and litigation risks.

The vast majority of proposed energy projects will provide clean energy because

they're cheaper. In 2025 nearly 90% of newly-developed energy projects were solar or wind. We need to build clean energy projects more quickly for our health and to reduce blackouts, make energy more affordable, and help stop cli-

mate change.

Email your senators and representative in Congress (or call them at 202-224-3121) to support common-sense permitting reform that protects the public and the environment.

## Heartrot common in forest and yard trees

**By Steve Roark**

Columnist

I'm sure you've been out hiking and noticed a live tree all hollowed out with a U-shaped hole at the base. This is a disease called Heartrot is pretty common in forest and yard trees. It is caused by a decay fungus that feeds on the wood in the center of the tree that is usually dark in color, called heartwood.

That nice chocolate brown of black walnut furniture comes from the heartwood of that tree. The disease gets into the tree through a wound of some sort, and slowly over the years decays the heartwood out until it is



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Heartrot on sasafrass.

hollow.

A wound caused by wildfire

is the most common way heartrot gets started in a forest tree. Wounds from a fire normally occur on the uphill side of the tree where leaves tend to pile up against the base. This extra fuel makes the fire burn hotter right against the tree, causing a wound sufficient for fungal entry. Thin barked trees like beech and red maple are especially susceptible to fire wounding and fungal attack.

Another common wound source is timber harvesting. Felling trees and skidding logs are very physical activities and trees can be wounded in a number of ways: broken limbs, skinned bark road construction,

etc.

Other activities that can cause wounds are firewood cutting, trail construction, and tree graffiti. The bottom line is that whatever you do in the woods, do it carefully. Remember what your Mom told you, those scratches and cuts can get infected.

For yard trees, the main way the heartrot enters trees is from wounds caused by lawn mowers and weed trimmers. I've seen more trees damaged by lawn equipment than I care to remember, and the problem seems to be time. Homeowners and commercial lawn care

people get in too big a hurry and

ding up trees. If the trees aren't killed by girdling outright, they get heartrot, which weakens the trunk and creating a hazardous tree that could come down during a storm and harm homes and humans. So slow down people! Don't let the equipment touch the bark! Use mulch or herbicides near the tree trunk to control grass and weeds and keep the machines away.

Hollow trees do have some usefulness as den trees for several wildlife species, including squirrels, owls, woodpeckers, bears, and raccoons.

# SPORTS SLEUTH • 2026 WINTER OLYMPICS

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 B C E R E M O N I E S W Z S M  
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 A E S B Y M O Z C X W V U 1 S  
 R S E N I L P I C S I D 6 1 Q

Wednesday's unlisted clue: STAND-IN

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Thursday's unlisted clue hint: HOST COUNTRY

116 events Cortina  
 16 disciplines Future  
 85 countries It's Your Vibe  
 Ceremonies Lombardy

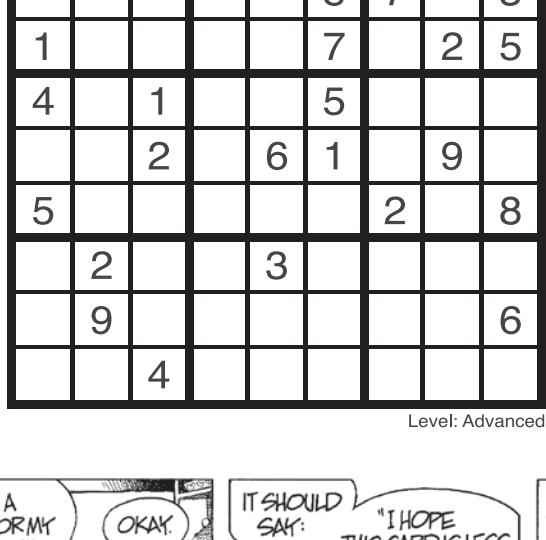
Mascots Milan  
 Milo  
 Stoats

The Flow Torch relay  
 Until the Dawn

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# SUDOKU



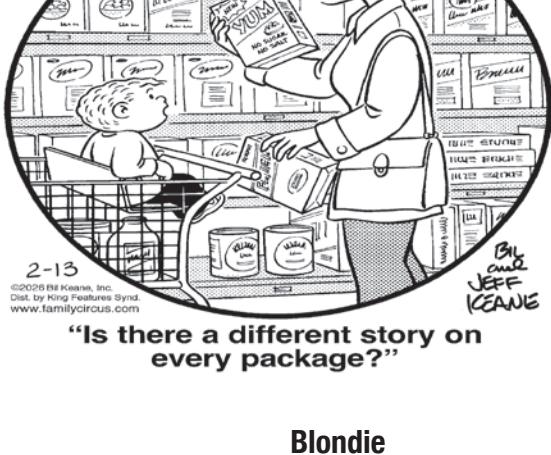
## Zits



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## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Is there a different story on every package?"

By Bil Keane



## CROSSWORD

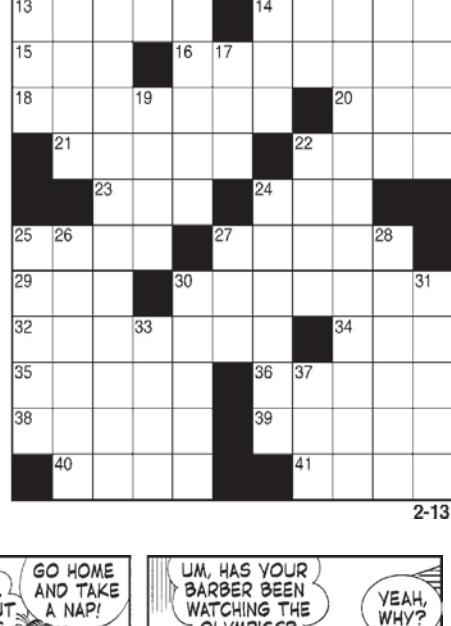
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

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- ratio
- 5 Sets the price at
- 40 Sacred chests
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## Phantom

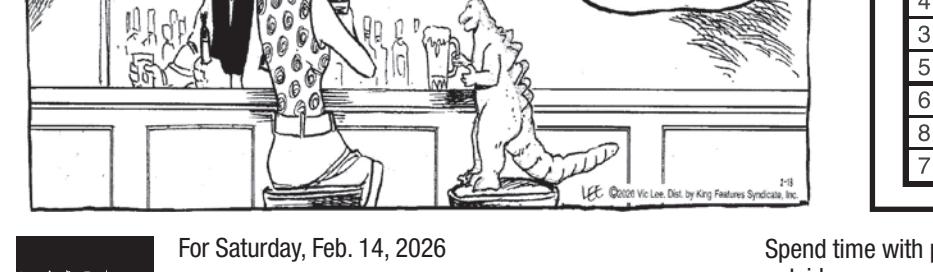


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## Dustin



## Pardon My Planet



For Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026

There may be noticeable tension in the air, which could bring added stress. However, we can use today to find the calm that we need and catch up to ourselves after a busy week. Today is favorable for engaging in activities that support our physical and mental well-being. For those of us who are in a more social or playful mood, the day is also great for spending time with our most trusted family or friends. Couples and singles can take advantage of the romantic vibes in the air, especially since the current cosmic weather supports long-lasting love.

### ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

You might experience a sharp change in priorities. This could be a good thing since you'll know where your time, energy or money will be best used.

### TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

Embrace new experiences! You have nothing but good things to gain.

### GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

If you've been feeling blocked, today could bring about a realization that helps you to move past it.

### CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

# WORD SLEUTH

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

Thursday's unlisted clue: ITALY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Friday's unlisted clue hint: BRITISH SLANG FOR SAUSAGE

Andouille Chipolata Kielbasa Saveloy  
 Bologna Chorizo Liverwurst Vienna  
 Boudin Frankfurter Pepperoni Wiener  
 Bratwurst Italian Salami

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# SAUSAGE FEST

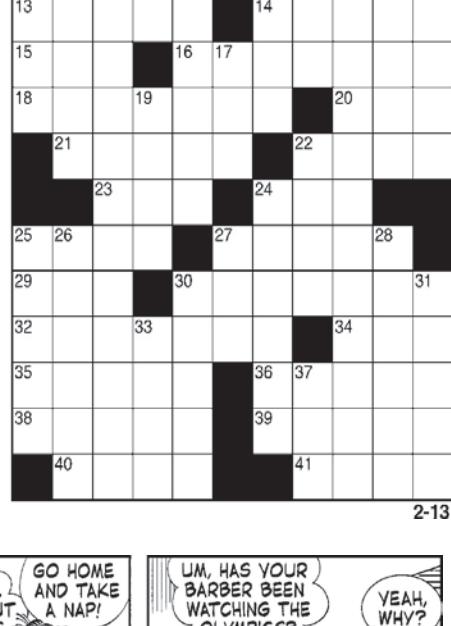
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 38 Furtive
- 1 Airspeed one
- ratio
- 5 Sets the price at
- 40 Sacred chests
- 9 Concerning
- 11 Oozes
- 13 Tigger's creator
- 14 Caesar's land
- 15 Bustle
- 16 Breast-bone
- 18 Capitol worker
- 20 Writer Umberto
- 21 Middling card
- 22 Pooch pest
- 23 Topper
- 24 Life story, briefly
- 25 Cooks in the microwave
- 27 Bungles
- 29 Pitching stat
- 30 First name in civil rights
- 32 Steak choice
- 34 Gym unit
- 35 Greedy one
- 36 One of Kirk's bridge crew

**DOWN**

- 1 Papas' partners
- 2 Tolerates
- 3 The King's manager
- 4 Gaul invader
- 5 Fall flower
- 6 Crystal gazer
- 7 Small fact in a big lie
- 8 Christmas tree, often
- 25 Citrus garnishes
- 26 Grande of "Wicked"
- 10 Tried out
- 27 Me, to Michel
- 12 Pacific island group
- 28 Sound system
- 17 Great weight
- 19 Rara —
- 22 Piccolo's cousin
- 24 Incinerate
- 30 Bottle toppers
- 31 Divided
- 33 Job for a plumber
- 37 Holds



## Blondie



## Hi & Lois



## Beetle Bailey



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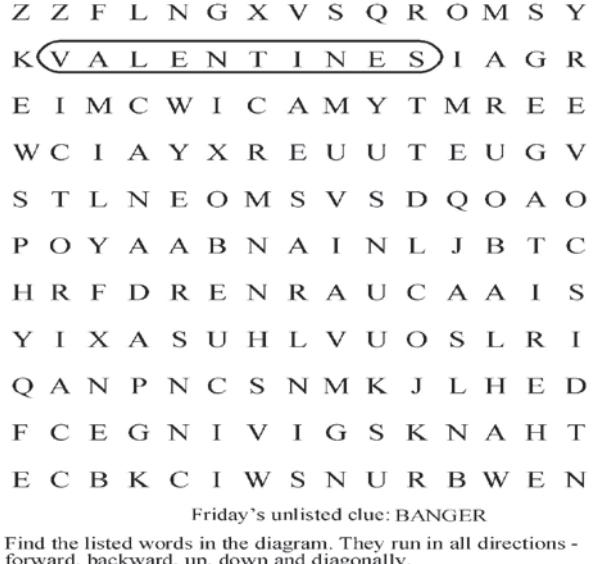
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## WORD SLEUTH

— DAY: CANADIAN HOLIDAYS



Friday's unlisted clue: BANGER

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Saturday's unlisted clue hint: GROUP OF RELATED PEOPLE

Boxing Canada Heritage Islander New Brunswick Thanksgiving Valentine's Day  
Christmas Discovery Labour New Year's Nunavut Victoria  
Louis Riel Remembrance

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2/14

## SUDOKU

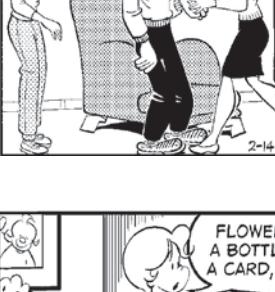
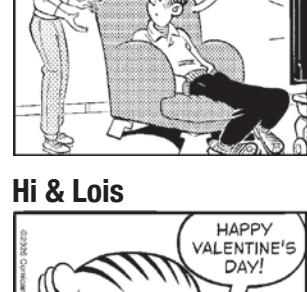


Level: Advanced

## Zits



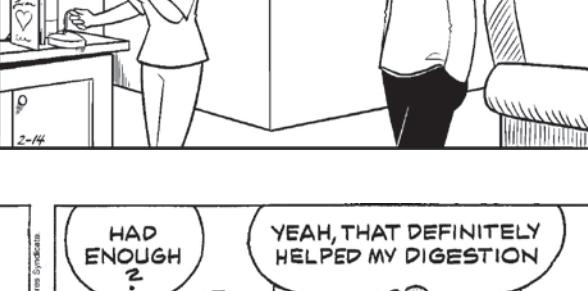
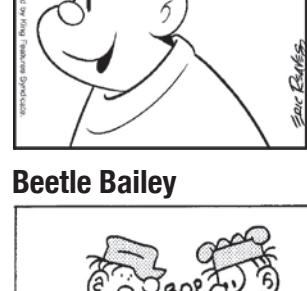
## Blondie



## Phantom



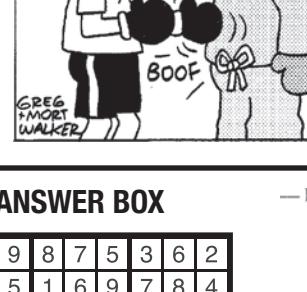
## Hi &amp; Lois



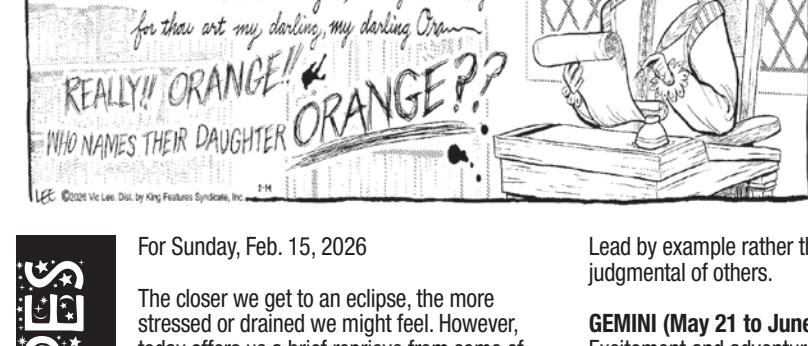
## Dustin



## Beetle Bailey



## Pardon My Planet



## ANSWER BOX

— DAY: CANADIAN HOLIDAYS

LAND OF THE FREE WITHIN

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 |

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

1 Kate of "The Martian"  
5 Diva's piece  
9 Assessed  
10 Skeleton makeup  
12 Ready for war  
13 In the know  
14 Colorful flowers  
16 Shark feature  
17 Twisty turn  
18 Colorful flowers  
20 Sovereign state  
22 Car bar  
23 Loses it  
25 Do some laps  
28 Be audibly shocked by  
32 Colorful flowers  
34 Exalted work  
35 Crumb bearer  
36 Colorful flowers

## DOWN

1 Oscar winner  
2 Tops  
3 Stagger  
4 Appended  
5 Make ashamed  
6 Join the crew  
7 Stuck  
8 Reception aid  
9 Poe subject  
11 Reason item  
15 Bright bird  
19 Highlands girl  
21 Beliefs  
24 Easter-related  
25 Twitch



2/14

## HOROSCOPES

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For Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026

The closer we get to an eclipse, the more stressed or drained we might feel. However, today offers us a brief respite from some of the more intense energies of eclipse season. It's a great time for socializing and being in community with others, especially for those of us who are in need of help or support. The friendly and familial connections we share can not only aid us in finding enjoyable things to do, they can also give us comfort. Much of the day is favorable for fun and entertainment, whether we are with a group or have plans to spend the day alone.

## ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

If you want to make a difference in your community, maybe you can inspire some friends to join you.

## TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

Lead by example rather than being critical or judgmental of others.

## GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

Excitement and adventure are calling your name! Where are you jetting off to next?

## CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

You probably need more time to sit with what you're feeling before you can make a decision.

## LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

You've been showing up so much for other people. However, for today, you may need someone to show up for you.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Today can be useful for finishing work or chores, especially if you've been too busy or tired to get around to it.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Set aside time to play and relax. The rest of the world can wait for now.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Family obligations may demand your time and energy today. Stay nourished so that you can keep up.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Use today for fleshing out a creative idea, researching information, or doing anything else that puts your mind to good use.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

You might not get what you wish for at the moment that you want it, but you can always get what you need. Focus on the latter for now.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Self-care is encouraged. Do something good for your mind and body.

## PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

You might feel like you need to get away from it all today. Enjoy your quiet time.

## FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You're not easily scared off by a challenge. However, you can sometimes create problems for yourself that are avoidable. Although you have a determined spirit, and you rarely quit once you've started a project or goal, understanding what's within your power and what isn't can reduce the amount of anxiety or frustration that you feel. Learning how to ask for help can also make your life much easier. Making a commitment to yourself and your happiness will help you thrive.

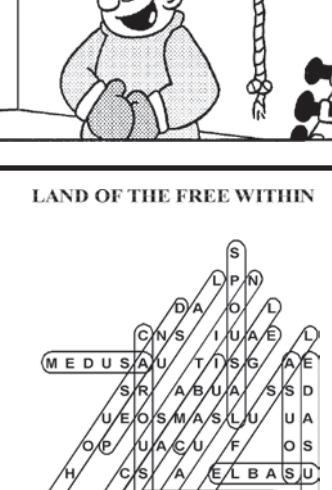
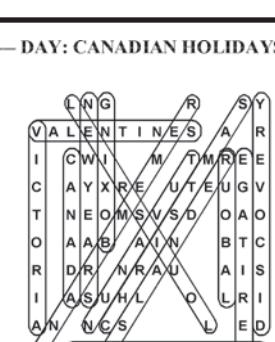
Birthdate of: Megan Thee Stallion, rapper; Matt Groening, cartoonist/TV producer; Lynn Whitfield, actress/producer.

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## ANSWER BOX

— DAY: CANADIAN HOLIDAYS

LAND OF THE FREE WITHIN



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## Employment

## Job Opportunities

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The University of Kentucky is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The address of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment EEO Officer is Room S-105 Agricultural Science Building North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091.

**Do you have available jobs?**

Call 859-439-5199. to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

**Help Wanted**

Maid/House cleaning, 2nd job, business assistant secretarial work. Can be cash paid weekly. can be full-time hours. \$15/hr to start, \$20/hr in 90 days.

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or email  
[billycunn61@yahoo.com](mailto:billycunn61@yahoo.com)

## Auctions & Sales

### Auctions

ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTION  
FERTILIZER/AG SALES OPERATION  
669 WHIPP AVE. LIBERTY, KY 42539  
BIDDING ENDS: DEC. 16TH AT  
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CLAY PERRY-TRANZON ASSET  
ADVISORS 270-769-0284

**Do you have available jobs?**

Call 859-439-5199. to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

## Transportation

### Want To Buy Transportation

**WANTED TO BUY JUNK CARS**  
CALL 606-346-2898

## Public Notices

### Public Notices

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

##### Public Notice of Filing A Creditor In Possession

The R And F Shop located at 2294 S Danville Bypass #2292 Danville, KY 40422, Phone Number 859-209-5068, is filing a creditor in possession against; the owner of a

Black Jeep Liberty

VIN 1J4GL58K84W180673

License plate # 877 LRN,

the owner of a 2007 Tan Cadillac DTS

VIN 1G6KD57Y67U147922,

the owner of a Blue 2004 Ford Explorer

VIN 1FMZU72K64UA41598,

the owner of a Red 2006 Ford F150

VIN 1FTPW14V26FB60007,

the owner of a Black 2006 Ford F250

VIN 1FTSW21Y56EA99286

All Property is Located in Boyle County at 2294 S Danville Bypass #2292 Danville, KY 40422. Please call The R and F Shop for more information

Danville Advocate-Messenger:  
Feb. 14, 2026  
FILING/POSSESSION

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# Love isn't just a Hallmark event

As we approach Valentine's Day, for some it is a time to express love for a forever mate. For others, it is a time to explore fresh starts and find someone new with whom to share time, hopes, and dreams. But rather than focusing solely on the concept of romantic love, my mind is more consumed by the love for all humanity that has been demonstrated in a very real and concrete way by a group of two dozen Buddhist monks and one little dog who undertook the 2300 mile trek on foot in a 15-week, 108-day journey to promote compassion and peace across America from Houston, Texas to Washington D.C. They called this demonstrative act of love the Walk for Peace.

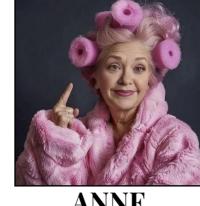
Our country seems to have forgotten how to love our fellow man and how to live in and promote peace. We denigrate others because they do not think and act as we do.

Perhaps the little dog Aloka who accompanied the monks on their journey is even more representative of how we can live in peace than the monks themselves ... a little dog ... another species who was once

sick and homeless on streets of India with whom we share this planet might help you to see the big picture and to know that we're all created equal and should live together peacefully.

Valentine's Day, a day when we exchange tokens of affection, such as flowers, cards, and candy with our mate has become all about merchandising and is focused primarily on couples. But romantic love is not the only kind of love. Do we not love our children? Our grandchildren? Our extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.)? And what of our love for our pets? But do our animals love us back? Do they love each other, beyond just the necessity of mating to propagate the species?

While researching other species' mating habits, scientists have discovered that there is a definite bonding beyond just breeding in virtually every genus and subgenus of the



ANNE  
CARMICHAEL

*Today and every day,  
if we can learn to love  
our neighbors as  
ourselves, what a wonderful  
world this would be!*

animal world. When they lose a mate, animals grieve, sometimes briefly until another suitable mate is presented, but often for years and sometimes until their own demise.

I recently happened to watch a documentary about a particular flock of ospreys inhabiting an island. Mysteriously, the flock was found to be entirely female. It was obvious to the researchers studying them that bonds had been formed and the females had segregated into couples. They groomed each other, hunted and fed together, cuddled together for warmth, and spent all their time together. In order to keep the flock from becoming extinct, scientists imported male osprey to the island; however, the females preferred to remain in

their previous relationships.

When a study of the parenting practices of a large group of penguins in Antarctica was in progress, it was noted that one bonded pair was both males. There was an egg that one of the females had rejected, so the scientists decided to see if the pair of males would nurture the egg until it hatched. Each male took turns sitting on the egg. When it hatched, the pair continued to parent the chick until it went out on its own.

The closest primate to humans is the gibbon. Until recently, it was thought that the gibbon mated for life, but now it has been discovered that occasionally, the male will philander. Swans, on the other hand are strictly monogamous and mate for life. Perhaps that

is because the time it would take for them to migrate and mate elsewhere would not be possible in the narrow window of their breeding season. Images of a pair of swans with their necks intertwined to form a heart are particularly popular this time of year on greeting cards.

Certainly, relationships of all species are complicated; but for that reason, it is apparent that it is not religious or moral beliefs that dictate preferences and practices of all animals on planet Earth. It is innate, inborn, and ingrained in each of us from birth. For that reason, we should live and let live, according to the blueprint that created us all.

Whether you believe that all living creatures, including man, were created by a higher power or evolution, or the big bang, one thing's for sure — if we were all accepting of love in all its facets, we could live in peace and the world would be a better place where we would walk side by side without condemnation.

Today and every day, if we can learn to love our neighbors as ourselves, what a wonderful world this would be!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.

## McDowell Wellness Center offering lifeguard training

### NEWS RELEASE

McDowell Wellness Center is offering several opportunities for American Red Cross lifeguard training.

Classes will be offered February 22-28, March 13-21, and March 22-28.

Participants must pass a pre-swim test before beginning the training. The pre-swim test can be scheduled by appointment only prior to the start date of the class by calling McDowell Wellness Center at (859) 936-9355 or by emailing

kcurtsinger@emhealth.org.

In order to pass the pre-test, students must be able to swim a total of 300 yards, consisting of 100 yards freestyle, 100 yards breaststroke, and an additional 100 yards of either freestyle or

breaststroke. Students must also be able to tread water for two minutes and be able to recover an object from the bottom of the pool in a set amount of time.

The training consists of online course work, in-person skill sessions, and

two written exams over a period of one week. After successful completion of the course, participants will receive certification for Lifeguarding and Professional Rescuer, which includes CPR with AED and First Aid Training.

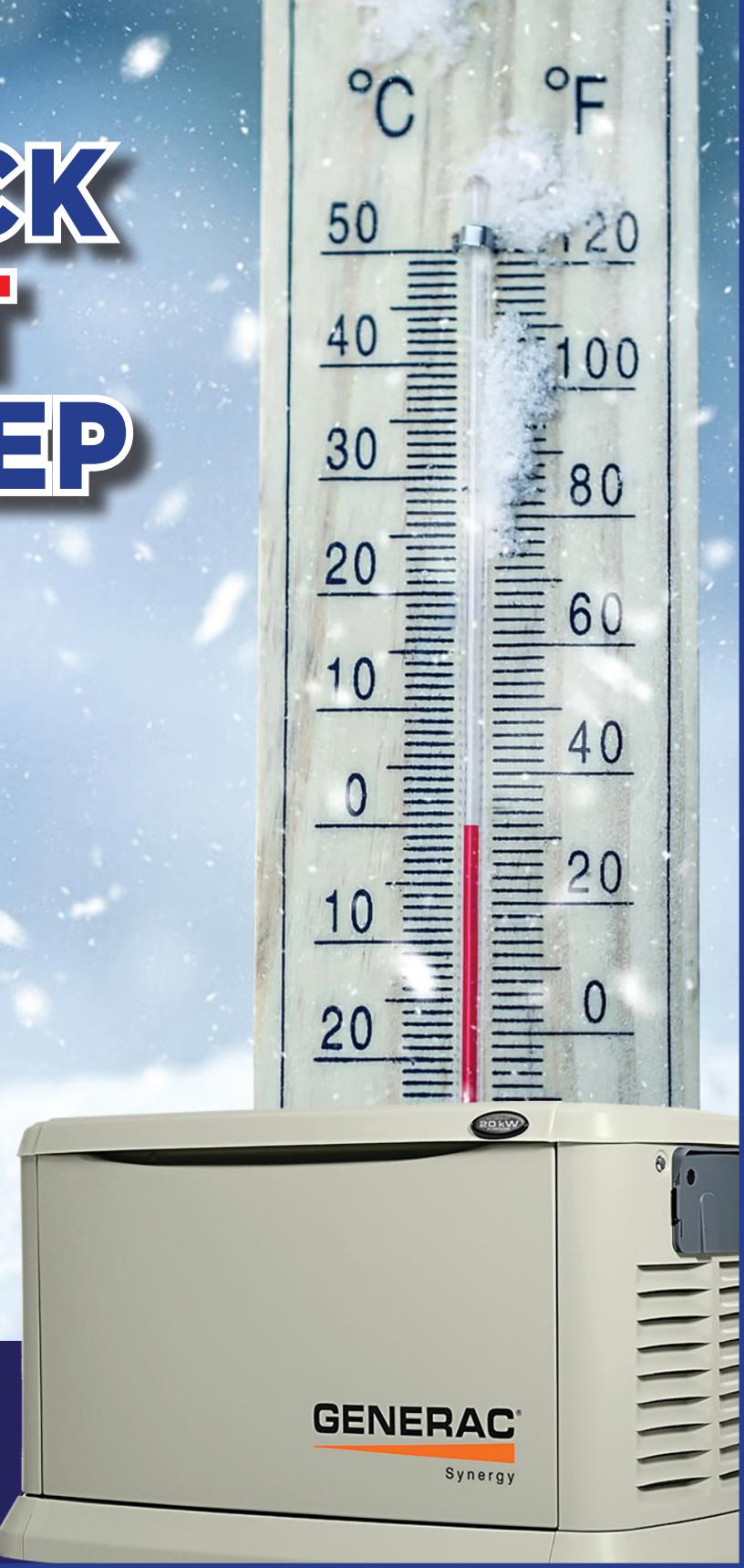
The class fee is \$300 and includes participants' training, lifeguard manuals, CPR face shields, a FOX 40 whistle, and in-person skill sessions. The fee for recertification is \$150. Call Karla Curtsinger at (859) 936-7219 for more information.

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# Some things are just better in the country

Sometimes I think that my relationship with my easy chair is starting to become a bit too comfortable. I find that few things bring me joy like sitting in my chair with my butt print permanently imprinted into the memory foam. If that chair could talk it would probably beg me to stop eating brussels sprouts. However, when you add the TV remote to the mix, it's a match made in heaven. With that said, you might have figured out that I take my relaxation time seriously.

Last weekend I was all ready for some serious TV binge watching. However, it appeared that on one channel everyone was going crazy over a football game. I flipped the channel and saw that the Olympics were on. I scoffed and tried to turn the channel but found myself intrigued. I began to watch the snowboarding event and thought to myself that that looks like something a redneck would try after they said, "hold my beer". "Sure, I can balance myself on a 2x4 while going down a snowy mountain". To be honest, I'm surprised I didn't think of it when I was a kid. If it involved speed and the possibility of crippling me, I was on board.

I saw a Russian lady ice skating and doing all sorts of tricks without ever falling. I remembered all those times when I walked across the frozen pond on my childhood farm. I wasn't nearly as graceful as the ice skater. In fact, I looked more like I was trying to swat a mosquito with my arms flying around trying to keep my balance. I began to think what the Olympics would look like if it were held in the country with a bunch of good ole boys.

Oh boy, if the Olympics were a full-blown hillbilly event, the opening ceremony would require three

tractors, a bonfire and at least one person playing the national anthem on a banjo. Instead of lighting a torch, someone would fire a flaming arrow into a pile of brush behind the Dollar General. The athletes would arrive dressed in camo while holding sweet tea in a Mason jar.

I would imagine the events would be a lot different. For example, in the hillbilly Olympics, we would have synchronized lawn mowing. The judges score would be based on straight lines and how close you get to the flower bed without chopping down grandmas prized roses. Instead of track and field events, we would have a 100-yard sprint for the last biscuit and gravy plate. I bet there would be an event called the endurance challenge. The gold medal would go to the man that could stand on the creek bank longer than anyone else fishing and then tell the biggest lie about the one that got away. The gymnastics events would be performed on a trampoline missing two springs.

If your brain gets carried away like mine does, you might imagine an event at the hillbilly Olympics being a trailer backing contest, a corn-hole event, arm wrestling and of course playing pool. After your uncle finishes off that bottle of bourbon, jumping off the high dive into the creek would begin. The medal ceremony wouldn't give away gold medals. No, first place would be a mounted deer antler plaque, second place would be a gift card to Tractor Supply, and third would be a handshake and a "Reckon you did alright" from the mayor.

The hillbilly Olympics would be chaotic, loud, and mildly unsafe. However, it would also be downright awesome. Who's in?

At 1.5 years old and just 25 pounds, Poppy is the perfect "fits-anywhere" size. Big enough for adventures, small enough to curl into your lap.

This beautiful brindle girl has big, expressive ears that seem to have a personality of their own, an always-wagging tail, and a permanent smile.

Poppy loves people and greets everyone like an old friend and leans in for pets with her whole body.

Poppy is gentle, patient, and playful, making her a natural family dog. She doesn't startle easily, isn't overwhelmed by noise or activity, and likes being part of whatever kids are doing. She doesn't just

tolerate children — she seems to think they are the best part of the day.

And then there's her special talent: Poppy plays soccer. Pass her a ball and watch her go. She paws, nudges, and chases like she's been practicing for this her whole life.

Poppy's spayed, microchipped, up to date on vaccines, and a real steal at only \$125!

Apply at [dbchs.org/adopt](http://dbchs.org/adopt). DBCHS is open 1-5 pm Monday-Wednesday, 11-5 pm Thursday, noon-4 pm Friday, and 10-3 pm Saturday.

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# SPORTS

10A Weekend edition, February 14, 2026

AMNEWS.COM

## Boyle's Ramey wins state bowling title

By MIKE MARSEE  
Contributing Writer

Peyton Ramey won a state championship with tears in her eyes.

With her opponent down to one frame in the girls singles final at the KHSAA State Bowling Championships, Ramey had an insurmountable lead and a moment to find her mother in the crowd.

That's when the gravity of the moment began to set in for the Boyle County sophomore, who became the first local bowler to win an individual state championship.

Ramey rolled to a 245-194 victory over Riley Ramage of McCracken County on Tuesday in Jeffersontown.

It was her highest score in six singles games at the tournament — she averages about 195 to 200 — and that gave her a comfortable lead during the final frames.

"After my opponent opened in the ninth frame, I looked back at my mom and she was bawling her eyes out, and I started bawling with her," Ramey said. "You think about winning stuff like that all the time, but you don't think it will actually happen."

It happened for Ramey, who dominated her competition one year after she finished in second place.

"Last year at state I definitely had a better day, but I think this year I was more determined,"



KHSAA PHOTO

Peyton Ramey of Boyle County became the first local bowler to win an individual state championship when she won the girls singles title Tuesday.

she said. "I had this drive, and I wanted it really, really bad this year."

Earlier in the day at Kingpin Lanes, Ramey helped the Boyle girls to a runner-up finish in their team competition for the third time in four years.

Ramey is one of four area bowlers who have finished as state runners-up since the

KHSAA held its first state bowling championship in 2012, joining Courtney Wooldridge of Garrard County (girls, 2014 and '15), Cameron Walker of Boyle (boys, 2014 and '17) and Shelbi Webb of Boyle (girls, 2024).

Now she is the first to finish first.

"Winning a championship is hard and people dream about



KHSAA PHOTO

Boyle County finished as state runner-up in the girls team competition for the third time in four years.

it, and I was like, 'Wow, I actually just did that,'" Ramey said. "I don't think it's sunk in yet."

Ramey earned the No. 1 position in the four-person stepladder finals by scoring 50 pins higher than No. 2 Ramage over three qualifying games and two semifinal games.

That meant she didn't have to bowl until the finals, which she said is both good and bad.

"You go from bowling non-stop to sitting for 30 or 40 minutes, watching them just put up good scores. That nervousness kind of just sits inside you," she said. "But it definitely is a comforting thing to know you just have to throw one more good game and that's it."

Ramey started bowling in the local youth league as a fifth-grader when Jed Roth, a former Boyle coach and Ramey's

stepfather, saw Ramey bowl.

"He said, 'That's going to be a good bowler,'" Ramey said. "In the fifth and sixth grade I was in the youth league, and in the seventh grade I joined the (Boyle) team and ever since then it's just gotten better and better."

Roth still coaches Ramey in the offseason, and she said he has had much to do with her success.

"Watching yourself get better and watching yourself put in the work, it makes me want to get better. It makes me want to get that step ahead, to achieve that next big thing," Ramey said.

Boyle's team once again achieved big things, even though the Rebels once again came up short of their goal.

They lost to Pleasure Ridge

See RAMEY, 11A

## Boyle girls reach 20 wins; DCA boys win on Mikels' 3

By MIKE MARSEE  
Contributing Writer

Three seasons ago, 20 wins was a fuzzy number to Maggie Burke.

It was a goal that she couldn't see clearly then, but it came into full view Tuesday night and became an indicator of how far Burke and her Boyle County teammates have come in those three years.

The Boyle girls reached the 20-win mark for the first time in eight seasons when they defeated Danville Christian 75-46.

Burke said achieving that milestone was an "amazing" feeling, one the senior guard wasn't sure was attainable at the start of her sophomore year when coach Brian Britt set the goal prior to his first season.

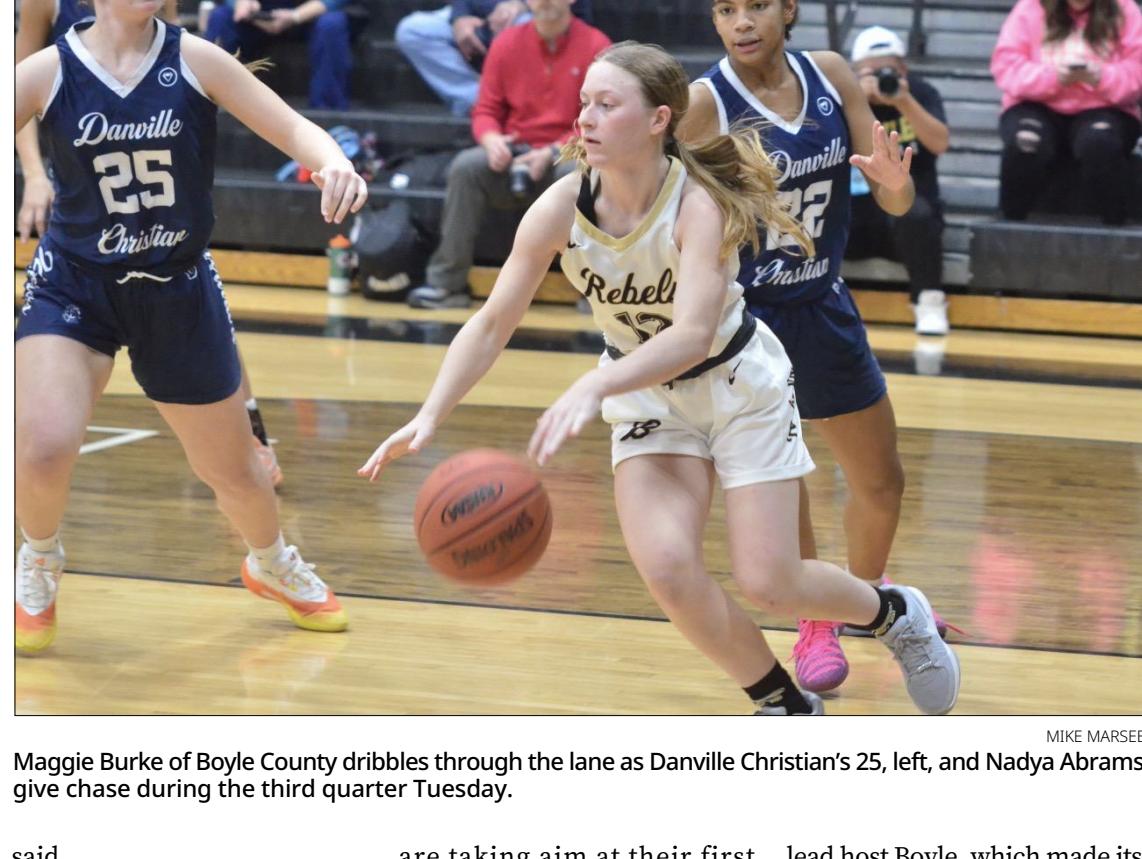
"I remember going in the office and he's like, '20 wins, that's the goal,'" Burke said. "I mean, I trust him, but, yeah. And then we came up short, but this year when he said it in the locker room, I was just like, 'Man, let's go.' And it feels great."

Boyle last won 20 games in the 2017-18 season, when Burke and her fellow seniors were in the fourth grade.

"It means a lot for this program," Britt said. "Not just for this team, but for this program. For the youth league that we've got coming out every Sunday, for our middle school program and for the high school program. We know we're doing something right, and we want to continue to build."

To add even more meaning to this win, it gave the Rebels a sweep of their regular-season district schedule for the first time since 2004-05.

"We knew we could do it. We just had to do what we do and take care of business," Burke



MIKE MARSEE

Maggie Burke of Boyle County dribbles through the lane as Danville Christian's 25, left, and Nadya Abrams give chase during the third quarter Tuesday.

said.

While the Boyle girls took care of business in their games against 45th District foes, the DCA boys have had to work a bit harder to remain unbeaten in district play.

They did so when Ben Mikels buried a 3-point shot at the buzzer to give them a 48-45 victory over Boyle.

The Boyle girls are the hottest team — boys or girls — in the 12th Region, with nine straight wins.

"We're just all really good together," Burke said.

"We're a great group. We all are good friends, we work really well together and at the beginning of the season ... we just came together, (knowing) we could do something big this year."

The Rebels (20-3, 8-0 district)

are taking aim at their first district title since 2007 and their first regional title since 1997, and Burke said it's fun to know those are reachable goals.

"Tonight I had three fouls and (Britt) put me back in, and he said, 'We're preparing for regions. Be smart,'" she said. "Even though we were up, we're preparing for bigger things."

Boyle won its eight district games by an average of 28.3 points, and the Rebels took particular enjoyment in beating a DCA team that won eight straight meetings over the three seasons preceding this one.

"They've been beating us down since I've been a freshman or sophomore, and it just feels great to win," Burke said.

Ellery Taylor and Addison Yates scored 16 points each and Caroline Lemonds added 12 to

lead host Boyle, which made its first five shots and was 14 for 28 from the field in the first half en route to its highest point total of the season.

DCA got 18 points from Amauri Blackford and 12 from Grace Meyer as it continued to try to find its way without sophomore center Achen "Shuna" Deng, a double-digit scorer and rebounder who is out for the season.

"We're trying to figure out how to play a brand new game," DCA coach Cliff Berry said. "A lot of these girls are going to have to figure out a lot of help defense, because ... we need a lot of work defensively in our inside game. We just gave up too many wide open layups."

Berry said Deng has battled knee pain for several weeks, and she was shut down after a

BOYS

Danville Christian 48, Boyle County 45

Mikels knew the shot was good as soon as he let it go, but he also knew it never should have come to that.

The DCA senior held three fingers in the air after firing from 4 feet behind the 3-point line, and a moment later he was mobbed by his teammates.

"I looked at the clock when Graham (Domidion) threw it to me, and I had two or three seconds and I knew by the time I got it I didn't have time to throw it to anybody else," Mikels said. "(Those shots) are fun ... and with this crowd, too,

See BOYLE, 11A



MIKE MARSEE

Ben Mikels, right, celebrates with Danville Christian teammates after his 3-point shot at the buzzer Tuesday gave the Warriors a victory over Boyle County.

## BOYLE

Continued from A10

when you hit it it's just another level, it's great."

It was the only 3-pointer of the game for Mikels, who is 7 for 31 this season from behind the line. And it was necessary to give the Warriors (15-5, 6-0) the win after they let a 12-point lead slip away.

DCA led 45-33 with just over 2 1/2 minutes to play before Boyle scored 12 straight points to tie the game on Owen Wheeler's basket with 19 seconds left. The Warriors contributed to the Rebels' comeback by turning the ball over on five straight possessions.

"Our attention need to be 100 percent the whole time, not just three quarters or starting at halftime," Mikels said. "We have to have it for all four quarters, the whole

time."

That was a point of concern for DCA coach Shaun Busick as well.

"You don't lose a 12-point lead with (less than three minutes) to go, and we found a way to do that," Busick said.

"If we're going to win this district and we're going to have a chance in the regional tournament, we've got to make sure we close out games a lot better than we did tonight."

Geu Leek Ateny had 19 points and 13 rebounds to lead DCA. Mikels had 13 points and Domidion had 11, and they had seven rebounds each.

Boyle got 14 points from Wheeler and 13 rebounds from Seneca Driver.

The Rebels (11-9, 4-4) fell into a three-way tie in the loss column for second place in the district standings.

# Oweh's growth spurring Cats

By KEITH TAYLOR

Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON —

Kentucky coach Mark Pope wasn't surprised when Otega Oweh was named Southeastern Conference Co-Player of the Week on Monday.

"He could have won it every week of the entire SEC season (so far)," Pope said on his weekly radio show on Monday. "He's been that good."

Oweh averaged 22.5 points per game in wins over Oklahoma and Tennessee and shot 60.7 percent from the field last week. He also averaged 3.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists per outing in the two victories.

Oweh has scored 20 or more points in nine of 11 conference games this season, including a season-high 24 points in a 94-78 win over the Sooners. He added 21 in a 74-71 upset of the Volunteers on Saturday night.

"We've seen such amazing growth in him," Pope said. "We've seen him grow as a leader. We've seen him grow as a defender, especially as an on-ball defender. We've seen him grow (overall)."

Pope said Oweh has improved his "decision-making ability" as well on both ends of the floor.



PHOTO BY LES NICHOLSON

Collin Chandler (5) and Otega Oweh celebrate in Kentucky's 80-75 victory over Texas on Wednesday night.

"His ability to hit the short roll, his ability to get downhill, and then his willingness to play off two feet and extend the play (has improved)," Pope said.

"Sometimes I look out there over the last few weeks, I'm like, 'I don't even know who this guy is.' He's so good.... His game now offensively is becoming multi-dimensional, which is really, really exciting, and it's helping us win."

One of those big moments occurred when Oweh delivered the game-winning assist on a clutch pass to Collin Chandler for

a 3-pointer down the stretch in the win over Tennessee.

"(He) made an unbelievable pass to Collin Chandler," Pope recalled. "Those are the type of plays that you see from guys that are next-level players."

Porter Moser, Oweh's coach at Oklahoma, praised his former guard following a loss to the Wildcats last Wednesday at Rupp Arena.

"Otega is just an elite player," Moser said. "He can knock down the shot. He puts you in a really decision-making mode off-ball screens, because he can turn the corner on you. Now

he's making really good decisions passing out of it, I just see he's just becoming a complete player."

Pope compared Oweh to former teammate Antoine Walker.

"There's something similar between Otega Oweh and Antoine Walker," Pope said. "There's just something similar in terms of their impact on the game and their reliability, especially as Antoine got a little bit older."

Oweh has scored double figures in all 24 games this season and needs just five points to eclipse the 1,000-point plateau.

## RAMEY

Continued from A10

Park in the finals for the second time in three years and were

eliminated by PRP for the third time in five years, this time falling three games to two in their best-of-5 match.

Boyle was seeded No. 7 in the

16-team bracket after qualifying, and it defeated Mercy 3-1, McCracken County 3-0 and Notre Dame 3-0 to reach the finals.

"Our team is still really young,"

Ramey said. "We'll have the same group next year, and all we can really hope for is to get a little better."

Emma Kondik of Boyle fin-

ished ninth in the girls singles competition, missing the semi-finals by two pins.

Boyle's Nicholas Jayne was

25th in boys singles.



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# Out of the Blue

## Chandler stays calm in clutch

By KEITH TAYLOR  
 Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON — Collin Chandler embraces but doesn't get caught up in big moments.

Chandler has developed a knack for producing big plays for the Wildcats down the stretch this season. His most recent was a clutch 3-pointer with 32 seconds remaining that propelled Kentucky to a 74-71 win over Tennessee on Saturday night.

"Collin Chandler continues to be like ice in his veins," Kentucky coach Mark Pope said. "One of my favorite moments of the game was after he banged that three. Which was just cold, man. We walked in the huddle and Otega (Owens) grabbed him and went eye to eye with him and said, 'you are a cold ....' There were a lot of other words behind it."

"When you earn that from your teammates. Then you start to feel like we've got to feel."



Collin Chandler has been delivering for the Cats in the clutch this season. (Les Nicholson Photo)

For Chandler, the clutch trey was a routine moment.

"I think what's special about it is there's nothing special about it," he said. "It's in the flow of what we're doing. It's what we do, right? I didn't do anything special today."

"Otega got downhill and sprayed it for a three as the defense collapsed. That's what we do, right? It just happened to be at that time, and so I think that's what makes our team great, especially at the end of games."

Chandler finished with nine points in the three-point win and is averaging 12.2 points per game during the past seven encounters.

During that span, Chandler connected on 17 3-pointers and had four in an 80-78 win at Tennessee on Jan. 17. He also made four in a 94-78 win over Oklahoma on Feb. 4.

Beyond scoring, Chandler's heroics have included a halfcourt in-bounds pass to Malachi Moreno for the game-winner at the buzzer in a 75-74 triumph at LSU on Jan. 14.

"I think just life in general, but

in games, as a competitor, you just have to find ways to win," Chandler said. "You're not going to win everything. You're not going to dominate everything. You need to find ways to dominate something and find ways to manage."

Although Chandler struggled behind the arc at times this season, Pope never lost faith.

"I feel like it's going in and I feel good when he's shooting it," Pope said. "We have a pretty faithful team and our guys, man, they are earning their belief."



Cameron Mills and Derek Anderson celebrate with Kentucky coach Mark Pope after the Wildcats defeated Tennessee, 74-71 last Saturday night. (UK Athletics Photo)

## Back in style

### Cats bring back denim jerseys, honor 1996 title team in reunion to remember

It was a reunion to remember.

Kentucky honored one of its most beloved teams, the 1995-96 national championship squad, "The Untouchables," put on the denim jerseys and completed a sweep of Tennessee on Saturday night.

Seven of coach Mark Pope's former teammates came to support their captain and watched as the Wildcats recorded their fifth double-digit comeback of the season.

Kentucky rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit to snap Tennessee's modest four-game winning streak.

Much like the Wildcats did three decades ago after unveiling the blue denim uniforms and Converse shoes,

Pope and his teammates celebrated together after the final buzzer. He ran into the arms of former teammates Cameron Mills and Derek Anderson after the 74-71

triumph over the Volunteers and seven members of the national championship team that went 34-2, joined Pope on the podium for the post-game media session.

The comeback made a special night even more memorable.

It wasn't the denim, but who was in 'em, as the coach said all week.

Pope made his team aware of the importance of taking care of business on the court before tipoff.

"It's Kentucky, there's so

much noise surrounding

everything these guys do,

and honoring the denim and

bringing back the denim was

such a big deal and such a big

storyline," he said. "I know

all of this is going on, but

this is not about 30 years ago.

This is not about denim, this

is just about anything except

for the story that you guys are writing right now."

That story has kept Big Blue Nation on edge, especially since Kentucky opened

Southeastern

Conference play in January.

First-half deficits doomed the Wildcats in losses to Alabama and Missouri the first

week of the new calendar year.

A five-game winning streak, sandwiched between a blowout loss at Vanderbilt and three straight victories,

has Kentucky well-positioned

to make a run at winning the

regular-season title.

The Wildcats have clawed their way to eight wins in the past nine games, going into

Saturday's showdown at No.

17 Florida.

"The story that these guys are writing right now is awesome — it's their story," Pope said. "If you are not enjoying it, if you are not on this ride with us, I feel bad for you because it just is what it is, man."

"It might not be the normal way we do things here in Kentucky, but it's pretty great."

During the struggles early

this season, Pope's former

teammates were encouraging

him. At the same time, they

reminded the Kentucky coach

of the standard that's expected

regardless of the unforeseen

circumstances that led to the

team's early letdowns.

The group texts between the

original denim brotherhood

were tense and straight to the

point.

"He gets no passes," former Kentucky guard Derek

Anderson said. "... We're



Keith Taylor

not gonna give him a pass if he's not doing well. ... He's always been responsible to that. Our group chat is very active."

Through recent wins and triumphant moments, the pressure has subsided. Pope said the chats won't "be quite so vile" moving forward.

"The connection that we have — you can't buy it," Pope said. "There's nothing in the world like it. I care about these guys so much. I love them so much. I'm grateful that they could be honored in all the ways they got honored (Saturday). I'm grateful our team honored them with a win. Because that matters too. It matters to me."

It's not known if the Wildcats will keep denim uniforms in style for the remainder of the season but, regardless, the expectations for the name on the front of the jersey won't change.

"I can talk to them till I'm blue in the face and BBN can reach out to them nonstop, but you don't really understand what this is until you have bled and suffered and sacrificed for this place," Pope said. "That's actually what makes this jersey great.

These guys are in the process of doing it. The hits we've taken this year, I wouldn't wish this on anybody. But these guys refused to go away. That's why they are actually making this great.

"They are earning the understanding of what it means to be Kentucky by their blood, sweat, and tears ... super cool."

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## Basketball Schedule

January

10 State

Mississippi State • W • 92-68

14 LSU

@LSU • W • 75-44

17 Tennessee

@Tennessee • W • 80-78

21 Texas

Texas • W • 85-80

24 Ole Miss

Ole Miss • W • 72-63

27 Vandy

@Vandy • L • 80-55

31 Arkansas

@Arkansas • W • 85-77

February

4 Oklahoma

Oklahoma • Won • 94-78

7 Tennessee

Tennessee • Won • 74-71

14 Florida

@Florida • 3 p.m. • ABC

17 Georgia

Georgia • 9 p.m. • ESPN

21 Auburn

@Auburn • 8:30 p.m. • ESPN

24 South Carolina

@South Carolina • 7 p.m. • SECN

28 Vanderbilt

Vanderbilt • 2 p.m. • ESPN

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